

DRAFT MINUTES

ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2012

Committee Members

Joyce Adewumi, present; Debra Ann Byrd, present; Harriet Rosebud, present; Linda Walton, present; Paolo Soto, absent.

Board Members:

Marco Fei, Christa Giesecke, Judith Insell, Patricia Ju, Brad Taylor

Public Members:

John-Martin Green, present; Michael Palma, present; Lee-Ann Pinder, present

Other Attendees Present:

Melissa Smey, Charlotte Levitt, Jully Merino, Sabrina Francis, Beth Holub, Yvette L. Campbell, Joseph Rogers Jr, Lawrence Goldman, Sarto, Souleo, Liz Player

Call to order and Agenda Approval

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Joyce Adewumi at 6:47pm.

A quorum being present the Agenda was approved however; Joseph Rogers' presentation was included with no objections from the floor.

Minutes Approval

There were no minutes from the last meetings to be approved.

Presentations/ Reports

a. Joe Rogers founder of 'Total Equity Now' asked for the Arts and Culture Committee to support his reso requesting that Community Board 9 declares the first day of every month "Literacy Across Harlem Day" and all members of the Community Board assist in promote literacy and reading in Harlem.

b. Ms. Yvette Campbell, President and CEO of Harlem School of the Arts presented an update on the school. Their Fundraising Gala will be held on October 10, 2012, at the Lincoln Center. Mr. Herb Albert will be honored at this event because of his more than a million dollars contributions to the school within the last two years. Fall registration has commenced and classes begin on September 15, 2012. So far 200 kids have registered and another 600 students are expected to be registered within the week. HSA is the only

school chosen to pilot the materials for Disney's "Lion King before the version is sent to other schools. The performance will take place in March 2013. Ms. Campbell is requesting that CB9 writes another Reso as a follow up to the previous Reso to Governor Cuomo requesting that the monies held by the State be released to HSA. Ms. Campbell also wants all dancer, musicians, etc to know that there are affordable rehearsal spaces at HSA. She also asked all to vote for HSA on facebook in the current Chase initiative so that the school could win \$250,000. She pointed out they were looking at the lot next to HSA, they have supported the rezoning issues, and would like to be considered if in the future something comes up for HSA or if someone wants to buy something from HSA. She said that the City Planning has HSA's statement with regards to this issue.

c. Judith Insell, Director of Music at Harlem School of the Arts reported on "The State of Music Education in NYC Public Schools." Music Education, in addition to visual arts and theater are required in schools from preK-12. She shared with us that on the New York State Education website there is a flowchart which tells you what is supposed to be happening in the schools even though the arts are not actually being taught in New York City Public schools from preK-12. This flow chart also outlines what students are supposed to be learning in the schools. Ms. Insell is to send the link to this flow chart to the Chair from onward transmission to committee members. According to Ms. Insell, the report, on the website doesn't actually tell you what schools are actually offering the arts and the quality of the arts being offered, and the report is not an actual representation of what is happening in the New York Public Schools. She posits that we should all insist that the principals follow the requirements and do a better job of offering the arts in their schools. Ms. Insell said that she will continue her research in order to find out which schools are actually fulfilling this requirement of offering instructions in the arts in their school.

d. The Harlem Chamber Players, led by the founder and director, Liz Player, performed a trio from their Season Opening Concert which will be held 3:00pm on September 23, 2012, at St. Mary's church. Tickets are \$15.

e. Melissa Smey, Executive Director of the Arts Initiative and Miller Theater, Columbia University presented a new project called 'Morningside Lights'. Several partners including Arts Initiative at Miller Theater Columbia University, Friends of Morningside Park and others are teaming up to produce a new weeklong arts event, culminating in an illuminated procession of large-scale public art in Morningside Park on Saturday, September 29. From September 22 to 28, everyone is invited to help imagine and build a fleet of illuminated, mobile sculptures during a series of free guided workshops at Miller Theatre at Columbia University.

V. Announcements

a. Ms. Jully Merino from the Columbia University, Office of Government and Community Affairs, announced that the Columbia Ballet Collaborative is looking for another school where they can bring their programming. They have a 5 weeks fall program that they would like to take to any school that is interested. They are currently

working with and mentoring 2nd graders at P.S.175. Their email address is columbia.ballet.collaborative@gmail.com.

b. Patricia Ju announced that she is writing music for a new production for SUNY Purchase's - 'Much Ado About Nothing' and Jenny Bennet is directing. It will be presented from October 12- 20. More information can be found if you goggle SUNY Purchase Much Ado About Nothing.

c. Beth Holub from Harlem Stage announced that they will be stating their 30th season in two weeks. Their opening project "Dreams of Veterans" is a multimedia project set to Jazz. She brought Harlem Stage's new season's brochure for everyone.

VI. New Business

Ms. Adewumi appealed to committee members to participate in the projects that the committee will decide on together to ensure that the goals of the Arts and Culture Committee are met during the 2012-2013 season. She said that many people complain that there is nothing available in our community for the Youths and we have many artists in this community who are under utilized. Ms. Adewumi said she would like the committee to work with her in establishing afterschool programs which would enable artists to share their skills with the youths in our community. She said that she would also welcome any ideas members may have relative to helping our community. In order to have enough time to discuss our community projects as a committee and to respect the fact that many people would have gone to work and attended several meetings before coming to attend our committee meeting, individuals' presentations will not go on for an hour, but will be limited to 10 minutes each. This will enable us conclude the meeting on time. She promised to try to keep the meetings to an hour and half or an hour and forty five minutes at most, so that people can get some rest. She asked if this was agreeable to everyone and they responded in the affirmative.

Ms. Adewumi asked members to feel free to either send her an email or discuss at our next meeting their ideas of what work needs to be done in the community, how it can be done, after which we'll discuss each proposal with a focus to implementing them.

VII. Old Business

Pat Ju wanted to know if the survey and money that was set aside before Ms. Adewumi became Chief of Arts and Culture would be dropped. Ms. Adewumi said as this is her first meeting she is still going through documents to know what happened in the past so that there would be as much continuity as possible. Linda Walton gave a summary of the Data Collection project and said that Council member Inez Dickens gave \$1000 for this project and the money is being held for us by Harlem Arts Alliance since they serve as the fiscal conduit for this grant. Said she would want to continue working on the project. Ms. Adewumi asked Ms. Linda Walton for more information so that members of the committee can work together to achieve the goal since we all live at different locations we can reach the other artists who live where we live. This, she said, would help to ensure that the project is completed on time because the project is very important. Ms Walton said that the last event which the said \$1000 covers will take place in October.

Adjournment:

8:13pm

Respectfully submitted by

Signed

Joyce Adewumi

Chair, Arts and Culture Committee