**NYC CEC meeting 9/30/2020 2 pm**

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**>> Good afternoon everyone. My name is Francis Urroz. I'm the civic support specialist for the commission. We'll get started in 5 minutes. Apologies for the delay.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Hi, do we have a quorum, Francis? Can you hear me?**

**>> One second. Yeah. Just looking at the participant tabs.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Thank you.**

**>> Yes. We have a quorum.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Okay. Thank you so much. So welcome everyone. We're going to go ahead and get started. The meeting will please come to order and I'd like to welcome everyone and thank you so much again for joining us today. And I'd like to start off with a couple of the technical assistance instructions. So Francis, if you could just move to that slide really quick.**

 **again, we're going to be enabling the audio for all commissioners, but just to avoid background noise we are going to ask you to mute yourself like you usually do, if you're not speaking, and click on the raise hand icon next to your name in the participant list. If you would like to respond or make a comment. Then everyone else we're going mute upon entry and then enable un muting for public participation and then comment through e‑mail, and if you would like to still comment you can do so in advance, during, still register during this meeting, and you can do that through the chat option.**

**And if you are on the phone, you can also call in our text in your interest offering comment and the number is 646‑763‑2189. And Francis will call on you after registered participants.
Francis, did we receive any requests to offer comment?**

**>> No, we did not.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Okay. Thank you, and then for, if you would like to enable the captioning, you can do that under "more options" which is the icon with the he will lip sees on the menu control bar for Webex and when you click on the ellipsis you can click on closed captioning icon to select.**

**So to start us off, Francis, you can stop the screen sharing and then we're just going to do an attendance poll so. Chuck Apelian? Murad Awewdeh? Present, Eve Baron? Present. Amy Breedlove? Present. Mark Diller? Present. Anthony, Jose? Present. Linda Lee? Liliam Perez present. Annetta Seecherran? Present. Anastasia Somoza? Present.**

**Good afternoon. I'm the chair and the executive director. I know that we sent you a last‑minute page on the agenda. So I want to make sure everyone received the updated agenda, and we do have a vote on an amendment today to the commission's resolution, which I had mentioned in the last meeting. So when we sent out the agenda yesterday we didn't actually include that.**

**So earlier today (background noise) we sent an updated agenda which I'm going to put into the chat just in case. Francis, can you help me with that?**

**Oh, there it is. Okay. Look, see that. That looks like it's on there twice or three times. Sorry about that. [Laughter]. Okay. So the second thing on the agenda after attendance is voting on the minutes from our last commission meeting, in which we also voted on the rule for interpreters and our language access plan.**

**So, again, I want to make sure everyone got the minutes. Is there anyone who does not have minutes?**

**All set?**

**Okay. So are there any additions or corrections to the minutes presented?**

**Okay. Since I'm not hearing any comments, I'm assuming there are no edits. Would someone like to make a motion to approve the minutes?**

**>> So moved.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Is there a second?**

**>> Second.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: All in favor of approving the minutes, say Aye. (All stated "Aye.") Anyone opposed to approving the minutes, say nay.**

**>> I'm not opposed, but I abstain just because I wasn't here for that.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Okay. Thank you, Murad. So we are going it approve the minutes with one abstention and we will make a note of that. Thank you.**

**Okay. The next thing on the agenda the amendment to the Civic Engagement Commission resolution. So part of what's going on is that rite now we have a bunch of reporting we have to do as a City agency. And some of that reporting is required for us to vote on and that's kind of been specified in the charter. There's also a bunch of other reports that CEC staff have to work on for other needs from the administration, our internal reports, et cetera.**

**And what the resolution as it's written now under paragraph G of Paragraph 2, G, that we have to report to the commission pursuant to law, and it doesn't give us clarity on whether we need to do all the reports that we must submit to commit city officials, whether we need to bring those to meetings with you all, or whether we may submit some things without coming to meetings.**

**So what the law department recommended is repealing that paragraph and adding a clause to the end of the resolution, which says that we will prepare and submit reports, that I will as chair and executive director, prepare and commit reports on behalf of the commission as required by law, provided that I receive commission approval to submitting a report required by Chapter 76 of the charter.**

**And other reports that we've already submitted from not having the clarity, that you will approve of those reports and going forward that we would only focus on bringing to vote specific reports.**

**And those reports, we also sent you a list of the kinds of reports that we are currently responsible for, and please keep in mind that this list is in motion. There have been reports that there will likely be reports that need to do that or not on this list and they'll just continue to change.**

**And some reports are meant to be internal to the administration and then they get funneled into other bigger reports from the administration. And at the top of the list of reports that we sent to you, we listed the reports that we know will require our vote. And those include the annual report of the poll site language assistance program and city‑wide participatory budgeting program and then there's an annual report of community board assistance, and the language access plan which we voted on last time and then for any changes to the poll site methodology.**

**So under that list we had a bunch of reports we're doing, for example, we needed to report out on how we use identifying or how we collect identifying information what types of information we collect for local laws 247, 227 and every agency is required to have an agency officer and other reports like our continuity of operations plans since the pandemic, and then reports on equity, our use of ethnic and community media.**

**So these are the kinds of data that we need to submit on an ongoing basis, and in order to sort of streamline and make the process a little efficient so it doesn't have to get voted on every time for our submissions to our internal agency requirements, we are proposing this resolution, sorry, the amendment to the resolution.**

**So does anyone have any questions or concerns about the amendment?**

**Okay. There's no ‑‑**

**>> MARK DILLER: So are the, it doesn't seem to be printing. I'm not sure why. Oh, okay. I was trying to print out that list that you were just providing us.**

**Is the list of reports that will come to a vote more or less exhaustive at least as of current knowledge?**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: The ones on the top requiring commission vote, yes. It's the annual report for all of our programs, which includes the poll site assistance, PBE community board work, the language access plan and then the poll site methodology.**

**That's two. Those are the four that are specifically noted in the charter as commission reports that the law department says require the commission's vote.**

**>> MARK DILLER: Okay. So those are the ones that we're ratifying through this new proposed Section 7?**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Yes. No, yes. But we haven't voted on. You know, we haven't brought some of those reports to vote. The one report we did bring was the language access plan, which we did last meeting, and then the poll site methodology through our proposed end hearing and proposed methodology and hearing around that and we had to vote on both the proposed and the final. This doesn't include the rule that we voted on, because that's in the a report. It's a rule.**

**But we still have not done the annual reports for the program. So when those are done, we will then, you know, vote on them.**

**>> MARK DILLER: I guess my only reluctance is I am always a little concerned about approving something I don't know what I'm approving.**

**So I'm happy to approve those things that have already happened. And I don't want to bog the commissioners down with minutia that is preferably yours to do.**

**I am familiar, for example, with the collection and disclosure of data form that you have to fill out, because hey to do the same thing and I wouldn't wish that on anybody.**

**So thank you for doing that, and I don't need to see it.**

**Is there a way that we can sort of be apprised of what these reports are just as a general matter? It doesn't have to be in the resolution. Just so if anybody's curious about one of these things, because it's not an exhaustive list that if any of us is interested or curious about what it is, then we can look it up and if it becomes something that we want to be involved with, then we can.**

