



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

43-22 50th Street, 2nd Floor
Woodside, New York 11377

(718) 533-8773

Fax (718-533-8777

Email qn02@cb.nyc.gov

www.nyc.gov/queenscb2

Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

June 11th, 2024

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Karesia Batan, Chair
Eric Narburgh, Vice Chair
Anatole Ashraf
Ann Marie Baranowski
Lisa Charles
Ryan Smith
Akello Thomas
Alexa Gonzalez

Edjo Wheeler – Public Member

Absentees:

Kat Bloomfield
Stephen Cooper
Kenny Greenberg

Guests:

Noel Gamboa, NYC & Company
Yaling Chen, Deputy Director MTA Arts & Design
Andre Irving, Cucala Dance Company
Nancy Bruno – LIC Artists
Xenia Diente

Community Board 2:

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager

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

Karesia Batan introduced Yaling Chen, Deputy Director MTA Arts & Design.

- Yaling shared a presentation with the committee (***presentation attached***)
- MTA Arts & Design aim to create meaningful connections between neighborhoods and the ridership through artwork that is either temporary or permanent.
- It is the largest display of public art in the world.
- The founders of the subway systems used art to entice the public to travel down into the subway system. Mosaic art was displayed.
- Subways then became thought of as old fashion.
- Population then left the city for the suburbs.
- MTA Art & Design was founded in 1985.

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

- This was a key initiative to rebuild the subway system
- October 29, 1982 the city signed and passed the Percent for Art legislation.
- Up to 1% of Construction budget goes to Percent for Art.
- Yaling Chen showed some examples on her presentation of how artwork can completely transform a station.
- A discussion of how artists are selected:
 - A selection for artist as well as a procurement work.
 - The process is done through a competitive selection process in two panel meetings.
 - In addition to the chief architect, art professionals in the neighborhood are invited to serve as the panelists.
 - An open call for artists is put on the MTA Art & Design website.
 - A web-based platform is used for artist to apply to the open call.
 - In addition, MTA Art & Design reach out to museums, cultural institutions, and art councils asking them to distribute the call.
 - Representatives from the community board and officers of elected officials attend the meeting as well.
- Yaling Chen's presentation showed examples of upgrades through artwork on different subway lines. They have temporary artwork as well as permanent.
- They also show digital artwork and showcase artwork and photography.
- There are more than 350 music ensembles that perform in the subways.
- Each year in May they host the annual music auditions, 25 new performers were added to the roster this year.
- In 2023 the MTA Arts & Design connected with Bloomberg Connects to download the app for all the artwork in the subway.
- To learn more about MTA Arts & Design visit www.mta.info/art
- Karesia Batan asked Yaling to notify the CB2 office of any open call for artist specific to the CB2 area.
- For any special events or musician locations it is best to reach out to Yaling Chen.
- A question was asked if the MTA performs any survey from the ridership to ask how the art impacts their daily commute.
 - A survey was performed, and the results were 96% of those felt there should be more art on the subways. Unfortunately, this survey was done 10 years ago, they are hoping to do another one.

Karesia Batan asked Debra Markell Kleinert, the District Manager for an update on the bulletin boards.

- The District Manager stated to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Committee that she is in discussion with the NYC Parks Department and was told they are taking down some of the bulletin boards and refurbishing them. NYC Parks will be ordering new bulletin boards in areas of new construction. She noted the parks department is appreciative that Karesia will partner with them to maintain the bulletin boards.

- Karesia Batan stated the bulletin boards being mentioned are the ones at Woodside Memorial Plaza and at Lawrence Virgilio Playground / Windmueller Park.

Karesia Batan introduced Noel Gamboa.

