



Donovan Richards  
Queens Borough President

# Community Board No. 2

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Morry Galonoy  
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert  
District Manager

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

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

## **Attendees:**

Thalia Karesia Batan, Chair  
Kat Bloomfield  
Kenneth Greenberg  
Morry Galonoy  
Ryan Smith

## **Absentees:**

Anatol Ashraf  
Gianna Cerbone  
Stephen Cooper  
William Garrett  
Benjamin Guttmann  
Badrun Khan  
Karla Perez

## **Guests:**

Dirk McCall, Executive Director, Sunnyside Shines BID  
Edjo Wheeler, Executive Director, CultureLab LIC  
Jessica Sechrist, Manager of Programming at Hunter's Point Parks Conservancy  
Joe LoBello, Queens Council for the Arts  
Geoge Heslin, Executive Director, New York Irish Center

## **Community Board 2:**

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager

## **AGENDA**

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

Karesia Batan introduced Edjo Wheeler, Executive Director, CultureLab LIC, to discuss recent RFP for public sculpture in partnership with TF Cornerstone development.

- Edjo Wheeler attended TF Cornerstones ribbon cutting for two new high rises and he began the conversation with them of installing some sculptures
- They agreed to pay for mounting, transportation, de-escalation, and the return of the sculpture, and an honorarium to the artist(s).
- Edjo Wheeler is trying to convince them to place three sculptures in the lobby of the building.
- The link for Open call is <https://www.culturelablic.org/artist-opportunities>
- The link for the sculptures is <https://www.culturelablic.org/open-call-sculpture>
- Creating something that is sustainable for local arts

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

- The large outdoor sculptures have to be able to withstand the weather year round and be stable and has to be indestructible
- By having the submission of outdoor sculptures, this is creating a database which can now be readily available for other developers who might be looking for this type of art.
- TF Cornerstone has circulated this open call for sculpture in the press.
- Every Sculpture will have a plaque in the ground with the artist information and a website, the goal is to promote the artist.
- TF Cornerstone will cover for some of the insurance, however, details are still being worked on.
- Out-door music series is starting April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Free live outdoor music in the CultureLab parking lot starting in May on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and then adding Thursdays in June. Every Tuesday is a free Live stream concert.

Karesia Batan introduced Dirk McCall, Executive Director, Sunnyside Shines BID

- He started in January 2022
- Sunnyside Shines still has the plaza contracts for Bliss Plaza and Lowery Plaza
- Dirk McCall is asking the Arts & Cultural Committee for guidance for the Beats & Bliss events that they have.
- Sunnyside Shines continues to partner with Friends of Diversity Plaza in Jackson Heights.
- This year they will partner with the Jamaica Center BID
- Grant from Flushing Town Hall to do Open Air Studio Sunnyside. A day of culture in Lowery Plaza.
- Restaurant week starts this Sunday to next Sunday.
- Zumba Classes will be starting soon.
- A Mothers Day Event will be happening in Lowery Plaza.
- Sunnyside Shines is working with DOT on these events.
- Dirk McCall has been reaching out to local merchants to see who is working with cultural organizations, singers, dancers. How can Sunnyside Shines magnify what they are doing.
- Music Options might be expanding.
- DOT wants to see more programming in Lowery Plaza.
- Sunnyside Shines pays the Horticultural Society to care for the planters.
- Sunnyside Shines handles the rat control for the plazas.
- A piano might be installed at Lowery Plaza.
- Arts & Cultural Committee suggestions for Sunnyside Shines were:
  - If DOT could put one of their art installations in Lowery Plaza to help with beautification to make it more welcoming.
  - Karesia Batan mentioned a floor mural that was placed in Bliss Plaza and was wondering if one could be commissioned for Lowery Plaza.
  - Pop Up artists with crafts for Lowery Plaza – supporting local artists.
  - Cross Promote the two areas.

- Align programming with different heritage months.
- The Turkish Cultural Center highlighting the Turkish merchants in the neighborhood.
- Advisory Committee consisting of neighborhood residents in different careers, photographers, graphic designers, etc.
  - Then creating a database with this information, so when needed it is readily available.
- Connecting artist with local merchants. – Craft crawl
- Church on 46<sup>th</sup> Street does a large market event.
- D'Haven Restaurant was suggested for winter space.
- Recently formed a relationship with QBK.
- George Heslin of the NY Irish Center suggesting sculpture lighting under the 7 train.

Karesia Batan introduced Jessica Sechrist, Manager of Programming at Hunter's Point Parks Conservancy

- Jessica Sechrist has been with Hunter's Point Parks Conservancy since October 2021.
- Hunter's Point Parks Conservancy is getting ready for the season.
- Getting back to planning events close to before COVID
- Fitness classes several days a week starting in May.
- Full Kids program for 6 weeks
- Grant from Flushing Town Hall to bring back the Blue Bus Project as part of the kids programming
- Expanding ecological programming – scientific drawing classes
- Heart Monument is currently up in the Park.
- They would like to have more sculpture in the Park, but that is a challenge being located on the waterfront.
- Annual Run is on June 4<sup>th</sup> this year. A 5K run.
- Community volunteering days will be starting in May.
- A suggestion from a member for dye making, print marking and linoleum workshops for the Park.
- A question was asked about the event space at the waterfront.
  - The city is in the final stage with the RFP stages.
  - In a few weeks they will know more who will be operating that space.
- The City runs Hunters Point South Park and the State runs Gantry Plaza Park.
- Karesia Batan welcomed Hunters Point Park Conservancy back next month as we get closer to outside events happening.

Around the Room – any new calls for art, event announcements, grant funding

- CB2 Ryan Smith – introduced himself.
- Emily – resident in the community wanted to say hello and see what this committee does.

- Jinelle Thompson – wanted to thank everyone for their support for the public design commission project. July/August timeline for that. Earth Day event - planting, opening a greenhouse.
- Karesia Batan wanted to share these two links to spread the word about funding – smallest reward is \$10,000 <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dcla/cultural-funding/programs-funding.page>
- [https://www.dropbox.com/s/kljvbwqou205tb4/2023%20Jerome%20Hill%20Artist%20Fellowship-Grant%20Overview.pdf?dl=0&utm\\_source=Jerome+Foundation+Program+Interest&utm\\_campaign=ec57a5aca5-FVDP\\_Launch\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_85577d4a11-ec57a5aca5-520204925](https://www.dropbox.com/s/kljvbwqou205tb4/2023%20Jerome%20Hill%20Artist%20Fellowship-Grant%20Overview.pdf?dl=0&utm_source=Jerome+Foundation+Program+Interest&utm_campaign=ec57a5aca5-FVDP_Launch_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_85577d4a11-ec57a5aca5-520204925)
- Discussion on the grant funding process concerning the project.
- Kat Bloomfield spoke about discretionary funding and shared her organization will be hosting an event on this topic in the summer. For further information contact [kat@artsbusinesscollaborative.org](mailto:kat@artsbusinesscollaborative.org)
- Empire State Development Corporation Intake Form: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ZQHpzF2qSpRb1B4rcs6um-byIR1O9D6-Ktv58zm0MuY/edit?usp=drive\\_web](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ZQHpzF2qSpRb1B4rcs6um-byIR1O9D6-Ktv58zm0MuY/edit?usp=drive_web)

Chair Batan mentioned for the committee and the guests attending to let others know about the Arts & Cultural Committee monthly meetings.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Kim Waber