

Community Board 9

Strategic Planning Committee

March 15, 2022

Attendees:

Victor Edwards – Committee Chair

Maritta Dunn – CB9

Deirdre McIntosh – Brown – CB9

Zead Ramadan - WHDC

Eutha Prince – DM CB9

Phoebe Arnold – Columbia University

LaQuita Henry – CB9

Jonathan Sinagub – CB9

Committee Chair V. Edwards opened the meeting (6:40 p.m.) by welcoming all Boards members and thanked Zead Ramanda of WHDC for attending. For the benefits of the guest and any new Board Members in attendance the Chair described the reasoning and purpose of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Zead Ramadan responded to a series of questions regarding the West Harlem CBA that were sent to him in preparation for the meeting:

1. What is the current status of the “ In Kind Benefits Fund”?

Total allotted - **\$20m**

Utilized to date - **\$396,179**

Remaining balance - **\$19,603,821 (unofficial)**

2. Status of the \$ 20 million Affordable Housing Fund?

- Funds released to WHDC - **\$10M**

3. Status of funds invested in the new affordable Housing project (\$2 million) –

“ As far as we know, the building foundation ready”. Once completed the building will in addition to housing affordable apartment units will also house a center for LGBTQ youth.

4. Community Benefit Grants Program – (Total # of grants awarded to date and Dollar amount).

"Over ten years, WHDC's board has approved \$11 million in grant awards to 182 nonprofit organizations. WHDC has expended another \$6.5 million in direct services for youth and workforce development"

Grant cycles from:

2020 - \$1,000,000.00 - 73 Organizations

2020 - Special COVID-19 Impact Grants - \$500,000.00 - 18 Organizations

2021 - \$1,488,777.00 - 83 Organizations –

Total amount - \$13,988,777.00

5. “In-Kind Access” and use of Columbia University’s various venues and facilities?

Zead explained that WHDC is in the process of developing criteria for the use of the facilities at Columbia. He also reminded everyone that any use of a facility by the community is charge to the In Kind Benefit Fund by Columbia.

6. Summer Youth / Senior Employment Programs

According Zead both of these employment programs were being reexamined to serve a larger number of residents.

Comment: As far CB9 knows the seniors nor the youth that have utilized these programs have been informed of the pending changes to program as of this late date.

7. Columbia U new Campus Construction Site Hiring Practices:

- The goal as per the CBA - 40% of work force and site Contractors to be MWL
What is the current percentage MWL servicing the work site ?

Zead - Please refer this question to Columbia University

8. West Harlem Piers Park funds. \$500,000 starting in 2008 and escalating 3% each yr.

Zead – Please meet with NYC Parks to obtain this information

9. Arts - Columbia will make available 5000 Sq ft of space for local artists.

Has process started and is there an accountability of artist /organizations that have utilized the program?

Zead – Please request of Columbia University as per the CBA

Comment: The question was asked by a committee whether or not the WHDC is monitoring the items that we were referred to inquire with Columbia

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next Meeting May 17, 2022