



Donovan Richards  
Queens Borough President

# Community Board No. 2

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Danielle Brecker  
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert  
District Manager

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

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

**Attendees:**

Thalia Karesia Batan, Chair

Kat Bloomfield

Kenneth Greenberg

Ryan Smith

Danielle Brecker

**Absentees:**

Anatole Ashraf

Gianna Cerbone

Stephen Cooper

William Garrett

Benjamin Guttman

Badrun Khan

Karla Perez

Akello Thomas

Edjo Wheeler, Public Member

**Public Members:**

Eric Narburgh

**Guests:**

Kyle Danceicz, Sculpture Center

Cheryl Chan, Sculpture Center

Sharrone Silva, Queens Public Library

**Community Board 2:**

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager

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

Karesia Batan introduced Kyle Dancewicz and Cheryl Chan from the Sculpture Center (***presentation attached #1***)

- Kyle Dancewicz, Deputy Director of Sculpture Center introduced himself.
- Cheryl Chan is the Institutional Giving and Board Relations Manager
- Sculpture Center is located in LIC for 20 years at 44-19 Purves Street
- The Center is free and open to the public.
- Founded by artists in 1928, when it was called Clay Club.

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

- The Sculpture Center provides an international forum that connects artists and audiences by presenting exhibitions, commissioning new work, and generating scholarship.
- The building they are located in was a trolley repair factory.
- The Sculpture Center focuses on under-represented artists. They give artists the opportunity to make new work as a young artist, mid-career artist, or established artist who has not shown extensively in NYC.
- The Sculpture Center has an annual open call for emerging artists and receive 900 proposals each year.
- They host public programs and events, artist talks, book launches, concerts, workshops and more.
- Sculpture Center has an email newsletter.
- The Sculpture Center does outreach in the local Queens newspapers, and at La Guardia Community College.
- Short discussion on how the Sculpture Center could get the word out about their open calls.
- Open Call and the Commission Works are two different projects.
- Commissioning Program is solo exhibitions and Open Call is also commissioned as the Sculpture Center supports production.
- The range on the commission works can be from \$1,000 - \$10,000 depending on the intensity of the project.
- There will be a book sale at the Sculpture Center in mid-March and on May 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a public exhibition with an artist.
- The Annual Call is open from June and closes in August.
- A question was asked about the Sculpture Center's relationship with the developers / tenants in the neighborhood? They have a friendly relationship and in the beginning the Sculpture Center would host events for the developers.
- For more information visit their website at: [www.sculpturecenter.org](http://www.sculpturecenter.org)

Karesia Batan invited Black Village Arts, Founder / Creative Director Brandi Jones to talk about programming and opportunities for artists to join the collective. Brandi Jones was not able to present. Karesia Batan shared the presentation with the Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee (***presentation attached #2***)

- They are looking to expand their artist roster.
- In honor of Black History Month, Karesia Batan wanted to highlight them.
- They are based in Jamaica but serve everywhere.
- Black Village Arts is an organization making arts education more affordable and accessible for black and brown youth in underserved communities.
- They inspire their youth to prioritize their mental health by being their most expressive and open selves through art.
- Black Village Arts has held over 100 free or low-costing art workshops throughout Queens and Brooklyn. Servicing ages 4-14, their art programming specifically target early childhood education, behavioral health and youth development.
- For more information visit their website at [www.blackvillagearts.com](http://www.blackvillagearts.com)

Kresia Batan introduced Sharrone Silva from QPL, Woodside

- Sharrone Silva runs a lot of arts programs on Fridays between the hours of 3 and 6pm
- The programs are craft programs for children and teens.
- The focus is on literacy, mental health and creativity.
- Woodside Library is inviting artists to teach programs.
- For upcoming event please visit [https://www.queenslibrary.org/calendar?searchField=%2A&category=calendar&frmlink=calendar&searchFilter=%20sm\\_prgmtype:Cultural%20Arts%20sm\\_pSsnVirtua:96100000](https://www.queenslibrary.org/calendar?searchField=%2A&category=calendar&frmlink=calendar&searchFilter=%20sm_prgmtype:Cultural%20Arts%20sm_pSsnVirtua:96100000)

### Old Business / New Business

- National Endowment for the Arts their portal opens up today for Part Two of the application
- Part One was due a few weeks ago.
- For other grant opportunities visit: [www.arts.gov/grants/challenge-america](http://www.arts.gov/grants/challenge-america) and <https://www.citizensnyc.org/grantmaking>
- The Empire State Corporation Development is doing funding for arts business groups.
- Ryan Smith worked on the contact list for the Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee, and once completed will upload the spreadsheet to a Google Doc format to be shared with the Community Board and put on the website.
- The committee will look at the contact list and add and delete organizations.
- The Arts & Cultural Affairs committee is also working with LIC Partnership and agreed to do a spotlight in the newsletter.
- The St. Pat's For All Parade – last year the Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee led the parade. This year the Engagement & Inclusion Committee will also be working on the parade.
  - CB 2 will be marching in the parade.
  - There will be a CB2 information table.
  - The Board Membership Application is due February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- The committee's proposal for the defunct Bulletin Boards currently in Memorial Plaza and Schnocke Square to be placed and reactivated at Windmueller Park and Noonan Park is apparently in motion. Karesia will receive updates from CB2 office for more information.
- A Little Library will be put up by LIC Corner Café.
- Kenny Greenberg mentioned a show called Luminous that will be at Culture Lab. It has 30 participating artists and 70 works. It originally came about from a diseased neon artist. Proceeds from the auction will go to benefit Culture Lab. The link for the auction is: <https://app.galabid.com/neon/items>
- Culture Lab has three amazing shows right now.

- The Skillman Arts Shop also has great teaching artists. They might be interested in helping at the Library with their programs.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kim Waber