- Noel Gamboa is a licensed architect by profession and is currently Director of Space, Planning and Facilities at York College, CUNY in Jamaica.
- He shared with the Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee a presentation (*presentation is attached*)
- Little Manila Improvement Block located at 70th Street between Roosevelt and 41st Avenue.
- The green space, Little Manila Park, on 70th St. and 41st Avenue is waiting on a DOT permit.
- Noel Gamboa also mentioned Little Manila Triangle located on 70th Street and Roosevelt Avenue.
- Preliminary plans for the park have been approved by the regional director.
- His presentation showed a conceptual design of the park.
- More information can be found at their website www.littlemanilapark.com
- Their hope is to convert Little Manila Triangle into a sculptural area with art and murals.
- His presentation showed sample of the sculptures to be added.
- His presentation showed slides of Holiday Lightings, Murals and Annual Street Fair.
- He stated the murals would beautify the neighborhood.
- Little Manila Inc. is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.
- Noel Gamboa will also be presenting at the Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee meeting.
- Karesia Batan had a question about the budget for this vision especially when maintaining and overseeing the curation.
 - Noel Gamboa stated he will expand more at the Environment Committee Mtg. on June 27th, 2024 but they are hoping to be granted for a \$1 fee waive permit which is granted to projects that benefit the community.
 - Little Manila Triangle is state owned.
 - Little Manila Park is fenced so there is more control over security.
 - Through their website and social media they have reached out to the Woodside community concerning these areas, however, they welcome more feedback.
 - The park will have insurance.
 - They will need volunteers.
 - Karesia Batan suggested getting in contact with Woodside On the Move. They can help with more local resources especially with social media.
 - Committee strongly advised that the project's next step to gather support is to have robust community engagement and input on the intention, design, and purpose of the park proposal project in order to demonstrate widespread support beyond the Filipino community.
 - Committee welcomes Noel Gamboa back for project updates.

Announcements, events, opportunities from attendees

Edjo Wheeler, Culture Lab LIC – On Friday, June 14th, 2024, Culture Lab will have their first funky formal. It's a fund raiser, late sixties theme, open bar. Summer programming consists of free concerts every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday every weekend.

Andre Irving - Cucala Dance Company mentioned they are having their next social on June 22nd, 2024. June, July and August they will be having their summer series. They are in the process of getting a sound permit, to do free events outside. The Saturday after Labor Day, Cucala Dance Company will be having their second-year anniversary bash, live music, admission is donation based, performances and open bar. Visit www.cucaladance.com for more information. And visit the below link for the event:

Karesia Batan gave an update on the latest little library in LIC Corner Café which was set up last year, the block was vandalized including the little library. LIC Corner Café is reaching out for help in repairing the little library.

Karesia Batan stated that the Dance NYC Dance Advancement Fund is now open. This is a two-year grant that will support dance makers. You must be a 501(c) 3. Visit <https://www.dance.nyc/programs/funds/dance-advancement-fund/2024-2026>

Karesia Batan spoke about working with LIC Partnership regarding bridging the gap between communication of art events in LIC and the residents of the high risers. Karesia Batan is suggesting that anyone who has an arts & culture event happening in LIC to post it to this link <https://www.longislandcityqueens.com/events/calendar/submit/> You can become an arts member of the LIC Partnership for a fee which would entitle you to be part of an e-blast concerning all arts & culture events in LIC which the community would then become notified of.

Xenia Diente shared she is in a group exhibition highlighting Little Manila Queens at PS1 MoMA: Homeroom! The exhibit opened in May and will close in October. <https://www.momaps1.org/programs/376-little-manila-queens>
There are multiple free events every month in relation to the exhibition.

Karesia Batan reported Sunnyside Shines has released a survey. Visit this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSexTnpGj0HrMnS-E8aScTccY_5keJx4P7vK2jFdVD6LFNicQ/viewform

Karesia Batan mentioned the Sunnyside mural at 40th Street and 47th Avenue. Karesia Batan mentioned the committee making more connections with property owners regarding putting more murals up in the neighborhoods. Karesia Batan shared that Ottomanelli's on the waterfront has just added another section of murals.

Old Business

Karesia Batan gave an update on the LIC DRI meetings and plan.

- This is a \$10 million state funded grant
- A committee has been formed and the meetings are all public.
- The committee is getting to see the selection process of the projects that will be coming into the neighborhood
- More information about the meetings can be found at <https://licdri.com/meetings>
- Ten minutes at the end of the meeting is reserved for comments from the public.

Blissville Theatre update:

- No information as of yet.

The following links were shared:

NYFA LGBTQ dramatic writing award (\$8K, June 18 deadline):

<https://www.nyfa.org/awards-grants/the-ryan-hudak-lgbtq-dramatic-writing-award/>

Municipal Arts Society urban design awards (July 8 deadline):

<https://form.typeform.com/to/rDbeLmTr>

Flushing Town Hall monthly artist meetup, June 19, 6 pm:

<https://form.jotform.com/241134903268151>

SunnyPride this Friday, June 14, 6 pm — seeking volunteer stage manager, marshals
(email director@sunnysideshines.org)

Karesia Batan thanked everyone for their attendance at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kim Waber