



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](mailto:qn02@cb.nyc.gov)

[www.nyc.gov/queenscb2](http://www.nyc.gov/queenscb2)

Danielle Brecker  
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert  
District Manager

October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

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

**Attendees:**

Kenny Greenberg  
Ann Marie Baranowski  
Eric Narburgh  
Ryan Smith  
Akello Thomas

**Absentees:**

Karesia Batan, Chair  
Kat Bloomfield  
Stephen Cooper  
Badrun Khan  
Anatole Ashraf

Edjo Wheeler – Public Member

**Guests:**

America Maldonado, Director of Ofrenda Fest  
Dan Bamba – Director of Artist Services, Flushing Town Hall  
Andre-Cucala Dance Company

**Community Board 2:**

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager

Kenny Greenberg welcomed everyone to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Committee meeting.

Kenny Greenberg introduced America Maldonado of Ofrenda Fest.

- America Maldonado is from Venezuela and has been in NYC for 22 years.
- America Maldonado has experience in the Film and television industry.
- Two years ago she created an organization that started as a festival which is called Ofrenda Fest as a way of connecting the indigenous community and art.
- America Maldonado explained to the committee her journey on how she created Ofrenda Fest.
- Ofrenda Fest is operating out of Queens Council on the Arts (QCA). They are acting as a residency, utilizing the space as QCA figures out what next steps are.
- America Maldonado has been collaborating with the library in LIC, Hunters Point Park and Culture Lab since April 2023.
- America Maldonado is in the process of creating her organization into a non-profit.
- More information can be found on her website.
- Visit <https://www.ofrendafest.com/> for photos, videos and events.

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

- Through communication and contacts with other organizations is how Ofrenda Fest events are shared.
- A discussion was held about Queens Council on the Arts (QCA).
- Concern was expressed as to who is leading QCA and if the space is meeting the mandate that was a part of the BSA decision for the property.
- America Maldonado will be providing programming for all ages, after school programs to help high school art students work with their arts portfolio, to bring indigenous people into the classrooms to talk about climate and the environment, and film screenings.

Kenny Greenberg introduced Dan Bamba, Director of Artist Services from Flushing Town Hall.

- Dan Bamba shared that Flushing Town Hall is an arts council and serves the borough of Queens.
- Flushing Town Hall took over one half of the Queens Arts Fund.
- Flushing Town Hall is the official re-grantor for Queens for the NYS Council of the Arts since 2021.
- Dan Bamba was the grants director at QCA from 2017 to 2020.
- The Arts Grants for Queens are funded by the NYS Council of the Arts.
- NYS Council of the Arts fund individual artists and arts organizations in Queens.
- Individual artists get funded \$2500 in grants. There will be 15.
- Last year 40 organizations were supported doing projects in Queens with an average grant of \$3400.00.
- Flushing Town Hall has started a brand-new department for art services, such as providing professional development workshops, networking opportunities and first in person artist meet up at Flushing Town Hall on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Flushing Town Hall is an arts council and is available to support artists.
- Since 2021 they have funded 25 artists and 75 different organization grants.
- Applications are now open. Deadline is December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for project-based grants.
- There will be ten in person information sessions all over the borough and six one on one grant reviews, all free.
- Dan Bamba will be at Sunnyside Community Services and Materials for the Arts.
- They were also invited by the Howard Gilman Foundation to be their re-grantor for Queens and were given \$250,000.
- They will be giving 25 \$10,000 general operating grants.
- General operating is not project based and the deadline is December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Flushing Town Hall partners with the Queens Libraries.
- Dan Bamba expressed how panelists are needed to review the grant applications.
- A panelist would require arts & culture experience and knowledge and a connection to the communities in Queens.
- A panelist would need to review 35 to 40 applications during the month of January. February there is one zoom meeting.
- Flushing Town Hall: <https://www.flushingtownhall.org/Grants>

- Panelist Information sign up form Flushing Town Hall  
<https://form.jotform.com/231984515420152>

Kenny Greenberg introduced Dirk McCall of Sunnyside Shines.

- Dirk McCall shared the Taste of Sunnyside this year will have an arts component.
- 4 roaming musician groups will be playing music during the Taste of Sunnyside.
- The Taste of Sunnyside is Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 2pm to 7pm.
- 20 – 30 artists will also be vending on the street.
- Tickets are still on sale. Visit: [www.Sunnysideshines.org](http://www.Sunnysideshines.org)

Update on 23-10 Queens Plaza South Community Space.

- This is the old Eagle Electric Building.
- There will be a commercial development at this location.
- There was an offer by the developer for a community space for the arts in the building.
- The space is 2400 sq. feet on the ground level.
- The space is still in the ULURP stages.
- The developer will provide maintenance and power to the space.
- The details of how it will be administered is still being worked on.
- The space won't be available for at least two years.

### Announcements

Short discussion on how to better get the word out to the community regarding grants and events.

Short discussion on the background of Queens Council on the Arts (QCA).

Kenny Greenberg thanked everyone for their attendance at this meeting and for being a great partner.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kim Waber