



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10**  
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**HENRIETTA LYLE**  
Chairperson

**ANDREW LASSALLE**  
District Manager

## **Arts & Culture Committee**

Monday, October 6, 2014 – 6:30 PM

**Hon. Michael Downie, Chair**

**Hon. Jennifer Prince, Vice Chair**

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. and was held in the fourth floor conference room. Hon. Michael John Downie began the meeting by introducing the Arts & Culture Committee Members to the guests and members of the community.

Board Members in attendance: Earl Keller, Jennifer Prince, Crystal McKay, Brandi North, Earl Keller, Michael John Downie

Excused Board Members: Tuesday Brooks, Kevin Bitterman

Absent: George Harrell

Guests in attendance: Dr. Dennie Beach, Dr. Ibrahim Cisse, Dr. Demetree Duckett, Dr. Garfiled Clumi, Mr. Gustavo Solis, Mr. Damian Geminder, Mr. Frank Harts and others.

Dr. Dennie Beach presented the members of the Go Africa group, “GoAfrica.org” to the committee members and the community, and proposed a future event for which they sought the support of Manhattan Community Board 10. GoAfrica.org will be producing a festival, Saturday, 18 July 2015 on 116<sup>th</sup> Street between Malcolm X and Frederick Douglass Boulevard. They have already put on a “Go Caribbean” festival in Brooklyn, and due to its success they looked to Harlem. They wish to address issues of education, wellness and economic development, and the inclusiveness of the different communities that live along the 116<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor.

Dr. Beach also sought to seek grants for merchants who required technical assistance. Mr. Keller suggested that Go. Africa seek the support/assistance of the Harlem Chamber of Commerce. While they have reached out to members of the mosque, Ms. McKay suggested that the group seek guidance from Sen. Perkins.

They asked the A&C Committee for a letter of support for which the Committee voted to supply after the organization received letters of support from strategic businesses, merchants, and people who work and live on the 116<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor.

The A&C Committee discussed their District Needs Statement in which they raised the idea of a Performing Arts Center (PAC) in Central Harlem that would be an excellent way to continue to help the economic vitalization of the community, since one of the best ways in which to raise awareness of a community is through the arts.

They also identified the need for a Community Recreation and Cultural Center (CRCC) to provide a cohesive force for the community, where young people can play and learn and grow; adults can find personal growth through educational programs for continuing education objectives and personal development initiatives; and seniors can find opportunities for health and wellness and intellectual stimulation.

As a whole, the A&C Committee members discussed the future of the committee's direction. While Ms. North advocated for youth and the arts other members wanted to become more proactive in the sponsorship of creative and academic literary events, and believed that they could be more effective if they partnered with existing organizations in Central Harlem.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.