**But otherwise, have the default position be that we approve. Is that possible? Does that make sense? Am I the only one who is worried about this?**

**>> Ah, no, Mark. I am also. Can you hear me?**

**>> MARK DILLER: Sure can.**

**>> DONNA GILL: This is Donna. I am with mark on this and only as a transparence issue, because if we go out and someone asks us a question about a report that was submitted that we didn't know about or we weren't privy to, we may not be able to answer the question. So I think as Mark says, we don't necessarily have to be 100 percent involved in all of this, and I see where this is helping with efficiency because I know the paperwork ‑‑ sorry. Excuse me.**

**I know the paperwork is actually what's important to get these things done. But I'm also concerned about things that we may want to know about that we are signing away or giving you the, you know, this waiver or authority to create and submit these reports in our name and we are not privy to them. So that's, I don't know if it's paranoia, but that was my thought.**

**>> MARK DILLER: Yeah.**

**>> DONNA GILL: Maybe you can explain it a little bit better, too.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Just for comment, I don't think it's paranoid, and I appreciate the desire for transparency. So I would like to hear other comments on this.**

**>> MARK DILLER: Looks like Amy has a hand up.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Amy, yes.**

**>> AMY BREEDLOVE: I understand what my fellow commissioners are saying, both Mark and Donna, but at the same time I'm wondering if the chief restart officer, if that needs to come before us, I imagine that you would say we've submitted this report. Here it is. Do you want to vote on it.**

**I don't know how much into detail the commission would get into those things.**

**So while there's transparency, I feel like I would vote to approve without necessarily ‑‑ not necessarily going through it and understanding it. So I'm just offering that in as part of the dialogue.**

**I understand what you're doing. I think that what the law department has done is put the 4 reports that are most critical for us to see as still having the voting rights to do so.**

**But some of these, some of this is really agency paperwork, and I'm not sure that I need to see it in order to approve it. It's just my...**

**>> MARK DILLER: Yeah, if I could clarify, I'm not proposing I need to see the report. I would just like to have a list of what the reports are, so that if there's some interest in what they are, I can follow up. And as Donna says, if somebody says, Mark, how in the world did you support X, Y, Z report? Well, I did, if I wanted to dig into it. I don't feel terribly strongly about this because the big four are ones that we will vote on. And I certainly don't want to slow up the works and make things wait for another commission meeting. I just don't want to look like an idiot when somebody asks me a question, that's all.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: So what I'm hearing is that you'd like to see a list of the reports that we are responsible for and that we may have submitted or yet to be submitted and to be able to inquire to see those specific reports.**

**Is there a frequency with which you recommend we share such a list?**

**>> MARK DILLER: Well, are most of the reports annual?**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Some are. Some are quarterly. It really varies.**

**>> MARK DILLER: I would think annually, and just the list, not the reports themselves, just the list and then if I'm motivated to ask a question and like I said, this does not need to be in the resolution. This is just how we work with one another, just so that I have the option of learning more about what goes on in case that becomes an issue or becomes you know something that I would want to follow up on.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Go ahead. Someone else was speaking?**

**>> LILIAM PEREZ: Liliam. Yeah, I just want to add to the discussion. I would like to see what I'm voting for before I vote. I agree with Mark, I don't need a full report, but maybe the name of the report, a blush of what is in it, is sufficient for me to vote on it. But voting, just listing that I'm voting for something is not enough for me to vote.**

**So I would suggest before voting, maybe a week before, if you have access to this information, give us a list of each report with a very short blurb. It doesn't even have to be a paragraph. About each.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Would you like to vote on the amendment today or would you like to see a full letter description of the report and vote on the amendment next time?**

**We can send you more additional details on the list.**

**>> LILIAM PEREZ: Are there any consequences based on the timing? In other words, are we going to be out of compliance?**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: I don't think so. I mean, we submitted things that we need today submit. You know, like, for instance, every quarter we need to report out on our use of community and ethic media to the Mayor's office of operations. So we've been continuing to deal with things that come up. I don't think there's any deadline that will be missed, for example, to my knowledge.**

**>> ANNETTA SEECHERRAN: When will we meet.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Yeah.**

**>> ANNETTA SEECHERRAN: When are we meeting next?**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: We can meet next ‑‑ it's now close, end of September. We can review it after the election.**

**>> ANNETTA SEECHERRAN: In light of this issue now, I'm perfectly comfortable with voting on it today with a note that moving forward more information will be shared in advance of our meetings.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: We can also send you the list that we did send out of the reports that are e‑mailed, we can send you a revision, a revised document that shows which ones have been submitted and which ones are still in process, that we need to kind of update on an ongoing basis, so you know. And then if you want to see any of those reports, we can share them with you.**

**>> Holly, would you like to say something about that?**

**>> I am not comfortable with voting on that today. I would like to wait until the next meeting. I feel like if we're not out of compliance, we should be able to wait.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: I think Liliam agreed with that.**

**>> I agree, if there are no consequences, we'll know what we're voting for. As Mark stated before, I don't want to have to mask I voted for four items but I don't know the detail.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: I'm sorry. I keep muting myself. Go ahead, Murad.**

**>> MURAD AWAWDEH: I agree with Annetta and Liliam, if there's no urgency right now in getting this approved (background noise) that we should hold off to our next meeting, but I do think that we should probably standardize the time in which we receive reports or all of this, all of the documents just to ensure that we're having at least like a week or two.**

**I know sometimes that won't be possible, but it would be great if that is a possibility, whenever we can.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: So just to make sure that I'm clear on the next steps on this, it sounds like some people would like to wait. So I am okay waiting until people are more comfortable with voting.**

**And what we need to do is send you the list of reports with another call‑in that says whether we've submitted them or not, give you an opportunity to ask to see any of those submitted reports. We can share those with you and then with we come back to vote the next time you'll have a better sense of what you are voting to approve that was submitted already. Does that sound right?**

**I can understand needing to see them so. Did I miss any ‑‑ I just want to make sure I'm clear. And that we are going to do this, give you the list and the (Indistinguishable) or would you want it with more frequency?**

**>> MARK DILLER: I would think annually, but that's just me.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Okay.**

**>> LILIAM PEREZ: I would say as long as we get it, how often do these report have to be filed? Because I like to know before we have to vote on them. Are we voting on them manually ‑‑ annually all together in case we have questions before we vote? Because, in other words, giving you approval to vote on all of them, but maybe when you pick the other reports there will be changes or new laws. I don't know and you already gave the go‑ahead and vote them.**

**So what would make sense to me, I think for my, for me it would make more sense to get them the meeting before they're due, so they're fresh. Or is that a lot of work?**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Well, let me ‑‑ let's just clarify. So the kind of report, for example, that we're talking ‑‑ well, the bigger goal here is that we want to distinguish between reports that we know based on the charter you need to vote on, right, for sure.**

**So there are already several reports that are like that ones we went through the proposed and final methodology so any time we want to revise the poll site language assistance program methodology that would need to go through public hearing and vote.**

**Then the language access plan, which we voted on last time, that's something that will need to be voted on, if there's a change or something.**

