

Arts and Culture Committee
Manhattan Community Board 9
June 1, 2009 Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Committee Members: Co-Chairs: Linda Walton, Diane Wilson
Miriam Aristy-Farer, Debra Ann Byrd, Vicky Gholson, PhD,
Donitra Clemons, Christa Gieseke excused
Public/Task: Stephanie Berry, Magli Damas, LeeAnne Pinder,
Board Members: Pat Jones, Winston Majette

Meeting called to order at 6:44pm

Motion to adopt the agenda

Motion to approve the minute

Introductions

Mesiyah McGinnis-Artistic Director, Harlem School of the Arts Theater, Director of Community Outreach, **Darryl Hell**, Co-Founder Chashama, **Margaret Porter Troupe** – Executive Dir Harlem Textile Works, **Leleyna Gomez** (DJ), **LeeAnne Pinder**—Concert producer, **Cidra Sebasitian**-Brotherhood/Sister Sol, **Stephanie Berry**- Blackberry Productions, Actress, **Michel Madie**-Temple M, **Johnmartin Green** – Chair Arts & Culture – West Harlem Local Development Corp, Blackberry Productions, **Lynette Velasco**, Special Assistant to Councilmember Inez Dickens, **Annie Ethridge**, working on a portrait project of Harlem, **Pat Jones**, Chair of CB9, **Misha McGlown**-Program Development Manager, Children's Art Carnival, **Daniel Carlton**, Teaching artists, actor, writer, **Aleathia Brown**-residence at Chashama, visual artist and arts educator

Committee Co-chairs enlisted the assistance of CB9 Youth, Education & Libraries Committee to identify summer arts and education programs.

Summer Arts Programs for Youth - Presentations

► **Harlem Textile Works - Margaret Porter-Troupe –**

- Arts education program for 14 -20 year olds, learn silk screen printing, computer training, offer internships
- Fashion Camp – create designs, learn to sew, go into the field to visit fashion designers.
- 6 week program starting after July 4, 10am -3pm, 4 days a week
- Working out the cost of the program
- There is an informal interview to gauge their level of interest
- www.harlemtextileworks.org/applicationform
- Also offer a program called Gotham Studio for professional artists on Monday 3pm -6pm

► **Harlem School of the Arts – E. Mesiyah McGinnis**

- 45 years old
- Programs for ages 4 – 90 years olds. Offer programs in dance, theater, music, visual arts for youth and adults
- After school, weekend classes, and summer program
- Summer Programs – Artscape, Teen Arts. While pricey, HSA engages high quality artists, 6 week program, July 6 – August 5, 8am – 6pm, After-care at an additional costs
- Mesiyah also does video production

► **Children's Art Carnival – Misha McGlown -**

In their 40th year

- Summer Programs – July 8 – August 5, work with those day camps already in session to bring their campers to CAC twice a week, Monday & Wednesday
- Creative Arts 8 -12 for workshops, \$150, July 7 – August 5
- New Generation of Artists (N'GOA) students got together to form a workshop, poetry, urban word on 18th St. for assistance to express ideas, this work informs the visual arts component, \$30 July 7 – Aug 11
- www.childrensartcarnival.com
- Celebration at the Carnival exhibiting visual on Saturday
- 4 – 18 years olds participate in multi-media workshops, ceramics, creative media arts (storytelling & videography, the art of comics)

► **Lynette C. Velasco – Special Assistant to Council Member Inez Dickens (CM-ID)**

- Often working beyond her district, CM-ID understands the importance of the arts in communities and importance of keeping arts alive and maintaining the Harlem legacy and sustaining historic cultural institutions that have been around for a long time
- She is concerned about the health of children and feels the arts are an effective anti-gang tool.
- The economic downturn has limited the dollars that are available for the arts but is advocating in the Council for continued support of the art..
- As the vetting process for applying for support can be difficult, it is recommended that arts groups with limited capacity consider working with service organizations like HAA who can serve as a conduit.
- CM-ID supports the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce and their efforts to sustain community businesses. Things to consider when submitting applications for funding is do the program educate and create jobs?
- ImageNation and the Jazz Museum of Harlem are going into Mart125.
- Some organization will have to merge and some partner in order to sustain programs.
- Need to employ grassroots tactics including having parent's tithes, set up relief fund for the arts/artists and give thought to how arts groups can be more self-sufficient during these difficult times.
- Senator Malcolm Smith, Congress Rangel, Assemblyman Farrell, and Senator Perkins should be kept informed about our programs, send info to them on a regular basis
- Emergency Youth Summit at Harlem Hospital Auditorium hosted by Councilmember Inez Dickens, Wednesday 4pm – 7pm

Committee member Vicky Gholson advised that the larger sums of monies received from government has historically come from the Department of Justice and that we should keep our antennae up as this could be a possible area of support. Dr. Gholson expressed her concern about the loss of 7 youth programs in the district that impacts over 500 youth.

