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Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

May 14th, 2024

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Karesia Batan, Chair

Kat Bloomfield

Ann Marie Baranowski

Kenny Greenberg

Eric Narburgh

Akello Thomas

Ryan Smith

Absentees:

Anatole Ashraf

Stephen Cooper

Edjo Wheeler – Public Member

Guests:

Gerard Torre, Sunnyside Artist

Andre Irving, Cucala Dance Company

Nancy Bruno – LIC Artists

Fanny Chang

Community Board 2:

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager

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

Karesia Batan introduced Gerard Torre, Sunnyside Artist. (*sample of artwork attached*)

- Gerard Torre introduced himself.
- Gerard Torre is a stone sculptor.
- He's been carving since 1987 at the Arts Student League of NY.
- His sculptures will be shown at MoMA PS 1 from May 2024 until October 2024.
- Gerard Torre showed a slide presentation of his work and explained each piece.
- Gerard Torre has not shown any of his work in a public outdoor space.
- Everyone on the committee and those who attended introduced themselves to Gerard Torre and mentioned the work they are involved with.

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

Guest presenter:

JERRY THE MARBLE FAUN (born 1955, Brooklyn, NY) lives and works in Queens, NY. He began hand-carving stone in 1987 and has most recently pursued ceramic sculpture. Jerry held his first exhibition in 2014 at Jackie Klempay Gallery, Brooklyn and has appeared in exhibitions at SITUATIONS, New York; CASTLE, Los Angeles; Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York; Sculpture Center, Queens; 2nd Floor Projects, San Francisco; The Elaine de Kooning House, South Hampton, Geary Contemporary, New York, Bureau of General Services/Queer Division, New York; and Canada, New York; amongst others. In 2017, Jerry participated in the Shandaken Project's residency program at Storm King Art Center in New Windsor, NY. His work will appear in the forthcoming MoMA PS1 exhibition, Hard Ground, opening May 2024. Additionally, Jerry is well known as the Bouvier-Beales' handyman from the Maysles brothers' 1975 documentary Grey Gardens. While living at Grey Gardens, Edith "Little Edie" Bouvier-Beale gave Jerry the nickname "the Marble Faun," which Jerry accepted as a fated path to artmaking. In addition to sculpting stone, Jerry worked as a gardener for the royal family of Saudi Arabia, with Wayland Flowers and his puppet, Madame, during their cabaret acts in the '70s, and for twenty years as a taxi cab driver in New York City. Jerry has received widespread recognition and critical praise for his artwork from major outlets, including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Observer, Forbes, Vogue, Interview, and Architectural Digest.

<https://www.momaps1.org/programs/371-hard-ground>

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

- The committee has been formed for the LIC Revitalization grant.
- From CB2 Kenny Greenberg, Shelia Lewandowski and Prameet Kumar have been appointed.
- A schedule of a series of meetings will be open to the public.
- Ten minutes at the end of the meeting is reserved for comments from the public.
- More information about the meetings can be found at <https://licdri.com/meetings>
- Kenny Greenberg spoke about the meeting and stressed to promote ideas that you might have.
 - He stated the committee will favor projects that are basically done.
 - The larger projects require matching funds.
 - A smaller set of funds will be allocated for projects that can be guided by smaller organizations.
- The meetings are set for June 10th, 2024, July 11, 2024, Aug. 7, 2024, Sept. 12, 2024 and Oct. 9, 2024 from 9 to 11. The location has not been determined.
- Karesia Batan stated some of the eligible projects would be:
 - Streetscapes
 - Parks and Plazas
 - Permanent Public Art Space
 - Green Infrastructure
- Information was shared about what took place at one of the meetings.

Kareisa Batan gave an update on the LIC Partnership Arts and Real Estate Event

- This initiative started last year out of the LIC Summit.
- Kareisa Batan explained this event was about bringing the high-rise building residents and the arts & culture community together.
- There was a conversation at this meeting on what was the best way to get all the arts & cultural events announced to the residents.
- Edjo Wheeler, Culture Lab, also attended this event.
- He stated the best way to get this information to the tenants of these buildings would be to create a newsletter stating all the arts events that are happening.
- The next step would be to get in contact with the managing agent of each building and see if they would agree to send an email of the newsletter to the tenants monthly.
- Edjo Wheeler spoke about building community with the high-rise buildings.
- Kareisa Batan stated there will be more follow up next month on this topic.

Kareisa Batan shared the link <https://arts.ny.gov/FY2025OpportunityGuidelines> for the upcoming NYSCA grant opportunity.

Kareisa Batan shared the link

https://d31hzlkh6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20240514/62/71/d1/20/4cfe0171b8aaf83e39232a0e/RFP_for_Regional_Grants-Final.pdf for a grant opportunity.

Kareisa Batan stated that Congresswoman Grace Meng has recently announced allocating \$1.2 million for the creation of a Filipino community center in Woodside

<https://meng.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/meng-secures-more-131-million-local-projects-queens>

Kareisa Batan shared that she had reached out to the Friends of the Court Square Library to see if they had any updates regarding the location of the library to the Wolkoff Building. Presently there is no information.

Announcements, events, opportunities from attendees

Nancy Bruno, LIC-A - Announced Long Island City Artists (LIC-A) will be having Arts Open. Studios will be open. The kickoff for the artists will start May 15 running to May 19, 2024. Multiple shows will be going on. Further information can be found at <https://licartsopen.com/>

Edjo Wheeler, Culture Lab LIC – Explained what open studios means. He stated how LIC Arts Open can be one of the largest arts fairs in the city, however, participation is important and needed. LIC Springs takes place on Vernon Blvd. All the businesses have tents and free information. Culture Lab will have their Indonesian market on Saturday May 18th, 2024 and a play by Third Law.

Andre Irving - Cucala Dance Company mentioned they are having their third student performance recital this Saturday, May 18th, 2024. Doors open at 8pm. monthly social on Saturday, April 13th, 2024 at 8pm. Visit www.cucaladance.com for more information. And visit the below link for the event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/434729739242181/?mibextid=rS40aB7S9Ucbxw6v>

Eric Narburgh mentioned Sunnyside Pride is on Friday, June 14th, 2024 at 6:30pm at Lowery Bliss Plaza, they are presently looking for more performers and gender diversity. Eric Narburgh stated CB2 will also have a table at LIC Springs.

Karesia Batan thanked everyone for their attendance at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kim Waber