



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10**

215 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor—New York, NY 10027

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**Arts and Culture Committee Report**

Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 6:30PM

163 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor

**ATTENDANCE:**

Board Members: David Weaver, Chair, Earl Keller, Crystal McKay, George Harrell, Jennifer Prince, Co-Chair, and CB 10 Board Member Manny Rivera.

Guests: Deborah Ann Byrd Founder of Take Wing and Soar Productions, Natalie Clarke, Director of Patron and Community Affairs, Take Wing and Soar Productions, and Petrushka Bazin Larin, Program Manager of the Laundromat Project.

**SUMMARY:**

The Meetings was called to order by Chair David Weaver at 6:39PM; and he introduced Debra Ann Byrd Founder of Take Wing and Soar Productions (TWAS). He then asked that the Co-Chair lead the discussion as he is Chair of TWAS' board of directors. The Co-Chair, Jennifer Prince let the committee know that Debra Ann was requesting a resolution of support for their Harlem Shakespeare Festival.

Take Wing and Soar, Harlem Shakespeare Festival

In celebration of their tenth anniversary, TWAS is planning a Harlem Shakespeare Festival from August 2013 through December 2013, which will have events in venues throughout Harlem. The festival will include various types of events: readings, classes, mater-classes, performances for participants of all ages. The festival will begin with Shakespeare in the park at Riverbank State Park. September will focus on Shakespeare in film, with a potential partnership with Maysles Institute, and workshops and master classes. During October there will be reading series, and in November a performance of Shakespeare's Coriolanus. December will culminate with a performance of Othello.

TWAS has already received letters of support from Community Board 9, and sent to various elected officials. (Community Board voted unanimously to support the festival.) They have also received a great for the West Harlem Development Corporation to support outreach and capacity building. They will be conducting a direct mail campaign to Harlem residents as a result of the generous grant. TWAS hopes to also create an office space and 'home base' for the festival volunteers.

The partners secured thus far include, but are not limited to: Harlem Week, New Heritage Theatre, and Impact theatre group. In regard to opportunities for youth, TWAS will advertise internships and classes for you people and welcomed the suggestion to create a flyer particularly highlighting such opportunities.

The event prices will range from free to \$18 and special rates for kids and seniors. In addition, group tickets will be reserved for Community Based Organizations.

A motion was raised by Committee Member Crystal McKay to vote on a resolution in support of the Harlem Shakespeare Festival. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Earl Keller; there were no additional questions on the topic and the motion was called to vote.

4 in favor and 1 Present, but not voting.

### Committee Project Goals

Chair, David Weaver asked members for ideas for upcoming projects/committee initiatives. He spoke about the two events the committee has helped to coordinate in the past years and asked that Committee Members Earl Keller and Jennifer Prince lead the fall board retreat and Committee Members Crystal McKay and George Harrell lead the Holiday toy drive and events. In addition, he spoke about a return to a past idea, 'Conversations with...' which would travel between various cultural venues and highlight the work of individuals working in and promoting arts and culture in Community Board 10. As an example, he spoke about potential venues like Harlem Stage, Schomburg, and the Apollo.

Another suggestion was the creation of a directory of cultural institutions and artists. The directory would allow individuals to search for musicians, venues, etc., throughout Community Board 10. Guest Debra Ann Byrd explained that Community Board 9 had begun a similar project and was gathering the information and was now working to publish a hardcopy and develop an online directory. Petrushka offered the assistance of the Laundromat Project in executing the tasks and compiling the outreach.

### Announcements

#### The Laundromat Project

Petrushka Bazing Larin, Program Manager of the Laundromat Project introduced herself to the committee and shared information about the missions and programming offered by the Laundromat. The Laundromat Project creates artists-in-residence opportunities for community members in city Laundromats. Art projects are free and available to Laundromat patrons and have results in murals and mosaics. The project was founded in 2006 and can be found in over twenty- five Laundromats throughout the city.

Petrushka explained that artists are also compensated for their work through \$3,000.00 honorariums and \$1,000.00 project budget. They have a mailing list of three thousand people including artists. Committee Member McKay asked how they worked to Identify

potential Laundromats. Petrushka explained that they work to identify Laundromats in central locations. She asked if she might return at a later date for a more formal presentation.

Art Space in East Harlem

CB 10 Board Member Manny Rivera made an announcement regarding potential art space in the Tapestry building on 124<sup>th</sup> Street between first and Second Avenue. The developer and Management Company are working to support the development of an art venue/gallery. Assemblyman Robert Rodriguez is helping to organize a group of community members to help design the mission and direction of the art space.

RESOLUTION ATTACHED: Y

Submitted by: J Prince