



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](mailto:qn02@cb.nyc.gov)

[www.nyc.gov/queenscb2](http://www.nyc.gov/queenscb2)

Danielle Brecker  
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert  
District Manager

April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

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

**Attendees:**

Anatole Ashraf  
Kat Bloomfield  
Danielle Brecker  
Ryan Smith  
Akello Thomas  
Eric Narburgh

**Absentees:**

Thalia Karesia Batan, Chair  
Stephen Cooper  
Kenneth Greenberg  
Badrun Khan

**Public Members:**

Edjo Wheeler

**Guests:**

Andre, Cucala Dance Company  
Sabrina, General Manager of Culture Lab  
Frank Ottomanelli  
Tatiana Ottomanelli  
Annie Ferdous  
Maggie Gavin  
Mercedes Jennings  
Nancy Bruno  
Ariana, Architect for LIC Landing

**Community Board 2:**

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager

Anatole Ashraf welcomed everyone to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Committee meeting.

Anatole Ashraf introduced Frank and Tatiana Ottomanelli of LIC Landing to discuss the mural project.

- Frank Ottomanelli of LIC Landing was selected by the Parks Department to manage and operate Hunter's Pt So Park concession and the renovations.
- Frank Ottomanelli made two promises to the NYC Parks Department to connect with the community and to beautify the Park.

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

- In the prospects of doing a 11,000 sq. ft. mural, Frank Ottomanelli went to various stakeholders to get their community input and they were very well received.
- The theme of the mural is Community Togetherness.
- The Ottomanellis want to work with the local schools, artists, Queensbridge Community Housing and the surrounding communities of LIC, Sunnyside, Woodside and Astoria.
- Frank Ottomanelli manages 30,000 – 40,000 sq. ft. of Hunters Pt. So. Park but they want to take 11,000 sq ft. and use that space for a mural.
- The murals would be taken down in the Winter and put back up in the Spring.
- The murals would be located in the garden area along the waterfront.
- The murals will be attached to the walls of the planters.
- The project is in the very early stages, the next step will be to reach out to the schools and the artists.
- Edjo Wheeler of Culture Lab mentioned that they have the beginning of a data base for outdoor muralists.
- Tatiana Ottomanelli mentioned that they want young artists, not necessarily professional.
- Ariana the Architect on this project mentioned that they are hoping to have an art coordinator to put together the vision for the murals.
- There was a discussion on how the work will be attached to the wooden planters.
- Digital work was also mentioned.
- Discussion was held on artists and different mural work done in the neighborhood. Mural at Rockaway Brewery was mentioned.
- Discussion would have to take place with the artist as to what is the best material that would last throughout all weather.
- Discussion took place on how to select the artists that would do the murals.
- It was suggested to do an open call for muralists.
- Frank Ottomanelli needs from the Community Board, support and direction and the list of muralists that Edjo Wheeler had suggested.
- Frank Ottomanelli met with the conservancy and they are in the process of putting together a proposal for the Parks Department.
  - The Parks Department wants consistency and fairness.
  - Anatol Ashraf suggested an application process.

Anatole Ashraf introduced Annie Ferdous from the Bangladesh Institute of Performing Arts.

- Annie Ferdous is one of the founding members of the not for profit organization Bangladesh Institute of Performing Arts (BIPA)
- The Bangladesh Institute of Performing Arts also known as BIPA is a NYC based organization that is dedicated to uplifting Bangladesh culture and educating the next generation about their roots.

- BIPA’s mission is to promote Bengali arts and language in NYC’s growing multicultural communities by offering accessible classes and providing platforms for emerging artists and performers.
- BIPA was founded in 1993 by several Bangladesh artists who immigrated to New York and wanted to keep their love for Bengali arts alive in their new home.
- BIPA began in a one room storehouse in Astoria Queens with 6 students. It has since grown into three locations covering Brooklyn and Queens.
- Students range in ages from 3 to 18+.
- BIPA offers dance, instrumental and vocal programs.
- BIPA does collaborate with other organizations.
- Annie Ferdous shared some visuals of live performances.
- BIPA does not have an official office. They rent three spaces for classes to take place.
- BIPA is celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.
- April 30<sup>th</sup> at Diversity Plaza at noon there will be a small parade to celebrate the Bangladesh New Year.

Anatole Ashraf mentioned the DCLA grant portal is now open, deadline May 9, for nonprofits: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dcla/cultural-funding/applying.page>

Borough President's Cultural Tourism Grant: Deadline is April 14!  
<https://queensbp.org/cultural-affairs-tourism/>  
 and <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dclapercentforart/registry/registry-about.page>

Queens Borough President Discretionary Funding for programming (not capital) open, deadline April 28: <https://queensbp.org/budget/>  
 Simple Google form application. Must be a 501c3.

Mercedes Jennings of Senator Gianaris’s office – Spoke as a constituent regarding a go fund me event at St. John’s Preparatory school for May 5 and May 9 called “Smarties”. The show is based on overcoming bullying. She asked the Arts & Cultural committee for their help in sharing this event. Mercedes Jennings will share a flyer regarding this event.

The information links are for the Event bright for Play to Support Dante Jennings Dream to remain a student at St. John’s Prep: May 5th: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-smarties-tickets-614985296577?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

May 9th: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-smarties-tickets-615005858077?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Kat Bloomfield shared some links to help Mercedes Jennings:

This is for middle school students, but they would be a great partner to pitch to:  
[https://www.jkcf.org/our-scholarships/young-scholars-program/?gclid=CjwKCAjwitShBhA6EiwAq3RqA3X5Jop8tJgld0lu7Rx4Lxa\\_1PObYEnjUez3CvfQF8HJFgBkDKFrkBoCt7YQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.jkcf.org/our-scholarships/young-scholars-program/?gclid=CjwKCAjwitShBhA6EiwAq3RqA3X5Jop8tJgld0lu7Rx4Lxa_1PObYEnjUez3CvfQF8HJFgBkDKFrkBoCt7YQAvD_BwE)

And <https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarship-directory/school-year/high-school-sophomore>

Announcements:

Andre of Cucala Dance Company – They are starting one Sunday a month free practice parties, dance around and mingle. All ages.

Edjo Wheeler, Culture Lab – they had a successful art showing and sold 27 works of art. Culture Lab never takes a commission from artist. Three art exhibitions are currently on display. Visit Culture Lab LIC: <https://www.culturelablic.org/calendar>  
The outdoor music series will be launched May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 until the end of October 2023. Every weekend free concert in their parking lot.

Visit <https://form.jotform.com/201605033011029> for an open call for muralists.

Maggie Gavin – Co-Founder of Woodside Arts Collective – They received a grant for an event on International Dance Day. It will take place in September 2023. They will be bringing together different dance studios. Maggie Gavin is also involved in a dance program with Woodside on the Move bringing together children ages 5-12 and older adults. Performance on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 will be at Windmueller Park. Maggie Gavin shared with the committee how the Woodside On the Move program started.

Anatol Ashraf thanked everyone for their attendance at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kim Waber