**And then we are required to submit annual reports for the commission. So those will need to get voted on, but that reporting requirement doesn't go into effect until 2022. So that's why we didn't give you an annual report or don't have an annual report right now. So that report would also need to be voted on.**

**But then all the other things that we need to submit inside the administration for our interagency requirements and other reports that the administration needs to compile from getting collecting data from agencies; and this also includes things like every agency is a very concrete example. The city's engage and test and trace operations, right, and census outreach, complete count. Every agency was actually required to share information on how much outreach we did for those initiatives, and those kind of metrics are reported on a weekly basis.**

**And that kind of report, what we're proposing under this amendment is that we wouldn't need to show you the report and get you to vote on it in order to submit it.**

**And what, in the discussion we're identifying this tension of people and also ‑‑ sorry. Let me backtrack a little. In the amendment we're also seeing anything that we, the commission, has submitted up until this point, you've approved those. You know, you approved those because one) it was already done, but we're clarifying the amendment to indicate the reports that will need your approval.**

**The before the language was very broad and it just said "reports to city officials." Does that make sense, Liliam?**

**>> LILIAM PEREZ: Yeah. That's fine.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Okay. Donna.**

**>> DONNA GILL: From what I'm understanding and you just clarified it, it's these reports that we submit whenever they're due are not reports that actually need to be voted on. It's just reports that need to be submitted. And what you're asking us to do is to vote to continue because this is what you have been doing.**

**So for me, I think that if we put a caveat with the amendment saying that the commissioners would be, would have access to, as Mark is asking, and know about these different reports, then we will be able to.**

**Because these are not voting items, correct? These are parts that you're actually doing on not voting items, per se? They're just reports that are requirements?**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Yes. That's correct. But we also have to remember we're talking here about how we understand the language of the resolution, right, in the priority current wording it's very general.**

**So someone can say, hey, this says reports to city agencies, you should have showed us all these reports and we should have voted on them. And under that, under the current language, that could be, you know, a problem. So, and what we're seeing is no, we want to make the language more clear.**

**Should we make like a motion to decide whether or not we're going to vote today? I'm wondering what the best step is here.**

**>> DONNA GILL: Well, okay, so I would like to make a motion to vote today and to have a friendly resolution that the commissioners are informed of these reports and they have access to them. They know what they are and they have access to delve deeper into. I don't know how to phrase that. But Mark is a good person to do that.**

**Because I think, actually, if we're holding it off until the next meeting, this is already happening. These reports have already been filed, some of them, correct?**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Yes.**

**>> DONNA GILL: Yes. So if we're holding off to next meeting, then we are actually taking something into another meeting that could have been resolved at this meeting just by us getting this information and putting the caveat on there as knowing that commissioners are aware and they have access to get these reports and this is what you said you will do. So that's my motion. It's kind of long, but that's the motion.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: So do we want to have, to summarize the motion, we want to vote today with the resolution understanding that we will inform the commissioners to the reports and give you access to the reports going forward? Would anyone like to, do I hear a second on that resolution?**

**>> LILIAM PEREZ: I think, go ahead to have access to information.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: I'm sorry. You cut out a little bit. Could you repeat that?**

**>> LILIAM PEREZ: I said in the motion we don't have access to this information. I think Mark is (Inaudible)**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Okay. So maybe, is this, does this make sense to just do a roll call vote at this point? Because I don't know if we all, should we just say, are there ‑‑ just say ‑‑**

**>> MARK DILLER: So if I could jump in for a sec.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Yeah.**

**>> MARK DILLER: I wasn't going to require a resolution, but Donna's motion seems to include that. What we're looking at the end of the sentence of the new Paragraph 7, that's where it says you'll obtain commission approval of the reports that are required by Chapter 76.**

**If I understood Donna correctly, then the rest of that sentence would read "and the chair will provide at least annually a list of reports not requiring commission approval." It's just a list. It's not the reports themselves. And then it's on us if we want to ask about them or do anything about that. Donna, does that work for you? Is that what you were looking for?**

**>> DONNA GILL: Yes.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: So the edit or the motion would read in full prepare reports on behalf of the commission provided by law pro sided that prior to us receiving the report of chapter 76 of NYC charter. The chair should provide a list of reports not requiring commission approval annually. And the commission hereby ratifies and approves any reports submitted by the chair to public officials prior to the date of adoption of this subdivision.**

**>> MARK DILLER: Yeah, that's basically it.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Okay.**

**>> MARK DILLER: You might want to throw in a comma after NYC charter.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Rather than a period?**

**>> MARK DILLER: Yeah, I think so, because then the provided will modify both this Chapter sticks and non Chapter 76. Grammatically I think that will help you.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: I see.**

**>> I have a question. It's a process question regarding the reports and the ability to (Indistinguishable). Is the idea that we request the reports that we're interested in? Or are they being made available to us in some repository?**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: So far I've heard that you would request anything that you were interested in seeing.**

**>> MARK DILLER: Other than the mandatory ones, other than the Chapter 76, which we would see as a matter of course before voting on. Is that correct?**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Um‑hum.**

**>> EVE BARON: Okay. I just wanted clarification for that. So we would request via e‑mail?**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Right.**

**>> EVE BARON: Thanks.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: So there is an edit, and is there a motion to approve the edits to the amendment?**

**>> MARK DILLER: Donna, that would be you.**

**>> DONNA GILL: Okay. So, yes, absolutely. There's a motion to approve the edit.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Is there a second?**

**>> MARK DILLER: I'll second it.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Okay, and all in favor of approving the edit, please say Aye. (All stated "Aye.)**

**Is there any opposition to approving the edit to the amendment, if you would please say nay?**

**Okay. So we will based on everyone's vote, we will go ahead and approve the amendment today with the edit.**

**>> MARK DILLER: So, do I need to move the resolution as amended?**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Yes.**

**>> MARK DILLER: So moved.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: That's a second. The resolution is admitted. Yup.**

**>> MARK DILLER: Okay so I say I move we adopt the resolution as amended.**

**I'm sorry, I guess I'm moving that I adopt the amendment as amended. Is that what I'm doing?**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Yes.**

**>> MARK DILLER: It's a little cumbersome with this language. So I.**

**>> DONNA GILL: I second.**

**>> Okay so we approved as amended as we voted.**

**So I was told you might have to leave a little early. So I just wanted to quickly jump into the program updates. We actually have a bunch of things to share with you. (Background noise.) So I prepared a little bit of a Power Point to get us through efficiently. Because the biggest thing we want to talk about is the full site program that's coming up to roll out for the general election and other things and we've been during the pandemic been really keeping active with all of the program areas, and doing a bunch of other work as well.**

**I really want to thank the commission staff for all the hard work they've been doing.**

 **so, for, yes, thank you, Amy. I see your hand waiving.**

**So for the language assistance program, we wanted to just go through a couple of over arching goals for the year. One is, and we can share out this Power Point with you afterwards as well.**

**But really what we want to try do, and we know this from the methodology that we are building on Moya's pilot program and serving more languages than have been served in the past, through the language assistance program.**

**And what we're going to be doing as we agreed to in the methodology is that we're going increase the number of days we're serving by including for the moment the last weekend of early voting. And that will be subject to revision of the methodology as we go forward.**

