Arts & Culture Committee of Community Board Nine

Savona Bailey McClain & Michael J. Palma, Chairs
Jordi Reyes Montblanc, Co-Chair
Tamara Gayer, Vicky Gholson, Christa Giesecke, Linda Walton & Diane Wilson, Board Committee Members
Lee-Ann Pinder & Valarie Winborne, Public Members

Committee Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2006

I - Call to order: A quorum present, the meeting called to order promptly at 6:45 PM.

Present: Savona Bailey McClain, Michael Palma, Vicky Gholson, Lee-Ann Pinder, Tamara Gayer, Christa Giesecke, Linda Walton & Diane Wilson.

Absent: No one.

Excused: Valarie Winborne.

Guests & Community Members: See attached sign-in sheet.

II - ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: The agenda was adopted with one change: a motion was made, seconded and passed to move the Old Business section before the New Business.

III - APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the Prior meeting of September 18, 2006. The meeting was call to attention, but since there was no quorum, it was not called to order: hence, there are no minutes to an official meeting that needs approval. However, an informal meeting was held and notes to that meeting were handed out to information and to make any recommended changes.

IV - INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Savona Bailey McClain thanked and introduced news guests for attending, including a bevy of students from the Arts Administration program from Columbia University and representatives from the Institute of African American Studies, the Barnard College Theatre Program, and Arnie Zane Dance Company, Triple Candy, and the New York Public Library. (For a complete list of attendees, please see sign – in sheet.)

V – SHORT PRESENTATIONS:

Patricia Jones, a member of the recently formed West Harlem Local Development Corporation, and a member of Community Board 9, made some brief remarks about the LDC and its mission: primarily to negotiate a community benefits agreement on behalf of community district nine with Columbia University with regard to their expansion plans into West Harlem's Manhattanville. For more in depth information about the West Harlem LDC, Ms. Jones gave a website of www.westharlemldc.org. Ms. Jones continued to give an explanation as to why the

LDC was created along with a brief history of Columbia University's expansion plans and rezoning requests in their 197(c) proposal with New York City. Ms. Jones explained some basic difference between Columbia's 197(c) and CB 9's 197(a) proposals, citing another website that can give more in depth information about the 197(a) plan at www.pratt.net. Both plans are at "City Planning" and are being reviewed concurrently (a first in New York City history.)

Ms. Jones handed out the some handouts to illustrate the differences. Also, the By-Laws of the LDC were handed out, as well as a list of Board Members.

Ms. Jones stated that there is currently a seat for an active member on the Board of the LDC under the community representative category of Arts & Culture which needs to be filled. Ms. Jones requested any recommendations for those that are eligible for appointment to the Arts & Culture LDC board seat.

As far as timing, Ms. Jones related that the LDC would like to begin negotiations as soon as possible, especially before the public review of their plan or ULURP process begins. Ms. Jones surmised that negotiations would probably start in a couple of months and take as much as several months to conclude. Ms. Jones stress that it is key to have all LDC Board seats filled so that working groups can be formed in preparation for negotiations.

A questioned and answer session ensued around the work of the LDC, its mission and what it would exactly negotiate, would it try to reconcile differences between the 197 (a) and (c) plans.. Ms. Jones stated that the LDC was not going to negotiate mitigation or reconciliation of the plans; that was being left for CB9 and their consultants. The LDC is primarily concerned with negotiating a community benefits agreement, and that some point in the negotiation may or may not cause Columbia to changes some aspects of their plan. Both plans may change during the city planning and subsequent public reviews, but the LDC does not have as its mission the rewriting or reworking of Columbia's plan.

Ms. Bailey McClain added as a footnote that the current CB9 197(a) plan does not have any material Arts & Culture recommendations that may be used by the LDC to help negotiate a community benefits agreement and she stated that it will be on the Arts & Culture committee agenda to develop those recommendations.

Looking over Ms. Jones' handouts, Mr. Palma noted a recent development to the make up of the LDC Board, asking why nine (9) board seats were added under the representative category of "Politicians." Ms. Jones explained that West Harlem politicians, as elected representative of the affected community at all levels of representation, would help monitor, implement and enforce negotiated items with CU at this early stage of the process. Mostly the chiefs of staff are appointed to the LDC Board seats.

Recommendations for filling the vacant Arts & Culture seat on the LDC Board can be made directly to Ms. Jones at patjonesny@aol.com or 212-694-5007. Also, Arts & Cultural Committee member Christa Giesecke is also a LDC Board member and recommendation can be made to her directly.

Angie Harmon, of Experience Harlem, made a brief presentation and defined her organization as primarily a corporate marketing program to connect Harlem businesses with people who live, work and play in Harlem. Experience Harlem features three key components: an orange informational booklet with ads and discounts to local Harlem businesses, a website at www.experienceharlem.com , as well as a monthly internet magazine called "Experiences" highlighting what is "unique and undiscovered" in Harlem businesses.

Currently, Experience Harlem does not market or cater to the Latino community in Harlem, but Ms. Harmon said she would consider investigating a bilingual edition, especially for East and West Harlem.

VI - OLD BUSINESS

1 - Set regularly monthly Arts & Culture committee meeting date: by unanimous vote, the Arts & Culture Committee Meeting is set for the first Monday of the month, except when that day is a holiday or a Board election event, in which case it will be on the following Monday.

2 – Swing Space Program Update: No formal report to make here other than to say the application for the Swing Space Program of the Lowe Manhattan Cultural Council is now available at CB9.

3 – Gabarron exhibit Update: Mr. Palma gave a brief update about his experience at the Gabarron sculpture installation in recognition of Christopher Columbus' 500 Anniversary of his exploration and discoveries in the Americas. A series of sculpture installation starting at Columbus Circle going up the Broadway Malls, an installation at the Montefiore Park in community district nine was also displayed for the public. Committee member Christa Giesecke noted some General Board member negative feelings about Christopher Columbus and what he represents to some.

4 – Issuance of a letter to City Agencies, Politicians, Organizations by way of information and regarding the newly formed Arts & Culture Committee of CB 9, its mission, and how to contact the committee for participation, etc. The letter is to be assigned for drafting and presentation to the membership.

5 – Issuance of a letter to Community Board 12's Arts & Culture committee to work and communicate any arts and culture related issues that mutually benefit our shared communities. The letter is to be assigned for drafting and presentation to the membership.

VII – NEW BUSINESS

A free and open discussion on community needs with regard to Arts & Culture was started with no special purpose other than to listen to those in attendance express

what related efforts should be made in the community district nine. Among the efforts mentioned included:

- **Increase arts and entertainment activity in the area,**
- **Increase artist work space and residency programs,**
- **Art links with neighborhood schools and educational initiatives,**
- **Increase venues for the arts and affordable housing,**
- **Increase marketing and information about art activities in the area**
- **Art professionals from the area should work with schools and their arts programs,**
- **Arts Education should be integral to our neighborhood schools.**
- **Arts management assistance**
- **Inform and register artists, organizations and art related business with Dunn & Bradstreet under the proper SIC codes for the arts**
- **Enhance the representations of the diverse cultures in the district.**

VIII - MEETING ADJOURNED, at 8:30 PM.