

Manhattan Community Board 9  
Youth, Education, and Libraries Committee  
February 12, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:35pm.

### **Presentations**

#### **African Voices, Khuumba Ama and Carolyn Butts**

Org. is 22 years old, started as and still puts out a magazine. Partners with Architecture for Kids. Working with Urban Assembly Future Leaders on a project called Sacred Spaces, includes studying religion and making representative art, tour of Harlem, learning architectural terms, visiting a community garden. Looking to expand to other middle schools and high schools.

#### **Pastors for Peace, Gail Walker and Brodie Enoch**

Program of IFCO, a faith-based org. founded in 1967. Work in Cuba to send students to ELAM (medical school) on full scholarship to study community medicine in exchange for commitment to work in underserved communities back in home country. 200 grads since 2000, 70% graduation + residency rate.

#### **Reading Team, Dana Points**

Work with struggling readers Pre-K to 5th grade, offering after school and sending literacy mentors out to the community. 84% pass ELA state tests after participating. Working in 17 schools in Harlem and Bronx. Very time intensive, but students who stay with the program end up with over 3000 hours of instruction. Free to attend.

#### **Melvin Pratt, Pelham Fritz Basketball League Scholarship Fund**

501(c)3 scholarship fund has provided about \$500 awards to 300 graduates over 15 years. WHDC recipient in the past. Looking for young people who want to help their community; grants conditional on acceptance first.

#### **NYC H2O, Stalin Espinal**

Provides STEM field trips in all five boroughs focusing on water engineering and ecology -- particularly Central Park and Highbridge in Manhattan. WHDC recipient. Students design an aqueduct as final project. Serve 2nd through 12th grades; middle schoolers benefit most. Also offer internships for high school and college students.

#### **Biobus, Ashley Pirovano**

Organizing March 18 brain awareness event at Columbia Zuckerman. Provide science summer camps for elementary students, middle school summer camp includes trips to research labs. Year-long paid internship for high school students involve research and teaching.

#### **Femi Lewis, Tech Row Fund**

Provides experiences with VR/AR in classrooms and music and video production. Working with Harlem Children's Zone and Harlem Commonwealth Council, and in schools including Thurgood Marshall Academy. Techrowfund.org

**Roads to Success, Davis Connolly**

Work with TCCS after school to provide access to performing arts, academic support, and physical recreation. Planning STEAM program for next year. Provides SYEP program, and looking to place summer interns. College access for all programming introduces middle school students (8 schools, currently all outside CB9) to expectations for college. Focus on social and emotional learning for young students.

**Artistic Dreams International**

Dual mission of global arts education and arts activism: create art around global issues. Works in Sonora and Pueblo, Mexico, doing gang prevention work. Works in CSS and TCCS, afterschool programs and libraries.

New Morningside Heights library branch manager **Letish Lee** introduced herself.

**Closed Session**

Eight parents of current and recently graduated CSS students, including the PTA presidents and parent coordinator, met with the committee about space issues in the Bunche building, which is shared by KIPP and P.S. 125. All the schools are flourishing, but classrooms are overfull, and the Blue book does not consider common spaces like the auditorium and cafeteria. Current dynamic unfairly sets up parents from each school to be at odds with each other. CSS desires strongly to keep all grades under one roof to share JHS and HS resources.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.