



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

3024 THIRD AVENUE

BRONX, NEW YORK 10455

(718) 585-7117 • Fax (718) 292-0558 • E-mail: brxcb1@optonline.net

SERVING PORT MORRIS • MOTT HAVEN • MELROSE



RUBEN DIAZ, JR.
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

GEORGE L. RODRIQUEZ
CHAIRPERSON

CEDRIC L. LOFTIN
DISTRICT MANAGER

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-LAND USE & HOUSING

MINUTES

February 13, 2019

NEW YORK CITY PERCENT FOR ART PROGRAM

Mr. Kendal Henry Department of Cultural Affairs said that I'm just here as an introduction Ms. Gallo is going to be presenting. I'm from the Percent for Art Program. As part of the Percent for Art Program whenever the city is building any property we commission a work of art for that and today we're going to present a project that we're doing for the 40th Precinct not far from here.

Ms. Borinquen Gallo Artist said good evening everyone, I'm honored to be here and thank you so much for giving us time.

This is some of my previous work a lot of my work focuses on transforming discarded objects from around my urban surroundings. These pieces were made with recycled hub caps and car rims. A lot of the work I do also involves weaving. Again found objects and materials just plastic bags, caution tape. So this piece here is a big weaving made with caution tape it's also made with woven caution tape and green plastic bags. A lot of the work serves for environmentalism and social issues as well as social metaphors. This is a work called Bee Sanctuary made of all woven caution tape. So a lot of the work resonates on a personal and social scale connected to environmental and social issues as well as my personal history. So this is another piece that I've worked with in collaboration with the Bronx Museum of the Arts and Angela Salon on the Grand Concourse. This installation we worked as a community and we built a collaborative sculpture made out of hair and then we invited a group of Dreamers to talk about their current situation with immigration and they came with storytelling and giving voice. This was part of the installation that was outside the Salon. So this is just to give you some context of the work I've been doing.

This is what we've been working on for a few years, I'm honored to be working on this challenging project and for the new Station House Precinct which you surely heard about that's coming to this area. This is an area view of the site that's going to be constructed between Melrose and Mott Haven you can see it right there the green square. This is a closer view it's going to be at the intersection basically of 149th Street St. Ann's and then at Westchester Avenue over there. It's basically going to exist between the Horizon Juvenile Facility and then across the street on the St. Ann's part the University Prep High School. Just a fresh reminder of what the project is going to look like. Here is an aerial view with the renowned green roof it's going to have. This as you see the blue and pink are delineating the perimeter of the fence that's going to exist around the lot extending throughout the block. The proposed artwork is going to exist on the magenta segment next to the building right here and then another portion right over here. So this is the building and this is the proposed area where the intervention will occur. The front of

the building with the renowned Community Room and here a proposed second intervention. When I set out to kind of think about the project one of the questions that was tormenting me was how can this help or contribute to re-envisioning Police and community relations. Which I think is at the core of what we want to do trying to shift the discourse into a positive sort of envisioning of Police-community relations in this area. What I did was I set out to the street and I started interviewing people to get a feel of what they're idea was of what a Police and community relationship is an so I basically stopped passersby and asking them what do you think is the ideal, what would you like the community relations to be like, and I did the same with the Precinct staff. During a visit at the 40th Precinct Station House at its current location 138th Street I went to a few Community Council meetings. I was interviewing community members everyone was saying we want more stability, we want more transparency, we want more respect, we want cleanliness and then when I turned around and talked to the Officers I was shocked to hear that they were basically using exactly the same words. So I collected words, cross reference and then it kind of became clear to me that a lot of times we think we are opposites but at the end of the day I saw the reality that the intention is that we want the same things. So I decided to focus on this concept of identification is really at the core of why we're having all the problems we're having is because we always fail to identify with the other. I propose an intervention along the perimeter of the fence and thing and changing the conception instead of it being a barrier I want it to be a meeting space or a welcoming space something that would disappear as a barrier and basically welcome the community to the Precinct. So I'm proposing like we put a fence that is set to be built there to kind of create an organic texture that will implode and explode and that will also be a resting area where the community instead of oh let me walk very fast and get out of this prison as fast as I can, can actually dwell and sit and stay and potentially interact with the Precinct, with also potential visits from the school across the street and act as a sort of meeting place. The finish of the artwork would be stainless steel in portions so as to be completely reflective of inner light. This would allow a Police Officer to walk by and instead of seeing himself see the community member reflected in tis sculpture. So it will be again this idea of look at myself but I see you instead of myself in the reflection. It will be a kaleidoscope reflection of the community and coming together. So essentially the artwork is a sculpture implementation along the perimeter of the 40th Precinct Station House of stainless steel from the fence a series of abstract organic forms woven together, woven being one of the essential concepts. The artwork is a metaphor for unity. The reflective portions will allow both Police and community members who walk by to see themselves in each other. So again this concept of identification is really central. Socially our work is meant to soften the perimeter. This is a concept of weaving for those of you who have not woven before, weaving is essentially taking two elements one that is vertical and one that is horizontal and you go in and out, in and out and here's an indication of the two things the Officers and the community. Essentially we think of them as separate and opposite but eventually they come together. This is an image of how I weave my work which is painstakingly labor intensive. The yellow installation that you saw earlier took about one year and a half to complete. So that's what we're hoping to see in terms of reflections. Original fence is going to be black and then eventually the fence will transition gray to silver and then eventually it's going to dissolve into like the reflectivity. These re the woven portions that go horizontally. The idea that identifying with each other becomes a possibility suggested by the metaphor and unity for these parties in this community.

