

Manhattan Community Board 9

Strategic Planning Committee

September 20, 2022

Attendees:

Victor Edwards – Committee Chair / Eutha Prince – CB9 District Manager

C.B 9: Tiffany Khan / Signe Mortensen / Deirdre McIntosh – Brown / LaQuita Henry / Jonathan Sinagub / /P W Johnson / Carolyn Thompson / Heather Jason/ Daria Hardeman / Monique Harden-Cordero

Guest: Phoebe Arnold, Sasha Wells, Alexis Walters – Columbia University / Zead Ramadan - WHDC

Committee Chair V. Edwards opened the meeting (6:45 p.m.) by welcoming all Boards members and guest.

The Chair then introduced **Phoebe Arnold – C. U.** Ms. Arnold spoke about her efforts to keep the community informed of various programming available through Columbia. In periodic meetings with the Residents Association Pres. at NYCHA Grant /Manhattanville Houses she stated she’s able to reach a wide group of residents.

At this point Ms. Arnold introduced **Sasha Wells the new Director for the Columbia Double Discovery Program.** Ms. Wells explained that the Double Discovery Program targets 1st generation low income college bound students from Harlem and Washington Heights to help ensure their success to, though, and beyond college. The program includes Academic tutoring/mentoring, College & Career Success and Healthy Minds & Bodies. Ms. Wells explained that the program has an open enrollment but they do have targeted schools that they work with, in the CB9 area that school is the Urban Assembly. An open House for enrollment will be held on Oct 15. E. - E. Prince requested flyers for CB9 Board Member to distribute.

- - Carlton Davis suggested flyering be done door to door Alicia Barksdale – requested flyers to distributed at 3333 Broadway, Girls Scouts, local libraries, churches

YEL - Co-Chair Deidre McIntosh–Brown asked about Columbia not renewing the **Red Balloon preschool** lease.

Alexis Waters, Director Govt Affairs,- C.U, states that Columbia is not renewing the Red Balloon lease due to the organization not meeting certain academic and enrollment standards. Ms. Walters stated this issue falls under the University’s Provost Office and they would be the best any further questions.

Chair Edwards reminded all Board Members and Co-Chairs to make the CBA a part of their monthly meetings as the benefits are time sensitive and will not be extended beyond the established dates.

Jonathan Signagub expressed concerns regarding **West Harlem Arts Alliance** around access and progression of the program.

Tony Hardgraves of Riverside Hawks provided an update on the Saturday Night Lights (SNL) Program. Mr. Hardgraves informed the committee of the most recent activities at the church for the youth people.

Zead Ramada – West Harlem Arts Alliance: This newly formed Arts organization will be a conduit for a major part of the funding in the West Harlem area. Zead noted that there are 2 CB9 Board members (Victoria Benitez and Michael Palma) on the WHAA Board. Mr. Zead states that it would be great if Columbia would provide a space of the WHAA.

ARISE / SENIOR SUMMER PROGRAM

Zead explained that WHDC wanted to go in a different direction this past summer and did not operate the programs as in the past manner. WHDC funds were provided to the Boys and Girls Club for hiring of summer youth. Several Board Members expressed dissatisfaction with this change in policy for the summer programs. Chair Edwards stated that new youth or seniors applying to either program could have been given the priority to be hired with any remaining slots going to those individuals that had previously worked for either program.

Zead reminded the attendees that the CB12 area received nearly 1000 more youth employment slots from DYCD. DM Prince informed Zead that CB9 had reached out to DYCD regarding this and would continue to pursue obtaining more slots from DYCD for summer youth. Zead stated that he would also work with CB 9 to increase the number of slots allocated for the SYEP.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:45

Next meeting Oct 18, 6:30 p.m.