**But immediately that's what we're going do in November. And we've been having a lot of conversations inside the administration as well as with partners on how they're going to be messaging around this election to really encourage people to vote early, and absentee voting during the pandemic, just for safety reasons.**

**So we want to make sure that our program is aligned with that and that's part of why it's important for us to encourage people to vote early and support them as they vote early. So we'll be doing that.**

**And then for the remainder of the year we've been having conversations how voting will go into effect in January and we'll need to do a bunch of education city wide about the changes to voting support that in limited English proficient communities.**

**And one thing we really do want to focus on, we want to make sure as we're providing services we really support utilization by having outreach to inform of the services as much as possible in a very targeted way within the election districts where the city language assistance providers will be supporting individuals to have translation.
so those are the over arching goals. If we can move to the next slide?
we are also ‑‑ we thought through how we were going to sort of spend the allocation that we have, and given all the changes in voting, we felt it was important to make sure that we were supporting the rank choice education in the coming year.**

 **and then also thinking about the need to, for example, hire, potentially hire additional backup interpreters and coordinators. There's a bunch of things that we had to consider as we thought about how to actually figure out the number of sites we'd be serving. This is where we landed. We try to as much as possible serve in as many elections as possible. So we're not just accounting for the general in November, but also the primary in June. And then we have special elections that will be taking place.**

**So the number of special elections is yet to be determined.**

**But we thought of doing in the last cycle when in‑person interpretation was provided in the general it was about 101 or 102 sites, I believe. So trying to keep with that total, we are going to be serving a hundred poll sites in November, but those hundred will be broken out over the day of the election as well as early voting weekend days.**

**So the combination would be like 52 ‑‑ sorry, the total is 102, but 52, 25 and 25 for Saturday and Sunday. Do something similar for the primary in 2021, and then really to leverage the opportunity that special elections provide to test out messaging on rank choice voting, which people have an opportunity to practice through the special elections and then get ready for the primary in June.**

**So this is our thinking on the breakout for the number of sites we'll be serving. If we can move to the next slide. I'll just go through really quickly some of the major ‑‑ I think the next one is on work streams that we have for how we're getting ready.**

**Of course we're working on selecting the sites. We just recently received a completed list from the NYC board of elections. And applying our methodology to that list will be identifying the actual sites.**

**We have a bunch of different procurement work streams that are currently in play, including with working with the vendor, the Big Word to hire interpreters and coordinators, including standbys, because I think we'll need to recruit more than the usual amount of standbys, just because we're in a pandemic. And then we need to transport the interpreters, coordinators, furniture rental for non DOE sites so people have a place to sit.**

**Then also coordinating where we drop off materials, check in table for voters, et cetera. Then we designed some graphics and show you some of those graphics with Yazmany's help, currently hosting. And then we need to coordinate training for the interpreters and coordinators which will happen in the next couple of weeks.**

**Outreach, working on things where we're going place these ads. The language access advisory commit see it working on a tool kit that will plan out how this outreach will happen. We are going to be working with our interagency partners. And we are also as part of this planning we're working on PS As that we'll be able to show you and share with you very soon that are focused on voting rights and early voting.**

**And then for data collection we need to figure out how we're going monitor utilization and the process of reporting on the day of election. So there's a bunch of things and I want to thank Gagan and Francis and Yazmany and others who worked on this.**

**Just to show you some of the graphics we worked on, this is a tablecloth that will be displayed at every table. It's very bright and vivid. People will be able to see clearly that this is where the interpreters or the language assistance providers are seated.**

**In the next slide, oh, it's a tablecloth. Thank you.**

**And then we have some buttons that people will be wearing in every language has a different color, and these colors are similar to the colors used by other agencies. They're just a little potentially possibly a little deeper, but parallel to other agencies would do this.**

**[Indicating].**

**So that's it on the language assistance program. Does anyone have any questions on that? Yes, Amy.**

**>> AMY BREEDLOVE: So when you say training for the coordinators and the interpreters, are the coordinators the BOE coordinators?**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: No. Gagan, you're on the line, correct?**

**>> FEMALE VOICE: Yeah, and can folks hear me clearly?**

**So, Amy we're saying the name "coordinators" but internally thinking of them as supervisors. They are not affiliated with the board of elections. Their role is to, they will have a cluster of sites around three or four. They will go to each of the sites throughout the day to continuously report utilization numbers and mitigate any issues that are coming up at the poll site or amplify or flag any issues to the central team, which will be the CEC team.**

**So we can reach out to the board of elections, the site coordinator if it's a department of education site and help mitigate any issues that come up.**

**>> AMY BREEDLOVE: Yeah. Fortunately or unfortunately, I took the four‑plus hours of training yesterday to be a poll worker and I know Donna has done this for years.**

**What was reported or said over and over again is, tell the coordinator, that seems to be their mantra at the poll sites.**

**And I bring it up because I'm just a little worried that we're so close to the election and that poll workers are being trained, it's an unprecedented year in terms of protocol within the polling sites.**

**And I'm just afraid that it's going to be chaotic the day of the election, if you don't have a lot of pre buy‑in, especially by these BOE coordinators who are running the polling sites.**

**So I'm just bringing it out as I see potentially a process issue in getting the work done on the day of November 3rd and maybe the early elections might be easier, but I'm particularly worried about November 3rd.**

**>> Yeah, I mean first off, it's really great that you took the poll worker training.**

**The second thing I hear you on things getting hectic on November 3rd. We are ‑‑ when we do the training with the coordinators who internally we think of them as supervisors, we're going run through many scenarios that might come up on election day and run through how they might be able to mitigate.**

**And in terms of the training dates for the supervisors and the interpreters, we're looking at the week of October 19th, specifically October 19th and the 21st, to hold trainings for both.**

**We will be using many interpreters that have worked the pilot program in the past. So there is some familiarity with the project, with the work, with the type of issues that may come up.**

**In addition, we will send the board of elections the early voting sites we'll be providing services and the sites on election day we'll be providing services so they can let their BOE coordinators and staff at those sites we'll be there. That should help a little bit as well.**

**Just one more thing. When we met with the board of elections, which was a lifetime ago, I think in February or March, they created a e‑mail chain for the CEC and the board of elections through which we can flag any issues on election day.**

**So there's some things that we're putting in place to ensure that that kind of ‑‑ that we're not overwhelmed on election day. But I really appreciate you amplifying that.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Thanks, Gagan and Amy. Are there any questions on the poll site program?**

**We're all good?**

**So we will be able to share where the poll sites are where we'll be providing services. And we would love to get help, you know, again with, we can also share the tool kit with you and just to help raise awareness about the services so that we can ensure people utilize them. Awesome.**

**Okay. So if there are no other questions, we can go to the participatory budgeting programs. So what we're doing here, absent because we don't have an allocation and we really can't do in‑person assemblies at this time, and the program has been suspended for the duration of the emergency through executive order, we're trying to figure out how we can use this time to lay a foundation for city wide program.**

**And we know one of the pieces of that program will need to be an online process for generating ideas and voting and this is actually a really good moment to experiment with that online need complementing the in‑person assemblies.**

