

Russell Squire
Chair

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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

March 18, 2021

Barbara Anderson
Director, Art on the Ave
20 West 86th St
New York, NY 10024

RE: Art on the Ave on the Upper East Side

Dear Director Anderson,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on March 17, 2021, the board unanimously **APPROVED** the following resolution by a vote of 43 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause:

WHEREAS art brings joy, ideas, beauty and other positive impact to communities; and,

WHEREAS Community District 8 has many vacant storefronts along each of its commercial corridors; and,

WHEREAS the number of vacant storefronts has been increasing, with the COVID-19 crisis leading to more vacancies; and,

WHEREAS vacant storefronts are a blight on the streets, leading the sense of community to diminish, and pedestrians to have safety concerns; and,

WHEREAS Community District 8 has local artists, student artists, and artists residing in NYCHA Housing; and,

WHEREAS artists in Community District 8, residents and other pedestrians would benefit from increased public exposure; and,

WHEREAS small businesses and landlords would benefit from art displays in vacant storefronts; and,

WHEREAS artists are small businesses; and,

WHEREAS, in 2019, the NYS Comptroller's study assessed the financial impact of the arts as \$70 billion, demonstrating that the arts are a critical economic engine; and,

WHEREAS thriving small businesses and artists would improve the quality-of-life for those in Community District 8; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8:

1. Supports bringing Art on the Ave to the Upper East Side, and Roosevelt Island including working with local BIDS and Neighborhood Associations;

2. Will facilitate relationships between the BIDS/NAs and Art on the Ave, and other individuals/entities as appropriate and necessary;
3. Shall endeavor to create gallery or other exhibits for local artists, student artists, and NYCHA artists using the Art on the Ave, or another, model.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Russell Squire

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Chair

Alida Camp

Alida Camp
Chair, Arts Committee

Alida Camp and Valerie Mason

Alida Camp and Valerie Mason
Co-Chairs, Small Business Committee

cc: Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Robert J. Rodriguez, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District