



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

Morry Galonoy
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

May 10th, 2022

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Thalia Karesia Batan, Chair
Kenneth Greenberg
Ryan Smith
Akello Thomas
Morry Galonoy

Absentees:

Anatol Ashraf
Kat Bloomfield
Gianna Cerbone
Stephen Cooper
William Garret
Benjamin Guttmann
Badrun N. Khan
Karla Perez

Guests:

Paz Tanjuaquio, Executive Director of Topaz Arts
Isabella Bustamante, Teen Art Salon
Jinelle Thompson
Joe LoBello, Queens Council for the Arts
Elizabeth Masella, NYC Parks

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 Paz Tanjuaquio, Executive Director of Topaz Arts

- Paz Tanjuaquio co-founder of Topaz Arts has been in Woodside Queens for 22 years.
- Topaz Arts founded in 2000 found warehouse space in Woodside Queens and converted it into arts space for dancers and visual artists.
- Topaz Arts is located at 55-03 39th Avenue.
- They were closed for a year and half due to the COVID pandemic.
- Paz Tanjuaquio shared a video of their 20 years in operation.
<https://vimeo.com/493503188>
- Topaz Arts offers space rentals for dancers.
- Topaz Arts also has showings and visual arts exhibitions.

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

- Partner with Queens museum and other partnerships
- They are back to in person, but require vaccination and mask.
- They have a showing on May 21, 2022 presenting Leonard Cruz
- The link for the showings is <http://www.topazarts.org/2022/04/current-and-upcoming-events-this-spring-2022/>
- This Spring they are celebrating AAPI artists. (*Attachment #1*)
- Gallery space will be showcasing a Cambodian artist who passed away from the COVID last year.
- All the events are free.
- Rooftop garden is used to feed the artists that perform at Topaz Arts.
- A question was asked about, how does Topaz Arts reach other neighborhoods to visit their space?
 - Affordability is what brought Topaz Arts to Queens.
 - The quietness is what attracts artists to Topaz Arts.
 - Topaz Arts works hard on grants to enable artists to pay \$10 an hour for space.
 - Collaborations with different organizations brings different artists and groups to the space.

Karesia Batan introduced Isabella Bustamante of Teen Art Salon

- Isabella Bustamante raised in Queens started Teen Art Salon in 2015.
- Isabella shared the screen with the committee of artwork that was made by artists between the ages 13 to 19.
- Isabella Bustamante contact information is Isabella@teenartsalon.com
- Teen Art Salon (“TAS”) is a 501c3 non-profit organization in LIC that supports, develops and promotes adolescent artists, and demystifies the process of starting a career as an artist.
- TAS talks to young artists about going to college, scholarships, how to value your work and the cost of it.
- TAS has an Open Studio Program – 3 times a week the studio is open for drop ins.
- Mixed levels of artists would show up at the Open Studio Program.
- Isabella went on to explain her philosophy of TAS, was about giving space to young artists outside of their own surroundings.
- A lot of the regular programs were for the short term, however at TAS, artist could be involved there for years.
- For seven years Teen Art Salon has provided teenagers in the NYC school system with free, open-door art instruction and materials to establish and advance individual studio practices.
- Isabella shared with the Arts & Cultural Committee different showings that the artists had in various locations throughout the city.
- TAS also works on getting residency for the young artist to show their art.
- Current Programming: Drawing workshops, programming at Queens Public Library – Virtual Character & Creature Design
- TAS exposes the students to design, shapes and history of art.

- Karesia asked Isabella how the Arts & Cultural Committee can help get the word out about TAS or how the committee can help?
 - Isabella mentioned if anyone would want to work in the studio with the students to share their art knowledge
 - Getting the word out about the in-person programming at the Queens Public Library, and at the Open Studio would be helpful.
 - Isabella mentioned that she will be speaking at schools to let them know about Teen Arts Salon.
 - Short discussion on how to obtain a DOE number.
- Karesia mentioned to Isabella how it would be great if she came to a meeting to discuss how artists can make a living by being an artist.
- Chairperson Galonoy mentioned how he appreciated all the work that Isabella was doing with the young artists.

