

Arts and Culture Committee

Manhattan Community Board 9

February 1, 2010

Broadway Housing

583 Riverside Drive

Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Committee Members: Linda Walton, Diane Wilson, Co-Chairs
Debra Ann Byrd, Christa Gieseke, Donitra Clemons,
Public Members: Stephanie Berry, LaQuita Henry, John-Martin Green, Magli Dumas

Reports:

1. West Harlem Local Development Corporation (WHLDC) – Update:
WHLDC Arts and Culture Action Items ~ John-Martin Green
The WHLDC is in the process of transitioning and has commissioned Ford Works to oversee the transition from West Harlem Local Development Corp to West Harlem Development Corp. The WHLDG is currently operating under the Fund for the City of New York. The WHDC is beginning to accept applications for nomination of Chair of the Board of Directors. The nominating committee will make a recommendation for the Board Chair by March 1st. The WHDC is also ready to craft bylaws and articles of incorporation.

Also, Columbia is due to begin distributing monies over the next couple of weeks to artists and arts organizations. All recipients will need to be a 501 c3 organization or be under an umbrella organization.

Presentations:

1. *Uptown Playwrights Workshop (UPW) Searching for Performance Space* ~ Dr. Henry Miller and Gail Huland-EI, Co-Directors is looking for a performance space. UPW is currently operating classes and workshops at a small space at 415 W.127th street, bt Convent and Amsterdam (1st and 3rd Saturdays, 2:30-5:30). The group is looking for an approximately 100 seat venue to produce and perform the plays they craft.
2. Benefit for Haiti – *The Other Side of the Water The Other side of the Water*- Preview/Discussion – the film chronicles the Haitian-American experience, offering “a rare glimpse into a world of music, spirituality and cultural activism.” Clips were shown from the documentary produced by CB9 Public Member, Magali Damas. Film is being shown at The Brooklyn Museum during its “First Saturday’s” Program on February 6. The documentary will also be shown on DCTV on Friday February 12th. Visit www.theothersideofthewater.org for more information.

Announcements:

1. Ade Williams, Apollo Theater – In celebration of the Apollo’s 75th Anniversary, a \$7.50 pass is available allowing access to Apollo Theater programs for \$7.50. Invited all to learn about and take advantage of Apollo’s education and performance programs at the Apollo including the Salon Series on the Soundstage and Amateur Night.
2. Penny Maria Jackson – Harlem Stage – upcoming film, theatre, music and dance programs including a preview of the Mike Ladd/Vijay Iyer collaboration, their “Uptown Nights” program, and a tribute to Nina Simone by the Black Rock Coalition. Brochures with complete schedule was distributed.

3. Harlem School of the Arts – community access to the HSA for events, programs. Brochures/Event Schedules for HAS, Harlem Stage and Apollo also to be made available for distribution at General Board meeting 3/18.

Artists Living/Working in West Harlem: ~ Debra Ann Byrd

Discussion/Performance by the recent recipient of the Lucille Lortel Award:

CB9 Committee Member, Debra Ann Byrd, recent recipient of Lucille Lortel Award performed a monologue by Ina Norris. Debra Ann Byrd is the Artistic Director of Take Wing and Soar Production a CB9-based theatre organization whose mission is to support emerging and professional classical artists of color, by fostering their artistic achievement and personal growth, by providing opportunities for career development, and by developing creative programming that fosters diversity in classical theatre.

Arts & Politics – conceived by public member Stephanie Berry, this interactive series explores issues and topics of interest and concern to the community. *Homelessness: An Interactive Presentation* was presented as a sample of this upcoming series. A creative dialogue exploring homelessness, followed.

NEXT ARTS & MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 1 at BROADWAY HOUSING