**But so what we're doing is we're launching, it's very exciting, launching a platform called Decidim, which is an open source participatory democracy platform. And I think I've talked about it in past meetings.**

**It is currently used in 30 cities, 12 regions, and if the PB folks put the link to the platform into the chat that would be really great, Wendy or Daniella.**

**And what's really exciting about this platform is we are going to be the first city in the U.S. to launch it. And right now we're thinking of launching it fairly close to sort of mid October probably and right now we're going through a process of just making sure that the privacy requirements of the City and residents that we're protecting those. Because when people get on to the platform they'll need to enter certain information to create an account and so we're making sure we clear all the requirements on that.**

**And we are going to be using, or the way that Decidim is used in other cities, people have used it for cities and assemblies, virtual assemblies for residents and then policy deliberation, participatory budgeting.**

**And what it does, it essentially provides an online space where people can provide input for decisions that directly impact them, and it can also serve as a tool in the future for community boards to collect resident inputs and for agencies to collect inputs and ideas from people.**

**Next slide.**

**One of the first uses of Decidim will be a small demonstration project for young people with participatory budgeting, and we decided we would launch this very small demonstration project with some of our own expense funding.**

**So we will be contributing or creating a process that involves about five projects at $20,000 each, where we will create an opportunity for young people to generate ideas, and then those ideas will be traveled into an opportunity for CEO s to propose how to address those ideas and young people will vote on the proposals.**

**And we are looking to really work with young people because they're disconnected from government decision making for the most part so we want to create an opportunity for them and according to the charter youth are among the sets of the population that we are charged to work with and also make sure we are working in high needs communities hit hard by COVID and also we're using the citizens committee for children's well‑being index to really identify communities where we'll be focusing our outreach.**

**And along that we can go through a process of launching the portal idea generation in October, November and then CBOs submit proposals on these ideas November, December and then we vote on the proposals in January, and make these small awards to CBOs in January.**

**So this will be a really great opportunity for to us just have a way to test out the platform, the process, and to do that, something we did over the summer, we had a great partnership with Coro, where we had youth fellows, who they have been working with for the past 3 years through the city council program, the PB program and we worked with the youth fellows to come up with a process that will be put into play once the platform is working.**

**And the youth will be broken out into different groups. They'll be young people who will be coalition builders from the Coro youth fellowship who will help. There will be virtual events, phone calls, texting. And also people serving as social media managers, interviews with youth workers and then people to moderate on the platform itself. So these are roles that young people came up with over the summer that they would like to see us actualize during the youth demo.**

**And then weave also been talking to agencies like some of the ones listed here, DYCD, DOP, MOCJ, parks, department of health, to reach out young people serving LGBTQ youth, run away youth.**

**I think there's more slides.**

**The PB advisory committee has been incredibly active over the past year and just meeting monthly and want to thank all of them and also the staff who has been working with them.**

**And one of our major I think products that emerged through these meetings is that people talk through a set of principles that would shape and undergird future city‑wide PB programs, and we sent out details so you can look through them.**

**Equity, inclusion, transparency, accountability, community ownership, collaboration, learning and participatory democracy are issues a smaller subgroup came up with and then brought to a larger committee for vote. There was an opportunity for the advisory committee to also give feedback at that point and endorse the final list of principles.**

**So we want to thank the advisory committee for going through that process and identifying these principles. And really, the advisory committee with, for PB is kind of in a tricky moment right now because their charter function is really to inform a city wide process, and since that process has been suspended we're trying to work creatively with them and be respectful of their time and energy to try to help us lay groundwork for what the city wide process will look like, once the health emergency is lifted.**

**And also need to be thinking about the budget crisis and we have no idea how that's going to impact future allocation for city wide PB budgeting in the next year.**

**So all of those things are, it's, you know, they're going need to factor those in as we develop a foundation for a city‑wide program.**

**And we also wanted to share on the next slide some ideas for you to stay involved and get involved with the PB budgeting pilots. You're welcome to contribute ideas for this, and if you have suggestions for organizations we can work with. You're welcome to help. We're thinking about other opportunities to use this platform, including for community boards to collect resident input on budget needs statements or priority statements. There will be a module in Decidim that will let you set up surveys.**

**That can be really exciting.**

**We want to hold two to three public events where we think about what is the current narrative around PB? How do people see it? What's they're experience of it? And help keep it alive in peoples minds while it's suspended. And we'd love to get your thoughts on how we can, what types of events you'd like to see.**

**One of the things we're working on right now is deputy mayor Thompson is very interested in economic democracy and wealth building at the community level. So we're trying to see how we can connect the dots and maybe hold a public event around this where we get experts in economic democracy, people who have experience with PB as well to come together and have, create synergy between these ideas and areas of work so that's one example.**

**And then just think about how, what's the story of PB we would like to share publicly? And how do we create opportunities for people with experience with PB, powerful empowering experience to share their story? And those are some of the things we're thinking about doing and would love to get your involvement on that I'm going pause here to see if there are any questions relating to anything relating to the PB work?**

**Awesome.**

**Okay. Can we go to next is the community boards. We did a bunch of trainings on parliamentary procedures focused on motions and amendments, nominations and elections, and also minutes for secretaries and really great response.**

**405 community boards attended those trainings. We had a lot more people sign up, but they weren't able to make it. That's typical for any training you usually have more people signup than actually attend, but think this is a great number for us for this first round and we might repeat these workshop. There's actually been demand to repeat the workshops and then develop others, such as focused on committee work, to how do we debate motions using parliamentary procedures. Some of that was covered in the earlier workshops, but I think there's ways to pivot and frame things differently and help people kind of ideas how to do civil debates, civil discourse and deliberation in community board meetings.**

**And then also we want to help build community boards conflict resolution capacity. We had a preliminary conversation with the borough president's offices to see what they are offering in this area. And also connected with the oath, the office for administrative trials and hearing as a really great center for creative conflict resolution.**

**We connected with them. We'd love to connect the community boards to the OATH center, because they offer mediation for internal conflicts to the community boards, for example.**

**And we'll be going around to the borough board meetings and introducing OATH center to the community and that will be happening in the next couple of months.**

**Every staff member of CEC has been charred with attending at least one of the OMB and agency and CB community board consultations to learn more about this process which is an annual process that community boards have to go through.**

**It's a really interesting process for us to think about as a commission connected to PB because participatory budgeting as the council has practiced is a very specific process of generating voting on ideas. But a broader interpretation of PB would include this kind of process that the community boards undergo, because it's allowing community boards and residents to have a better understanding of agency priorities every year and weigh‑in on those priorities through their submissions on the DCP portal.**

**So as you all know, community boards are required to submit these annual requests for budget and needs to DCP, through an online portal, due on October 30th. And it's a very challenging time for everyone to work through this online portal, which was introduced I think last year.**

**But I think what has been hard, during COVID it's hard to get people together. Not all community board members are equally proficient in terms of their ability to access online materials. So we're trying to think about how we can help community boards with that part of it.**

**And DCP planners are speaking to individual community boards who express concern about the tech needs to figure out how they can be helpful with that piece of it.**

