



Donovan Richards  
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# Community Board No. 2

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Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

***This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom***

**Attendees:**

Eric Narburgh, Vice Chair  
Ann Marie Baranowski  
Kenny Greenberg  
Akello Thomas

**Absentees:**

Karesia Batan, Chair (*excused*)  
Anatole Ashraf  
Kat Bloomfield  
Stephen Cooper  
Lisa Charles  
Ryan Smith

Edjo Wheeler – Public Member

**Guests:**

Natalie Bedon, Community Coordinator, Flushing Town Hall  
Dan Bamba, Director of Artist Services, Flushing Town Hall  
Nancy Bruno – LIC Artists  
Andre Irving, Cucala Dance Company

**Community Board 2:**

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager

Eric Narburgh, Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Committee meeting.

Eric Narburgh introduced Dan Bamba, Director of Artist Services, and Natalie Bedon, Community Coordinator, from Flushing Town Hall (FTH).

- Dan Bamba announced that FTH's grant programs are open and accepting applications:
  - **Arts Grants for Queens:** (1) Queens Community Arts Grants ranging from \$1,000-\$5,000 per project in support Queens-based organizations, and (2) Artists in Queens Grants of \$3,000 for individual artists who live in Queens. Applications are due Tuesday, December 12, 2024. Both grants are funded by the New York State Council for the Arts (NYSCA). For details and to apply, visit <https://flushingtownhall.org/arts-grants-for-queens>.

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

- **Go Queens Grants:** Unrestricted grants of \$10,000 for performance-based arts & culture organizations in Queens with operating budgets of under \$200,000, which the organizations may use toward general operating support to help them grow. This grant is funded by the Howard Gilman Foundation. The application deadline is Thursday, December 19, 2024. For details and to apply, visit <https://flushingtownhall.org/GOQueensGrant>
- FTH will hold information sessions about these grants in the CB2 district on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 from 6:00-8:00 pm at Sunnyside Community Services, and on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 from 6:00-8:00 pm at Material for the Arts on Northern Blvd. For more information and to register, visit <https://flushingtownhall.org/fy25-info-sessions.php>.
- Natalie Bedon shared about an initiative supported by NYSCA to do a culture mapping project of Queens. NYSCA specifically reached out to FTH to coordinate this initiative in Queens based upon its relationships with artists and organizations in the borough.
  - This map will bring visibility to arts & culture in Queens and assess the gaps, the challenges, and/or the common threads between what community organizers are doing out in the field. This report to the state will shed more light on arts in Queens and advocate for more funding.
  - Flushing Town Hall will be meeting individually and in groups with artists to discuss what work they are doing and what challenges they might be facing. She invited artists and organizations in the CB2 district to RSVP for the next Arts Community Townhall at Culture Lab LIC on Tuesday, Oct 29, 6 p.m. at <https://form.jotform.com/242405810867155>
  - Committee Member Ann Marie Baranowski said she would provide FTH with information about Culture Now, a similar project that took place on the Lower East Side.
  - Dan Bamba expressed that by the end of June 2025, they hope to have a report of the mapping project.

Eric Narburgh spoke about the Sunnyside mural restoration effort.

- Nora Dantchev, the owner of the building that featured the Sunnyside mural (located at 40<sup>th</sup> Street and 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue), was the expected guest but was unable to attend the meeting.
- Eric Narburgh said they wish to restore the mural and are currently raising funds to secure the services of the original muralist, who has since become successful creating similar murals across the country.

#### Announcements:

Andre Cucula Dance Company – stated that along with Sunnyside Shines are having free Saturday classes at 12pm at Noonan Park.

Visit [www.cucaladance.com](http://www.cucaladance.com) for more information.

Nancy Bruno – LIC Artists. The drawing sessions were restarted. <https://www.licartists.org/life-drawing> every Tuesday at the Factory. The cost is \$20 to cover cost of materials. LIC Artists has open calls for artists. There are open calls for the Holiday Arts Festival which takes place at Plaxall. There is an open call for ceramic art. More information can be found at <https://www.licartists.org/>

An update on LIC DRI:

- Final DRI meeting is Wed Oct 9 where projects will be selected. Public meeting, info at [www.licdri.com](http://www.licdri.com) Community engagement that happened on Sept 24 was small but good opportunity for projects to talk to one another and also meet some community folks who were interested in the DRI.

PS1's Neighbor Night is Oct 21!

Free RSVP: [https://www.momaps1.org/en/events/496-neighbor-night?sc\\_src=email\\_6570094&sc\\_lid=643379848&sc\\_uid=HRuHZjjkFT&sc\\_lid=489&sc\\_eh=a0d1968f3ac72c051&utm\\_source=Emarsys&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=PS1\\_Neighbor\\_Newsletter\\_20241003&&mi\\_u=678212495&mi\\_ecmp=6570094](https://www.momaps1.org/en/events/496-neighbor-night?sc_src=email_6570094&sc_lid=643379848&sc_uid=HRuHZjjkFT&sc_lid=489&sc_eh=a0d1968f3ac72c051&utm_source=Emarsys&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=PS1_Neighbor_Newsletter_20241003&&mi_u=678212495&mi_ecmp=6570094)

NYFA's Immigrant Artist program and Leadership programs

here: <https://www.nyfa.org/professional-development/>

Artists and organizations can join their mailing list for funding announcements.

Kenny Greenberg shared with the committee that Karesia Batan is on the City and State 2024 Arts & Culture power list of 100 people recognizing arts leaders in New York.

Link NYC has free PSA/marketing program for non-profits, they will list your events on LinkNYC kiosks for free: <https://www.link.nyc/local-information.html>

Non-profits can also be part of the Bloomberg Connects App for folks to find your events and learn about your org: <https://www.bloombergconnects.org/>

Remember to submit your events to the LICP calendar, they are doing dedicated efforts to help promote Arts & Culture events specifically so they need your event info through this form: <https://www.longislandcityqueens.com/events/calendar/submit/>

Also tag them on IG and try to submit your events 1 month in advance.

Call for mural art proposals (3rd round) for Ottomanelli's at the Waterfront mural project opening soon, sign

up: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeq3vOY9wDmk4jupodpibXiS1n0\\_hdYdxDNgHJk7Zv0Kw0-LQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeq3vOY9wDmk4jupodpibXiS1n0_hdYdxDNgHJk7Zv0Kw0-LQ/viewform)

FY Eye has a Free PSA network non-profits can participate in to promote their events: <https://www.fyeye.org/psa-network> This org also has other programs to support non-profit work.

### Committee Updates:

Eric Narburgh, Vice Chair further described the property mural initiative that Karesia Batan, Chair of Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee introduced at the last meeting to connect local businesses to artists who can create art on their roll up storefront doors. The Arts & Cultural Committee and Small Business and Local Economy Committee are planning a joint meeting to see what businesses would like to participate in murals and art on their storefronts. Eric Narburgh asked committee members and guests to let him and Chairperson Batan know if anyone knows of building owners or shop owners or local artists who might be interested in participating in this initiative. Natalie Bedon shared a link that might be helpful to this project

<https://www.instagram.com/100gatesproject/>

Eric Narburgh also indicated that the Arts & Culture Committee will seek to learn what other community boards in Queens are doing in relation to Arts & Culture. He and Chairperson Batan will begin by researching which other boards have committees for arts and culture or adjacent purposes and exploring the possibility of a joint meeting or communication. They will update the Arts & Culture Committee on their efforts.

Eric Narburgh thanked the guests and the committee for their attendance at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kim Waber