



Donovan Richards
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Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

February 13th, 2024

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Karesia Batan, Chair
Ann Marie Baranowski
Kat Bloomfield
Kenny Greenberg
Ryan Smith

Absentees:

Badrun Khan
Danielle Brecker
Stephen Cooper
Anatole Ashraf
Eric Narburgh
Akello Thomas

Edjo Wheeler – Public Member

Guests:

Andre Irving, Cucala Dance Company
Angel Hart, LIC Partnership
Ran Yan, Executive Director of Lewis Latimer House
Regina Bain, Executive Director of Louis Armstrong House
Cheryl Chan, Sculpture Center
Jovanna Venegas, Curator Sculpture Center
Molly Kurzius, MoMA PS 1

Community Board 2:

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager

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

Karesia Batan introduced Regina Bain, Executive Director of Louis Armstrong House Museum

- Regina Bain leads the Louis Armstrong House Museum. (***presentation attached #1***)
- Louis Armstrong was born in New Orleans and lived for 30 years on 107th Street in Corona, Queens.
- Louis Armstrong had a unique style as a vocalist and jazz instrumentalist.
- People from around the world visit this museum as he toured in over 62 countries.
- The home that he lived in for 30 years is now a city and national landmark.

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

- Regina Bain showed a picture of the house and across the street from the house is the new Armstrong Center.
- The Armstrong Center opened last year and has a performance space.
- Students ages 8 to 12 can learn how to play the trumpet at the center.
- They started an artist in residence program, musicians, dancers, and visual artists can apply. A \$10,000 stipend is given, and recipient will get to perform in the space.
- Applications are presently open for the Armstrong Now Artist Residency deadline March 15: <https://www.louisarmstronghouse.org/armstrong-now/>
- For teaching artist opportunities: <https://www.louisarmstronghouse.org/staff-bruce-harris/>
- Education Initiatives: <https://www.louisarmstronghouse.org/education/>

Karesia Batan introduced Ran Yan, Executive Director of Lewis Latimer House.

- Ran Yan stated she has been with the Lewis Latimer House since 2014.
- Ran Yan started her presentation talking about Lewis Latimer the man. *(presentation attached #2)*
- Lewis Latimer was an African American inventor who invented a method for long lasting light bulb filaments.
- Lewis Latimer was the head draftsman at a company and later helped Alexander Graham Bell secure the patent for the telephone.
- He taught himself mechanical drawing.
- He worked for Thomas Edison in New York as a patent expert in the legal department.
- The museum is at Lewis Latimer actual house in Flushing Queens where he lived for 26 years until he death.
- The house was moved before it was renovated and preserved in the late 1980's.
- The Lewis Latimer House is presently closed to install a new permanent exhibition and will be reopening in May.
- In 2025 they will resume their annual art installations in the garden inspired by the work of Lewis Latimer.
- They have an annual writing workshop that just started this year. Below is the link for memoir writing workshop: <https://www.lewislatimerhouse.org/events/memoir-and-autobiographical-writing-2024>
- Visit <https://lewislatimerhouse.org> for more information concerning programming and any notices regarding the art installations.

Karesia Batan introduced Angel Hart from the LIC Partnership.

- LIC Partnership just received a \$10 million revitalization grant from the Governor.
- Angel Hart spoke about the grant.
- The grant goes to LIC not the LIC Partnership organization.
- The state will overlook this grant process.
- LIC Partnership will be on the planning committee.

- Karesia Batan stressed how arts and culture should be on the planning committee.
- Angel Hart shared the below links:
https://www.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/Long_Island_City_DRI_7_Application.pdf
https://www.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/DRINYF_Brochure_Final.pdf
- Chinatown won two years ago. Below is the link for their award:
https://www.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2022-12/DRI_5_Chinatown_Award_Booklet.pdf

Announcements

Karesia Batan Introduced Molly Kurzius, Director of External Affairs from MoMA PS 1

- Molly Kurzius shared the below link regarding programming
<https://www.momaps1.org/programs/367-yto-barrada>
- Night at the Museum, February 25, 2024 will be coming back. All activations will be open. This is a ticketed event.
- Admission is free every day.
- Two new textile exhibitions will be starting in April.
- Opening April 25, 2024, the courtyard will be opening with a beautiful sculpture exhibition. It will be displayed for two years.
- In May there will be a photography exhibit.

Karesia Batan introduced Sculpture Center.

- Cheryl Chan shared the below links:
<https://www.sculpture-center.org/exhibitions/>
<https://www.sculpture-center.org/events/>
- There will be an open call for emerging artists. 80% of the applicants who apply are from New York.
- They are open Thursdays to Mondays 12pm to 6pm
- Free Admission.

Announcements

Kat Bloomfield shared that her business Arts Business Collaborative is in the pilot stage of launching a 12-month program for arts & science creators, artists, makers to get full supportive wrap around services for their business or individual work.

Karesia Batan shared that discretionary funding is due in a week and to contact Councilmember Julie Won's office.

Karesia Batan spoke about attending the One LIC meeting. At this meeting there was a discussion about the Land trust for the DOE building as well as the DOT space which is all publicly owned along 44th Drive.

Karesia Batan mentioned the St. Pat's for All Parade. It will take place March 3rd, 2024. Plans are being made to march in the parade, behind the community board 2 banner.

Karesia Batan mentioned the deadline for the Community Board membership application is February 16th, 2024.

Andre Irving - Cucala Dance Company is having a valentine salsa workshop on February 14th, 2024.

Karesia Batan thanked everyone for their attendance at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kim Waber