Carter Booth, *Chair*
Daniel Miller, *First Vice Chair*
Susan Kent, *Second Vice Chair*
Bob Gormley, *District Manager*

Antony Wong, *Treasurer*
Valerie De La Rosa, *Secretary*
Amy Brenna, *Assistant Secretary*

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Greenwich Village ❖ Little Italy ❖ SoHo ❖ NoHo ❖ Hudson Square ❖ Chinatown ❖ Gansevoort Market

EQUITY WORKING GROUP

The Equity Working Group of Community Board 2, Manhattan held a meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 @ 5:30pm via Video Conference.

CB2 Board Members Present: Mar Fitzgerald (Co-Chair), Patricia Laraia (Co-Chair), Katy Bordonaro, Amy Brenna, Betty Kubovy-Weiss, Matt Metzger, and Antony Wong
CB2 Members Absent with Notice: Akeela Azcuy, Sandy Russo
Other CB2 Members Present: Susanna Aaron, Carter Booth, Valerie De La Rosa, Joe Gallagher, Bob Gormely, Janet Liff, Brian Pape, Lois Rakoff, Donna Rafferty, Dr. Shirley Smith, and Susan Wittenberg
Guests: Bethany Bengston, Pete Davies, Kathryn Donaldson, Chandler Forsythe, Gena Gerbier, Josephine Ishmon, Dara Kubovy-Weiss, Michael Levario, Dalene Lutz, Brooke Schooley, Camran St. Luce, Cordelia Persen, Michael Wiggins

Agenda
1. Presentation: Black Business Forum: Black Business Data
2. Discussion with Black Business Owners and Operators in CB2
3. Discussion with Kenneth Ebie of BE NYC

Panelists
1. Kenneth Ebie, Executive Director, Black Entrepreneurs New York (BE NYC),
2. https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sbs/businesses/black-entrepreneurs-nyc.page
3. Michele Gaton, owner Extra Virgin Restaurant, https://www.extravirginrestaurant.com
4. Joe Maysonet, owner J Train, https://www.facebook.com/JTrainWellness/
5. Konstance Patton, Soho artist, http://konstancepatton.com
6. J. Mills Pierre, 142 Sullivan, https://142sullivan.com

Introductions were made and Mar gave background as to why this Business Forum was necessary. The Black community makes up 22% of New York City's population, yet a mere 2% are owned by Black entrepreneurs. There is tremendous opportunity for Black owned businesses to start and grow in CB2.

We then heard from each of our panelists on why they chose CB2 and how long they've been in the community.

J. Mills Pierre started his wine bar back in 2015 as a first-time bar owner living in Soho.

Joe Maysonet has been a trainer in the village for 25 years and just started his business 3 years ago in the West Village and then moved to Tribeca/West Village over a year ago.

Michele Gaton's mediterranean restaurant has been in the West vVillage for over 16 years.

Konstance Patton, artist and filmmaker living and working in Soho. She founded her artist collective over an year ago after everything was boarded up in Soho.

Kenneth Ebie shared information about the city's BE NYC initiative and how it supports and stimulates Black entrepreneurship in New York, stressing the importance of mentorship.

In business session, the working group decided that a list of Black-Owned businesses should be placed on the CB2 Resource page.

We concluded the meeting by inviting all to submit any other issues not discussed at info@cb2manhattan.org, and announced our next meeting date; Tuesday, February 23rd @ 6:30pm. The public should visit the CB2 website and register for this meeting.