

Community Board 12 – Manhattan
Business Development Committee – Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2018

<u>Committee Members Present</u>	<u>Committee Members Absent</u>	<u>Board Members Present</u>
Eleazar Bueno, Chair	Matthew Levy, Asst. Chair	None
Tanya Bonner	Glennis Aquino	
Waldys Cruz		
Sally Fisher		
Domingo Estevez		

<u>Public Member Present</u>	<u>Public Member Absent</u>
Bruce Robertson	

Guests: Angie Hancock, Experience Harlem Initiative Consultant. “Love your Local”.

1. Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m. with quorum. Business Development Committee Chair Eleazar Bueno opened the meeting by welcoming Committee members and guests.
2. Angie Hancock started her presentation by saying the organization she represents Experience Harlem has been doing helping promote businesses in the Upper Manhattan. Experience Harlem is a media company that consults for the Harlem Commonwealth Council, instituted now for 50 years who also runs the Harlem and Uptown SBS offices.
The Harlem Commonwealth Council.org has all the information related to its main two (2) programs:
 - A. The Harlem Entrepreneurial Plan, a microlending plan for all upper manhattan small businesses at low monthly rates.
 - B. MWBE accelerator program for businesses interested in applying for city and state construction contracts
3. Ms. Hancock began to explain the projects her organization Experience Harlem runs:
 - A. Opportunity for Growth, and educational and seminar based initiative
 - B. Growth Path, where 20 businesses are chosen for specific projects.
 - C. Love your local, a SBS city funded to help Uptown Manhattan small businesses to stay competitive with the new Real Estate market pressures and the Amazon effect forcing big bucks stores out of our communities.

4. "Love your Local" is now on its first phase of the process. There were 392 applications of which only 50 passed on to become semifinalists. Only 15 of the applicants were from Uptown Manhattan, where the geographic area designed for the program starts on 42nd Street. Only 1 of the semi-finalist was from WAHI.
5. Chair moved the meeting to Q&A section that began with Bruce Robertson asking the number of applicants from the Harlem area. Ms. Hancock's response was 12. Ms Bonner asked for the next go round opportunities and goals to what the answer was to begin the conversation in our community. It followed with another question who SBS was primarily targeting to the answer of only for established store fronts.
Sally asked if the initiative overlaps with Neighborhood 360. The presenter answered that as a consultant SBS made those decisions in this first phase of the initiative. Chair commented we can provide resources to help but we needed to have people on the table to create the right strategy. A person from the public, Karla Fisk asked what can the funds be used for and the answer was that the funds were to be used under the guidance of the recommendations of the consultants but mainly not for rent or payroll, only to remodel or a new develop model site.
Chair asked to do a step by step application process:
Visit Loveyourlocal.org
Fill out application
Keep records handy for the app process
No taxes owed
Meet income levels required
Extra points for gentrifying neighborhoods
6. Board Members also discussed the area winner and the fact that the initiative was not successful because the outreach did not include any dual information applications of bilingual related information. Ms Hancock related that SBS was staff challenged. She also stated that she was not aware of any minimum income required and referred briefly to the geographic area covered by the grant, not the loan. Also, she mentioned that the consultants were directed and trained to cover retail, restaurants and any other areas that covers store fronts. The bilingual issue was asked again to what Ms. Hancock said will bring back to SBS for further discussion and resolve

Community Board Term Limits proposal that would limit Community Board members to four, 2-year terms. Board Member Morales stated she believes term limits are about getting rid of people who are against a certain agenda. A member of the public stated the proposal will be on the November 6, 2018 General Election ballot.
7. There was no old business.
8. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.