



*Donovan Richards  
Queens Borough President*

# Community Board No. 2

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*Anatole Ashraf  
Chairperson  
Debra Markell Kleinert  
District Manager*

**February 10, 2026**

## **Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes**

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

### **Committee Members Present:**

Karesia Batan, Chair  
Eric Narburgh, Vice Chair  
Kenny Greenberg  
Pia Rahman

### **Committee Members Absent:**

Anatole Ashraf  
Lisa Charles  
Stephen Cooper  
Ryan Smith  
Akello Thomas

### **Arts & Cultural Affairs Public Members Absent:**

Edjo Wheeler

### **Community Board Member Present:**

Jolly Patel

### **Community Board 2 Staff:**

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager

### **Guests:**

Tara Sansone, Material for the Arts  
Molly Kurzius, MoMA PS1  
Nancy Bruno, LIC Artists  
Norma Homberg, LIC Artists  
Angel Gil Orrios, Thalia Spanish Theater  
Andre Irving, Cucala Dance  
Bari Lasky, LIC Partnership  
Lisa Gutting, Artist & CB2 Resident

## **Material for the Arts**

Tara Sansone, Executive Director of Material for the Arts ([www.nyc.gov/mfta](http://www.nyc.gov/mfta)), provided a PowerPoint Presentation (Attachment 1) that included an overview of the organization and the resources it offers to the community, including access to art supplies and professional development opportunities for artists and students. She shared the following:

- Material for the Arts (MFTA) is a program of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.
- MFTA is a resource for organizations and artists with a limited budget for materials. Material for the Arts receives donated items from museums, galleries, and other institutions, including mannequins, frames, and furniture. While membership is required to obtain donated items, membership is free and available to groups such as nonprofit organizations, social justice organizations, artists, and NYC public school teachers.
- Material for the Arts has two shopping days per week:  
Tuesday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Thursday from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- The organization has an Education Center that provides a free, six-week, scholarship-based program for teachers focused on creative reuse and methods for using materials obtained from Material for the Arts.
- Material for the Arts hosts regular programming and events, including:
  - Free programming events that are held on the third Thursday of every month. On March 19, 2026, MFTA will host an opening for its Artists-in-Residence program featuring Mary Mattingly.
  - Sketch Night takes place quarterly, and materials are provided for participants.
- Material for the Arts also offers opportunities for artists and students:
  - They have Artists-in-Residence and Designers-in-Residence programs.
  - They operate a Repair Program in partnership with City-As-School. Students repair textiles, bicycles, and furniture, and participate in woodworking projects.
- The organization is seeking volunteers, particularly those who can assist with unpacking donated materials and organizing items on shelves, especially when shipments are received a day before shopping days.
- MFTA is exploring options to expand its space or use it more efficiently, as it would prefer to stay at its current location.
- They also have a direct donation platform that matches item donors with potential recipients.

## **MoMA PS1**

Molly Kurzius provided the following event updates and invited the community to attend these free events:

- On February 21, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Neighborhood Night will take place. The event will be Lunar New Year themed and will celebrate Ayoung Kim's exhibition. Visit <https://www.momaps1.org/en/events/707-neighbor-night> for details.

- On February 28, 2026, Family Day will take place. The event will include drop-in activities, six to seven workshops, and family-friendly access to exhibitions.
- On April 16, 2026, MoMA PS1 will present Greater New York, MoMA's signature exhibition series. Every five years, MoMA highlights the work of emerging and under-recognized New York artists.

### **LIC-Artists**

Nancy Bruno and Norma Homberg of LIC-Artists ([www.licartists.org](http://www.licartists.org)) provided the following information:

- On February 11, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, LIC-Artists will host an opening reception for Ghost Town.
- LIC-Artists will release open calls, including opportunities for Queens-based curators.
- The organization will host a poetry festival and a short film festival as part of the LIC Arts Open. An open call for involvement will be released.
- LIC-Artists will host a festival from May 13, 2026, to May 17, 2026.
- Brickhouse Ceramic Art Center will issue an open call for a ceramic artist.

### **Thalia Spanish Theater**

Angel Gil Orrios of Thalia Spanish Theater ([www.thaliatheatre.org](http://www.thaliatheatre.org)) provided the following updates:

- Tangomania, a tango musical featuring musicians, singers, and tango dancers, will run from March 5, 2026, through March 29, 2026.
- In April 2026, Thalia Spanish Theater will present a flamenco production featuring guest artists from Spain. The production will run through April 30, 2026.

### **Cucala Dance Company**

Andre Irving of Cucala Dance Company ([www.cuculadance.com](http://www.cuculadance.com)) provided the following updates:

- On February 14, 2026, Cucala Dance Company will host a Valentine's Day workshop. The event will feature a mixer.
- On February 14, 2026, Cucala Dance Company's annual dance battle will be held and will include salsa dancing.
- On February 21, 2026, Cucala Dance Company's monthly social will take place.
- Website to register for classes: <https://app.punchpass.com/org/16201/passes>.
- Cucala has a new dance company neighbor on its floor, Noche Flamenca.

### **LIC Partnership**

Bari Lasky of LIC Partnership (<https://www.longislandcityqueens.com/>) provided the following updates:

- LIC Partnership will begin its Lunar New Year celebrations on February 17, 2026.

- Numerous LIC Partnership partners, including MoMA PS1, Culture Lab, local restaurants, and active lifestyle venues, will participate in Lunar New Year celebrations.

**Committee Updates:**

- Pia Rahman and Eric Narburgh attended a Beta Bagels event to learn more about community boards and their functions. Mr. Narburgh shared that the District Manager of Brooklyn Community Board 4 uses the board’s website to provide information, including event updates, on a timelier basis, which he noted may be worth exploring for CB2 Queens.
- An open call for artists was announced for an artwork installation at JFK Terminal 5.
- The Community Board has discretion over a small portion of CB2’s budget. It was suggested that the Community Board explore creating an advertising budget to target different audiences for each committee to increase public awareness and engagement in CB2’s district.
- Developers for the Bliss Theater site may attend a Community Board meeting in March or April 2026. Residents will have the opportunity to engage, including by submitting testimony.
- Mural and Gates Initiative
  - The initiative remains ongoing. Committee members have reached out to property owners of sites that have generated interest.
  - Potentially, the initiative may feature partnerships with nonprofit organizations to install community murals or to help artists lead community mural projects. Nonprofit organizations mentioned included LIC-Artists, Culture Lab, as well as other curators willing to help with matchmaking or the administrative process.
  - Securing insurance coverage for certain projects was discussed as a potential budget item.
- Historic District Council (HDC) Updates
  - The Landmarks Preservation Survey has closed. Mr. Narburgh, Vice Chair, will share the survey’s landmark recommendations with the Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee and, potentially, the Land Use Committee to help determine which sites may be prioritized for advocacy efforts, including request for review by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.
  - The Vice Chair requested that HDC organize the survey recommendations schematically and provide feedback on which sites may be the most viable candidates for preservation.
  - HDC plans to develop a district guide or cultural tour map. Sites nominated through the Landmarks Preservation Survey may be included in this project.
- The stewards of Little Manila Park are experiencing challenges with installing artwork at the site. The committee may look into these issues.

A motion to adjourn was made by Karesia Batan, and it was seconded by Eric Narburgh.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

by Rafael Nava