



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**COMMUNITY BOARD 9**  
 MANHATTAN

Morningside Heights  
 Manhattanville  
 Hamilton Heights  
 Sugar Hill

**CB9 ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Date:** Monday, October 7, 2024

**Time:** 6:30 PM

**Location:** Hybrid Meeting - 3291/3295 Broadway, New York, NY 10027 and Virtual Zoom Meeting (Zoom info available at CB9M.org events calendar)

**Co-Chairs:** Hon. Daria Hardeman, and Hon. Tina Lumley

**Committee Members:**

Hon. Walter Alexander, Hon. Sojourna Collier, Hon. Carlton Davis, Hon. Ernesto Graham, Hon. Tiago Kiel, Hon. Ilana Mercado

Member	Present	Virtual	Absent	Excused	Recorded Minutes
Co-Chair Hon. Daria Hardeman	X				
Co-Chair Hon. Tina Lumley				X	
Hon. Walter T. Alexander				X	
Hon. Sojourna Collier			X		
Hon. Carlton Davis	X				
Hon. Ernesto Graham			X		
Hon. Tiago Kiel	X				X
Hon. Ilana Mercado	X				

Public:

Ann Kim, performing artist, Harlem School of the Arts, Director of Strategic Outreach, [akim@hsanyc.org](mailto:akim@hsanyc.org)

Banardo-Domeico Grays, Founder and Artistic Director, Visions Contemporary Ballet, [ranardomeico@hotmail.org](mailto:ranardomeico@hotmail.org)

Barbara Grant, supporter of reclaiming Lindy Hop Dance in Harlem, Black American Dance, [blackamericandance@gmail.com](mailto:blackamericandance@gmail.com)

Reese Williams, [Africanvoices@gmail.com](mailto:Africanvoices@gmail.com)

Online, John McGregor, planning on starting a general interest Harlem bookstore

**AGENDA**

## **I. Call to Attention at 6:39**

## **II. Adopt Agenda**

## **III. Adopt Minutes**

## **IV. Introductions**

## **V. Announcements**

### **a. Who we are. What we do.**

Committee contact Information: [CB9Arts@yahoo.com](mailto:CB9Arts@yahoo.com)

Please also cc Co-chairs: [DariaDaria@yahoo.com](mailto:DariaDaria@yahoo.com),

[TLumley@hotmail.com](mailto:TLumley@hotmail.com)

- Daria emphasized that the annual budget requests are close, and that it is important to express the districts' needs.

### **b. Chairs' updates**

## **VI. Committee Reports**

a. Artist Information - Liaisons: Hon. Tina Lumley ([TLumley@hotmail.com](mailto:TLumley@hotmail.com)) Hon. Walter Alexander ([XALex111@gmail.com](mailto:XALex111@gmail.com))

For CB9 Full Board Community E-blast, send announcements to board office: [Info@CB9M.org](mailto:Info@CB9M.org)

No report

### **b. Visual Artist Exhibition Project - Liaison: Hon. Tina Lumley:**

The Visual Artist Exhibition Project, or Art Crawl, was previously a reception for a single artist. Now the most recent one was a showcase of multiple artists across multiple locations, complete with a reception. Another Art Crawl is in the plans for this year as well.

c. Strategic Planning/Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) - Liaison: Hon. Carlton Davis

No report

### **d. West Harlem Arts Alliance - Liaison: Michael Palma - WHAA Exec.**

Director

No update from WHAA

e. Harlem Arts Alliance - Liaison: Hon. Daria Hardeman

## VII. **Community Updates** (3 mins or less)

a. Anne Kim - Director of Strategic Partnerships and Outreach at Harlem School of the Arts

- Harlem School of the Arts is a multidisciplinary after school and Saturday program serving primarily Harlem residents
- Adult programming beginning soon
  - 12 session free workshops for adults, starting October 1st
    - ranging from dance, yoga, to movement classes.
- Student production happening in November
  - Black Mean Girls Club, tickets ranging 10-20\$, with discounts available. If interested, email [akim@hsanyc.org](mailto:akim@hsanyc.org)

b. Barbara Grant, Harlem Swings

- Launching second program to teach Lindy Hop in October, serving 900 students at A Phillip Randolph
- International Lindy Hop Dance Competition hopefully coming back next year's Memorial Day weekend at City College.
- Focused on bringing back Lindy Hop Dance to the youth of Harlem

