



Donovan Richards
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Morry Galonoy
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

June 14th, 2022

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Thalia Karesia Batan, Chair
Kat Bloomfield
Kenneth Greenberg
Ryan Smith
Akello Thomas

Absentees:

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

Guests:

Edjo Wheeler, Culture Lab
Angel Gil Orrios
Jinelle Thompson
Joe LoBello, Queens Council for the Arts
Jamie Kennelley, Queens Public Library

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 Jamie Kennelley of Queens Public Library

- Jamie Kennelley spoke about the Queens Public Library in Woodside.
- Books can be taken out for 21 days, DVDs for 3 days, Digital Media available through Hoopla
- There are many Events and Programming at the Queens Public Library – upcoming is the Drag Queen Story Time on June 17, 2022.
- Magic & Comedy Show June 29, 2022 at 1pm.
- Summer meals will be starting for children in need June 29, 2022 at 1pm.
- June 16 at 6pm beginner computer for adults.
- There is a writing club for beginners and advanced writers, Thursdays at 6pm
- English classes will be starting in the summer.
- Support the Library by attending these programs.

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

- All of the presenters are screened for COVID safety.
- Masks in the library are appreciated.
- Programming is slowly being introduced.
- Storytelling has been outdoors in the park.
- There are a lot of on-line services in terms of resume writing.
- There was a discussion regarding posting a flyer from a non-profit organization for a paid event on the library bulletin board, which is not allowed. Jamie Kennelly will follow up on this issue.
- Visit the Queens Library for more information:
[www.https://queenslibrary.org/calendar](https://queenslibrary.org/calendar)

Karesia Batan introduced Angel Gil Orrios of the Thalia Spanish Theatre (Sunnyside) dedicated to Hispanic theatrical work in Queens.

- They have been open and active for one year since April 2021 due to the COVID pandemic.
- The Thalia Spanish Theatre has been in Sunnyside for 45 years.
- The theatre had lost two major artists who were also involved in the productions of the theatre.
- They usually do 5 productions per year, 4 musicals and 1 play.
- Their work consists of world premieres from the best writers and composers of the Hispanic world from Spain and from Latin America and from Hispanics in the United States.
- Many of their productions are sent to festivals in Latin America and Spain.
- Thalia Spanish Theatre has received many awards not only locally but internationally as well.
- Every season they perform a free outdoor festival in the park on Greenpoint Avenue between 42 and 43 Streets across from Sunnyside Library.
- For 27 years, Thalia Spanish Theatre has done something free for the community.
- Angel Gil Orrios explained that there are many renovations done at the park but there is no bulletin board letting the community know about scheduled performances.
- Angel Gil Orrios also expressed that after all these renovations were done, there is still no outside plug for the musicians to use in the park when performing, they have to go through the security guard booth and use their plug.
- Karesia Batan mentioned how arts & cultural organizations should have more community input when there are public renovations being done to public spaces, for instance NYC Parks.

Karesia Batan opened the meeting up to others to share announcement.

Edjo Wheeler, Culture Lab discussed Pride Programming that is on their website. For further information visit their calendar at <https://www.culturelab.org/calendar>

Culture Lab LLC supplies space free of charge depending on their schedule. They are always looking for volunteers. They also have a large parking space outside that gets transformed into performance space for Thursday through Sunday. Culture Lab LLC is always open to cross promotion of events.

Karesia Batan spoke to the Arts & Cultural Committee about a new CB2 committee that was recently formed called Small Business and Local Economy.

Kenneth Greenberg, Chair of the Small Business and Local Economy spoke about this newly formed committee.

- He discussed how all artists, makers, individual creators are all small businesses.
- Looking for ways to help the artist community from a small business viewpoint.
- Look at businesses and artists and where those needs merge.
- Small Business is a broad term – many mom & pop shops are small businesses.
- He would like to do a shared meeting in the Fall.
- Karesia Batan suggested to the committee members to look into what small businesses would want a painted mural on their storefront, or another idea was a block of small businesses could have art activations in their storefronts.

Karesia Batan discussed how the Arts & Cultural Committee and Transportation Committee could collaborate on temporary murals. There are so many blank walls on DOT property. Edjo Wheeler discussed how they started to create an artist mural database as well as an artist sculpture database. Karesia suggested having a joint meeting/discussion with DOT and Parks and the Transportation Committee discussing Edjo Wheeler's database and its availability when needed.

Joe LoBello, Queens Council on the Arts – announced a second town hall meeting will take place next month and Poetry night is June 30th, 2022 at QCA.

Karesia Batan, Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished everyone a safe, active summer.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kim Waber