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Danielle Brecker
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

September 12th, 2023

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Karesia Batan, Chair
Anatole Ashraf
Ann Marie Baranowski
Kat Bloomfield
Kenneth Greenberg
Eric Narburgh
Ryan Smith

Edjo Wheeler – Public Member

Absentees:

Stephen Cooper
Badrun Khan
Akello Thomas

Guests:

Mike Houston
Sharrone Silva
Mike Yon – NYC Department of Finance
Dan Bamba – Flushing Town Hall

Community Board 2:

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager

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

Karesia Batan introduced Mike Houston, local actor sharing information and updates of the SAG/AFTRA strike.

- Mike Houston is a SAG/Actor member since 2005.
- Mike Houston shared with the committee that nothing much has changed since they first went on strike on July 13th, 2023.
- July 13th, 2023 is the last day the SAG/AFTRA put forward their proposals to the studios.
- The studios haven't responded to these proposals.
- Mike Houston shared that the media articles are given more of a slant to the studios. He expressed to be aware of where these reports are coming from.
- The SAG industry is willing to wait this strike out as the outcome will be crucial to a lot of industries.
- Many local establishments suffer when the filming stops in a neighborhood.

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

- One of the most important points that SAG/AFTRA has in their contract is about AI.
- There was a discussion on legislative support from the elected officials.
- A question was asked about what the union is doing to support those out of work.
- Mike Houston shared the below links.
 - <https://mptf.com/annual-fund/>
 - <https://entertainmentcommunity.org/am-i-eligible-help>
 - <https://sagaftra.foundation/emergencyfinancialassistance/>
 - <https://www.sagaftrastrike.org/why-we-strike>
- Mike Houston expressed that anytime we can get the city council involved and the community board to show what an impact this strike is having on the community is great.
- The Arts & Culture Committee mentioned drafting a resolution.

Karesia Batan introduced Dan Bamba, Director of Artist Services from Flushing Town Hall.

- Dan Bamba shared that Flushing Town Hall is launching three new grants.
- The links for these grants is:
 - <https://flushingtownhall.org/Grants>
 - <https://flushingtownhall.org/arts-grants-info-sessions>
- December 12th, 2023 is the deadline for the grants based in Queens. The grant is for \$1200 for individual artists and \$1500 to \$5000 for organizations.
- The new grant is call The Go Queens Grant, which is funded by the Howard Gillman Foundation. Flushing Town Hall was given \$250,000 basically to support small arts & culture non-profit organizations.
- Small non-profits is identified by having an operational budget less than \$250,000.
- The Go Queens Grant can be used for other operating cost besides an art project. For example salary or rent.
- The Go Queens Grant deadline is December 18th, 2023 and applicants must attend an informational session.

Announcements

Kenneth Greenberg announced the Sculpture Garden will be opening-up at Hunters Point South Park on September 28th, 2023. He is one of the artists with work displayed for the first showing.

Edjo Wheeler mentioned that there will be a call for muralists and how a database is being created. Edjo Wheeler also mentioned that information on insurance quotes are needed for the artists.

Mike Yon, SCRIE representative from the NYC Department of Finance. SCRIE (Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption) is a program available for those that reside in rent stabilized buildings. SCRIE is a program for seniors who are 62 and older and have an income of less than \$50,000. There is also a SSDI program for those 18 and above

who have a disability and need financial assistance. These programs will be changing next year as the State defines income. Mike Yon mentioned that outreach is needed to the immigrant families regarding these programs. Mike Yon shared the following links:

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/rentfreeze/index.page>

<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/rentfreeze/downloads/pdf/rent-freeze-ombuds-annual-report-2022.pdf> is our latest report.

The Arts & Culture Committee suggested he attend the Land Use and Housing Committee as his information can be useful to the affordable housing aspect.

Sharrone Silva from the Queens Public Library talked about some programming coming up at the libraries. One that she wanted to spot light was a writers group program happening on Thursdays. There will also be author talks. The link for the calendar is:

<https://www.queenslibrary.org/calendar>

Textile group on Saturdays, Zumba, Ecuadorian Dance Group in October.

If any artist would like to present with the library they can fill out a vendor form.

<https://www.queenslibrary.org/about-us/contact-us/present-program>

Eric Narburgh shared with the committee the Museum of the Moving Image has a teen council. They are presently accepting applications until October 24, 2023.

The link is: <https://movingimage.us/education/teen-council/>

Kat Bloomfield from Arts Business Collaborative is having workshops on the following topics:

- Demystifying Fiscal Sponsorship
- AI and its effects on Intellectual Property
- Artists as Businesses / Financial Literacy
- Community Centric Fundraising for the Arts
- Black Arts Ecosystem
- Navigating Discretionary Funding

Karesia Batan spoke about committee representation and the importance of it.

Karesia Batan mentioned the Queensboro Dance Festival is having their season finale this weekend. More information can be found at: www.queensborodancefestival.org

LIC Corner Café has the latest little library.

The Taste of Sunnyside is Sunday, October 15th, 2023. Sunnyside Shines is adding an arts component to these events using 46th Street, Open Streets under the Arch.

Karesia Batan thanked everyone for their attendance at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kim Waber