

Manhattan Community Board No. 9 News Letter

July 2024

The latest news, views, and announcements

UPCOMING EVENTS

—
**Senator Cordell Cleare's 3rd
Annual Senior Citizens Day
on 8/28 @163 West 125th
Street from 11am – 6pm**
—

**Free Housing Conference
with Breakfast and lunch
with PALANTE Harlem on
8/8
@ Oberia Dempsey Center
127 West 127th Street
New York, NY 10027**
—

**This year, The Montefiore
Park FREE Jazz Fest is
partnering with the West
Harlem Arts Alliance,
WHAA JUNE EVERY
SATURDAY!!!**

**PLEASE EMAIL US AT
INFO@CB9M.ORG
INFO ON ANY OF
THESE EVENTS!!!!**



Town Hall with Mayor Eric Adams in District 9

On April 8th, constituents, including our very own board members from Manhattanville, Morningside Heights, Hamilton Heights, and Sugar Hill, had the honor of attending a community conversation with Mayor Eric Adams. This platform allowed constituents to voice their thoughts and concerns to the Mayor.

One of our biggest wins during the Mayor's address was the clean-up of Montefiore Park. Montefiore Park is a staple in our neighborhood, and we want to continue ensuring it is properly utilized. Public officials also addressed affordable housing, employment, rat mitigation, and public safety questions.

We want to thank all of the Elected Officials and agencies who took the time to join us and hear our concerns. We look forward to our continued work together!



Senior Resource Fair

On May 10th, 2024, Manhattan Community Board No. 9 hosted its Second Annual Senior Resource Fair at Columbia University, The Forum.

The Senior Resource Fair provided our Seniors and their friends and families with the opportunity to access information from over 15 exhibitors, all of which offer helpful information to older adults.

A special thank you to Columbia University for hosting us and to Council Member Shaun Abreu for the discretionary funding that made this wonderful event possible.

The Picture below shows our seniors taking part in some creative movement with an organization called Dances for a Variable Population.

Welcoming Council Member Hon. Dr. Yusef Salaam

Black History Month ended on a high note, with the members of Community Board Nine, along with other notables, attending the inauguration of Dr. Yusef Salaam on February 28, 2024, to the NYC Council. It was indeed a full-circle moment,

Dr. Martin Luther King stated that the arc of the moral universe is long but bends toward justice. We can truly say that Dr. Salaam's arc is amazing! Many of us remember the Central Park Five jogger rape case in 1989 and the false arrest of Dr. Salaam and his five friends, also young men of color. He served seven years behind bars. They were all eventually exonerated in 2002.

NYC Council Speaker Adams, who attended the celebration, said, "his story, his grace, and perseverance in the face of adversity is one of inspiration to the people of Harlem that raised him..."

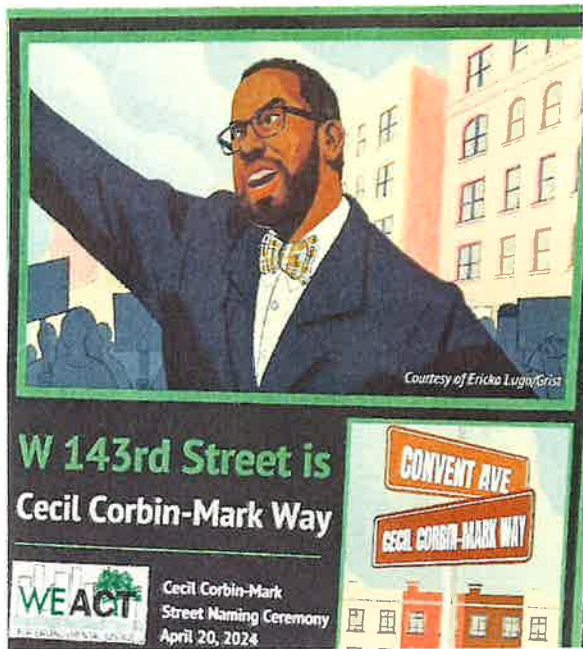
Councilmember Salaam continues to use his experience to advocate for others. Now, as the Chair of Public Safety, he uses his voice to combat and address the wrongs inflicted on Harlem residents and New York City residents. The members of Community Board Nine look forward to working with him!



Street Co-Naming of Hon. Cecil Corbin Mark

On Saturday, April 20, the vibrant West Harlem District 9 community gathered to celebrate Earth Day poignantly and meaningfully. The occasion was marked by the Street Co-Naming Ceremony of Cecil Corbin Mark Way at the intersection of West 143rd St and Convent Avenue, paying homage to Cecil Corbin-Mark, a beloved environmental advocate and lifelong resident of Hamilton Heights, Harlem.

Cecil Corbin-Mark, fondly remembered as a dedicated leader in the environmental justice movement, served as the Deputy Director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice. With a career spanning over two decades, Cecil made indelible contributions to advancing environmental health and policy initiatives, both locally and nationally. His unwavering commitment to the well-being of his community and the planet continues to inspire generations.



The Street Co-Naming Ceremony was a fitting tribute to Cecil's legacy, with residents, community leaders, his family, and environmental activists coming together to honor his memory. Against the backdrop of Earth Day, attendees reflected on Cecil's tireless advocacy for a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable future for all. "This Street Co-Naming Ceremony is not just about commemorating Cecil Corbin-Mark, but also about reaffirming our collective commitment to environmental justice and stewardship," remarked Hon. Victor Edwards, Chair of Manhattan Community Board District 9. "Cecil's passion and dedication continue to guide us as we strive to protect our planet and build a more resilient community.



