



Donovan Richards  
Queens Borough President

## Community Board No. 2

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Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

***This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom***

**Attendees:**

Karesia Batan, Chair  
Eric Narburgh, Vice Chair  
Ann Marie Baronowski  
Kat Bloomfield  
Kenneth Greenberg  
Ryan Smith

**Absentees:**

Anatole Ashraf  
Lisa Charles  
Stephen Cooper  
Akello Thomas

**Public Member:**

Edward Wheeler – Culture Lab LIC

**Community Board 2 Staff:**

MaryAnn Gurrado

**Guests:**

Liz Wytock - Lawyers Alliance for New York  
Andre Irving – Cucala Dance Company  
Nancy Bruno – LIC-A  
June Kosloff  
Justin Martinez

Karesia Batan welcomed everyone to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Committee meeting.

Karesia Batan introduced Liz Wytock to the participants in the committee meeting. Liz Wytock's contact information is below.

[ewytock@lawyersalliance.org](mailto:ewytock@lawyersalliance.org)

Karesia Batan asked Liz Wytock to share and explain the legal alert that the Lawyers Alliance for New York posted on their website. The link to the legal alert is below.

[https://lawyersalliance.org/userFiles/uploads/legal\\_alerts/Federal\\_Compliance\\_2025\\_Legal\\_Alert.pdf](https://lawyersalliance.org/userFiles/uploads/legal_alerts/Federal_Compliance_2025_Legal_Alert.pdf)

*“Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth”*

Liz Wytock introduced herself and gave background information on the Lawyers Alliance for New York. Lawyers Alliance for New York is a nonprofit whose mission is to provide pro-bono business legal services to other nonprofits across the city.

People don't have to be clients of Lawyers Alliance for New York to talk to an attorney they can still ask about legal alerts posted by the Lawyers Alliance for New York and other inquiries.

The resource call hotline for Lawyers Alliance for New York is 212-219-1800.

The extension is 224.

The email is [ResourceCall@lawyersalliance.org](mailto:ResourceCall@lawyersalliance.org)

Liz Wytock stated that anyone tied to a nonprofit organization and seeking any legal assistance that nonprofit can apply to become a client of Lawyers Alliance for New York. The process includes a sort screening process and a one-time new client fee of \$475.00.

Liz Wytock explained the legal alert and wants to ensure that organizations know when they share sensitive information and with whom, such as who the nonprofit's clients and employees are.

Liz Wytock co-hosted a webinar with different nonprofits in the city and will discuss topics such as immigration and Know Your Rights. The link to the meeting is attached.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_kSorkLI-QkC4kuiWWly-AA#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kSorkLI-QkC4kuiWWly-AA#/registration)

Karesia Batan stated that discretionary funding is now open and will close in mid-February. People can apply to receive discretionary funding through the City Council. Edward Wheeler stated that Queens Borough President Donovan Richard's office strongly encouraged people to attend a budget hearing on January 27, 2025, to apply for discretionary funding through their office. The links to both respective websites are below.

<https://council.nyc.gov/budget/>

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezMJzirDzTcOg\\_x628wPY-4QyTrBne-XyjoS0rRU0a41oYCQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezMJzirDzTcOg_x628wPY-4QyTrBne-XyjoS0rRU0a41oYCQ/viewform)

The NYC Mayor's Office of Contract Services is hosting an online event on January 15, 2025, to discuss the process of applying for discretionary funding. The link is below.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/getting-started-discretionary-funding-process-tickets-1104777472159>

Karesia Batan stated that if anyone wants to put in a budget request through State Senator Michael Giannaris's Office to send in a letter form, there is no portal or online form. The deadline to make a budget request is in early January.

Karesia Batan provided a link for a free webinar on discretionary funding held by a third-party nonprofit that works with the city. The link is below.

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/getting-started-discretionary-funding-process-tickets-1104777472159aff=oddtcreator&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/getting-started-discretionary-funding-process-tickets-1104777472159aff=oddtcreator&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

The Department of Transportation held a public realm webinar on January 22, 2025, for those interested in activating public spaces such as plazas. Additionally, this webinar will update programming partners and potential programming partners on their plans, and the webinar will have a Q&A. The link is below.

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/gql96mHRSdK9xCBnc1FI8A#/registration>

The Asian Woman Giving Circle has an open grant; the link is below.

<https://forwomen.org/asian-women-giving-circle/awgc-request-for-proposals-2025/>

The deadline to apply for activation for a DOT open street is January 31, 2025. The link is below.

