



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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HENRIETTA LYLE

Chairperson

ANDREW LASSALLE

District Manager

Arts & Culture Committee

Monday, February 9, 2015 – 6:30 PM

Hon. Michael Downie, Chair

Hon. Jennifer Prince, Vice Chair

Present: Michael Downie; Kevin Bitterman; Tuesday Brooks; Crystal McKay; Brandi North

Absent (not sure if any were excused): Jennifer Prince; George Harrell; Earl Keller

AGENDA

- I. Welcome/Introductions
 - a. Called to order at 6:35pm
 - b. No public present

- II. Old/New Business
 - a. Professional Artists and Youth Initiative:
 - i. Brandi North and Tuesday Brooks presented the Proposed Initiative.
 - ii. Original proposal focused on Creative Writing for a means to place Central Harlem's youth, from 6th grade through 12th grade (including those who are older, who do not hold a diploma and have lost their way), with professionals in the field of creative writing who work or live in Central Harlem; however, the committee decided to alter the focus strictly from creative writing to include a cadre of other genres.
For members of our younger generation, digital music, spoken word, and composition might be an interesting component to consider.
 - iii. Committee agreed that the theme of the project would be on "social justice". In this respect, Calvin Solomon might be able to support our efforts with a grant from his office.
 - iv. While we spoke of holding one performance for all youth involved, we also spoke of having a judging a competition. Nevertheless, the conclusion, thus far, is that we would like for our youth to write/compose and perform a song with digital music.
 - v. Bitterman expressed caution and encouraged the Committee to evaluate its capacity to carry out the program. In particular, the Committee should consider liability issues and financial requirements. Assuming that the initiative can be administered and staffed by volunteers may not be realistic, thus, starting small and scaling up could be an effective strategy for short and long-term success.
 - b. Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) Research Project
 - i. Bitterman offered to lead a small research project to examine the percent of DCA funds awarded to 501c3 non-profits within CB10. This exercise could lead to a possible outreach effort and dialogue with local non-profits to explore greater transparency about DCA funding opportunities.

- III. ACTION STEPS:

- a. Copy of the Professional Artists and Youth Initiative, timeline, and list of community-based partners and non-profit arts and culture organizations will be emailed to all Committee Members. Chair requests that all Members offer their suggestions and feedback via email by Monday, Feb 16.
- b. Tuesday Brooks will upload the Professional Artists and Youth Initiative proposal to "Google Drive" for Committee Members to edit the proposal and post comments. Members can edit by simply clicking on "editing", or "suggesting" in the upper right-hand corner of the Google Doc. To contribute broader ideas and suggestions use the "add comments" feature on the top left tool bar (click on "Insert" and then down to "Comment")
- c. Committee is asked to review the inventory of local "Arts Organizations" and identify which, if any, might be ideal partners for this initiative. Committee should suggest additional names, if appropriate, and note any connections with individual organizations.
- d. Bitterman was asked to research grant opportunities, including the New York City Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment program:
 - i. http://www.nyc.gov/html/fund/html/projects/community_enrichment_grant.shtml

IV. Announcements

- a. None.

V. Adjournment

- a. Adjourned at 8:12pm