

Community Board 12, Manhattan Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee
530 W. 166th St., 6th fl.
October 13th, 2016

Committee members present: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair; Osi Kaminer, Asst Chair; Daryl Cochrane; Natalie Espino; Barbara Frazier; Mitchell Glenn; Richard Lewis. **Committee member absent:** Karen Taylor. **Community Members Present:** Jennifer Bristol & Peter Levy (Ft. Tryon Dog Run); Leslie Almanzar (MBPO); Elaine Delgado (Hispanic Society); Steve Herris (Inwood Canoe Club); Rosangela Oliveira; Thomas Henry (DPR); Jennifer Hoppa, NYC DPR Northern Manhattan Parks Administrator; Martin Collins; Joanna Castro (NoMAA); David Mandal (DCLA); Sally Fisher (Friends of IHP).

Chair Elizabeth Lorris Ritter calls the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

1. Announcements & upcoming events:

- Javits Playground design was approved by CB12 on the September General Meeting
- Kids First Film Festival happening tonight, here, on the 2nd fl.
- On Sunday 10/15, Lin Manuel Miranda will introduce Mary Poppins at the United Palace Theatre. There is also a kick-off campaign to fundraise for new projection equipment.
- WordUp Community Bookstore Teen Open Mic Friday 10/14; 10/21 in Spanish
- DPR is looking for an operator for the synthetic ice rink proposed for Highbridge Park. This would be the first one in NYC
- Open House NY is this weekend, noon-4pm.

2. Hispanic Society of America Museum & Library, Elaine Delgado, Development Director:

The Hispanic Society (HS) is a one of a kind, free museum and library dedicated to the art and culture of the Hispanic world. In addition to participating in dozens of exhibitions, the museum organized concerts, lectures, and served countless number of students of all ages with educational programs and tours. This year also included the launch of a brand new website that will soon include an on-line collection database.

The ambitious capital project of the HS is an investment in expanding their mission, broadening our audiences, and engaging people through a wide variety of free educational and public programs. Earlier this year, the museum completed the restoration of our building façades. The next phase of the capital project will start in January 2017, when the Main Building will be closed for a major renovation. While the Main Building is closed, the museum will continue to offer most of the educational and public programs at nearby sites. The HS will also send out an exhibition, *Visions of the Hispanic World: Treasures of the Hispanic Society Museum & Library*, to the Museo del Prado in Madrid, and other venues in Europe and the United States.

3. Northern Manhattan Arts & Culture Building Community Capacity Grant, Veronica Liu:

The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) announced an 18-month funding initiative; Building Community Capacity. Inwood/Washington Heights are one of 4 neighborhoods throughout the city that is a part of this program. The other selected are Jamaica Queens, South Bronx, and East New York Brooklyn. The program aims to bring together residents to participate in activities, public programs, workshops, and trainings, to strengthen arts and culture in our community, to bridge between the different art media and create more opportunities and community awareness overall.

The program included non-arts businesses that serve or support the art such as local restaurants, hardware stores, education institutions, and which draws on the artistic and cultural community for educators and programming, and is also, where young people develop the literacy to engage

with arts and culture. Also included faith based institutions, which are a huge source of cultural activity for so many people in this community. Social services and city agencies, for all they provide in ensuring a healthy neighborhood overall, inclusive of art and culture. This program recognizes arts and culture as part of our residents' daily lives.

Each community decides exactly how to run the program and DCLA provides at least one full-time project manager who is assigned to be the neighborhood liaison for one year until December 2017. The program offers technical assistance workshops, consultants who'll facilitate them, and share various opportunities and connections that enable groups in their artistic endeavor.

The steering committee is made up of individuals from uptown organizations that volunteered their time and come up with ideas for strengthening their cultural infrastructure, with the hope that the program will take off beyond the grant period.

The group renamed itself as the "Northern Manhattan Arts and Culture" (NMAC). On September 24th NMAC held an arts and culture summit that included different sectors of the community (arts, education, faith, business, social services, youth) to find common ground. A full report is coming soon, highlights from the summit are as follow:

- To build a **network** of people, organizations, spaces, and programming that promotes cross-cultural inclusivity throughout Washington Heights and Inwood;
- More active **outreach** to our neighbors across age, linguistic, ethnic, racial, geographic, and socioeconomic lines;
- To highlight existing—and, if possible, to facilitate the creation of new physical arts and cultural **spaces** in the neighborhood, to use for performance, rehearsal, studio, gallery, workshops, etc.;
- To strengthen the **fundraising** capacity of existing organizations;
- To map and compile **assets** besides space, people want directories of all kinds, updated, available in a user-friendly manner, both online and offline, everywhere;
- All of this developed through **sustainable and collaborative** governance that prioritizes and recognizes youth.

To enact specific projects under these broader desires coming out of the summit, the steering committee is starting to set up potential working groups, under the headings: Networking & Outreach; Asset-Mapping; Space; Advocacy; Marketing & Communications; Development; Technical Assistance. Monthly meetings among all the organizations are scheduled to start next month.

