



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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HENRIETTA LYLE
Chairperson

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District Manager

Arts & Culture COMMITTEE REPORT
Monday, September 8th, 2014, 6:30 PM
215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor

Hon. Michael John Downie, Chair
Hon. Jennifer Prince, Vice Chair

The meeting began at 6:40 p.m. and was held in the fourth floor conference room. Hon. Michael John Downie, who was unanimously voted Acting Chair during the meeting, chaired the meeting (he was subsequently appointed Chair of the Arts & Culture Committee by Hon. Henrietta Lyle, 17 September 2014).

Board Members in attendance: Earl Keller, Kevin Bitterman, Tuesday Brooks, Brandi North, Michael John Downie.

Guests in attendance: Mr. G. Puello, Ms. Wallace, Ms. Eaton, Ms. Eva Frazier, and Mr. Frank Harts.

SUMMARY:

The meeting began with the introduction of the board members followed by all of the guests in attendance followed by announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Puello made announcements about various activities in Central Harlem and passed out some flyers to document these events. Ms. Wallace passed out some flyers as well, and spoke about the Northern Harlem Arts Alliance, “selfies”, and photography, to which Kevin Bitterman added that there were grants available to help support the arts in Harlem, and inquired whether the A&C committee might become engaged in showcasing photography in restaurants and condo lobbies, which we agreed would be a good idea, specifically in partnering with the Housing and Eco/Dev committees. Ms. Eaton spoke of her organization with Craig Harris, “3 on 3 Presents” which will present a concert in the Mount Morris Ascension Church, 19 October at 3p. Ms. Wallace introduced her organization, “What a Neighborhood” that performs contemporary classical music at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Manhattanville. Ms. Frazier spoke of her non-profit organization that provides children from the ages of 6-12 with a free after school performing arts education.

COMPILATION OF ARTS LIST:

The A&C Committee is trying to compile a list of all of the arts organizations in Upper Manhattan, and could use the help of the board to supply the committee with names either submitted to the District Manager or the Chair of A&C.

AGENDA:

OLD:

While the A&C Committee regarded old business – culinary arts, invitations to museums to share their specialties with the A&C Committee and other board members in order to provide access to the youth of our community, the “sidewalk of fame” – we recognized that there was a whole host of new business to address.

NEW:

We spoke about how we could transform and expand the scope of the Arts & Culture Committee to work on various cultural projects with partnering organizations again through developing salons that can showcase musical talent, whether jazz, classical or opera, provide our community with literary readings, both poetry and prose, and include letters, which would present lectures on current political and other varied academic topics, stepped in the African Diaspora or that which is relevant to Central Harlem. The A&C Committee will not only seek to partner with other committees within CB#10, Housing and ECO/DEV committees, we also plan to expand in order to secure grant monies in order to forward the agendas of individual artists and other organizations who wish to add to the culture and beauty of our community. Further, the A&C Committee will supply the Board with a revised mission statement that will accompany our District Needs Statement.

HOLIDAY PARTY/AWARDS CEREMONY:

We discussed our annual awards ceremony that doubles as our holiday party, and I believe that we may have come to some sort of consensus that while we might do the initial work for this event, we should probably organize a steering committee for the event in order to focus on other committee work. Nevertheless, the proposed dates for the event are: Monday, 8 December and Tuesday, 2 December. If there are other people who would like to be involved in the planning of this event, the A&C Committee will choose a chair from our committee for the event, and welcome other members to join in on the preparation.

Respectfully submitted,