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Morry Galonoy
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
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December 13th, 2022

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Thalia Karesia Batan, Chair
Kat Bloomfield
Ryan Smith
Danielle Brecker

Absentees:

Anatole Ashraf
Gianna Cerbone
Stephen Cooper
William Garrett
Kenneth Greenberg
Benjamin Guttmann
Badrun Khan
Karla Perez
Akello Thomas

Guests:

Andre Irving, Co-Founder Cucala Dance Studio
Lakshmee Lachhman-Persad, Accessible Travel NYC
Sarah O'Connell, NY Foundation on the Arts
Karen Fitzgerald
Edjo Wheeler
Marie Flageul
Jinelle Thompson, MoMA PS1

Community Board 2:

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager

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

Karesia Batan introduced Lakshmee Lachhman-Persad founder of Accessible Travel NYC to speak about how to make events and venues more accessible for people who use wheelchairs and people with disabilities. (*Attachment #1*)

- Lakshmee Lachhman-Persad worked in the travel industry for 20 years without realizing places were not accessible to disabilities.
- 11 % of the population here in NYC, over a million people, have a disability.
- 1 in 4 people have a disability that no one talks about, market too or think about.

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

- Lakshmee Lachhman-Persad decided to market the venues that have accessibility to disabilities on her own.
- Her foundation visited the majority of sightseeing venues, arts, cultural institutions.
- In doing this research she documented what was accessible and had the amazing opportunity to work on a video with NYC Tourism.
- Visit www.nycgo.com/accessibility for information on wheelchair accessibility.
- Lakshmee Lachhman-Persad's website does not have ratings but does mention the experience at different venues.
- It is difficult to express accessibility needs for everyone.
- There are people who have hearing loss, who are blind, who have low vision, are in chronic pain, who are in a wheelchair, deaf or hard of hearing, neuro diverse, ADHD and it effects everyone's body differently.
- ADA compliance was established in 1990.
- Access to transportation is very important to include on the announcements / flyers and invitations when planning an event.
- When planning an event outdoors, double check that there are accessibility bathrooms close by for disabilities.
- The language of handicapped and wheelchair bound are outdated. Saying Disabled is the right language to use. Use welcoming language.
- Some resources for more information are:
 - Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/mopd/resources/disability-specific-resources.page>
 - Accessible Events Guide from Office for People with developmental Disability <https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/07/printable-accessible-events-guide.pdf>
 - Accessible Travel NYC: Accessibility tips on a majority of blog posts: <https://www.accessibletravelnyc.com/nycexperiences>

Karesia Batan introduced Sarah O'Connell, NY Foundation on the Arts (*Attachment #2*)

- Sarah O'Connell is Programs Officer at NY Foundation on the Arts (NYFA)
- The Queens Arts Fund grant is currently open. This grant consists of two grants. The Arts Access Grant (which is in the range of \$1,000-\$5,000) – organizational support and the New Work Grant (\$3,000) – individual artist support.
- Applications are FREE and close on Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 5pm
- NYFA has partnered with the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) and Queens Council on the Arts (QCA) to administer the 2023 Queens Arts Fund.
- NYFA has taken over this grant opportunity temporarily just for this year. All the guidelines and eligibility are the same.
- In the past fiscal sponsorship was a requirement, however, this year it is not a requirement.
- NYFA is the organization to communicate with if you are a recipient.

- In order to be eligible for either grant you must have a public component that takes place in 2023.
- To apply an application must be created and submitted on www.manager.submittable.com/signup
- Applicants will be notified by April 2023 if they are accepted or not.
- For assistance in applying visit: <https://www.nyfa.org/awards-grants/queens-arts-fund/assistance-in-applying/>
- Queens Arts Fund website is: <https://www.nyfa.org/awards-grants/queens-arts-fund>
- Contact is: www.apply@nyfa.org
- Outreach is continuing on these two grants.

Karesia Batan discussed the mural space on 64th Street and Northern Blvd.

- Presently there is nothing on this space and Karesia Batan will reach out to DOT.
- There is a sign that says it is maintained by White Castle.
- Karesia Batan would like to revitalize this space.
- Marie Flageul will look into the history of the space.
- It was suggested to contact Dirk McCall at Sunnyside Shines regarding DOT and help for the wall.
- Committee member Ryan Smith's suggestion was to contact Kyle Gorman from the Public Space Unit.

Andre Irving, Co-Founder Cucala Dance Studio mentioned his previous event and upcoming events. Visit www.cucaladance.com/kids for more information.

Karesia Batan mentioned that LIC Partnership is trying to add more events to their calendar and will be working with them to include an Arts & Cultural section.

Marie Flageul spoke briefly about her organization looking for wall space. Karesia Batan mentioned how this Queens area could better highlight local aerosol artists. Columns and plaza ground under the #7 train was mentioned. It was asked about painting a sidewalk. Marie Flageul answered by saying, permitting becomes an issue, safety, when project can be done, foot traffic on the art piece as it can damage the artwork. Marie Flageul went on to mention the curation of art. Marie Flageul also mentioned including the artist and the community in the dialogue is important to tell the story.

Karesia Batan mentioned these links:

Arts & Technology specifically for artists of color: <https://enfoco.org/media-fund/>

Series of free discretionary funding workshops: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/free-discretionary-funding-application-workshops-> These applications open in January and close in February.

Karesia Batan attended the LIC Partnership summit meeting and spoke on a panel of Arts & Culture with Edjo Wheeler, Executive Director of Culture Lab, also the Executive Director of Socrates Sculpture Park and a community affairs liaison of Vorea real estate group. Karesia Batan reported that much of the audience at the summit was a lot of developers and real estate people.

The panel was trying to bring awareness to this audience on ways the developers can support and work with the artists that live and work in this area.

Some key points were to purchase artwork that was made locally to display in your building, promote events to tenants in the high rises; look inside the community for artists instead of looking out of the neighborhood; be more engaged with the community. The panel wanted to address the issue of how we close the gap of communication between the many arts & cultural organizations here and the residents of the high rises. The panel, with the LIC Partnership, would like to push that initiative of how to get the building managers to promote what is going on in this community. One suggestion was monthly meetings with management to help spread the word more and to discuss ways of project collaboration with artists that also benefit the goals of the management. Real estate agents should also be part of the conversation. Another suggestion was organizing a workshop with community cultural organizations, local artists and building management on how to work with artists on projects for their properties. Marie Flageul mentioned there are successful case studies of these types of project partnerships in Brooklyn.

Old Business:

Karesia Batan had proposed a letter to NYC Parks and Recreation requesting two bulletin boards which are no longer being used on Woodside Avenue. One is painted shut and the other is not being maintained. A request to see if Parks can fix one and move the other one to Windmueller Park as a lot of events take place there.

LIC Corner Café has agreed to be the next site of a Little Library. This will take place in the Spring.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kim Waber