



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

43-22 50th Street, 2nd Floor
Woodside, New York 11377

(718) 533-8773

Fax (718-533-8777

Email qn02@cb.nyc.gov

www.nyc.gov/queenscb2

Danielle Brecker
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

May 9th, 2023

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Karesia Batan, Chair
Ann Marie Baranowski
Kat Bloomfield
Kenneth Greenberg
Mohammend Hossen
Eric Narburgh
Ryan Smith
Akello Thomas

Absentees:

Anatole Ashraf
Stephen Cooper
Badrun Khan

Public Members:

Edjo Wheeler

Guests:

Andre, Cucala Dance Company
Elizabeth Masella
Carla Reyes
Angeles Rojas
Dirk McCall
Richard Mazda
Brian Pratt

Community Board 2:

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager

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

Karesia Batan welcomed the new members to the Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee.

Karesia Batan introduced the NYC Parks Department Elizabeth Masella in collaboration with mural artist Carla Reyes who will be doing an art installation at Lawrence Virgilio Playground/Doughboy Park in June.

- Elizabeth Masella explained the arts in the parks program.

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

- The program permits temporary public art in the parks citywide.
- All art including murals is permitted for one year and the artist is required to maintain the art for one year.
- Carla Reyes introduced herself and her artistic background.
- The proposed site is the outside large retaining wall located at 56th Street from Woodside Avenue to the school PS 11.
- The design would be a painting of the sky with the trees reflected.
- Carla Reyes mentioned that when there is beautification in the neighborhood it discourages vandalism and graffiti.
- The mural will be painted over Memorial Day weekend weather permitting.
- Elizabeth Masella stated that sometimes artist will come to the NYC Parks Department with a specific wall to paint.
- Carla Reyes stated she received a grant from the Queens Council for the Arts (QCA) for this project and it should take two to three days to complete.
- The school PS 11 can help on this project and also Woodside on the Move is a source of help.
- Discussion took place on the granting process. Karesia inquired on the grant cycle Carla Reyes received the funding from QCA since they had not had a grant process for the past year. Carla Reyes clarified it was a from a grant extension.

Karesia Batan introduced Dirk McCall of Sunnyside Shines BID to talk about the upcoming Sunny pride march and celebration.

- Dirk McCall mentioned that on June 2, 2023 will be the second year of Sunny Pride.
- It will start at Lowery Plaza and 40th Street at 6:30pm
- The link for the Sunnypride Vendor Signup is https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScR5Hwb2oUUjT9-a9eTUDUHIz05UOJ-cnKKPd5Mv6UFEgJB1A/viewform?usp=sf_link
- If anyone is interested in performing please Contact Dirk McCall at: Director@sunnysideshines.org
- Sunnyside cultural community initiative is every Thursday evening at Bliss Plaza between 5pm and 7pm through October 2023.
- Visit the Sunnyside Shines BID website to see a full listing of events.

Karesia Batan introduced Brian Pratt from Sunnyside Drum Corps.

- The Sunnyside Drum Corps has been around since 1977.
- The website for more information is: <https://www.sunnysidedrumcorps.com/media>
- This is a free program open to the ages of 9 to 19.
- No auditions or musical requirement is necessary.
- The Sunnyside Drum Corps performs 8 to 10 events a year.
- The practices take place at All Saints Church on 46th Street.
- The next parade is May 28th, 2023 in Forest Hills.

- Sunnyside Drum Corps would like to recruit more participants and be able to perform more in the district to promote recruitment and visibility. They currently recruit more drummers through word of mouth, flyers, their website and FB page.
- Edjo Wheeler of Cultural Lab suggested Sunnyside Drum Corp. perform on a Sunday at their weekend events and hand out flyers as a way to recruit more drummers.

Karesia Batan introduced Richard Mazda to talk about LIC Arts Open and he runs the Secret Theatre.

- Richard Mazda stated that the LIC Arts Open is happening.
- Richard Mazda gave a brief update on the members of the arts buildings.
- The open studios should be successful with close to 100 artists opening their studios on the weekend.
- LIC Arts Open and LIC Artists will be merging.
- Richard Mazda will continue to run the LIC Arts Open in the future in a smaller capacity as the program transitions leadership.
- For more information on the LIC Arts Open visit <https://licartsopen.com/>
- Karesia Batan mentioned getting LIC Partnership involved with sharing all the events that are happening the weekend of May 20th, LIC Springs, LIC Arts Open and Culture Lab.
- Karesia Batan mentioned inviting LIC Partnership to future Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee meetings.

Announcements

Edjo Wheeler, Culture Lab – mentioned Queens Rising has an Open Call for Art https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfC35MuFHgdPvqCmosCIXzaJZgeuY-INzs1_PeztQa5aNQ7g/viewform The deadline is May 10th, 2023.

Andre of Cucala Dance Company – mentioned they are having their first student performance recital on May 27th, 2023. Information regarding the summer camp can be found at <https://www.cucaladance.com/kids-summer-dance-camp>

Maggie Gavin – Co-Founder of Woodside Arts Collective – shared that on June 10th, 2023 at 11am at Windmueller Park, they will be having the dance program she has been working on with Woodside on the Move.

Richard Mazda – Shared the two events listed below for the www.secrettheatre.com Lavender Laughs June 19th and Taylor Cambria Dance June 17th

Kenny Greenberg mentioned the posting of another Little Library located at LIC Corner Café.

Mohammed Hossen mentioned that on May 20th, 2023 PS 12 Woodside Avenue is celebrating a multicultural event till 3pm.

Karesia Batan mentioned Queensboro Dance Festival opens on June 3rd, 2023. It is their 10th year. This summer in the district they can be found at the waterfront and at Windmueller Park. www.queensborodancefestival.org

Karesia Batan gave an update on the Eagle Electric Building.

- The building is in Queens Plaza South
- CB2 had voted through the ULURP process for it to become a commercial office.
- The developers had agreed to give in perpetuity a 2400 sq. ft. space below their ground floor level for community shared use.
- The councilmember worked through with both the Land Use Committee and the Arts & Cultural Committee and Culture Lab about how to proceed on how the space should be used.
- They agreed to give access to the community for shared use for Free forever.
- They have agreed to continue to work with the community in figuring out the eligibility process.
- They have also agreed to pay for the maintenance, the cleaning and the administration of the space.
- They will be using an on-line booking system which they will oversee.
- Discussion on how to get the word out to community groups about this potential space.

Karesia Batain thanked everyone for their attendance at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kim Waber