

Chairs Report
Community Board 9
June 19, 2014

Attended Book Reception: McKissack & McKissack reception celebrating the publication of *125th: Time in Harlem*, by Isaac Diggs and Edward Hillel.

Held New member orientation which yielded productive discussion, By-Laws reviewed and Board/Committee information distributed.

Multicultural festival was a great success with many vendors participating. Community residents shared their delight in having such an event in our district. Groups from around the world exhibited their talents and cultural traditions. Many meetings were held to coordinate the festival and secure the area that included NYPD, NYACE, Community businesses/Organizations, as well as HAS.

Meeting with Sabine Franklin from Council Member Levine's, office to continue developing a strong relationship and community agenda. Sharing the ideas and plans that each entity has, for the upcoming year and discussion as to how to best support initiatives that benefit our district.

Meetings held with several members regarding their participation on CB9, roles in committees and projects of interest that will be transformative for our district.

Discussions with Thorobird's development corp. regarding innovative ways in which affordable housing can be developed in our district and throughout the city. The idea around integration of family housing for moderate and low income households in developments with Condo units as well as the role of local churches who own property, creating opportunities for housing while securing their financial future.

The "H" in Harlem has required extensive hours of advocacy and collaboration with the Artist, DOT, NYPD, local businesses. Many days were spent to facilitate the excess to power for the installation as well as seeking assistance with the pricing and cost of power and the lighting event.

Attended TCCS Spring fling: Parents and faculty created a wonderful and exciting atmosphere of leisure and recreation where children were able to explore and create science projects, participate in art projects and have energized play.

Took part in a spirited discussion with students from the Kenneth Cole Fellows program. Historical information shared as well as the purpose of Community Boards. Students were very interested in the effect of the “takedown” in Grant and Manhattanville houses. They also openly discussed the effects of gentrification both positive and negative on our area. Community economics drew a very involved dialogue.

Housing Forum: CB9 Seniors/Land Use and Housing committees held an informative forum that addressed issues of housing from both the tenant and home owners perspective. HPD, DHS, NYHCA, WHGA and many other organizations came out to present. Residents appeared to feel comfortable asking questions and engaging the presenters. The committees did an outstanding job of getting city agencies and elected involved.

Attend the Big Brothers Breakfast program which works with young men giving them support in all areas of life as well as serving as examples of what these young men can accomplish if they continue in the program and develop goals that their mentor assists them to attain.

Stake Holders meeting with DA office and many community organizations to create plans for prevention of criminal activities and the recruitment of younger children into the gangs. Debates surrounding the need for more than just a few fun play days here and there but more substantive programming ongoing was open and vigorous. The need for mental health services was highlighted by a local principal. CB9 indicated that it is time for the Mayor and the DA to sit down and make plans to put funds in prevention rather than spending millions of dollars for “sting operations”. The PAL should look at developing satellites in many of the local churches that are underutilized it would require utility payments and cost of sextons.

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**Borough President's Report
To Community Board # 9**

New York City Council Resolution 115. - As you may know the New York City Charter (Subdivision 11 of § 82) grants the Borough President the power to have legislation introduced in the Council. 3 months ago, the BP asked that a Resolution be introduced for consideration by the City Council. I am happy to report that City Council Resolution 115, which was co-sponsored by Council Members Kallos, Torres, Levine, and Vacca (with additional sponsorship by many other council members), passed last week (June 11). City Council Resolution 115 urges the New York State Legislature to pass and the governor to sign 2 pieces of legislation that would allow 16 and 17 year olds to serve on Community Boards. The Borough President has worked for years to ensure that young people have a greater voice in their communities. She believes that allowing them to serve on Community Boards benefits communities by bringing to those boards a much needed youth perspective and benefits youth by engaging them in civic activities at a young age. We will keep you posted on this matter as new developments occur.

Brewer Testimony to NYC Rent Guidelines Board .

The BP testified on the RGB proposed annual adjustment of 0% for one year lease and 0.5 % to 4.5 % for two years lease renewals commencing October 1, 2014. The BP stated that “while Manhattan is home to some of the wealthiest neighborhoods, it also has some of the poorest—and most rent burdened—community districts in the City. Between 2002 and 2012, Manhattan lost nearly

100,000 units to destabilization.^[2] This tremendous loss was not only the result of coop and condo conversion and vacancy “improvements” pushing the rents over the regulated limit, but it resulted also from the steady, inexorable climb of regulated rents over the years as a result of renewal guideline increases issued by this Board. Those increases have pushed regulated rents ever closer to the threshold for deregulation. They have made rents for many poor and working people in Manhattan less and less affordable, jeopardized the security of middle-income families, and threatened the stability of neighborhoods”. She also said that “ It is this Board’s responsibility to try and balance the rights and interests of tenants with those of the real estate industry. I am calling for the exemption of all buildings with both regulated and market rate units from being subjected to annual rate adjustments”. Brewer concluded by saying that “ To summarize: I urge this Board to live up to its responsibility to the tenants of New York City and, in light of the levels to which rents have risen through increases over the years, grant them a reprieve in the form of a rent freeze”.

CB Roster online! At ManhattanBP.nyc.gov. - I’m happy to report that the official Community Board roster is now available on our [website](#). As changes in membership occur, the list will be updated to reflect that. The latest version of the roster will always be available on our website.

Fun stuff: The Wall Street Journal’s recently featured an article about Community Boards and some of their longest-serving members. The Journal also used the opportunity to raise the issue of term limits for CB members (which, FYI, the BP does not support).

Wall Street Journal: “Original Members of New York City’s Community Boards Enjoy Serving”

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/original-members-of-new-york-citys-community-boards-enjoy-serving-1401327002>

plus Sidebar: “5 things about New York City community boards”

<http://blogs.wsj.com/briefly/2014/05/28/5-things-about-new-york-city-community-boards/>

FRIDAY: BP Brewer & staff launch “Day of Action” to get information to families about free summer meals for kids

New York, N.Y. – Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer, volunteers and staff will fan out across the borough on Friday morning to distribute information by school district about NYC’s summer meals program – with hours, locations, and additional information.

Most children who are eligible for summer meals do not participate in the program, and the most commonly-cited reason is that families don’t know where to go, according to the Food Bank for New York City’s 2013 Hunger Safety Net report.

Brewer has called for urgent reforms to improve outreach and delivery of NYC’s summer food program for schoolchildren as a way to combat hunger.

WHEN: Friday, June 20, 2014, at 8 a.m.

WHERE: Throughout Manhattan. **BP Brewer will be at P.S. 189 in Washington Heights 2580 Amsterdam Avenue between West 188th and 189th Streets.

WHO: Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, volunteers, and staff.

WHAT: “Day of Action” for NYC’s summer meals program.

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Preliminary Neighborhood specific grantees:

- 124th Street Community Garden | Harlem
- EnviHarlem | Harlem
- Eastside Community High School | East Village
- Frederick E. Samuel Resident Association | Harlem
- Gaia Renaissance | West Harlem
- Green Oasis Community Garden | East Village
- Green Park Gardener | Murray Hill
- Harlem Valley Garden | Harlem
- La Plaza Cultural | East Village
- Peachtree Garden | East Village
- P.S. 3 | West Village
- West 132nd Street Block Association & Garden | Harlem

Co-sponsorship: On Saturday, May 31st The BP co-sponsored CB 9's New York City Multicultural Festival along Saint Nicholas Avenue between 141st & 145th Street. Life performances, fashion shows, children activities, health screenings, food and much more took place at the venue where families and local resident enjoyed the event and pleasant weather.