



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

3024 THIRD AVENUE

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Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



VANESSA L. GIBSON
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

PAOLA M. MARTINEZ
CHAIRPERSON

ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

Education, Youth & Young Adults Services Committee Minutes

June 10th, 2026

Amanda Perez, Committee Chairperson

Introduction and Committee Member Introductions

- Committee Chair Amanda Perez introduces herself as the chair of the Education, Youth, and Young Adult Committee meeting.
- Member Andres Madrigal introduces himself as the vice chair of the committee.

Amendment to Agenda and Community Forum

- Committee Chair Amanda Perez requests a motion to amend the agenda to add DYCD and remove Walnut Bar and Grill.
- Member Andres Madrigal raises the motion, which is seconded by Jacqueline De Jesus.
- Committee Chair Amanda Perez opens the floor for discussion, and the motion is approved unanimously.
- Committee Chair Amanda Perez invites community members to share updates and updates from their organizations.

Introduction of Council Member Justin Sanchez's Office

- Sai Pasha introduces herself as the Chief of Staff for Council Member Justin Sanchez and a CD One neighbor.
- She discusses the South Bronx Youth Council, a voluntary committee of kids co-sponsored by the council member.
- The youth council has allocated \$25,000 of discretionary funding to engage youth in policy discussions.
- Sai Pasha emphasizes the commitment to youth engagement and the importance of listening to youth voices.

Youth Advocacy Fellowship Program

- Sai Pasha introduces the youth advocacy fellowship program, funded through discretionary funding.
- The program aims to create year-round funding for youth to participate in student government, attend CDC meetings, and engage in community outreach.
- The program is open to youth who have participated in the SYEP and those who have not.
- Sai Pasha highlights the importance of keeping youth engaged beyond the SYEP program.

Discussion on Youth Advocacy Fellowship Program

- Committee Chair Amanda Perez asks if the youth advocates will only be SYEP participants or if they will include other youth as well.
- Sai Pasha explains that the fellowship is not formalized and is intended to be an exploratory pilot year.
- The goal is to create year-round funding for youth to engage in community activities and advocacy.
- Committee Chair Amanda Perez inquires about the eligibility of youth outside the council district, and Sai Pasha clarifies that the selection is based on interviews with youth council participants.

Community Board One's Engagement with Youth

- District Manager Anthony Jordan emphasizes the importance of youth engagement in community boards.
- He mentions ongoing efforts to involve youth workers in civic engagement and community assessments.
- The goal is to build a partnership between the council member's office and the community board to support youth engagement.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan highlights the need for youth to be involved in community boards and to have a voice in decision-making.

Woodstock Library's Teen Center Program

- Eric Garcia introduces himself as the young adult librarian at the Woodstock Library.
- He highlights the teen center programs available at the library, including arts and crafts, gaming, real-life skills, and pop culture club.
- The library offers free access to professional cameras, PlayStation 5, and other equipment.

- Eric Garcia emphasizes the importance of making the library a welcoming space for teens and encouraging them to participate in programs.

Challenges and Opportunities for Teen Center Programs

- Eric Garcia discusses the challenges of getting teens to participate in library programs.
- He mentions the goal of expanding the teen center and spreading the word to the community.
- The library offers a variety of programs, including Make It Monday, Level Up Tuesday, and Teen Takeover Friday.
- Eric Garcia highlights the importance of making the library a safe and engaging space for teens.

Proposal for Community Planning Fellowship

- Simone Allende introduces herself as the program supervisor for the Family and Youth Peer Support Services at the Bronx Alliance.
- The fellowship would provide a consultant to help solve data and research objectives related to the community.
- Third Ave Bid suggests potential projects, including a retail composition and development study and a vacancy dashboard.
- Committee Chair Amanda Perez and Member Andres Madrigal discuss the potential projects and the importance of addressing neighborhood safety and traffic issues.
- Simone Allende explains the application process for the fellowship and the criteria for selecting a consultant.
- The committee members express interest in the proposal and discuss the need for collaboration with the land use and zoning committee.
- A motion is made to authorize collaboration between the Third Avenue BID and the community planning fellowship application.

