



Donovan Richards
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Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

March 12th, 2024

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Karesia Batan, Chair
Kat Bloomfield
Kenny Greenberg
Eric Narburgh
Ryan Smith

Edjo Wheeler – Public Member

Absentees:

Ann Marie Baranowski (*excused*)
Stephen Cooper
Anatole Ashraf
Akello Thomas

Guests:

Andre Irving, Cucala Dance Company
Zeehan Wazed
Annalisa Iadicicco, Director, Blue Bus Project
June K

Community Board 2:

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager

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

Karesia Batan introduced Zeehan Wazed, Queens painter and muralist.

- Zeehan Wazed is a self-taught artist who grew up in Jamaica Queens.
<https://www.zeehanwazed.com/>
- Zeehan Wazed primarily paints murals in Queens.
- He worked with New York City Health and Hospitals, JFK Airport, Arthur Ashe Stadium, LIC, Halletts Cove, many areas of Queens on designing murals.
- Zeehan Wazed works on canvas as well as creating murals.
- Zeehan Wazed spoke about working on public pieces.
 - He stated how understanding the community is the most important.
 - To create something that is politically correct.
 - To know the demographics.
 - Creating a public piece is a public service.
- Having experience is the biggest factor when making a contract.

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

- Zeehan Wazed expressed how doing public art has its obstacles as it's an uncontrolled environment.
- Zeehan Wazed had a discussion with the committee on how to price mural artwork.
- A committee member mentioned the website Working Artists and the Greater Economy for information on how much artist are paid for different kinds of activities. www.wageforwork.com

Karesia Batan introduced Annalisa Iadicisso, artist and Director of the Blue Bus Project

- Annalisa Iadicisso Blue Bus Project is based in LIC and works with objects that she finds on daily walks. <https://www.annalisaadicicco.com/sculptures>
- Annalisa Iadicisso started as a photographer and then moved into sculpting
- Her latest presentation is showing at Culture Lab.
- Annalisa Iadicisso likes to connect with the community and create events with them.
- The Blue Bus Project is a nonprofit 501(c) organization. <https://www.thebluebusprojectorg/>
- Annalisa Iadicisso found the bus in 2016 and transformed it into a mobile gallery.
- They drive around to different communities and do art workshops.
- The Blue Bus Project collaborates with other organizations.
- The Blue Bus Project is funded through small grants, donations, and collaborations with other organizations.

Announcements, events, opportunities from attendees

Edjo Wheeler, Culture Lab LIC

- Edjo Wheeler announced that Culture Lab has two open calls for art for two exhibitions.
- Please visit <https://www.culturelablic.org/>
- Culture Lab LIC has two art galleries.
- Free concerts every Saturday night at 8pm.
- Comedy shows every other Thursday.

Andre Irving - Cucala Dance Company is having their monthly dance party on March 23rd, 2024. Visit www.cucaladance.com for more information.

June K is an active artist in the community. She closed her physical space in June of last year. She spoke about doing a pop up

Karesia Batan, Chair, Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee shared the following announcements:

- The LIC Partnership is administering the \$10 million revitalization grant.

- The selection committee is being formed in partnership between the State and the Borough President's Office.
- CB2's statement letter regarding the \$10m grant is focused on three main points to make sure there was an Arts & Culture investment, to include Blissville in the revitalization vision, and also for infrastructure to be addressed.
- Kat Bloomfield spoke about the PS 1 protest.
- Karesia Batan mentioned the Borough President's Nonprofit Network. This is a wonderful resource for non-profits. There are regular resource meetings. Grant opportunities and local community sponsorships.
Email STANENBAUM@queensbp.org if interested in joining the nonprofit network.
- Councilmember Julie Won released a survey that Karesia Batan encourages everyone to fill out <https://form.jotform.com/233534973750058>
The survey is concerning what residents would want to see built on Northern Blvd. and Queens Blvd.
- Small discussion on what was the 5 pointz building, a new space is in the works for the Courts Sq. Library.
- LIC Partnership is hosting the second annual arts & real estate event.
- Karesia Batan announced that Eric Narburgh will be the Vice Chair of the Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee.
- Karesia Batan shared with the committee the link for the DCLA plan for a discussion next month at the Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee meeting.
https://www.nyc.gov/assets/dcla/downloads/pdf/DCLA-Notice_Opportunity_Comment_Proposed_Five-Year_Accessibility_Plan.pdf
- Edjo Wheeler announced that LIC Artists and Richard Mazda will be doing the LIC Arts Open this year, it is an open studio event. It runs the weekend of May 15th, 2024. They will be reaching out to artists for various needs. More information can be found at <https://licartsopen.com/>

Karesia Batan thanked everyone for their attendance at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kim Waber