4. Jennifer Hoppa, DPR Capital Projects Update

- Highbridge Anchor Park: Highbridge to receive \$30m in Capital funding as part of the Parks Equity/Anchor Parks initiative. NYC Parks will be hiring a consultant to develop a Master Plan for the park in conjunction with the community and Community Board. The public scoping meeting will be held on Monday November 28th at 6:30 p.m. at the Highbridge Recreation Center; Amsterdam Avenue at W. 173rd St. The consultant team/NYC Parks will be having a series of public meetings over the course of the public input and public review processes, similar to what it undertakes for each of its Capital Projects.

- Audubon Playground: As part of the Community Parks Initiative Audubon Playground is slated to be overhauled. NYC Parks appreciates Community Board 12's ongoing advocacy for this site. The public scoping meeting for the project will be held on November 9th at Highbridge Recreation Center at 6:30 p.m.
- Inwood Nature Center: Sandy Recovery: both the immediate landscape surrounding the Nature Center and the building itself will be redone to be more storm resilient. Based on the feedback at the Public Scoping Meeting held in early 2016, the designers did additional work on the landscape. The project is going through interior reviews, both Architectural and Landscape Architectural review. We expect it to be coming back to the Community Board for a Schematic Design presentation in December. Water Line project; was bid out for construction and is expected to go into construction later this year, weather permitting.
- Eco Dock Project: Cowi Engineering, NYC Parks and the Waterfront Alliance have revised the concept plan given certain conditions at the site in the winter. As a result, an additional \$900,000 is needed to enable the project to go into construction documents and then be bid out for construction. NYC Parks still intends to be the operator of the Eco Dock to maximize the extent of public programs that occur there.
- Dyckman Farmhouse: The roof received funding for capital reconstruction. The design work for the roof has not yet begun. More recently funding was allocated by Borough President Brewer and Councilmember Rodriguez to make the public restrooms ADA accessible.
- Dyckman Green Gym: Additional funding was added to this participatory budget project. The Schematic Design presentation will be made to Community Board 12 at its November 1st Parks Committee Meeting.
- J. Hood Wright Park Green Gym: Received funding through Participatory Budget process. Design has not yet commenced.

5. Budget Priority Rankings for FY '18: we removed items from the prior year list which were completed, shifted everything that was fully-funded and in process to "Continuing Support ("CS"), added new items which had been presented over the course of the year, and voted as a group using a proportional voting system of individual ranks to get an aggregate ranking. The results reflect the effect of advocacy of individual stakeholders for their respective priorities.

EXPENSE PROJECTS

Fund additional Park Enforcement Personnel (PEP) (DPR)	1
Dedicated Forestry Crew for CD 12	1
Fund additional staff for Sanitation, Maintenance & Operations, Horticulture	3
Increase funding for after school programs at J. Hood Wright, Highbridge and Inwood Parks	4
Fund enhanced digital surveillance in parks	5
Master Gardener at the Morris Jumel Mansion	6
Sherman Creek educational programs	7
Educ/cultural programming at museums & historic houses (e.g., Hispanic Society, Jumel, Dyckman FH, etc.)	*
Fund engineering study to repair 181st / Pinehurst step-street	*

*These items accidentally omitted from Committee ranking but should be included by Board

CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Install water service for dog runs in Ft. Washington & Ft. Tryon Parks; plumb 2 existing drinking fountains on eastern slope of Ft. Tryon Park by dog run and down to B'way; install lighting in FW Park dog run at 165/RSD	1
Shoreline preservation and bulkhead repairs in Ft. Washington Park (by Marina & Canoe Club)	2

Hispanic Society of America: renovations (roof, interior, terrace) & ADA compliance efforts	3
Highbridge Park (165th and Edgecombe: New Adventure Playground): ADA compliant comfort station & BBQ area	4
CD12: Science Barge	4
Highbridge water tower Phase II: restore public access, incl. handrail repair, window guards, interior lighting, ADA entrance ramp, and carillon	6
Renovate / retrofit public restrooms throughout CD12 for ADA compliance	7
Gorman Park: reconstruct stone stairway, paving, planting, benches	7
Morris-Jumel Mansion: HVAC and digital/cabling access	7
Inwood Hill, Highbridge and Fort Tryon Parks: Reconstruct park pathways and paving	10
Add public restroom in Ft. Washington Park per PlaNYC	10
Highbridge: new lighting in Sunken Playground & pathways to the High Bridge	12
More family picnic / BBQ areas throughout CD12 Parks	12
Add Lenape Garden to Inwood Hill Park	12
Renovate/rehabilitate Msgr. Kett Playground (W. 204th btw. 10th/Nagle Aves.)	15
Muscota Marsh storage containers and boating facility	15
Funding for more Wi-Fi locations first in the southern tier of CD12 parks	15
Lighting for tennis and basketball courts in Inwood Hill Park	15
Bennett Park: Complete Phase II Renovation (new comfort station and playground)	15
Highbridge water tower: roof repair, stabilize structure and replace windows; (does not enable public access)	C/S
Renovate & reconstruct Audubon Playground, including removal of existing temporary structure	C/S
Renovate / repair the Nature Center in Inwood Hill Park	C/S
Renovate Javits Playground (Ft. Tryon Park)	C/S
Dyckman Farmhouse: roof repairs	C/S
Sherman Creek: NYRP Phase II clean-up & waterfront access	C/S

Meeting adjourned at 9:23pm.