

# Public Meeting of the CB12M's Youth and Education Committee Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

Meeting #2

Monday, February 8, 2016

**Location: 530 West 166<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10032**

**Committee Members Present:** Fe Florimón, Chair; Priscilla Mota Willis, Assistant Chair-INT; Maria Luna; Ayisha Oglivie;

**Committee Member(s) Absent:** Glennis Aquino; Manny De Los Santos; Estevan Nembhard;

**Guest:** David Gracia, Music Education Leader and Founder of *WHIN Music Project*; Charlie Ortiz, Educational Leader and Co-founder of *Limelight Arts*;  
Mr. J.C. Malone, Author of the Book "*9 Ejemplos Excepcionales Y Una Mujer Extraordinaria*"  
Mr. Cesar Romero, Founder and Producer of "*Hechos Y Gentes*" Program

**Community Members:** Jennifer Araujo, Representative, District Attorney Office; Alberto Aquino, Armory Foundation; Mr. Joe Yoffie; Natalie Espino CUNY in the Heights; Rosalind Torres RAIN Inc. Carmen Paulino

The meeting was called at 7:14p.m by Fe Florimón, Chair  
Members of the Committee and attendees were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves.

### **Part I. Discussion was taken place as indicated below**

Presenters **Mr. David Gracia**, Music Education Leader and Founder of WHIN Music Project and **Mr. Charlie Ortiz**, Educational Leader and Co-founder of Limelight Arts, discussed the pending proposal for the implementation of the Music Community Charter School in the School District 6 Community. WHIN will be a music-centered elementary school to educate the whole child and build community and will be a replicate based on the model inspired by the Conservatory Lab Charter School in Boston. According to presenter Gracia, the proposal will be submitted (for the second time) in fall 2016 for the approval of the NYS Dept of Education. Presenter also discussed that WHIN:

- ✓ The original program has been around 4 years.
- ✓ Will bring personal development, community building to students, summer camp and afterschool program.
- ✓ School will be based on mixing arts with academics.
- ✓ Program will boost high parent involvement.
- ✓ The school will also include:
- ✓ Music centered curriculum with a project-based learning approach
- ✓ Rigorous, students data drive, common aligned curriculum
- ✓ Inclusion model of instruction
- ✓ Daily El Sistema – inspired music instruction

**Mr. Gracia** is hoping to get feedback from community as to what the community needs.

Public members asked about how they plan to make sure students are doing well academically?

Answer: Using the model inspired by the Conservatory Lab Charter School in Boston. Presenters also surveyed the audience with the objective to gather their feedback on their proposal.

Presenter, Mr. **J.C. Malone**, Author of the Book “9 Ejemplos Excepcionales Y Una Mujer Extraordinaria” [“9 Exceptional Examples and An Extraordinary Woman” - English translation].

**Mr. Malone** , introduced his newly written book, already stated, with the objective to bring community awareness of the existence of outstanding examples of Spanish role models, descendants of Dominican Nationality in New York City, and who have struggled to achieve great standards in the American Society according to the author. Among the leaders the Author was referring include:

- ✓ Manuel Mendez Olivero, Judge of NYS Supreme Court Justice; Rita Mella, Judge of Surrogate’s Court of NYC; Julissa Ferreras, NYC Council Member; Cira Angeles, President of La Riverside Brokerage, Inc.; Juan Lomi, Excelled as a Lifesavers Leader during NYC 911 disaster; Manuel Vidal Ramirez, Superintendent of the School District 6; Juan Villar, School Principal;
- ✓ Author believes that it is important for students to learn positive things in school that reflect their community and he used his book as an example for students to learn about role models in their cultures.
- ✓ “9 Ejemplos Excepcionales Y Una Mujer Extraordinaria” Book will be available in English very soon.
- ✓ Copies of the book were given to the audience including Members of the Committee as courtesy-free of charge.

**3- Cesar Romero** – Founder and Producer of “Hechos Y Gentes” a T.V. Program at Channel 79 introduced himself to the audience and express gratitude for the opportunity to witness the unfolding of the *Board’s Youth and Education Committee meeting*.

- ✓ **Mr. Romero** asked to speak in his native language-Spanish. He stated that his T.V. Program is run at CUNY- Hostos in his native language/tongue, which makes him feels more comfortable.
- ✓ The Program Producer identified himself as an ardent advocate of education
- ✓ In his opinion, since the committee symbolizes the topic of education, he wanted to meet the members of the committee and the general participation and/or interaction of the community.
- ✓ He also mentioned that the turnout at these meeting would be bigger if the Spanish language was spoken at the meeting. He would like to open the door so the committee is able to get its message out (in Spanish) to the community.
- ✓ He also suggested that meeting may be recorded and make it public/available on YouTube
- ✓ Mr. Romero also offered to help the committee get the message out to community by using his program as a way for those who may not be aware of the existence of the Board/Committee.

New Business

- ✓ Chair reported that **Alyce Smith** is no longer with the Youth & Education Committee. Mrs. Smith as her New Year resolution, she decided to move forward and try other Committees. Chair stated that she truly enjoyed working with Mrs. Smith and she will be missed. Although it has not been officially announced at the CBM- General Meeting, member **Priscilla Mota Willis**, is being considered as next Assistant Chair of the Y&EC.

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- ✓ Chair announced that CEC6 will be delivering its Capital Plan Hearing on February 29<sup>th</sup> @ 6:0PM at P.S. 48- (near 187 St & Broadway). All were encouraged to attend to this important event.
- ✓ Participants were also encouraged to attend the celebration of: World Read Aloud Day 2016 with LitWorld!
- ✓ **Natalie Espino, Representative from CUNY in the Heights**, announced that the CUNY has new program to help educate. Educators. Teach life time learners. Opportunity for teachers who teach this community to understand more about the Dominican culture. SUNY program free of charge to help with basic skills. Lab helps with skill including basic computer skills etc.
- ✓ **Mr. Alberto Aquino** – Representative for the Armory, announced about the Armory College Prep
- ✓ According to Mr. Aquino, the Armory Track And Field Center is one of the NYC most celebrated sporting venues. Many people in the community have never entered the Armory. So the Armory is now opening its doors to local students to visit the Armory.
- ✓ Armory has a college prep program for schools. To help students be prepared for college.
- ✓ PLA and Uptown Dreamers are in partnership with the Armory.
- ✓ **Jennifer Araujo**, from the District Attorney's Office came in to inform us about the New York County District Attorney's office. Students work with the office to learn about Criminal Justice System.
- ✓ Chair announced that **Big Brothers Big Sisters** of NYC will be launching a series of orientations about their programs at the Armory. The Big Brothers Big Sisters has asked for the support of the Youth and Education Committee and the support was restated by the all members of the committee
- ✓ Next meeting **Saturday, March 5th, 2016 @ 10:30pm – Isabella Geriatric Center 515 Audubon Ave NYC 10040 Monday, March 14th, 2016 @ 7:00pm – George Washington Campus (*Pending Location*)**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm

Submitted By: **Priscilla Mota Willis, Assistant Chair INT.**