MINUTES

Arts and Culture Task Force Meeting -- Wednesday, May 28, 2008

Present: Stephanie Berry (SB); Debra Byrd (DB); Magali Dumas (MD); Pat Jones (PJ); Lee Ann Pinder (LP); Diane Wilson (DW).

Meeting began at 6:40 with discussion on **District Office window decoration**. SB shared her ideas with the Task Force and agreed to collaborate with DB; DB also to tie in with Youth/Education Committee to see if youth/school involvement possible; PJ to speak with the Children's Art Carnival; **DB to write up a list of ideas as discussed for submission to CB9 Board Chair by our next meeting.**

Meeting continued with **Information Exchange**, group discussion. Many activities of artistic/cultural interest and significance to West Harlem highlighted. Among them:

- Development of an Arts/Cultural/Entertainment Center at the Marine Transfer Station; members encouraged to attend June 3rd Harlem Piers Committee mtg to hear CB9 Arts and Culture and Waterfront/Eco Dev Committee member Vicky Gholson present this idea;

- Support for the Juan Rodriques Bust at Harlem Piers (Task Force agreed to research identity/history of Mr. Rodriques before offering support of this specific project if restored to full Committee standing); discussion re permanent versus temporary art work for display at the piers; informed that Waterfront/Eco Development Committee envisions permanent displays; PJ advised we discuss and collaborate with Savona McClain Chair, Waterfront & Eco Dev Committee and Brad Taylor, Chair, Parks and Recreation Committee;

- Notification of the upcoming *HarlemStage* Urban Alternative concert featuring Sun Ra; HarlemStage may make a presentation before the General Board mtg on 6/19 announcing this big outdoor event and discussing their on-going efforts to maximize community involvement in West Harlem.

On **Drafting a new Mission Statement and Crafting an Arts and Culture Committee Identity** – group discussed the need to preserve the rich legacy and true history of West Harlem; West Harlem should be recognized as a cultural and economic Mecca much like how Chinatown and Little Italy are regarded; we must encourage and embrace the changing landscape of our community, recognizing the various immigrant populations that have traveled the paths of West Harlem.

Further, suggested that if the Task Force is reinstated as a Committee we could consider sponsoring an ***Arts Contest*** to be held in parks throughout West Harlem (St. Nick, Piers, Riverside, etc.), partnering with Dickens, Jackson and other area politicians. An ***Arts***

Contest or ***Festival*** helps us shape an identity, expand our core and connect to the needs of residents in West Harlem specifically.

Discussion followed on the Committee's role as Event Producers (City Charter does not provide that community boards function as production entities) vs. **Resource Providers** with the latter being our agreed upon goal. For example, the Arts and Culture Committee could broker space for artists and cultural organizations; identify artists and orgs in the community (**Directory**); connect people with needed services relative to artistic and cultural endeavor (display space at libraries, for example). The District Manager, Larry McClean suggested that we make a **request for an intern** that could help us compile a **Directory of Artists and Cultural Institutions in CB9.** Also suggested, A&C collaborate with CB9 Board Member and Co-Chair of Youth, Education and Libraries Committee, Winston Majette re Harlem Week activities.

At next Task Force Meeting a new mission statement is to be drafted. All present were given copies of old mission statement as originally conceived and asked to revise/update/inform new copy and bring edited copy with them to next meeting.

Time, date and location of next meeting to be determined; DW reminded the group that the Task Force would like to submit the new Mission Statement to PJ by June 30th so our request for reinstatement can be considered over the summer Executive session.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35.