

Arts and Culture Committee Members September Attendance

Resource	In-Person	Zoom	Not Excused	Excused
Hon. Tina Lumley	X			
Hon. Daria <u>Hardeman</u>	X			
Hon. Shari Carpenter	X			
Hon. John Paul Gonzalez			X	
Hon. Jennett Bennet	X			
Hon. Shaunte Styles				X

Also present: Martin Collins, Robin Bell Stevens, Antonia Bardon, K Bam and Michael Eley.

Call to Order 6:36

The Arts and Culture Committee of Community Board 9 held their monthly meeting to discuss subcommittee updates, presentations from local arts organizations, and planning for district needs funding requests. Tina Lumley and Daria Hardeman co-chaired the meeting, which began with introductions from new committee members, Jenny Bennet and Shari Carpenter,

Part of the introductions included Robin Bell-Stevens from Jazzmobile, Antonia Bardon presenting her one-woman play "Zora" about Zora Neale Hurston, and Michael Eley.

Summary

Arts and Culture Committee Meeting

The Arts and Culture Committee meeting began with introductions from committee co-chairs Tina Lumley and Daria Hardeman, along with new members including Sherry Carpenter and Jenny Bennett. Robin Bell-Stevens, Director of Jazzmobile, discussed the organization's search for a new venue as their current space at the interchurch center may not be available due to renovations and new leadership. The meeting continued with members introducing themselves and welcoming new presenter Antonia Bardon, who mentioned her upcoming one-woman play about Zora Neale Hurston at the Sean Murr Center on October 29th.

Arts and Culture Committee Overview

Tina provided an overview of the Arts and Culture Committee's mission and subcommittees, including Artist Information, West Harlem Arts Alliance, Strategic Planning, the Community Benefits Agreement, and Arts for Seniors. The committee discussed ongoing projects such as the renovation of Hamilton Place Theater into a public space for art projects and housing, and the annual Riverbank State Park showcase event. Also discussed; upcoming events, including an RNX exhibit at City College library on October 1st and a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 27th. The committee welcomed new members and clarified the process for public members to participate in meetings and projects.

NoMAA Events and Jazzmobile Programming

Martin Collins announced upcoming events from Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance, including NoMAA Labs workshops with Sam Pop, Flora Kahn, and Tony Lopez, and an artist talk with Tom Sanford at the Hispanic Society Museum on September 23rd. He also announced an open call for the "Dear Earth, Love Uptown" exhibition and invited local artists and organizations to submit events to NoMAA's calendar.

Robin Bell-Stevens presented Jazzmobile's summer programming highlights, noting their 61-year history and successful Summerfest concerts in West Harlem, which drew 800-1,000 attendees weekly. She announced the need to find a new venue for the upcoming Jazzmobile sessions due to renovations at the Interchurch Center, requesting space that can accommodate 250-300 people. Robin discussed venue options for future Jazz Revue Sessions, noting that the Forum can only host up to three events per year due to their arrangement with West Harlem Development Corporation, leaving them needing to find alternative locations. The group explored several potential venues including Manhattan School of the Arts, City College, Riverside Church, Miller Theater, and the United Palace, with Robin agreeing to investigate the capacity and availability of these spaces. Martin suggested the Sugar Hill Children's Museum as a viable option with a 275-person capacity and in-house backline equipment. Robin discussed potential venue options for an event, clarifying that the Interchurch Center is an office building with faith-based organizations while St. John the Divine has available chapels for rent. Antonia Badon presented an upcoming one-woman theatrical production about Zora Neale Hurston coming to the Schomburg Center on October 29th, inviting Community Board 9 to help spread the word about the cultural preservation event. The discussion included historical context about Zora's connection to Harlem and the broader Harlem Renaissance, with Manhattan sharing insights about the cultural significance of various Harlem landmarks and the educational value of preserving these stories for future generations.

Antonia Bardon presented Zora Neale Hurston's Play. The play will take place at the Schomburg on 10/29. The play will highlight her connections to Barnard College and her anthropological research funded by Franz Boas. The play features 19 characters and covers Hurston's travels, studies of voodoo and Kudu, and her final falling out with Langston Hughes. Robin expressed interest in getting the play performed again after October 29th or having it taped for seniors, with plans to potentially bring it to Broadway. The meeting also covered subcommittee assignments, with discussions about the Strategic Planning Committee and Community Benefits Agreement, including opportunities for public members to participate and access available resources.

Arts and Culture Sub Committee Leadership

Tina discussed subcommittee leadership roles for the Arts and Culture Committee, with Jenny expressing interest in leading the Arts for Seniors subcommittee while requesting Walter's support. Tina clarified that liaisons are responsible for providing monthly updates and coordinating subcommittee activities, with the specific roles and responsibilities flexible based on committee members' preferences and availability.

Resource Responsible for Monthly Minutes

The group assigned meeting minute responsibilities for upcoming months, with Jenny taking October and June, Daria November, Jenny December, Shari February, Tina March, Shante April, Walter May, and John January.

District Funding Request Process

The committee discussed the process for submitting district funding requests, with Manhattan explaining that all subcommittee decisions must be brought back to the full committee for approval. The group reviewed previous capital and expense requests, including affordable housing for artists and seniors, activation of city-owned kiosks, and reactivation of Annunciation Park Recreation Center. Manhattan emphasized the importance of arts funding and noted that while requests are competitive across multiple community boards, the committee should consider collaborations with other groups to strengthen their proposals.

Meeting concluded 8:35

NEXT ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING: OCTOBER 5, 2026