



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Michael Budabin, **Chair** / Joseph Marziliano, **District Manager**

TO: All Board Members
FROM: Benjamin Turner, Committee Chair
DATE: May 11, 2021
RE: Percent for Art

On Wednesday, May 19, 2021, a meeting of the CB11 Library Committee was held via Zoom teleconference to hear a presentation regarding the Percent for Art program from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs.

Present

Henry Euler, 3rd Vice Chair

Committee Members Lourdes December, Christina Scherer

Community Board Members Albert Galatan, Jessica Burke

CB11 Staff

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager

Jane Bentivenga, Community Coordinator

Guests

David Mandel, NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs (DCLA)

Kendal Henry, NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs (DCLA)

Chantal Antoine, Queens Borough Public Library (QBPL)

Mr. Turner called the meeting to order and introduced the guests attending the meeting. He stated that the Percent for Art program will be reviewed; how it relates to the Douglaston-Little Neck Library will also be discussed.

Mr. Mandel screen-shared a power point presentation outlining the Art for Percent program. Public art, as they define it, is successful intersection of the community, public space and a work of art. New York City has a percent for art law that was established in 1982 and states that 1% of capital funds approved for newly constructed or reconstructed buildings be allocated for works of public art. They will be looking for public art for the Douglaston-Little Neck Library on Northern Blvd. at 249 Street. Mr. Mandel stated that two panel meetings are conducted to review potential artists for a project. Finalists are determined and are then asked to present their ideas at a second meeting. They consider the artist's body of work and what would resonate with the community. There are voting panelists and advisory panelists. Voting panelists always consist of a DCLA representative, someone from the design agency, someone from the sponsor agency and art experts and/or artists. In addition, they would also like to have the community involved

and hope to have a representative from the Community Board; they are hoping for recommendations from CB11 for panelists for both the voting and advisory panels. The advisory panel consists of members of the design team, the local Councilperson's office, the Borough President's office and other local stakeholders. The first panel meeting for this project is scheduled for June 3, 2021. Their email is percentinfo@culture.nyc.gov. Anyone interested in being a panelist can send a letter of interest with a short bio. Potential artists can be nominated through this email address as well. Requirements for an artist are being 18 years old, having a body of work that is out for public view and a portfolio of work that can be reviewed. Mr. Mandel stated that any feedback is welcome through their email address as well. Once an artist is selected for the project, DCLA will present to CB11 with that artist.

Mr. Turner asked what the deadline is for joining the panel. Mr. Mandel stated that since the first meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2021, and they would like to know at least a week in advance; anyone interested should contact them as soon as possible. Mr. Turner also asked if people can make suggestions without being on the panel. Mr. Mandel said yes. Ms. December asked if artists that are college students are eligible. Mr. Henry replied that although the minimum age is 18, there is a level of knowledgeable professionalism expected of the artist since they will be contractors of the City and will be required to go through that process. Mr. Euler asked how long the process typically takes until the artwork is installed in the library. Mr. Henry stated that the artwork will be last thing to go into the building, so it is based on the construction schedule.

Mr. Kelly spoke about the Destination Greenway project which is looking to secure federal funds. He asked if this type of thing could be done in conjunction with federal funding and the Department of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Henry stated that the federal government has its own version of this type of art placement. However, if there is a project that is being done by joint federal funding and city funding, it is possible. Mr. Kelly then asked if there is a threshold that must be met for the cost of the project so as to qualify for the art program. Mr. Henry said it does have to be at least a \$5M project. When someone knows of an upcoming project, Mr. Henry suggested they contact the Department of Parks as early in the process as possible to propose that a percent art design be included. Mr. Kelly also inquired if art that cannot be used where it was originally intended to be could be moved to eastern Queens due to the amount of available, open space. Mr. Henry said this could be done by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Department of Parks (DPR) on a temporary basis, as they own the open space. The Percent for Art is a permanent program operated through the DCLA. Mr. Kelly further asked how CB11 can get more art into the neighborhood. Mr. Henry said that it is capital-project driven. Otherwise, it would have to come through donation programs which only DPR has the capability for; DOT does not. He said it is an arduous process.

Mr. Euler asked how much money is available for this project. Mr. Henry said they will get back to CB11 with that information. Mr. Marziliano raised the topic of the upcoming reconstruction of the QE11/QE13 Department of Sanitation garage on Douglaston Parkway/Winchester Blvd. He stated that he would like to see an art project in conjunction with this capital reconstruction. Mr. Henry said the sponsor agency, and possibly the design agency, should be contacted about including Percent for Art with this project.

Ms. Burke talked about "storywalk" which is interpretative signage that tells a story; she knows it's been installed in other parts of the country. Ms. Burke asked if this was ever done in New York City. She also said it would take about eight boards to tell a story. She believes they are 46-21 Little Neck Parkway, Little Neck, NY 11362 Tel. 718-225-1054 Fax 718-225-4514

\$800-\$900 per board and would have to be approved DPR. She stated that the tops of the signs could be switched out periodically; the bottom part is the more costly part of the sign. Mr. Henry said he did not want to speak for DPR. However, he did say that DPR does have different signage that is historical or interpretative and sometimes is part of a trail. Mr. Henry said this is an idea that would have to be brought to the attention of DPR. Mr. Henry reiterated that DCLA's process is to work in conjunction with capital projects.

Mr. Galatan followed up on Mr. Marziliano's comment and asked if the art would be displayed inside or outside the sanitation garage. Mr. Henry said that the art would go outside for projects or buildings that don't allow public access. In the case of the library, it could be either/or. Mr. Galatan stated that the reconstruction of the Vanderbilt Motor Parkway is being done in phases. He asked if the total of the project is at least \$5M, would that qualify for art? Mr. Henry replied that it would depend on how the agency budgeted the funds for the project.

Mr. Turner thanked the guests for the presentation and advised that this information will be given to all the Community Board members for consideration of their interest in serving on the panels, possible artist nominations or their feedback. The guest exited the meeting.

At this point, Mr. Turner spoke about an issue that was discussed pre-pandemic; the Committee had considered reaching out to local libraries to see if there were any small capital expenses that CB11 could help them with. Mr. Turner would like to resume that effort. He would like to schedule another meeting in June to discuss this and other appropriate initiatives.

Under new business, Mr. Galatan spoke of the Windsor Park Branch of the library that is still operating only as a Covid-19 testing site. He would like to see the library operate as a library again. Many other libraries are back to normal operations now. Mr. Kelly suggested a letter be written asking when this branch will operate as a library again. Mr. Marziliano said the letter should be written to the Mayor's office since that is where decisions relating to Covid-19 lie. Mr. Galatan made a motion that CB11 write a letter to the Mayor's office asking what the timetable is for the normal operation of the Queens Borough Public Libraries, specifically the Windsor Park Branch. The motion was seconded by John Kelly. Ms. Scherer said that most libraries are still operating as "grab and go". The only one she is aware of that is operating normally is the Auburndale Branch. Mr. Galatan said there are about eight to ten branches in Queens that are fully operational; but Windsor Park is still only operating as a testing site. A voice vote was taken. All were in favor, none were opposed. The motion passed. A letter will be drafted.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted 5/20/2021