► **Brotherhood/Sister Sol - Cidra Sebastian**

- Brotherhood/Sister Sol is a youth organization founded in 1995 and serves over 250 youth ages 6-18 years old
- Liberation Program for Youth Advocates, a program that focuses on social justice and the impact of the arts. Runs from Aug 3 -29 5 days a week. There is also a weekend retreat and extends throughout 14-18 years of age
- Training as youth advocates over a 4 week period with a focus on social justice movements and the role of arts in these movements. The program looks at similar movements that have taken place in Ghana, So Africa, and Brazil
- They are paid for their participation from Oct-June and use their skills to turn around their communities and schools
- Offer after school programs and summer camps
- Application process, deadline extended to June 5
- Community Garden – work with landscape artists, garden located next to their building. New mural going up
- Int'l travel program – going to Brazil, learn about the culture and language in preparation for the trip. While in Brazil, they will assess neighborhoods structures and artists collaboratives. Will do an exhibit featuring photos taken during their travels.
- Brotherhood/Sister Sol - Domestic Workers United – encouraging elected officials to pass a bill that protects the rights of domestic workers (sick days, vacation days, base salary)

► **Harlem Week/Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce - Winston Majette –**

- Deputy Director of Harlem Week – 35th Anniversary
- Invites groups to exhibit during HW, opportunity to reach 1.3 Million people
- HW runs from the last Sunday in July through August
- Provides jobs, sustains business
- www.harlemdiscover.com
- Locate at Sanitation Department as a source for support (Anti-graffiti funding)
- Josh Barker at Amsterdam News is interested in doing a conference on youth programs.

► **Chashama – Working Space for Artists - Anita Durst & Darryl Hell, Founders**

- Started in the mid 90's with the goal of showing experimental art in public place. They now have 10 spaces in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens. Offer space free or subsidized for developing artists.
- www.chashama.org for info on their selection process.
- Space on 126th Street (Amsterdam & Morningside), 20 artists and will host CB9 Arts and Culture Committee September meeting

- Youth outreach – Reconstruct Art – Lawrence Joyner used one of the Chashama spaces to on ACP and 117th Street. Took awhile for neighborhood to come into the space
- Aleathia Brown – artist in residence at Chashama, spoke about her residency a Chashama ACP & 117th St for a month. Prior to coming into the space, Aleathia walked around the neighborhood to see what was going on. She got to know the neighbors before she moved in. Has documented her process, incorporating people from the neighborhood. Art workshops, panel discussions.
- Anita reported that Councilmember Dan Garodnick had a meeting about summer programs for youth (Whitney, Intrepid) , Harlem groups should know about this event

Information Exchange – Upcoming Events/Issues

► Arts & Politics Series at Temple M – Stephanie Berry and Daniel

- Empower the artistic voice in the district that would unify the artist and political community. Address issues that impact our community. Have had conversations with Michel Madie to hold the series at Temple M. Activities include performances, panels, community talk-back, video presentations. Showcase CB9 artists and political voices. Inspire creative solutions to issues. Themes are education, save the children, workers, neighborhood stories, cultural holiday celebration, and gender issues.
- Daniel - will film people in the community, show clips before the discussion. Series seeks to represent the people of Harlem. For the education session, will work with teachers, principals, students, custodians, individuals that have a perspective, stakeholders.
- Series provides an opportunity for collaboration with cultural organizations in the distribute

► John-Martin Green – WHLDC - Community Benefits Agreement

- CBA represents \$300M in services and cash for West Harlem. \$76M cash disbursement over 16 years
- The priorities are to hire a program director who will conceive a strategic plan and consider how the first of the monies (\$500K) will be used.
- An area of focus will be unemployed, under-trained males.
- Allotment of monies will be predicated on ability to leverage additional resources and opportunities that extend the life of the allotment. Consider investments to extend
- Think about initiatives for A&C
- Copy of CBA is available for review. Working group may be convened over the summer

► Annie Ethridge

- Will photograph people who are active in the community, families that have been in Harlem shooting in her home studio on ACP & 114th. Shooting in classic black and white and will require people to sit for an hour, in exchange , she will provide a print. Has worked with WE-ACT and photographed several of their staff members
- Dr. Gholson complimented the committee for bringing people together constructively and for staying the course to ensure that the committee was reinstated.
- Dr. Gholshon has organized community meetings at the new school, PS-IS 210 located on Amsterdam Ave @ 152nd Street
- Arranged for access to the gym on Fri Sat Sun.. Started with 6 young people, has grown to over 50. Offering basketball and other activities. It is becoming a place for parent's to come in to talk about their issues.
- There is no block party for DTH this year.
- There are a limited number of slots for young people for the Summer Youth Employment Program and not as many stipends available from the stimulus monies coming from the Dept of Labor.
- 5 schools in the district, no programs, are being moved to one school.
- Would like to Investigate the possibility of bringing a program to the new school

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNED 8:50pm

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY – SEPTEMBER 14, 2009
AT CHASHAMA 461 West 126th St between Amsterdam & Morningside
Enjoy a fantastic & creativity-filled summer!