Introduction of DYCD Workforce Programs

- DYCD representative introduces the workforce programs, including the SYEP and special initiative programs.
- The representative highlights the need for out-of-school and out-of-workforce programs to support young people with multiple barriers.
- The programs include culinary, CDL, construction, and other sector-specific tracks.
- The representative emphasizes the importance of creating career pathways and supporting young people in gaining credentials.

Discussion on DYCD Workforce Programs

- District Manager Anthony Jordan emphasizes the importance of equitable access to DYCD programs.
- He raises concerns about the lottery system for SYEP and the need for transparency in the selection process.
- The representative from DYCD explains the availability of programs on their website and the capacity to support young people with disabilities.
- The discussion highlights the need for better communication and collaboration between DYCD and community boards to ensure equitable access to programs.

Discussion on Community-Based Organizations and RFPs

- Representative from DYCD explains the process of community-based organizations applying for RFPs, specifically mentioning AHRC as the only one supporting the neurodivergent population.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan inquires about other organizations that didn't apply for the RFP and the reasons behind it.
- Representative from DYCD elaborates on the capacity each provider decides to serve, citing AHRC's choice to support the government sector for easier job placement.
- The conversation shifts to the agency's efforts to compensate for the high demand for slots and the challenges faced by families with young people on the spectrum.

Community Feedback and Rewriting the RFP

- District Manager Anthony Jordan discusses the agency's efforts to reach out to the community and the importance of community feedback in restructuring the RFP.
- Representative from DYCD details the community work groups and the restructuring process based on feedback from young adults, community-based organizations, and community leaders.
- The new RFP includes sector-specific credentialing tracks to address the changing needs of different communities.
- The importance of wrap-around services, such as mandatory social workers and job developers, is emphasized to support the training program effectively.

Vote on the Fellowship and Summer Planning

- Committee Chair Amanda Perez suggests putting the vote on the table for the fellowship, with Member Andres Madrigal supporting the idea raises concerns about traffic and the physical opening of schools, highlighting the need for strategic decisions.

- The group discusses the importance of meeting virtually before submitting the bid and the need for a clear action plan.
- Committee Chair Amanda Perez proposes a contingent vote, contingent on understanding the full commitment from the community board and the bid.

Summer Activities and Book Exchange

- Member Christina Cover shares updates on the book exchange, including the success of the events and the need to continue the initiative in the summer.
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- The idea of a resource fair and a large event in November or December is proposed, with a focus on providing resources and gifts for families.

Planning for Future Meetings and Events

- The group agrees to schedule a meeting for July 28 to plan for the upcoming year, including the resource fair and other events.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan provides updates on community board activities, such as the YMCA movie night and the community cleanup.
- The importance of strategic planning and collaboration with nonprofits to ensure the success of events is emphasized.
- The group discusses the need for better attendance at general board meetings and the potential for a coalition-building approach to involve more young people and organizations.

Addressing Challenges and Future Goals

- Member Jacqueline De Jesus highlights the need for increased participation and awareness of community board meetings and committees.
- The group discusses the challenges faced by families with children on the spectrum and the importance of providing resources and support.
- Committee Chair Amanda Perez suggests inviting more young people and community members to committee meetings to ensure their voices are heard.
- The group agrees to focus on coalition building and strategic planning to address the needs of the community effectively.

Action Items

- **Email the South Bronx Youth Council summer calendar and related materials to the Education, Youth, and Young Adult Committee for posting and social sharing (as requested during the meeting).**

- **Prepare bullet-point proposal(s) for a Community Planning Fellowship project with Third Avenue BID and circulate them to the committee for review (aim to have draft run by committee before September submission).**
- **Follow up and coordinate with Third Avenue BID (Ben) on fellowship proposal details and confirm what the Community Board's commitments would be (ongoing follow-up through summer, lead contact for the committee).**
- **Schedule and circulate a follow-up meeting with DYCD (deeper discussion about workforce/SYEP and equity concerns) to occur in September and re-send the meeting invite/notification to committee members.**
- **Provide entertainment and coordinate performance details for Bronx Hype Day / Healthy Human Healthy Families Fair on August 1 (confirm logistics and point of contact with event organizers).**
- **Send appreciation letters to book-exchange donors (finalize Canva template, send to District Manager and committee) and confirm delivery.**
- **Schedule and send the Zoom calendar invitation for the committee summer check-in meeting on July 28, 5:00–7:00 PM (confirm platform and agenda distribution).**