



# COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
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Nilsa Orama  
Chair

Angel D. Mescain  
District Manager

## Economic Development & Culture Committee

December 11, 2018

Bonifacio Senior Center

7 East 116th Street, New York, NY 10035

### \*\*\* MINUTES \*\*\*

Present: Jose Altamirano, Adem Brija, Carlos Diaz, Holley Drakeford, Melanee Farrah (Chair), Marissa Mack, Edwin Marcial, Celia Ramirez, Dawn Sanders, Jenny Tromski, Jesse Yang, Angel Mescain (staff)

Absent: Vincent Torres, Candy Vives-Vasquez, Davon Woodley

Excused:

Guests: Carey King, Uptown Grand Central; Lou Martini, Bistro Casa Azul

#### 1. Call to Order– Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 630PM.

Motion to adopt the agenda by Villanueva, seconded by Brija and passed.

#### 2. Announcements

- Informational Presentation was cancelled, postponed to next meeting in January
- January 8th SIMS meeting
- Request to subcommittee members to invite 1 local business to attend the next January meeting
- Please attend holiday parties of local businesses
- Tree lighting on 106th St. and Third Ave. on Friday 14<sup>th</sup>
- Tree lighting at 125th St. Next Friday

#### 3. Informational Updates

- a. Committee Chair
- b. Staff Liaison

- i. Angel said there is a New Media Project demolition commenced recently on 125th St and Triboro Bridge area

#### 4. Presentations & Discussions

##### a. The African Center

###### i. Alana Hairston, Director for Programming

- Opening was 3 months ago
- Soft launch in the middle of January
- Hosting Events like:
  - Nigerian Artists
  - Nigerian Theatre Performance
  - Book Launch
- Looking for volunteers with the community
- Mission: dedicated to promoting a new narrative about Africa and its diaspora through a focus on culture, policy and business.
- How we Eco Dev can help?
  - Building a community of supporters to know what they do
  - Connect artists and authors to them

###### ii. Melanee

1. How does someone rent their space?
2. How does someone be hosted in their space

Response: Phased approach opening the museum, they only have one space even though the building is 70K SF

###### iii. Edwin

1. What is the fee
  - a. Yes there is but discounts for non-profits
2. Space to be rented
  - a. 50 people maximum

###### iv. Marissa

1. Where are the events listed?
  - a. They do not have anything listed
2. Volunteers
  - a. They have a volunteer posting that can be posted by us. Only requirement is that they are older than 18

###### v. Angel

1. What is the capital program about? How much are they looking to fund raise?

- She is not comfortable sharing that information
- Fundraising will be done in phases
- Fundraising will be used to complete the building

- Contact Info

§ [ahairston@theafricacenter.org](mailto:ahairston@theafricacenter.org)

- Follow up:

§ 50 person max capacity space

§ Phased approach - keep in contact with us event by event

#### 5. Old Business

#### 6. New Business

#### 7. Community Notes

- a. Carey East Harlem Merchant Association:

- i. Hearing on Small Business Rent Control
  1. Landscape of small business has been in news because old proposal from 1980s has been reintroduced
  2. Small Business Jobs Survival Act
- ii. Bill is written by Rodriguez
  1. Requires landlord to give 10 year lease
  2. REBNY says bad idea
  3. Community Organizer says bad idea
  4. SBS is against this law
- iii. There is no data on the number of small businesses
  1. CDNA Commercial Needs District Assessment done in 2015
- iv. SBS is not doing much to help small businesses
  1. 250 leases have been negotiated in the thousands of small businesses in the city.
- v. Questions/Comments:
  1. Melanee
    - a. How do we incentivize SBS to support small businesses
    - b. RV came to help businesses become MWBE business
    - c. Eco Dev is going make SBS come to East Harlem and then we prepare the people attending
    - d. Lease Negotiation Support
    - e. RV is the opportunity to converse with SBS
    - f. United Business to come to next meeting
  2. Adem
    - a. There are store owners who are landlords that would be split in this legislation
  3. Jennifer
    - a. SBS is offering
      - i. MWBE registration training
      - ii. Lease Negotiation
    - b. We should see what the business owners want
  4. Mel
    - a. We need to have more feedback from the small businesses
  5. Holley
    - a. Believes problem is that there's not enough money in the area, MWBE doesn't really help those aspects.
  6. Jesse
    - a. Bringing consulting groups in to do pro bono and help assess businesses
  7. Edwin
    - a. Against RV because he wants a satellite office in East Harlem, there's one in West Harlem.
  8. Dawn
    - a. She believes businesses don't realize that they can reach out to elected official.
    - b. She believes city or state can penalize businesses for small things that may take out a business
  9. Holley

- a. LegalAid can provide businesses legal support
- 10. Jennifer
  - a. She's going to organize small businesses and what segments they're in

8. Adjournment

Ms. Farrah adjourned the meeting at 7:50PM.