



CITY OF NEW YORK
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD
FOUR**

424 West West 33 Street,
Suite #580 New York, NY
10001
tel: 212-736-4536
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

October 14, 2022

Laurie Cumbo
Commissioner.
Department of Cultural Affairs
31 Chambers St., 2nd Floor New York, NY 10007

Re: Fountain House Gallery and art programing

Dear Commissioner Cumbo,

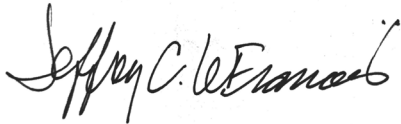
On September 12, 2022, Director Rachel Weissman of the Fountain House Gallery, located at 702 9th Avenue, presented before the Arts, Culture, Education and Street Life Committee (ACES) of Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) asking for its support. At its full Board meeting of October 6, 2022, MCB4, on the recommendation of the ACES Committee, voted 37 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible, to support Fountain House's future funding request made to the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Fountain House Gallery is a nonprofit exhibition space dedicated to furthering the professional practice of emerging and established artists, trained or self-taught living with mental illness. Located at 702 Ninth Avenue at the corner of W.48th Street, Fountain House Gallery is part of Fountain House, a leading national mental health nonprofit organization celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

Working with 100 artists a year, Fountain House Gallery provides space for members to express their creativity, exhibit their work, and connect with other artists, gallery visitors, and other cultural institutions. In its capacity as a commercial space, Fountain House Gallery supports members by selling their original artworks, with the artists receiving 60% of the proceeds of the sale. A priority for Fountain House Gallery is to move its artist studio space, currently located in Long Island City, to Manhattan in order to provide greater access to its members.

The ACES committee unanimously voted to support Fountain House Gallery's continued arts programming, search for an affordable local Manhattan location for its artist studio space, and increased funding for Fountain House.

Sincerely,



Jeffery LeFrancois
Chair
Community Board 4



Allen Oster
Co-Chair
ACES Committee



Kit Tollerson
Co-Chair
ACES Committee

cc: Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Erik Bottcher, City Council