

MINUTES - REVISED

Arts and Culture Committee Plenary Meeting Monday, June 12, 2006

In Attendance: Tamara Gayer, Vicky Gholson, Christa Giesecke, Savona Bailey-McClain, Lee-Ann Pinder, J. Reyes-Montblanc, on chair; Diane Wilson

Chair called the meeting to order and appointed all CB9M members in attendance to be members of the newly formed Arts and Culture Committee and Lee-Ann Pinder as a Public Member.

Discussion re the formation of the Committee and its future plans ensued:

1. The Committee will coordinate arts and cultural elements of Community Board 9 Manhattan.
2. The Committee will identify arts and cultural organizations, individual artists and individuals who work in actual culture production in CB9M and bring them to the table.
3. The Committee will conduct a broad survey to determine the scope and nature of the artistic community in CB9M. This would include a list of arts organizations but more comprehensively it would identify the number and type of artists functioning in our community (what is their medium/discipline, their fields of interest and their needs). This would be done not merely for statistical purposes but to bring artists into close contact with each other and to boost the visibility and viability of the artistic community in the district; The Committee will therefore survey what arts and cultural programs currently exist within CB9M and provide them support in such areas as fundraising, writing CB9M letters of support, helping them navigate city bureaucracy, etc.
4. It was noted that in addition to acting as lobbyists, promoting and overseeing projects, the Committee should consider forming an arts and cultural district.
5. The Committee should assume a pro-active posture and generate ideas—i.e. creating a Broadways Arts Festival, poetry competition, projects that partner the arts with children, etc. The Committee should serve as a brain trust, not only to develop projects in our community as it relates to the arts but also to implement such programs.
6. The importance of maintaining close ties with other committees in CB 9M was stressed.
7. It was noted that a Mission Statement must be drafted; the Committee must set objectives for the year, such as some CB9M event off Thanksgiving or other feasts and holidays; this should be accomplished by the September Committee meeting. The Committee should make a presentation in September at the General Board Meeting when the full Board reconvenes after summer recess.
8. The importance was reaching out to individuals, not just organizations, was discussed at length; the Committee needs to focus on the actual members of the creative community in the district. The Committee should create a list of artists and help match them with resources, grants, space for exhibits, etc., thereby assisting them to gain visibility.
9. It was mentioned that we should look at clusters, i.e. graphic artists, rather than paying particular attention to individual artists.