Dear Community Members,

We, Ms. Henry and Dr. Torres, Chairs of the Health and Environmental Committee at CB9, are pleased to reflect on our recent Public Health Forum, which was convened out of an urgent need to inform our district—and beyond—about critical medical issues and the efforts underway to address them.

In today's world, where news is omnipresent across print, digital, and television media, it's easy to miss crucial information. The complexity of medical jargon can often further obscure the essential messages we need to receive. This forum aimed to cut through the noise, demonstrating that help is on the way and emphasizing our community's vital role in this endeavor.

The event served as a vital platform for interaction between our residents and the researchers dedicated to forging a future of enhanced healthcare. Over the past 18 months, Dr. Olajide Williams from Columbia University has made significant efforts to engage organizations and influential groups, discussing the critical need for diverse participation in clinical trials. Despite historical mistrust stemming from unethical research practices, such as the Tuskegee syphilis study, we must move forward. We must build trust with reputable institutions that are committed to addressing health disparities that uniquely affect people of color.

Our forum also aimed to celebrate and recognize the invaluable healthcare and social services provided by local institutions. Their often unacknowledged efforts and dedication deeply impact our district, embodying our theme of empowering our community. This event was not only a platform for sharing research and methodologies but also a celebration of the ongoing contributions within our community.

This is just the beginning. There is much more to learn, share, and present. We are committed to continuing these critical conversations and fostering a space where hope and information lead to actionable change.

Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to making this forum a beacon of knowledge and empowerment.

Warm regards,

LaQuita Henry and
Dr. Edwin Torres
Chairs, Health and Environmental Committee
Manhattan Community Board 9



An Artful Journey through West Harlem: CB9 Arts & Culture's Art Crawl

By: Hon. Daria Hardeman, Co-chair, CB9 Arts & Culture

Art, community, and culture intertwined beautifully on Friday, June 28th, as Community Board 9 Arts and Culture Committee unveiled the much-anticipated Art Crawl. Originally set for June 21st, but postponed due to extreme heat, this vibrant event showcased the creative spirit of West Harlem, featuring seven outstanding visual artists from the CB9 community.

The festivities began at the George Bruce Library, where attendees were welcomed by the ethereal works of Gloria Adams. Adams captivated the audience with insights into her art. The journey then continued by bus, provided generously by the West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC), taking participants to the second stop: Cafe One. Here, the vibrant and colorful pieces of Jana Titus adorned the walls, each piece telling a story and sparking a lively Q&A session.

The third stop was the Hamilton Grange Library, where art enthusiasts were treated to the intricately beautiful designs of Margo Moore and the mesmerizing water photography by former Co-chair of CB9 Arts & Culture, Jonathan Sinagub. The library buzzed with admiration and deep discussion, as attendees marveled at the exquisite works, celebrating the diverse talents of these uptown artists.

Next, the crowd moved to The Chipped Cup Cafe, where cityscapes by Daniel Esparza offered a refreshing visual journey. Attendees sipped on The Chipped Cup's mouthwatering hibiscus iced tea as they absorbed the unique perspective and detail in Esparza's work.

Though dubbed a "Crawl," the event moved with spirited energy, arriving at the final stop, Tsion Cafe, by 6 pm for a delightful reception. Tsion Cafe, co-owned by Beejhy Barhany and her husband, former CB9 Board Chair Padmore John, is a historic Harlem haunt once home to Jimmy's Chicken Shack. This iconic venue was frequented by legends like Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker, and Hazel Scott. Jimmy's Chicken Shack also employed two then-unknown young men known as 'Detroit Red' and 'Chicago Red,' who later became legends in their own right as civil rights leader Malcolm X and actor and comedian Redd Foxx.

It was a full house at Tsion Cafe, where attendees enjoyed the thought-provoking paintings of Bonnie Phillips and the hauntingly beautiful mixed media work of Anna Bravo. The evening closed on a high note with the amazing musical stylings of Lord Scorpio and Zela Kyle, courtesy of Arts and Culture public member Alexander Pereyra's company, We Are Starchasers Management.

Guests savored Tsion's delicious vegan, kosher fare of savory Ethiopian injera rolls and sweet Malawach, a Yemeni pastry. Refreshing drinks included sorrel and passion fruit spritzes.

Masterfully organized by Arts and Culture Co-chair Tina Lumley, CB9's Art Crawl opening event was a testament to the power of art in fostering community and celebrating local talent. As the sun set over West Harlem, attendees left not just with memories but with a renewed appreciation for the rich cultural history and artistic heartbeat of our neighborhood.





**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD 9
MANHATTAN**

Morningside Heights
Manhattanville
Hamilton Heights
Sugar Hill

**Finally, a message from the Chair TO Newly Appointment Members to
Manhattan Community Board #9:**

Manhattan Community Board 9 would like to welcome its newest members to the Board. These 13 individuals represent a highly diverse cross-section of our community, from Medical professionals, Educators, private business owners, and beyond. We look forward to their expertise, input, and dedication to moving the Board's agenda and advocacy forward.

- Nicauris Camilo
- Felipe Castillo
- Vanessa J. Caughman
- Joshua Christopher
- Daniel Clark Jr.
- Sojourna Collier
- Gretchen Connelie
- Justin Dent
- Ernesto Graham
- Chris Johnson
- Veronica Rivera Savage
- Divine Essence White

As Chair of Community Board 9, I welcome you to our CB9 family and know that you will contribute to improving our community in several ways.

Victor Edwards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Victor Edwards'.