**And the other thing that I think we need to work on and think about how to do is that, again, public hearings, which will start up, I'm assuming they started up already, but during the pandemic and in the spring and until July and August, community boards weren't really holding public hearings. They were having meetings, but not hearings.**

**Starting now they're actually required to do both. So during the public hearings residents had the opportunity to have input into what the community boards are going to be submitting on the online portal.**

**So we want to try to pay attention to the digital divide and helping community boards get the word out about their public hearings so that more people can participate in that process.**

**On the next slide, I'm sorry, I should have gone through this before, but it's just a break down of how many people attended from across the boroughs for the parliamentary procedures trainings. As you can see it's pretty evenly spread out across for motions and amendments.**

**Well, some of the boroughs were collapsed. We'll continue to offer these workshops and have also shared the presentation with the community board district managers.**

**Any questions on community board work? Or thoughts or comments?**

**I'm curious if any of the folks who are community board leaders, members, borough president appointees have any thoughts on this?**

**>> MARK DILLER: The district needs and community, statement of community budget priorities, you're right it is a very strange year to be doing that because the budget is in the process of being cut and then cut again. So whereas in previous years, and the online portal has been around, gotten better over the last couple years. Initially, we were in this terrible position of having to try to squeeze a 45‑page document into a box.**

**The DCP has answered a lot, responded to a lot of the feedback that we've been giving it over the years. This year the budget priorities is almost a negative. It's what's the last possible thing to hold out for before it all gets cut because of the concerns about revenue shortfalls, and so forth.**

**The ‑‑ so these are things we will be voting on in October, November, in order to submit. I guess the interesting thing about that is any opportunity to broaden community involvement. One of the interest things about COVID and online meetings during zoom is more people are participating via Zoom than usually do in person. So we actually have the benefit of more community participation this year than we did in the last several probably. I would talk more about specific questions, but I don't want to occupy the floor.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: We have heard from community boards where the participation will be great and there are other boards that will struggle with that. I think for those areas we've got to figure out again how to do ‑‑ it's probably in‑person outreach, if people don't have access to online meeting tools, they should be able to call in.**

**>> You're right, as it great opportunity to involve people who may have had constraints that prevented them from going to meetings in person. There are a lot of, I remember way back, we were talking about, for example, parents with children, if they don't have the ability ‑‑ like they don't have baby‑sitting for something. How do we help those folks?**

**So we're looking forward to this. We'll also be attending the hearings at the community boards as well to see how those are going.**

**>> MARK DILLER: Yeah. If I could just jump in.**

**One of the benefits of Zoom or a couple of benefits of Zoom as a platform for these things is you can phone in and we do regularly get folks who phone in without a computer or camera device.**

**And that they are recorded. We live stream ours to YouTube, which then keeps them for I don't want to say forever, but for a good long time.**

**And so we've had folks e‑mail us and say, in words or substance, I was watching your meeting a couple of days later and had these following questions.**

**I worry a little bit about people who watch my meetings after the fact as entertainment, but I'm grateful for the feedback just the same. [Laughter].**

**But, anyway, so those things actually, those opportunities do exist and we try and make sure that folks know about that. But we are very much limited to outreach that is in some way digital right now. You only know about the telephone option if you look at our website or receive our e‑mail, and that does have a funny way of limiting the field with some pockets in our community, just talking about my own district now.**

**There are pockets in my district where we know that a paper flyer is the only way to get somebody's attention so.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Yeah. Yes. So we're trying to sort of think about are there spaces, for example, in those kinds of areas, where there's a digital desert to post flyers, if not actually hand them out at the grocery store, laundromat, different places where we know people congregate.**

**>> MARK DILLER: A really effective way to do that has been the grab‑and‑go places from the get food programs. We've done that and we've encouraged other community organizations to did that as well, so there's is that something is ‑‑ because there's a certain amount of synergy between the population that does not have robust digital access at home and the population that needs the grab‑and‑go services or the food bank services kind of, well, services.**

**So, anyway, that's a very fertile ground for spreading the word in alternative means alternative to digital.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: That's really great. Thank you for that.**

**Are there any other comments or questions on the community board work stream?**

**>> DONNA GILL: I was on the line with the training and I found it to be very effective. And I also spoke to some of my members who attended, and, you know, I think training like that was absolutely essential for community boards and to have access to it.**

**The only problem I find is that there wasn't enough advertisement for it from the board. So to get a lot of people involved so I think if once you're doing this, if you can get them to advertise it a little bit more or to do it every April because that's when new board members are coming on that are going to need to know the information about Robert's rules, parliamentary things, just how to have meetings, the secretary, most definitely.**

**But I thought it was a good presentation and it really helped my board to think through and to fine tune a lot of the things that they were doing, and it was easier for them to did that once they had gotten that broad training. So that's my opinion.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Thanks so much. That's very heart warming to hear that feedback. Andy, do you have anything to contribute as far as outreach or what we did and how we reached out?**

**>> Yes.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: If you could just share.**

**>> Absolutely. Good afternoon all commissioners. Thank you, Donna, for your comment. What was actually quite interesting on Monday we held a debriefing with the parliamentarians of Metro New York and there actually was a comment that a number of board members had reached out to PM &Y with regards to not knowing, not having enough information about the training or getting the information training last minute from the district managers much.**

**So I think this time around what we're going to look to do is e‑mail not only the district managers but the board chairs and the board members directly as well. That way there's more outreach and also incorporating the borough presidents offices more in that outreach process.**

**So it is something that has come up and we will be fine tuning and incorporating more outreach for the next round of trainings.**

**>> MARK DILLER: I think that's excellent to have both the district managers and the chairs of the boards, speaking as a chair of a board myself. And particularly, the borough president' office.**

**And if I could add that it would be really the most helpful way to do that would be to make sure that the opportunities for training, the schedule, the roster, whatever it might be, is available before that month's borough board. Each of the 5 boroughs borough presidents convenience a meeting every month except perhaps August of the chairs of the community boards in that borough along with representatives of the city council members whose districts touch that borough, and, of course, the borough president staff their self.**

**And so that's sort of one‑stop‑shopping for the community board presidents and it is exactly the kind of forum in which information like this is shared, because the borough president's office tends to also offer trainings of its own.**

**I'm delighted to see that the trainings being offered through the CEC are different in kind and nature than those, so we're keeping up with the idea of adding without repeating. That's an excellent credit to everybody.**

**But that's a great way to get that word out with one e‑mail you'll hit 12 Manhattan community boards, as well as the number of council members and you can get great penetration for that one shot.**

**>> Thank you for that. We will be attending more borough board meetings and borough cabinet meetings and district service cabinet meetings as well as part of our outreach efforts.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Thank you.**

**So moving right along, I wanted to also share with you we've been doing a bunch of internal work with the staff and I really believe that as a team as we're trying to promote civic engagement, we have to embody the principles that we want to see realized as we try to create more inclusive public square.**

**So we're trying to orient our minds and our work processes and programs trying to identify principles and also embed those principles in our work.**

**And one of the approaches that we really want to take is this kind of awareness of how conflict operates, and how is it that it's operative in the public square today?**