So it's the current state of the concept and we're looking forward to your feedback.

QUESTION AND COMMENTS

WIN

Ms. Christine Quinn CEO said that we're giving out materials now that speaks specifically to the project that we're here to discuss. There is also one paper on WIN.

So let me start if I may with kind of a Readers Digest introduction of WIN. WIN is the largest provider of shelter supportive housing to homeless families in New York. Right now as the homeless crisis continues to surge in New York City what we're seeing is the fastest growing portion of the homeless is families with children. Tonight 70 percent of the people in shelters will be families with children. In fact 25 percent of the people in shelter tonight are children five years in age or younger. At WIN we have 10 percent of all these homeless families. What we know is that 92 percent of these families are headed by women. We know that 80 percent of the women at WIN have experienced domestic violence in their adult lifetime. We know that over 50 percent of the Moms com to WIN working, they're in shelter but their working. We have particular programs around job issues moving forward. We also know that 30 to 40 percent homeless families will only thrive when they get out of shelter if they're living in supportive housing. Supportive housing is permanent housing and it's a mix of supportive and community housing. For the supportive clients there are services on site Case Management, Counseling, Nurses depending on the nature of the clients. We run eleven shelters across the city. We're in development now in another one in Coney Island and in conversations with the Staten Island community about a shelter on the north shore. One of the questions we get asked is if the shelter comes to the neighborhood and you know this already because you have a WIN shelter won't that be a drain on services in the neighborhood. All of the services are clients need are provided on site inside the WIN facility. So that is not as you already know from the shelter already here a concern. So just to give you a short sense we run a holistic wrap around model called The Way to Win which has very targeted job programs, it has specific programs based on a trauma informed care model for children, there's after-school programming, it has a camp based on the STEAM curriculum that runs all summer but all school breaks as well. We also have four buildings that are supportive housing across the city. We just opened the largest supportive housing buildings for families in New York State last summer in the Brownsville area of Brooklyn, it's been called Stonehouse and we have 200 scattered site supportive housing units across this city.

About one year and a half or two years ago Mayor de Blasio put out a plan called Turning the Tide and dealt with the increasing crisis of homelessness, growing family homelessness crisis and committed to getting out of Cluster shelter which we know are dangerous and hotels which we know do not have 24 hours security. This neighborhood is one of the neighborhoods in the city that has the largest number of families losing their housing and experiencing homelessness that's why you'll see the shelter going from 76 to 101 in this proposal. The idea of Turning the Tide is to keep people as close to their families, the schools the children are in, their networks of support their neighbors and friends in their own neighborhood. At WIN we really think the judgement of success is of how many people we move out, we moved 800 families last year. The measure of success is do those families return to shelter because if they do very quickly we're not really breaking the cycle which is our goal. Last year 86 percent of the families we moved out we're still out of shelter a year later. Now 86 is not 100 it's not even 95 but is it's a number I'm proud of as actually breaking the cycle and slowing down the revolving door back into the shelter.

Mr. Jerry Mascuol said that as Chris said one of WIN's goals is to increase the number of transitional housing shelters and also we're trying to increase the number of supportive housing we have. When we looked at the Powers Avenue site we looked at the development potential of the site and as is now is

owned by New York City. Just to give you an idea when we looked at the site we realized that we could increase the capacity of the existing shelter and this I guess was built in the late 80's or 90's has some facility challenges there it's a building that needs to be upgraded. So we could increase the capacity and build a new shelter a new facility with better community space, better child care, and every family gets their own unit with a private bathroom and a private kitchen. WIN started operating the Powers facility in 2012 it was an emergency center setup for Sandy and we've been there since then. Looking at the site we setup several goals one is to improve the shelter to build a better facility, maintain the capacity in the shelter before, during and after the development and then maximize the potential of the site by building permanent housing on the site. So we've come up with a proposal that will go through ULURP in the future that will build a new shelter facility around where the parking lot is right now and will keep the existing shelter open during that construction. Then the idea is will build the shelter, will open the new shelter close the old shelter and build the permanent housing on the rest of the site. The shelter we were thinking it could to from 76 currently up to 95 to 100 units and then the permanent housing we do somewhere between 200 to 234 apartments. There will be preference for Bronx families in the shelter preference for Bronx residents in the permanent housing as there will be preference for Bronx residents and neighboring residents in the hiring process in the shelter and supportive housing. On the permanent housing our goal is to meet the needs of Bronx families. The most units will be two's then one bedrooms we try to minimize the number of studios and then we try to get as many three bedrooms as practical. The permanent will have no parking built for the residents. The development will be in two phases so we'd have the ULURP process going on this year basically in 2019 hopefully we'd break ground on the new shelter in 2020 that would take two years to build and at the end of that period when the shelter is completed we would demolish the old shelter and then in another two and half year period to build the permanent housing. The shelter would have onsite program space in the first floor our shelter will also have onsite childcare for shelter residents laundry, recreation and community space, counseling space, Case Management space. For permanent housing we're still on the preliminary stage of planning. The shelter has 24 hour security now and then the new one would of course and then the supportive housing would have security, community space onsite laundry and other amenities. Then we're thinking that we'll be able to create an outdoor space that both the shelter and the permanent housing could share with play equipment and an outdoor garden.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

The Chairperson called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED.