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ARTS & CULTURE

Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 14, 2022

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present: Hon. George Harrell, Hon. Wilma Brown Phillips, Hon. Maurice Franklin
Committee Members Absent: Debra Gilliard, Crystal McKay, Kimberly McLaurin, Shadawn Smith, Stephanie Palmer, Shanelle Washington, Kamaria Milford
Committee Members Excused: None
Staff: Jasmin Heatley, Community Assistant

MEETING OVERVIEW

The meeting was called to order at 6:35PM.

SUMMARY

Harlem Advocates for Seniors (HAS) in Harlem

Presenter: William Hammer, Executive Director/ Founding Member

Website: <https://hasharlem.org/>

Mr. Hamer gave an overview of Harlem Advocates for Seniors, a not for profit organization that services the aging population in Harlem. His presentation included the details that include the history, vision, programs, services offered to seniors in the Harlem community. He discussed the importance of arts and culture

HAS's mission is to empower, engage and support older adults in the village of Harlem and to promote an age friendly community. The organization's mission is for a community where older adults can live and thrive. HAS provides services at the following locations in Harlem; *Phillips Senior Houses* (220 W. 133rd Street), *West 135th Street Apartments* (bet. 7th & Lenox Avenue), *3333 Broadway* (W. 135th Street Broadway) and *Fred Samuels HMOP* (140th Street & 7th Ave). Programs and services include: fitness programs, health promotion, social and cultural activities with focuses on food insecurity and the sharing of information and resources via in person, online workshops, virtual programming and technology training programs. These services help to keep seniors engaged and connected.

Mr. Hamer focused on the importance of arts and culture to the quality of life of seniors in the community. HAS's partnerships with programs (Jazzmobile, Voze Rivers/ New Heritage Theatre Group) to ensure that seniors have had access to recreational activities (theater and cultural events).

Mr. Hamer expressed interest in continuing to partner with the Arts and Culture community to share resources and information with the HAS community of seniors.

For more information visit the website at <https://hasharlem.org/>

Studio Museum in Harlem (SMH): 2020 - 2022 Programming

Website: www.studiomuseuminharlem.org

Exhibitions in Local Parks

Presenter: Sydney Briggs, Director of Collection and Exhibitions

Ms. Briggs spoke about recent exhibitions in local parks. While the SM is currently closed, the museum is working to deepen its roots in the community through *inHarlem*, a dynamic set of collaborative programs in the neighborhood. The museum's groundbreaking exhibitions, thought provoking conversations and engaging art making workshops continue at a variety of partner and satellite locations in Harlem. During COVID Parks exhibitions include,

(1) Chloe Bass: "Wayfinding" (sculptures) Saint Nicholas Park - September 28, 2019-September 2020 and (2) Thomas J. Price: "Witness" (sculpture) Marcus Garvey Park - October 2, 2021 -October 1, 2022. For more information visit the website

Program and Education Initiatives

Presenter: Daonne Huff, Director of Public Programs and Community Engagement

Ms. Huff gave an overview of the SM department of Public Programs and Community Engagement. She spoke about the programs that included artist talks and art making workshops, to film screenings, readings and performances. The programs seek to create an entry point and provide broader accessibility for engaging with art to expand ideas, deepen relationships and showcase the relevance and historical impact of art made by artists of African descent through conversations with artists, activists, curators, educators and more.

New developments in the wake of the COVID 19 pandemic included programming pivoted to the virtual realm and 2020 marked the incorporation of CART captioning for all digital public programs. In 2021 SMH began offering ASL interpretation for all digital public programs as well. Public programs are now recorded and added to their respective event pages and SMH YouTube channel post program. All programs continue to be free and open to the public.

Program highlights include *The Last Address Tribute Walk Harlem. Launched November 2021*). The project is a resource page on the website. The goal of the project is to raise visibility on the overlooked narratives of black creative communities that grapple with HIV/ AIDS in Harlem at the height of the epidemic in the 1980's and 1990's. The page includes an interactive map featuring addresses across Harlem and a survey of sites and memories on to the map, oral histories and commissioned works of art. SMH will host walks at a selection of sites in the summer.