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/4d2ae5be7a834da582c90d63d81b8c42>

Applications for the Citizens NYC Grant are due February 7. The link is below.

<https://www.citizensnyc.org/communityleaders?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=d723ff72-e20d-4903-aac3-88d19ddc9995>

Anyone interested in the Flushing Town Halls grant process, contact Daniel Bamba. The deadline to become a panelist is January 15, 2025. Below is Daniel Bamba's email.

[dbamba@flushingtownhall.org](mailto:dbamba@flushingtownhall.org)

Below is a link to nominate a panelist for the Flushing Town Hall.

<https://form.jotform.com/231984515420152>

There was a discussion of Arts and Cultures text amendments; the link to the amendments is below.

<https://zr.planning.nyc.gov/article-ix/chapter-7#97-42>

In September, a new art installation went up in Hunter's Point South Park to honor the immigrant experience; the following month, a new art installation went up in the same park. The links to view each respective art installation are below.

<https://queenspost.com/art-installation-immigrant-experience-hunters-point>

<https://licpost.com/new-art-installation-unveiled-in-hunters-point-south-park>

Next month, Ottomanellis is releasing 5-7 mini murals, going around the outside of their seating deck over at Hunter's Point South Park Waterfront. Ottomanellis are local artists whose artwork reflects themes and values of the Queens Community.

Eric Narburgh, Vice-chair of the committee, and Ann Marie Baronowski are working on an application from the Historic District Council to preserve Bliss Theater. The application is part of the Historic District Council's Six to Celebrate program, highlighting six neighborhoods and a piece of their neighborhood to preserve.

The Department of Cultural Affairs with the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, Mayor's Office for Nonprofit Services, Small Business Services, Offices of Nightlife, Economic Development Corporation, and Department of City Planning have created NYC Create in Place, a pilot effort to protect New York City's cultural and creative infrastructure. This pilot program seeks to provide spaces for creative entities. There is a link below for more information.

<https://www.nyc.gov/content/createinplace/pages/about>

DCP sent an email about seminars for independent contractors to attend called Independent Contractors in Creative Spaces 101 Legal Series. The seminar series will take place on Thursdays, January 16, 2025, January 23, 2025, and January 30, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. The link for the seminar series is attached below.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_MCKPVioATMKnQkiY9t-gPw#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MCKPVioATMKnQkiY9t-gPw#/registration)

There is a training organized in partnership with New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, designed for creative entities as it will inform them of tenant and renter rights, how to negotiate accommodation with landlords, and practical tips for tenants and renters. The training session will occur on January 23, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. The link to attend the training is below.

<https://www.nylpi.org/event/creative-spaces-and-commercial-leases-webinar/>

Last month, Karesia Batan attended an outreach initiative called Arts Culture Queens, which the Queens Borough President's office launched. Karesia Batan was part of a small advisory committee where she discussed with other committee members what organizations in Queens represented a larger population within Queens. Karesia Batan, alongside other committee members, discussed the current state of the arts and culture sector and what would make the sector stronger and more connected in Queens. Then, Karesia Batan and the other committee members brought this discussion to a broader audience of artists and organizations at PS Moma. The notes from that discussion will be released in the next couple of weeks and will have consolidated recommendations to provide to the Queens Borough President's office as well as DCLA.

Karesia Batan provided an update on the Mural Outreach Roll Down Gate Initiative she is working on with Eric Narburgh and Ann Marie Baronowski. The initiative is piloting in Sunnyside, and Eric Narburgh and Anne Marie Baronowski have mapped out where the murals are. The next step for the initiative is to identify other prime locations for additional artwork.

Kat Bloomfield stated that LCIP has a lot of experience getting grants from the Department of Transportation for murals, and they assuage the potential concerns that property owners have regarding murals.

USArtists International is providing grants. The link below will provide answers to general and eligibility questions as well as what the application review and grantee selection entail.

<https://www.midatlanticarts.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/USArtists-International-FAQ-web-FY25.pdf>

Edward Wheeler from Culture Lab has an art exchange with a gallery in Italy. Artists from Italy will be coming to Culture Lab, and Edward Wheeler is making an open call inviting artists to do a joint show with the Italian artists. Once the joint show is completed at the Culture Lab, it will be moved to Italy. Funding to transport the arts has been secure, but funding for the artist's transportation has not.

