

CB12M Youth and Education Committee

Meeting 4

Monday, April 11, 2022

Minutes

LOCATION: **VIRTUAL MEETING**

Committee Members Present: Fe Florimon, Chair; Maria Luna, Gabriela Estrella, Michelle Lee, Miriam James, and Wendy Pena.

Excused: Jonathan Nunez-Frometa. **Absent:** Glennis Aquino, and Daniel Bonilla.

Board Member: Steve Simon.

Board Staff: Shinelle Paniagua.

Public Member(s) Present: Luis Cruz, Guillermo Perez.

Present: Dr. Eva Lopez, Executive Director, Crossroads Connection, Inc., Ramon Spence, Center Director at the Armory Center Police Athletic League, Inc., Savannah Johnson; Cassandre Collazo, Michael Dorcelly; Alfred Kurland, Kate Reuther, Julia Chait, Sheree Johnson, and Rosemary Mora Valdez

The meeting was called to order by Chair Fe Florimon at 7:05 pm.

The following report is a brief summary of the virtual meeting discussion that took place on the above date. For an in-depth report, please access the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEMKh3Q8yNc>

Chair Florimon welcomed and thanked members, guests, and the general public. Committee members introduced themselves for the record. Ms. Florimon discussed the unfolding of the agenda and then proceeded to introduce the guests.

The Chair introduced the guest/presenters, Dr. **Eva Lopez, Executive Director, Crossroads Connection, Inc., and Mr. Ramon Spence, Center Director at the Armory Center Police Athletic League, Inc.** Both presenters thanked the chair and the committee for the invitation. The guests appeared before the committee to inform about their organization's work and program opportunities available to the community. The first presentation was provided by Dr. Lopez as follows:

- Dr. Lopez shared a general background of herself and her organization. She's an Assistant Professor at John Jay College in the Latino studies department. Her areas of expertise are participatory theater and practice primarily coming out of Latin America and Latino Theater here in the United States. She also works in the areas of youth development and community engagement.
- "Crossroads Connection Inc, (CCI) is a non-profit youth serving organization. Mission is to equip at-risk youth and families with the appropriate tools and resources to lead meaningful and productive lives. CCI achieves its mission by providing comprehensive services to students in grades k-12, and by organizing parents to advocate for quality education."

CB12M Youth and Education Committee

- The program examines the social conditions that working-class and low-income communities are living in.
- CCI also provides a series of professional developments for the New York State Department of disabilities.
- Most of their work is really about working with young people to enhance and expand their creative capacity according to Dr. Lopez.
- Presenters look forward to being in touch with the committee and working with other interested entities.

The second presentation was provided by Mr. Ramon Spence, who facilitated an overview of the “Fitness, Wellness, and STEM” programs available at the Police Athletic League (PAL) Armory Center located at 216 Fort Washington Ave, (near 169 Street), New York, NY 10032.

- PAL’s mission “ Together with NYPD and the Law Enforcement Community, supports and Inspires New York City Youth to realize their full individual potential as productive embers of society.” Their motto is “The best friend a kid can have.”
- PAL’s program is funded by the Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD); schools out of New York City (SONYC), which serves as a pathway to success for youth in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.
- PAL’s programs are all free of charge to the public. These programs include, “Fitness & Recreation, Wellness, and S.T.E.A.M.
- Mr. Spence provided a full description of the reach of these programs.
- Highly important aspects of the “Wellness Program” include assistance with mental health resources, facility culture, and social emotional-learning.”
- PAL provides also students with a biology lab, kitchen and animation studio, and nutrition programs (e.g. project lab opportunities also to learn about coding and web design, and kitchen safety).
- A visual view (pictures) of the program’s site was provided.
- Mr. Spence highly encouraged the community to visit the PAL Armory Center and take advantage of their available resources for our youth.

* Members and all participants had the opportunity to ask questions and share feedback. Ms. Florimon encouraged all participants to focus on building relationships to help each other and not hesitate to contact the board (CB12M) for any community announcements.

New and Old Business:

- No announcements were made.

Chair called a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 pm. and the motion was seconded by Michelle Lee, Member.

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NOTE: To view this meeting, please access the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEMKh3Q8yNc>