**And we see a lot of things that are not great about public deliberation and processes. It's highly fractured, highly polarized, and we really believe that if we're going to do civic engagement work, we need to be mindful of all of that.**

**So in order to do that and just build our own awareness, we went through this three‑part workshop as I mentioned with the Center For Creative Conflict Resolution, to just build some of that vocabulary on restorative approaches to conflict and that training has, again, helped us, say, moved forward to the next thing. Which is we want to offer a similar type of awareness raising, knowledge raising training for community boards. And then also trying to bring that consciousness into our other work.**

**Another training that we've done with the staff is work with an MWBE called Sea Change Collective to have a better vocabulary and understanding of anti oppression approach to equity and social justice. And we did five three‑hour sessions with them and it really was an opportunity for to us practice deep listening and sharing with each other and we're going to you go through that more with Sea Change to integrate more into our actual plans.**

**The trainings are critical, but the after‑work is equally important so we want to make sure we build into this engagement with Sea Change afterwards too. And Sea Change is going to be helping us as the staff to come up with our core values that will drive or be a foundation for our work as we implement our mission. And we wanted to create a process where all of our stakeholders had a chance to hear those values and weigh in on them and come to some consensus about what they were.**

**So what we're going to be doing is going through a process with Sea Change in a preliminary workshop to identify our core values. We're going share those out with the advisory committees, get their input and get all of that and bring it to the commission for you all to see what we've done for your input and discussion.**

**We're so excited about this process of being grounded in values. We think that it's really important again for our work and also just for creating a more inclusive public square to know what our values are and to embed those in our programs.**

**So that's an exciting thing that's happened during the pandemic. It's been a very dark time for so many and I think we really use that time to kind of go within and strengthen our foundation work and groundwork for the commission as a staff.**

**And then on the next slide ‑‑ did we skip over community conversations? Before that? Maybe it's the last slide. It might have not been in. Is this the last slide, Francis?**

**>> I believe so.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Okay. I think it ‑‑ all right. Anyway, I can talk about the. When we did our launch we started talking about a listening tour, and unfortunately those plans could not materialize partly because we're in a pandemic. So we've been pivoting trying to think about how to do that differently.**

**Where we landed and are working on rite now is we currently have a partnership with NYC Service Design, which is in the office of ‑‑ let me just pull that up since I can't see it on the screen.**

**But it is an NYC opportunity and what we're doing with that is they are going to help us develop tool kits for how to hold conversations on civic engagement. And these tool kits will be co designed with residents. That's kind of their specialty.**

**So the service design studio creates ways for agencies to come together with the people who are benefiting from services, the residents and to hear their input on the end, insights into those service and shape the services accordingly.**

**So we'll be working with residents to develop the tool kits for how to hold conversations, and we also came up with again, trying to think about when we bring residents together in a conversation what are some of the principles that we want to abide by in convening these gatherings?**

**And we're talking about principles such as just being straight, having straight talk, transparency, creating intentional hospitality, suspending assumptions, listening, creating ways that we have actionable input. So people are coming to these gatherings and conversations and can give practical input that will be acted on. And so it's not like a wasted opportunity for them.**

**In the coming weeks we'll be doing workshop service did he seen studio on human centered design principles and then working forward to develop these tool kits. And, again, given the digital divide, we're thinking about tools we can use such as hustle or call‑in approaches so people can come to these gatherings using different methods.**

**And we do have a small grant through an agency partnership with NYC Service for 40,000. I got that right, Francis? $40,000, is that correct?**

**>> Yes, that's correct.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: To build a volunteer program for the commission and we'll also be looking at other opportunities to support these community conversations which are the listening tour that we started talking about. So that's where we are with that. Any questions on that? Or the staff development?**

**>> MARK DILLER: My only comment on the staff development is do whatever you need to do to keep the team you've got. They're great folks.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Yes, agree hundred percent. They're all amazing folks. Really hard workers. Really thoughtful people. And very dedicated public servants. So I couldn't be more proud of the team that we have. And really appreciate them all as individuals.**

**And I think during, in spite of not being able to work together in the same space, we were, the full team was on boarded January. The last person was on boarded in January and we went virtual in March. So we haven't really spent a whole lot of time in one another's company and person, and have just been getting to know one another through meetings like this and on the phone.**

**And I think these trainings have really helped the team to know one another as people as well. So, yeah.**

**>> ANNETTA SEECHERRAN: I want to echo that part that Mark made and I think it's also nice to know that we are sort of building the foundation of the commission through the staff.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Yes.**

**>> ANNETTA SEECHERRAN: Because hopefully they will outlast us.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Yes, hopefully yes, for sure.**

**One thing I forgot to mention but also really excited about is do a visioning workshop that will get us out of our right brain and think about how we can dream about the commission's success and create a timeline for imaginings. That will be coming up in the future. I've been through this imaging work. It's really transformative. I think it will really help us at this time when we're struggling with having hope and hopefully energize us.**

**And speaking of energizing, as I want to turn next to Yasmany to talk to us a little bit more about Yasmany's work and I guess there was a version of the Power Point that had a lot of great slides about Yasmany's work, because we were worried we wouldn't have enough time.**

**But, Yasmany, you have the floor now. So please tell us a little bit more about what the public artists and residence will entail. Feel free to talk on your own history and also what we're looking to involve the commissioners in.**

**>> Great. Well, thank you so much Sayeed for your introduction. Good afternoon everybody. I'm so excited to be here with you all. I often find this work to be, I feel like it's a privilege for me to do the work that I get to do with the commission.**

**I've done a brown bag lunch previously that happened August 25th, but my hope is over the next couple months I'm going to be doing more sessions where you can learn about my practice in depth, understand the work I'm doing with the commission and it's going it be a space for everyone to give me feedback in participation of what we're doing together.**

**So in terms of the scope of the framework of public orienting residence is with the commission, in partnership with the culture of the city of New York, I have been assigned a one year minimum working with CEC. Currently, I'm in the process that we think of as research until the end of October.**

**As part of this work, I am being given an A $40,000, 20 for research, 20 for activation. It's really interesting to think about how that money gets used, not just my payment for the work I'm doing, but art here in public space that's going to tell the story of who we are and what is the relationship of that money to that work. It's an opportunity to think about funding and support for funding outwardly once we decide what this thing is we're going to make together S.**

**Since August 3rd, there's been so much work I've been learning and reading about, which includes the graphics for language access, the graphics and branding for PB budgeting for the youth. And so there's a lot that's already happening on the ground in terms of visuals and graphics that are being created.**

**But I'm really actually interested in thinking about the guise under an umbrella of a bigger question, when I'm invited no a community who are we here and how do we make ourselves manifest? Is always the question. How do we express our values, who we are, what we stand for, and what we're inviting people to participate in?**

**So I'm going to go through and share a few slides, if we go to the next one, Francis. Just a little bit about myself. I'm going to share two quick problems that will give you an understanding of your practice, and you will join me and participate in the coming brown lunch bag sessions. But just a way to think about how I think and where I've been.**

**As an artist I think of my work as being built on relationships and what you see here is my family, my two sisters, Mom, darling, brothers in law, my partner, Danny, and two little people are Erber and Lucas my two nephews.**