Karesia introduced Elizabeth Masella from NYC Parks

- Elizabeth Masella is the Senior Public Arts Coordinator at NYC Parks
- The Heart Sculpture is at Hunter's Pt. So. Park until the end of June 2022.
- Elizabeth Masella will be presenting about a basketball mural that will be coming to Murray Playground (**Attachment #2**)
- This project is being done with Project Backboard whose mission is that all communities have a safe place to play outdoor basketball.
- The idea is collaborating with artists in basketball court renovations using sports specific color coatings. That the courts are playable and the mural wont make it slippery.
- Both courts at Murray Playground will be painted using designs created by the artist Edgar Heap of Birds.
- The timeline for this is for June or July. It should take about two weeks to paint the mural. First the renovation of the court must be done.
- Elizabeth Masella shared in her presentation other basketball mural work in different locations.
- The murals make it very inviting for people to play on them.
- A question was asked about handball court murals.
 - The handball association feels that murals on the wall make it much harder to see the ball.
- There is an open application process. Applications are accepted year round. In addition to murals they also permit for temporary sculptures in parks, fence installation which give photographers the ability to exhibit their work publicly. Safety, durability, interaction from the public and the elements are all considered. Not all projects are on view for one year. For more information visit <https://www.nycgovparks.org/art-and-antiquities/temporary-guidelines>
- NYC Parks encourage artist to think about the park, think about the people who use it, the environment and how the community will interact with the art.
- A discussion took place regarding if artists are aware of this program and how to get the word out to those who are not aware.

Karesia Batan wanted to give attention to Queens Rising which is a borough wide celebration that takes place in the month of June. Open to any artist or organization that has programs scheduled for June and can be marketed under the Queens Rising umbrella. Visit the website <https://queensrising.nyc> and list your event on their calendar.

Artists need a DOE Vendor number to teach in schools. (*Attachment #3*) The easiest way to obtain this number is to have a relationship with a school. Visit this link for more information <https://infohub.nyced.org/working-with-the-doe/vendors/general-information>

Organizations can have vendor numbers as well.

MoMA PS1 at this time does not partner with schools.

Updates/Announcements

Karesia welcomed two new members, Ryan Smith and Akello Thomas, and asked them to introduce themselves.

- Akello Thomas – is a hip-hop dancer as well as a ballroom dancer. Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY and is excited to be on the Arts & Cultural Committee.
- Ryan Smith has worked on Open Streets during the COVID pandemic and is excited to be on the Arts & Cultural Committee and to bring more art into public space.
- Jinnelle Thompson – MoMA PS1 – June is the month where they work on launching programs for the summer, exhibitions are opening. Visit these two links for more event information:
<https://www.moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/5460>
<https://www.moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/5452>
- Joe LoBello, Queens Council on the Arts – mentioned there is a lot of programming coming up, the first listening tour will be starting soon, High School to Art School program will have a showcase, Alumni showcase, QCA will be involved with Culture Lab, art installations from local artists will be displayed at La Guardia Community College. Queens Art Funds will be announced shortly. Their goal is to engage more with the community and have more collaborations to grow Queens Council on the Arts. Joe LoBello will keep the committee informed about the listening tour and how people can be involved.
- Open Culture has not been renewed, expired the end of March 2022. A new chair has been appointed.
- Street permitting for regular events is open.

Karesia Batan thanked everyone for attending the meeting, encouraged everyone to keep coming back and to please email the CB2 office with any news to share with the community, to check out the calendar on the website and to post your event to the calendar. There is a newsletter that will be going out where events can be added.

Please invite any arts groups that you know of to our Arts & Cultural Committee monthly meetings. The more groups involved, the more effective we can be as a committee.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kim Waber