



Donovan Richards  
Queens Borough President

# Community Board No. 2

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Morry Galonoy  
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert  
District Manager

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

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

## **Attendees:**

Thalia Karesia Batan, Chair  
Anatole Ashraf  
Kat Bloomfield  
Gianna Cerbone  
Kenneth Greenberg  
Karla Perez

## **Absentees:**

Stephen Cooper  
William Garrett  
Benjamin Guttmann  
Badran Khan

## **Guests:**

Itzel Basualdo, Activations Project Manager, MoMA PS1  
Kate Fowle, Art Director, MoMA PS1  
Elena Ketelsen Gonzalez, Assistant Curator, MoMA PS1  
Jinelle Thompson, Manager of Strategic Partnerships, PS1 MoMA  
Jose Ortiz, MoMA PS1  
Angela Hallinan, MoMA PS1  
Molly Kurzius, MoMA PS1  
Joe LoBello, Board Member on Queens Council for the Arts, Interim President  
Rodney Fuller, Interim Executive Director, Queens Council for the Arts  
Tenzin Tseyang, Council Member Julie Won's office  
Marie Flageul, 5 Pointz

## **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 Jinelle Thompson, Manager of Strategic Partnerships MoMA PS1 (*presentation is attached #1*)

- Jinelle Thompson gave an update regarding Entrance Wall Mural of MoMA PS1
- MoMA PS1 is an occupied city-owned buildings.
- To make any modifications to the building MoMA PS1 needs city approval.
- Jinelle Thompson shared her presentation with the Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee.

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

- Kate Fowle, Art Director of MoMA PS1 since 2019 gave an overview of MoMA PS 1 and its history.
- In 1997 is when the wall started coming up around the building.
- The use of the wall in the 1990s was to utilize it for industrial art; to make outside great exhibition space.
- The wall started to make the neighbors feel that MoMA PS 1 was shutting them out.
- They are working with the City, Council Member Julie Won and Queens Council of the Arts to look at making the wall more accessible.
- They are not thinking of taking the wall down, but to make it more porous.
- In the meantime, they are developing a number of different programs and engaging with their neighbors, partners and community with the courtyard space.
- Elena Ketelsen Gonzalez, Assistant Curator, MoMA PS1 spoke about the designs and artists for the mural.
- All the artists work have different styles, but what they share is how art can be responsive in community with neighbors and different partners and they have a shared vision.
- Creating a mural from a shared vision.
- MoMA PS1 shared with the community these different mural ideas.
- MoMA PS1 had listening sessions with the community members. All ages were in attendance.
- The painting of the single girl with her palm open will be one of the designs directly painted on the mural.
- This mural will be on their outside wall called the kiosk wall.
- Jinelle Thompson mentioned the mural wall will face the 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue Plaza which MoMA PS 1 is stewards of.
- She spoke about once the mural is up and doing more programming with community engagement.
- MoMA PS 1 will be presenting these ideas to the Land Use Committee.
- MoMA PS1 will be just doing a mural on that one kiosk wall as they must meet with the Public Design Commission to understand the process.
- This process will be done in steps.
- The larger part of the wall on Jackson Avenue wouldn't be consider until possibly the Fall of 2022.
- The community through MoMA PS 1 community programming, will have input on the design.
- A guest had mentioned that the murals should be done by Queens artists.
- Arts & Culture Committee member had a question would the approval mean that PS1 has sole discretion of how the wall is used? Answer was "yes".

Marie Flageul, 5 Pointz representative mentioned that the 5 Pointz documentary will be out in May 2022. It will be free throughout New York. It was suggested if MoMA PS 1 would want to show a screening in the courtyard.

Karesia Batan introduced Joe LoBello of Queens Council of the Arts and welcomed Rodney Fuller, Interim Executive Director of Queens Council for the Arts.

- Rodney Fuller mentioned how he has only been in the position for one month
- He mentioned how everyone wants to see Queens Council for the Arts do well and how collaborative they are throughout the borough of Queens.
- Chair Batan asked, What are the plans for community relations? Connecting the work of QCA to the community. Rodney Fuller mentioned:
  - Brand new building – activating that space, having more gallery space.
  - More virtual space – Council has not done much programming in the past Whether its professional development or courses which would allow QCA to reach out to communities that are far away. This would allow for people that are geographically far away as well as making the QCA accessible for seniors, handicapped or have financial issues to get to the physical space.
  - Conversations with the Advisory Board regarding ideas for the community.

Arts & Culture Committee member had a question regarding the public hearing at QCA and the diversity of the Board at QCA. The discussion continued with others expressing how QCA is an organization for the artist. QCA needs to be there for the artist for them to feel safe and listened too and for QCA to hear any past hurts that occurred at QCA. QCA acknowledged that there is work to be done about Board development, staffing, finances, re-granting, reaching artists in the outer parts of the borough and listening to the needs of the artist. Chair Batan mentioned that it is community relationship that will help make the work move forward at QCA. Joe LoBello of QCA mentioned how the organization is in transition mode. Chair Batan mentioned a grant opportunity at QCA, the deadline is February 14, 2022. For more information visit <https://www.queenscouncilarts.org/qaf>

Karesia Batan mentioned the DOT barrier beautification project. The link is <https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/barrier-beautification-rfp.pdf>

Karesia Batan spoke next about artist insurance. There is a lot of mural work coming up, however, the artist is having an issue regarding the insurance and meeting requirements from the different property managers. If a lift is needed for the mural, the artist has to be OSHA certified. The training for OSHA certification can cost an artist from \$950 - \$1200 if you are a full-time mural artist. If an artist is not OSHA certified the organization should provide the artist with a lift and a lift operator. There are insurance policies that can offer the artist coverage monthly. It was suggested to have a town hall training on insurance for the artist. Insurance for the artist is very site specific. Karesia Batan mentioned that it would be great for QCA to coordinate artist insurance as one of their services.

Debra Markell Kleinert recognized Deputy Borough President Ebony Young who is also on this Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee meeting.

Chair Batan mentioned that she will share an on-going excel spreadsheet of cultural organizations with the committee and asked for them to contribute any names that might be missing. A list of muralists will be added to the spreadsheet.

Chair Batan mentioned to the committee that for next month one of their goals are to reach out to Houses of Worship in the district that tend to cultural groups. Chair Batan introduced Arts & Cultural Committee member Karla Perez to discuss this.

Karla Perez spoke about how it is very tricky working with the Houses of Worship and what is allowed as far as arts & cultural groups residing in the church. There are groups working out of the church space only to service the community and not for profit. Chair Batan asked how the committee can approach the Houses of Worship just to build up a relationship? Karla Perez mentioned that it would just take a connection with the church if that person was a parishioner.

Chair Batan mentioned again 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