**I think it's important as somebody from Columbia born in Boston, grew up in South Florida and Columbia I'm always thinking how is it that we begin and feed relationships to maintain a process and to really engage continuously honestly with each other. So I share this. This is my beginning, these are the people that I come from, continue to relate to and bounce ideas off of.**

**A huge way that I think about this art practice and I think this is helpful, because often times when people think about art that it's an object, like a sculpture in a middle of a space, or painting on a wall, like the painting that is behind Francis, and I in my practice I think those beautiful objects are important, but they're part ah system that actually connect us to each other.**

**So how is it that we can make things together to build relationships when at the end we can look at something that we created that's spectacular creating conversation that we own together.**

**So a lot of what I do in my practice is bring people into the room and say how do we come up with both wild ideas of what's possible on this earth? And how do we go after those ideas together? Learning about how to fund raise, journalists coming to tell the story of what we're doing and process. And to think through we're always in process always learning how is it that collaboration can happen in that space?**

**The next slide. And so here is an example. Over the past five years I've been working long term in Africa. Here's a gallery wall that asks you, where does your faith live? In Kenya, CNN reported he was visiting a house of terror and many communities that were really worried and starting to effect they had been titled a bit of terror as a blanket statement of who they are. And we began to think how can we transform that idea and put it on its head to bring dignity to the stories of all of the people that make up what Kenya is as a country.**

**So I created a gallery space which I invited all kinds of people, ambassadors, community organizers, all kinds of folks to come in and ask each other questions. So from that space the idea of faith came to life. Which is how about we paint how we worship yellow and paint them optimistic yellow, which is the name of the color. How about we do that together and then tell people what we're doing is transforming these buildings mosques, temples, churches into monuments into sculptures that are in our urban landscape that speak to our common humanity.**

**So the fact that people are coming together to create something that is really old and unprecedented, how is it that transforms ourselves and people that surround us. I often make drawings of people part of a given community as invitations to participate in the future we're making together.**

**So what's so beautiful, the next slide, those are some of the drawings, here is one of the churches that we painted. What's really astonishing about this project to me has to do with the variation of buildings that are made of mortar stone, cor are you gated metal. All kinds of spaces that people are showing up to worship. But look at what the power of color can do.**

**How does color transform our life and the meaning within it? Incredible what happens when you go and you build, here's a church, about ten minutes away by walking is a mosque and a temple that are also yellow.**

**And what we learned four years later there's paths that have been built between these buildings that feel safe, where children play, there's playgrounds. So it begins to alter the narrative of what that place is. Simple.**

**The next slide. Up to now in Kenya we've painted 16 buildings in four communities in two different cities. There's so much in terms of what has happened within those communities that's really what happened from place to place and how it informs to each other, how they think of each other, Christians, Muslims.**

**The beginning of asking each other what do you want to have for lunch? What's our favorite food? The simple things combined with putting a paint brush to a wall, making things look beautiful and together finding ourselves which I think is a huge part of this practice that I've been developing over the past two decades.**

**Always, the question is how is it that we can activate the imagination of all stakeholders and transform everyone around us. To think, using a muscle, that leads us to change the way we think in relation to action.**

**That's a project in Kenya, another where we gave away pink landlord loans after attacks Inca bull, Johannesburg, Japan, India, in every community, always thinking about how do we come together and create beauty and enjoy effect the way we think and feel about ourselves.**

**To bring it back home, during the past three years I've been working with NYC, an organization lead by youth, and we have about 20 young people who come from outside boroughs, and over the past year and‑a‑half we developed a project called retire segregation where on the anniversary of Brown v. Board of Ed, wearing T‑shirts and produced a newspaper that tells stories how segregation impacted their individual schools was produced and created.**

**Not only was the newspaper the artifact that we distributed 25,000 copies across all 5 boroughs, we then went ton have a party in Times Square where we celebrated the retirement segregation because 65 is the year people are going retire. A comment from a middle school student, Benji: What if we have a retirement party?**

**When we look at what that party felt and looked like and the fact that these teenagers appeared on ABC news, PBS news hour, they were in the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, the LA times, wearing and talking about these newspaper and talking about how they were a part of contributing to the color, the joy and the flavor of these narratives, so driven by these individuals and so beautiful that we can collaborate and build narratives that belong to all of us together. So I wanted to show you these two projects just to give you a little sense of what's possible.**

**One of the big questions and thing that immediately jumps out to me when I think about the last month and‑a‑half, 2 months of working with you all is the opportunities enormous to create the narrative the story telling tradition of the Civic Engagement Commission of the city of New York because we have the most historic cyst city in the history of the earth.**

**So when we think about building our uniforms, T‑shirts, stickers, all of the elements and gatherings how is it that they're a party? And the more recently throwing the most fabulous party in New York in 2021, how would we go about finding who is on that guest list so they can sign up to join us?**

**But there's just an enormous opportunity to create the commission and foundation that speaks about all the foundations to bring dignity to the people we're charged with representing.**

**So here's an example of one of the T‑shirts we've designed over the past couple weeks with language access, and think about how each one of our work exchange is branded and has an identity and story telling tradition that is beautiful, compelling, warm. All of these things that I think, when we think about city governance, in my experience I have not seen how joy shows up in meetings like this one. How is it that there's activation of pleasure and beauty? Because to me those elements are inherent in building systems that are sustainable.**

**So I very much offered before in my last presentation that if there's any commissioners interested in having one‑on‑ones with me, I had one with Amy Breedlove, it was very productive. If anyone is interested in chatting with me, I am here. I am interested in putting a proposal for this year‑long project. I'm a collaborator and it's going take every single one of us to turn the system the way it works. So brainstorming and lots of love. I thank you for your time and I very much look forward to hopefully seeing you during my brown box lunches.**

**On October 13th we're going to be talking about color, on the following one, interdependence and the following one talking about joy. So those are the pieces I'm entitle today sure and more bringing into my own practice. If anybody has any questions or comments?**

**>> Okay. If there are no comments we're going open the floor for public comments. Anyone who is interested in offering a public comment can unmute themselves.**

**Just a note for folks who have dialed in using telephones or cell phones, you are also unmuted.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Okay. So if there are no questions or comments, from the commissioners or from the members of the public who are with us, we can go ahead and begin to adjourn the meeting.**

**So I'd like to see if anyone can make a motion to adjourn?**

**>> DONNA GILL: Did we actually vote on the amendment? Did we vote on it?**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: We did.**

**>> DONNA GILL: All right. We did.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Yes. We voted on the amendment that was amended. And we approved it, the edited version.**

**>> MARK DILLER: Okay. So I'll move to adjourn.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Brilliant. Anyone want to second that?**

**>> AMY BREEDLOVE: Second.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Thank you. All in favor? (All stated "Aye." )**

**Any opposed?**

**Wonderful. Thanks so much everyone for joining us. So I'm going to carry this motion and we're adjourned for today. Look forward to seeing you again and be in touch with you in‑between. Thank you so much for joining us. Take care.**

**>> MARK DILLER: Thank you. Thanks everybody.**

**>> SARAH SAYEED: Bye‑bye. (Meeting adjourned.)**