

Business Development Committee

Minutes, April 1, 2014

Committee Members Present: Anina Young (Chair), Jason Miller, Richard Allman, Rud Morales, Christopher Smith

Committee Members Absent: Ariel Ferreira (Assistant Chair), Ellen Kackman, Victor Santos

Community Members: Martin Collins

Guest Speakers: Joanna Castro, Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance

A. Welcome & Opening Remarks

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Anina Young at 7:15. The Chair welcomed committee members and guests in attendance. Ms. Young proceeded to recap last month's meeting in which Angelina Ramirez; Executive Director of the Washington Heights BID spoke to the committee about its 2013 accomplishments along with future BID initiatives. Ms. Ramirez promised the committee she would provide information regarding market research revolving around the retail needs of the district.

In addition the committee discussed the goals and direction of the newly formed business development committee. The course of action agreed upon was to leverage local business aids including SBS (Small Business Solutions), local Business Improvement Districts, and other governmental departments in an effort to become a resource for local businesses both current and looking to enter the district.

2. Joanna Castro of NoMaa (Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance) made a brief presentation to the committee members and discussed the upcoming Uptown Arts Stroll. Also in attendance were Martin Collins, Arts Stroll Coordinator and previous Chair CB 12. The Uptown Arts Stroll is NoMAA's annual month-long art festival. For the entire month of June, Washington Heights and Inwood's diverse roster of artist's floods uptown's businesses and institutions, open spaces, parks and other venues with their inspiring art. The Arts Stroll will commence with an opening reception at Highbridge Water Tower Promenade (Amsterdam Avenue & West 172nd Street) on Thursday, May 29 from 6pm - 8:30pm. The Art Stroll encompasses artists of all different disciplines throughout the neighborhood. For more information about the stroll or participation please visit artstroll.com.

Other events NoMaa will be hosting include:

June 7: Opening of Ephemeral Arts Project in collaboration with New York Restoration Project and coinciding with Hike the Heights

June 22: Open Studios

June 28: Health Fair for Artists in collaboration with NY Presbyterian Hospital

June 28-29: Arts Stroll closing reception TBA

B. New Business

Committee member Rud Morales presented her concerns to the committee about how local business will have to comply with the new sick leave act which has already gone into effect as of April 1 and monitored by the Department of Consumer Affairs. The committee recommended inviting business owners to a forum lead by CB 12 Business Development Committee and inviting the DCA to speak on the topic. Chair Young informed the committee she would reach out to the Department of Consumer Affairs to see if she can have someone speak to the new act. The forum conversation will continue at the next committee meeting.

Next meeting

- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 6th, 2014.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm.