



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

43-22 50th Street, 2nd Floor

Woodside, New York 11377

(718) 533-8773

Fax (718-533-8777

Email qn02@cb.nyc.gov

www.nyc.gov/queenscb2

Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

January 28th, 2025

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Karesia Batan, Chair
Eric Narburgh, Vice Chair
Ann Marie Baranowski
Kat Bloomfield

Absentees:

Anatole Ashraf
Lisa Charles
Stephen Cooper
Akello Thomas
Kenneth Greenberg
Ryan Smith
Danielle Brecker

Community Board 2 Board Members:

Morry Galonoy, Community Board Member

Guests:

Fanny Chang

Community Board 2 Staff:

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager

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

Karesia Batan provided a map of the Roll Down Gate Initiative she is working with alongside Eric Narburgh and Ann Marie Baranowski. The map depicts the location of murals in Sunnyside; additionally, the document identified potential locations that can host a mural.

Karesia Batan suggested that Eric Narburgh and Ann Marie Baranowski walk with her up Skillman Avenue because it's a hub for art and culture. On Skillman Avenue, there are bars that play live music, Sagner Hall, Vital Arts Studio, and a Mexican import craft store.

Eric Narburgh stated that if they walk together up Skillman Avenue and identify certain locations, they can create different anchors for north and south, which will constitute a basis for a walking tour and include information such as where to eat or shop as a visitor guide.

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

Ann Marie Baranowski shared a document that provided an outline to serve as a criteria for exterior public murals. The three main criteria are site, design, and community engagement; sub-categories are also included in the outline.

Eric Narburgh is working on a script for property owners that addresses their concerns regarding the permit and approval process.

The committee members discussed if the Roll Down Gate Initiative is successful, how it can engage the community and accommodate diverse perspectives, and how to understand and regulate historic murals.

Karesia Batan stated that there are opportunities for community murals and that there are already a few, such as that found on the exterior of the Lowery Bar & Kitchen.

The committee agreed that funding needs to be added to Ann Marie Baranowski's outline because they need to know who will pay for the murals to have artwork done.

Karesia Batan noted that Sunnyside Shines has supported the Roll Down Gate Initiative.

Kat Bloomfield stated that LICP could be helpful in navigating funding for murals, although they wouldn't be providing the funding. Kat Bloomfield also noted that Flushing Town Hall could be a resource for funding opportunities.

Karesia Batan noted that muralists who have worked in the community are still active, such as Ali for the Soul, who created permanent murals, window murals for different seasons, bar murals, and artwork with chalk on sidewalks for BID events.

Karesia Batan noted that she can talk to people who work in Sanger Hall to ask about mural permits and how to navigate insurance.

Kat Bloomfield stated that NYC Parks has a public art fund; Ann Marie Baranowski acknowledged that she has only seen art installations possibly funded by NYC Parks that aren't on park property in Queens at LaGuardia Airport.

Karesia Batan stated that the committee can help engage local orgs such as Sunnyside Shines to implement and continue the Roll Down Gate Initiative once launched.

Ann Marie Baranowski is considering creating a resource document to give Dirk since Dirk knows all the owners of the BID. Karesia Batan is contemplating putting a one-pager for everyone, including artists, businesses, and property owners, for the rest of the board on the benefits of the Roll Down Gate Initiative, which could be helpful in presenting this initiative to different parties.

Eric Narburgh submitted the proposal to the Historic District Council to preserve Bliss Theater and is supposed to get a response by mid-February.

Eric Narburgh shared a supporting document that explains to businesses or property owners the benefits of allowing artists to paint murals on their building's exterior. These benefits include economic growth, community support, and vandalism prevention.

The committee members acknowledged that they should effectively respond to questions before engaging with folks, including liability questions, or assuage the concerns of business or property owners who want to know how long the artists will work on their property.

Karesia Batan believes it's worth considering reaching out to artists to ask them about their experiences working on projects and how they've dealt with insurance and other concerns, such as environmental risks on site.

The committee members recognized that there are other considerations they need to take into account, such as what happens if a mural gets vandalized, how it is maintained, and how to return it back to its previous form. They also want to know if policies go under the BID or under the general contractor.

Morry Galonoy stated that an open area near the Bank of America on 46th Street can serve as a mural. Karesia Batan stated that it's a great spot for a community mural.

The committee members spoke about the next steps to take for the Roll Down Gate Initiative.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rafael Nava