The Department of Public Programs and Community Engagement sent post - program surveys to collect audience feedback and demographic information. The results are as follows:

2021 Program season: Total number of programs (32), Total attendance for all programs (6285)

2021 Program Season (as of March 2022) Total number of programs (10), Total attendance for all programs (1914). Responses were shared

Education

Presenter: Shawnta Lawson, Director, Education Department

Ms. Lawson gave an overview of the SMH mission through the Education Program as it activates collaborative opportunities for learning, connections and leadership through the creative process. By creating experimental, inquiry driven programs and accessible programs to encourage people to be critical thinkers and creative makers. SMH is committed to art engagement connected to artists

of African descent, rooted in curiosity, rigor and reflection that fosters inclusion across communities.

Education programming focus on Pre- K to 12th grade students, young adults, educators families, emerging professionals and audiences with specific needs

During the pandemic sm goal is to continue to hold space for program participants to connect to the creative process support to local schools youth communities partners in Harlem amid continued change and reopening. Highlights of Semester and Year long partnerships Education program highlights include: PS 36, Thurgood Academy Lower School, Huran School School Community Partnerships include: Expanding the Walls: Making the Connection Between Photo History and Community Alley Forney Center (online), Expanding the Walls Exhibition (1st online exhibition of Studio Museum), at home art making activities and Lil Studio at Home videos and printed materials available via the permanent collection. Program impact included a reach of over 700 Pre K - 12 grade students, 115 teachers, school leaders, and staff, 140 community partnership participants, 50 youth (Expanding the Walls/ Teen Leadership Council) and over 3, 330 accessing online permanent collection lesson plans.

Construction Developments

Debra White - General Counsel, Chief Strategy Counselor

Ms. White reported The Studio Museum is currently under construction after significant delays and is seeking to reopen in the Fall of 2024. SM will update the CB10 Land Use Committee and will also update the CB10 Arts and Culture committee construction developments.

Kate Claman, External Affairs and Administrative Associate

Studio Museum will return to the Arts and Culture committee to present upcoming events and program updates. For more information visit the website at the Studio Museum in Harlem

Request for Letter of Support to approve What Is Your COVID Story Memorial

Presenter: Jill Strauss, Faculty at CUNY A City in Conversation: Augmented Reality

Ms. Strauss shared a proposal presentation for a virtual exhibition, *What Is Your COVID Story*.

Ms. Strauss is seeking a letter of support for the application for a permit to place waterproof signs on the lawn area for a period of two weeks in advance of the launch of the memorial project and will apply for an additional permit in the Fall. The virtual public art memorial would reflect the experiences of persons who lived in Harlem or worked at Mount Sinai Hospital during 2020. Led by Jill Strauss and Maria Volpe's proposed project would be an experience that would be displayed around the Harlem Meer at Central Park. Ms. Strauss contacted Central Park Conservancy and The physical Participants in the project would receive two \$20 gift cards after participating in both interviews. Memorials will be installed (virtually) in June.

Ms. Strauss will follow up with the committee to provide the supporting letters from Central Park Conservancy to Parks and Recreation committee Chair Karen Horry and then the Arts and Culture committee. Arts and Culture committee will partner with Parks and Recreation after the letter has been submitted.

Petawayne, Music Director - Hands that Makes a Difference

Petawayne shared his personal experience as a music teacher at the Department of Education and the development of the after school program, As Musical Director at Hands that Makes A Difference, Petwayne provide the youth with alternative ways to reach audiences with positive music

Hands That Make A Difference (HTMAD) was founded in 2011 and the organization works hard

and smart toward meeting our young people and older adults in this ever-changing world. HTMAD assists low-income adults with job readiness, referral services and other support services that make young and old feel a part of society. For more information visit the website <https://www.handsthatmakeadifference.org/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The winner (Dietra Kesley) of the Maxwell: Night Tour ticket giveaway provided a recap of the event

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.