

Arts and Culture Committee
Manhattan Community Board 9
Monday, September 14, 2010
Broadway Housing Communities (Dorothy Day Building)
583 Riverside Drive, 7th Floor Penthouse

DRAFT

In Attendance:

Committee Members:

Dr. Vicky Gholson, Christa Giesecke, LaQuita Henry,
Diane Wilson, Linda Walton

Public Members:

Pamela Babb, Stephanie Berry, Judith Insell, PennyMaria Jackson, Lee-Ann Pinder

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Approved

Updates:

PS 186 Reso: Preserving a Cultural Legacy

A&C Committee agreed to co-host with the Landmarks & Preservation Committee, the Donald Friedman's presentation on the rehabilitation of PS 90 that, like PS186 was also designed by Charles Snyder. PS90 is an existing school building located at 220 West 148th Street converted to mixed income condominiums and will include 75 residential units and approximately 13,500 square feet of community facility space in the lower level. Current renovations preserved the historic H-shaped configuration of the school, which fronts both 147th and 148th streets.

The committee discussed the various perspectives on PS 186

- PS 186 is a salvageable structure
- Need to hear from the Boys & Girls club about their plans for the site
- Resolutions were drafted in the Landmarks Committee and the Land Use & Zone Committee both were passed at Committee but voted down at Executive. The Reso drafted by Arts & Culture Preserving a Cultural Legacy was tabled at Executive.
- It was suggested that we continue working across committees and submit one joint resolution
- There is concern about the expiration of the deed restriction

Public Members

- Committee would like to better understand the boards rule regarding the role of public members on the board. As generally understood, public member are allowed to speak at committee meetings, but may or may not be able to vote at meetings.

A&C Directory

- One of the goals outlined by the committee was the creation of an Arts & Culture Directory. The committee has developed forms to collect info on artists and arts organizations in the district. We will have the capacity to tie this info into the City's database (DUIIT). Each committee can do a listing of their members, organizations, and then put up CB9 website.
- It was proposed that graphic elements be included in the directory

District Needs

- As part of the budget consultation process, each Community Board Committee submits a list of items for support to corresponding City agencies. The Department of Cultural Affairs does not participate in this process leaving the Arts & Culture committee without a corresponding agency to submit requests.
- In previous years, there has been an attempt to submit A&C requests with other Committees, but with limited success
- It was suggested that the A&C call the 3 Upper Manhattan Community Boards to see what how their A&C requests are handled followed by a meeting with DCA

CB9 Committee Collaboration

- CB9 received a grant targeted for health and recreation programs that were cut
- The A&C committee would like to explore ideas with other committees for use of funds.
- Ideas: District-wide Dance-a-thon, essay or poster contest between schools, or block associations (work with local businesses) to better understand their community and their role in the community. Work with Youth & Education Committee

Committee Structure

- The new structure put in place has raised several concerns
- The shift in co-chairs to assistant chairs was due in part to the discourse experienced between some co-chairs and the Board Chairs desire to hold one individual accountable for each committee while at the same time allowing a 'junior' or newer board member to be groomed for position of leadership.
- The Committee wants to better understand the role of the assistant chair.
- The A&C Committee felt strongly that the Co-chair structure (sharing responsibility) was working quite well and that the change in structure hampers the progress that we have made as a committee.
- A&C has reached out to the community and across committees to collaborate and have had very constructive dialogues
- The committee recommended that we restate our accomplishments, provide an action plan for the year and request that the Chair look at each committee individually and based on their individual dynamics

Task Force

- In light of the threat of closing recently experienced by Harlem School of the Arts, members of the committee and community met to discuss ways that CB9 might support arts organizations in the district.
- An ad hoc task force was formed and a consultation with Alphonso Wyatt of the Fund for the City of New York was scheduled and the following advice was provided:
 - Non Profit organizations need to be Financially secured
 - Can't spend more than they receive
 - Should be open to change
 - Boards of Directors have to be involved in fundraising and do something to help the organizations.

- Engage other organization but understand they do not want to be involved
 - Workshops for administrators and board members would be helpful
 - Civic minded grant money is available
- The Task Force in conjunction with the committee has developed a survey to be disseminated to arts groups to learn more about their needs

Building Strong Partnerships

Dr. Vicky Gholson reported on the progress on the Sculpture Garden on her block (West 153rd Street between St. Nicholas & Amsterdam). With support from Chashama and the Heritage Health & Housing, the Garden has received a few improvements.

This is a shining example of how effective partnerships and collaboration enrich the community.

NEXT MEETING ~ OCTOBER, 4, 2010

In support of the Harlem Arts Alliance's Arts Advocacy Week, the CB9 Arts and Culture Committee is invited to attend the opening reception at Dance Theatre of Harlem 466 West 152nd Street on October 4 at 6:00 pm . As space is limited, rsvp is recommended.