



COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
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Nilsa Orama
Chair

Angel D. Mescaín
District Manager

Economic Development & Culture Committee

June 11, 2019

Bonifacio Senior Center

7 East 116th Street, New York, NY 10035

*** MINUTES ***

Present: Adem Brija, Carlos Diaz, Melanee Farrah (Chair), Marissa Mack, Edwin Marcial, Dawn Sanders Jenny Tromski, Steven Villanueva, Jesse Yang, Nilsa Orama (ex officio), Angel Mescaín (staff)

Absent: Jose Altamirano, Celia Ramirez, Vincent Torres, Candy Vives-Vasquez, Davon Woodley

Excused: none

Guests: Tab Yerson, STRIVE; Blair Duncan, UMEZ; Terri Daly, Mt. Vernon Hotl Museum; Xavier Santiago, VBII; Ana Fiore, LMCC; Jason Villanueva, CB11; Denilyn Arciaga, CB11

1. Call to Order– Adoption of the Agenda

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:40PM, without quorum.
 - i. Quorum achieved at 7:25PM
 1. Motion by Marissa and seconded by Dawn

2. Announcements

- a. The U.S. Department of Education (Education) Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) will host the New York Small Business Conference Thursday, August 15, 2019. The New York Small Business Conference will feature presentations concerning Education procurement opportunities and Education prime contractor partnering opportunities. August 15, 2019, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007
- b. 2019 CB11 Small Business Fair
 - i. June 25th, 2019 at East Harlem Neighborhood Action Center

3. Informational Updates

- a. Committee Chair
- b. Staff Liaison

4. Presentations & Discussions

- a. Introduction and announcement of micro loan workshop with Grameen American and Union Settlement
 - i. Blair Duncan, UMEZ
 - ii. Outreach event on Tuesday 6/18/19 at 3PM at Union Settlement
 - iii. Microloans Initiative
 - 1. UMEZ is working with Grameen American to launch a micro loan program for entrepreneurs and homemade businesses.
 - a. Grameen is a national micro loan provider
 - b. Focused on women, immigrants, etc
 - 2. Loans start at \$1500, every 6 months need to be repaid - then loans can go up from there.
 - 3. They're partnering with Union Settlement as well
 - 4. Currently 100 borrowers, they are hoping to increase to 1000
 - iv. UMEZ Arts Engagement Program
 - 1. Small grants between 1K-10K that go to unincorporated nonprofits, or individuals/collectives
 - 2. Partnered with Lower Manhattan Cultural Council
 - 3. Anyone applying for grants must attend informational session
 - a. Deadline in September 2019
 - 4. 400K is granted to East Harlem community
 - v. Questions:
 - 1. What happens if the borrower defaults on the loan and what are the interest rates? - Jesse
 - a. They use a group strategy in which there's social reinforcement to pay back the loan. Someone has to pay back their loan before the next person can get the loan
 - b. Microloans are due back in 6 months
 - c. Interest rate is 18% annual, but it's \$45 over 6 months for 1000 loan.
 - 2. How does Grameen have the funding? - Melanee
 - a. Both programs are funded by the UMEZ (upper manhattan empowerment zone), which receives funding from the state and federal government
 - 3. Will someone from UMEZ be at the SBS date? - Melanee
 - a. Yes, they will try to get the loan officer for the community to come out.
 - 4. For the groups of borrowers, are the loans just for women? And is it self-selected or they match women together? - Jenny
 - a. Yes
 - b. Self-selected

- b. Update on efforts by the Committee to Empower Voices for Healing and Equity's efforts to replace the Marion Sims statue formerly located in Central park at 104th Street
 - i. Xavier Santiago, CB11
 - ii. Update
 - 1. Marion Sims statue was removed about a year ago in 2018.
 - 2. Marion Sims is an infamous surgeon for using African American slaves for medical research.
 - 3. They will have panels to have discussions to decide what to go in its place.
 - a. They're looking for about 6 people with an art background and from the community to be part of the panel
 - b. CB10 needs to make sure to have a representative
 - iii. Questions or Thoughts:
 - 1. Harlem School of the Arts that could be a helpful resource - they bring teaching artists in. Jenny would like to connect the Visual Arts director to Xavier. - Jenny
 - 2. Dean of African American Studies Program at City College would also be a helpful resource to inform the process or connect Xavier - Melanee
 - 3. Have you reached out to Art Space and African Center? - Marissa
 - a. Yes, Art Space has plans to do a walkthrough
 - b. Someone else is in charge of speaking to cultural centers like African Center
- c. Presentation regarding the proposed monument to Women's Equality and Suffrage in Central Park
 - i. Jacob Morris, Harlem Historical Society
 - ii. Background
 - 1. "A whitewashed monument to women's suffrage" article
 - 2. Statue of Elizabeth Cady Stanton to be put up at 66th street and Central Park
 - a. This is in another CB district.
 - 3. The funding for the statue comes from Stanton foundation and New York Life Insurance
 - iii. He's seeking a resolution directed to City Council, Borough President, Mayor, and Public Design Commission to prevent this statue from being erected.
 - iv. Questions:
 - 1. Why did he choose CB11 when the statue is not in our district? - Nilsa
 - a. Memory of Marion Sims statue is still fresh and our activism to get that removed can be transferred to his mission here. We have familiarity with the issues.
 - b. He appreciates the members of the board and their voice in the city to oppose any ethical issues.
 - 2. Consideration for community board the statue resides in. It would be interesting to learn about what the rest of the community thinks. - Melanee
 - 3. What date did the Commission approve the statue? - Jenny

- a. March 2019
 - 4. Steven wants to know if there's a procedure in place when we have issues with other Community Boards at our meetings
 - a. No there is no exact procedure, it's situational. But board chair can bring up the issue with the other board chair.
 - v. Action Items
 - 1. Asked Jacob to send us the language of the resolution.
 - 5. Old Business
 - a. Committee discussion regarding CB11's Local Hiring Guidelines
 - i. Possible method is to use a pre-populated commitment letter for developers
 - ii. Strive - employment agency we partnered with to staff projects
 - 1. However, we may not have qualified employees for certain jobs
 - b. SBS Fair Assignments:
 - i. Marissa 3PM
 - ii. Edwin 1PM
 - iii. Melanee All Day
 - iv. Jesse 11AM
 - v. Adem All day
 - vi. Steven 1-3PM
 - vii. Dawn - Will help with flyering throughout the community over the weekend.
 - 6. New Business
 - a. Case against conditional approvals for Eco Dev – Jenny
 - 7. Community Notes
 - 8. Adjournment
- Ms. Farrah adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.