## VIII. **Presentations:**

a. VISIONS Contemporary Ballet [visionscontemporary.com](http://visionscontemporary.com) - Ranardo-Domeico Grays, Founder/Artistic Director

- VISIONS Contemporary Ballet is an ethnically diverse company that celebrates dance and ballet rooted in the black experience
- Presenting a part of a district budget request: Expand on the idea of a Spring district dance festival. This festival would uplift the economic sustainability of Harlem, as well as the dance artists of Harlem, while making dance more accessible to the residents of the Harlem district.
- Daria asked how this dance festival would be undertaken
- Grays suggested a submission process for ideas and productions, funding from the city, and an affordable ticket price.
- Daria explained that the Arts and Culture Committee has been, in previous years, discussing a multi medium arts and culture festival for the entirety of Harlem
- Grays also hopes to expand his weekend-long shows to fund full week performances for school trips and free day visits.

b. African Voices <http://www.africanvoices.com> - Reese Williams, Program Coordinator. [reelsisters.org](http://reelsisters.org)

- African Voices is an arts and culture nonprofit, partnered with Reel Sisters, the first Oscar-qualifying film festival for women of color.
- Their film festival starts at Millers' Theater on the Columbia Campus on October 10th. Another is at Maysels Documentary Center, Oct 26.

- Reel Sisters partners with writers and filmmakers, offering workshops and events that can be found on the website, reelsisters.org
- c. José Limón Dane Foundation - Michelle Preston, Executive Director
- Limón for Kids: offers dance residencies for kids in the district over 3-6 weeks, teaching kids movement fundamentals and the history of José Limón, one of contemporary dance's most important figures today.
  - This year the foundation will be able to partner with PS 161, and expand their existing residencies.
  - They work not only with schools, but also provide students with access to professional rehearsals at Dance Theater of Harlem to see the dances they are learning in action.

## IX. New Business:

- a. New members, orientation, minutes, sub-committee assignments
- tabled until next meeting
- b. District Needs & FY26 Budget Requests
- Daria underscored the importance of the budget request and just how broad the funding can be
  - Daria stated that the district needs arts space
  - Tiago noted that the Hamilton Theatre on 146th and Broadway needs renovation, but its current status, being partially landmarked, is unclear.
  - Because of its status, Hamilton Theatre was not accepted as a capital request, but Daria brought up the need for a Community Board 9 cultural center, which would be a capital request.
  - Anne Kim proposed a city beautification project, i.e. funding for murals and art installations, etc. in St. Nicolas and other parks.
  - Yuen suggested that local artists be recruited for these beautification projects, like at basketball courts, instead of private corporations and out of district artists being used currently.
  - Beautification could be extended to public schools
  - Daria brought up funding for artists' housing - possibly subsidies for new developments to create affordable artist housing.
  - Grays suggested funding a fund for local arts trips/cultural trips for seniors and students inside the district
  - Tiago suggested increasing funding for public school arts programs inside of the schools themselves
  - Daria brought up additional funding for WHAA to cover start-up costs and finding space for the organization.

List of potential district needs:

- community cultural/arts space
- public space beautification/arts project to engage local artists in places such as parks, schools, and basketball courts.
- offer tax breaks, incentives, and/or subsidies to encourage owners and developers to include housing affordable for artists
- Restore funding for in-school public school arts programs
- Fund a fund for district cultural and arts experiences for students and seniors
- Funding for West Harlem Community Based Organizations and operations that support our artists.
- activate Johnny Hartman Plaza as an arts destination.
- Allot funding for a West Harlem arts festival

**X. Old Business**

**XI. Adjourn 8:35, moved by Carlton Davis, seconded by Ilana Mercado.**

Next meeting will be held Monday, November 4th, 2024 at 6:30 pm