Edward Wheeler provided information for upcoming events at Culture Lab. On January 30, 2025, the Culture Lab will have an art opening to celebrate Plax All's history because they shut down their plastics company and for its rich history in the neighborhood. On January 31, 2025, Culture Lab will have Undiscovered Countries, a theatrical performance, and a burlesque show. On February 1, 2025, the following day, there will be a DJ dance party, and in the front gallery, there will be a free concert by Habina Habina, a Middle Eastern Jewish surf Rock band. Comedy nights will begin on February 6, 2025, and every other Thursday night. Every Saturday until Culture Lab opens, there will be a free concert at the front gallery. On February 9, 2025, the theater will have a Triboro Film Festival award ceremony. On February 14, 2025, there will be a gym pole dancing party. On February 15, for the Lunar New Year celebration, people will

be able to create their lanterns and participate in a lantern lighting ceremony on the waterfront. There is a link below to Culture Lab's website to learn more about future events.

<https://www.culturelablic.org/calendar>

Kat Bloomfield stated that Arts Business Collaborative will have two help desks this year; one in the spring, the other in the fall. The help desk will be in partnership with Small Business Services in the spring and will help community-based development organizations learn how to raise funds for their arts and community beautifying activities. There is a link below to the Arts Business Collaborative website.

[www.artsbusinesscollaborative.org](http://www.artsbusinesscollaborative.org)

Kat Bloomfield stated that the Arts Business Collaborative will release a handbook explaining how to do fundraising, mainly to receive individual foundation and corporate funding. The handbook will be available for free on their website at the end of March and will provide information such as how to receive funding from city and state governments, as well as funding from state assemblymembers and state senators. Additionally, the handbook will discuss lobbying guidelines and how to stay compliant. The link to the website is below.

[www.artsbusinesscollaborative.org](http://www.artsbusinesscollaborative.org)

Kat Bloomfield stated that an election attorney from Grandeau Compliance works to keep Arts Business Collaborative compliant with regulations for small organizations. She believes that the company may be interested in giving a presentation in the future to the Arts and Culture Committee. The link for Grandeau Compliance's website is below.

<https://www.davidgrandeau.com/>

Kat Bloomfield revealed there are two NEA grants, one for sending artists to other countries and one for bringing artists to the United States. The Art Business Collaborative is relaunching a grassroots action program as an incubator for people of color in Steam. There are eight different benefits, such as doing personal funder introductions, an independence pipeline allowing individuals who don't belong to an entity to get into one, or for individuals who are in a small entity to get into a larger one. There is also advocacy and lobbying support through this grassroots action program. Lastly, The Arts Business Collaborative is launching a resource fund in New York City, Detroit, and Pittsburgh for folks to access grants, recoverable grants, and loans with 0% interest. The link to the website and Kat Bloomfield's contact information are below.

[www.artsbusinesscollaborative.org](http://www.artsbusinesscollaborative.org)

[kat@artsbusinesscollaborative.org](mailto:kat@artsbusinesscollaborative.org)

Nancy Bruno from LIC-A stated that LIC-A has an opening for Worlds Aglow, which is a light show curated by Caroline Pavloven and will take place from January 10, 2025, to January 31, 2025. LICA collaborated with Wagner Middle School to allow the school's students to have an art exhibit called Art and Movement. There is also an open call for Women's elements curated by Janet Workowski and Karen Dimmit; the submission deadline is February 8, 2025, and the exhibit will be open from March 5, 2025, to March 29, 2025. Every Wednesday, there is a drawing from life in the LIC-A Art Space.

Andre Irving from Cucala Dance Company has an event on January 25, 2025; it's a monthly dance party and social event. There will also be a Capoeira crew possibly doing a demonstration to see some slips and kicks. Additionally, Cucala Dance Company will start kids' dance camps this year. The link to the website is below.

<https://www.cucaladance.com>

Bric Theater is co-hosting a mayoral forum on February 10, 2025, and they will try to get as many candidates as possible to attend to speak on their vision of arts and culture for the city. There is a link below to register.

<https://bricartsmedia.org/event/mayoral-candidate-forum-on-culture-and-arts/>

Queens Rising is having a post-holiday party on January 16, 2025. The link to the website is below.

<https://queensrising.nyc/>

LICP has a networking event on January 21, 2025; they will have a Lunar New Year Celebration influencer mix.

There will be a one LIC community workshop on January 25, 2025, on public sites from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. For more information, the link is below.

<https://www.licplan.nyc/upcoming-events>

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rafael Nava