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Morry Galonoy
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

October 11th, 2022

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Thalia Karesia Batan, Chair
William Garrett
Kenneth Greenberg
Ryan Smith
Akello Thomas

Absentees:

Anatole Ashraf
Kat Bloomfield
Gianna Cerbone
Stephen Cooper
Benjamin Guttmann
Badrun Khan
Karla Perez

Guests:

Sharrone Silva, Queens Public Library
Dan Bamba, Flushing Town Hall
Maggie Gavin, Woodside Arts Collective
Jackie, Woodside on the Move
Ariel Herrera, Dance NYC

Community Board 2:

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager

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

Karesia Batan introduced Dan Bamba, Director of Arts Services at Flushing Town Hall.

- Dan Bamba spoke about the Arts Grants for Queens. (*presentation attached*)
- This is their second year having the arts grants.
- More information can be found at: <https://flushingtownhall.org/arts>
- Applications are now open until December 16, 2022.
- For Queens based organizations the grants range from \$1,000 to \$5,000.
- For Queens based individual artists the grant is for \$2,500.
- Out of 75 organizations applying, 34 were funded last year.
- Ten individual artists were funded last year.
- Information sessions are being held in person at Flushing Town Hall.
- Dan Bamba is reaching out to the communities to apply for these grants. He is available to walk the artist through the process and to help with the grant writing.

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

- The application applies to all disciplines of art, visual, theatre, dance, writing, Block Associations, Friends of the Libraries, Conservancies.
- The only requirement is that they put on a public program in 2023.
- If an applicant received a Queens Council on the Arts grant, they are still eligible to apply for a Flushing Town Hall grant.
- This is a grant writing opportunity to give artists the tools to apply for grants.
- Decisions for the grants are made by a panel of outside peers which consist of artists, arts administrators, community members and leaders.
- The Arts Services Department is only one year old which manages the grants and services for the artists. Dan Bamba and team are trying to spread the awareness of Flushing Town Hall. Most people think Flushing Town Hall only serves Flushing or is a building to get an official document. Everyone knows Flushing Town Hall for Jazz music and global music, Education Programs. Official name is Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts.
- Dan Bamba will be travelling all through Queens bringing awareness of the grant program.
- Language barriers are handled best through one on one support.
- Karesia Batan mentioned Councilmember Julie Won's office for language translation support.
- Dan Bamba mentioned that organization grants are now closed to LLCs.
- Flushing Town Hall receives funding from the State; therefore, they cannot act a fiscal sponsor.

Karesia Batan introduced Maggie Gavin, Woodside Arts Collective and Jackie of Woodside on the Move.

- Maggie Gavin and Jackie of Woodside on the Move (WOM) had a unique grant opportunity. (*flyer attached*)
- The grant was a two-step process – written application and an interview with collaborating organization.
- The grant they applied for was an employment-based grant specifically an artist in collaboration with a not-for-profit organization.
- The not-for-profit organization, Wood on the Move, is not only the fiscal sponsor but would also work as the collaborator.
- Maggie Gavin is writing a multi-generational dance curriculum. Children ages 5-12 will be together in a room with older adults of any age.
- It will contain developmental movement, brain health, functional movement that is equally beneficial to both the young and the old, fetus element and choreographic element.
- At the end of the semester which will be for 13 weeks, there will be a performance that they put on together.
- Jackie from Woodside on the Move (WOM) spoke about their part in the project.
- Woodside on the Move will not only act as the fiscal sponsor they will be taking over the administrative duties under the project.
- This is an employment artist program so WOM will also take care of the payroll, accounting for expenses of the program.

- This specific grant will be helping two artists, Maggie Gavin is one artist and the other artist will be working on a separate project.
- The second artist project will be focused on Woodside Community houses and parts of writing and reflection of the pandemic.
- This is a two-year grant which started July 2022 until June 2024.
- 1200 Applicants applied, 300 were selected and WOM was one of the organizations accepted.
- Under this grant the artist does receive a salary and benefits from WOM.
- This project will be taken place at PS 361 as an afterschool program.

Karesia Batan introduced Ariel Herrera of Dance NYC.

- Ariel Herrera talked about a dance industry census. (*presentation attached #1*)
- This would be the first and only comprehensive study designed to understand the size, nature, and state of the dance industry and its workforce in the NYC area.
- The survey would consist of two surveys. One for individuals and the other for organizations.
 - The census would be for those whose work intersects with or relates to dance.
 - If you live, work or operate within the 5 boroughs of NYC, Nassau and Suffolk Counties in Long Island, Westchester and Rockland Counties in NY State and Hudson and Bergen Counties in NJ.
- This data is important as data places a key role in placing policies and practices.
- This data shows evidence-based advocacy.
- Law makers rely on this data for policy making.
- Without this data the dance industry can seem invisible and undervalued.
- This census would show who we are, where we are and what we need to try and change these structural and systemic inequities.
- After the census is taken, there will be a series of round table events in the boroughs and the surrounding regions.
- The round table events would start in June and run till February 2024.
- The survey is long; however, the information is needed.
- The survey collects economic, social, and demographic data
- For any questions regarding the survey email: research@dance.nyc or call (212) 966-4452
- Dance NYC hired community organizers for outreach regarding the survey.
- The census opened July 20,2022 and will run till October/November 2022.
- The US Census was their guideline for this census.
- Karesia Batan mentioned that more dedicated outreach should be done in harder to reach neighborhoods, otherwise census data outcomes will appear skewed and areas would be underreported.
- For more information about the census visit: <https://www.dance.nyc/DanceWorkforceResilience/DanceIndustryCensus>

Old / New Business:

- Akello Thomas gave an update regarding the bulletin boards. He found out from Woodside on the Move that the bulletin board hasn't been used since 2015.
- Jackie from Woodside on the Move explained that after the MTA painted the bulletin boards it was hard to open them, as the key did not work.
- Woodside on the Move did reach out to the NYC Parks Department and the prior councilmember's office but no one got back to them.
- A short discussion took place on having a LinkNYC kiosk in place of a bulletin board at the parks.
- A short discussion took place regarding getting more people interested in the civic involvement of the Community Board and then to the Arts & Cultural Committee.
- Woodside Arts Collective invited the Arts & Cultural Committee to join them Saturday, October 15, 2022 from 2 to 4pm at Mor Jackson Community Garden.
- The other event Woodside Arts Collective invited the committee to is a Halloween event at Windmueller Park. (*flyer attached*)
- Sharrone Silva of Queens Public Library, Woodside branch gave an update of events. (*Calendar is attached*)
- Karesia Batan shared with the committee that Queens Council on the Arts has paused operations as well as programming. They will rebuild and restructure their operations.

Karesia Batan, Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kim Waber