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

*January 11, 2022 – 6:30PM  
This meeting was conducted via Zoom*

**Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Vanessa Aronson, Gayle Baron, Alida Camp, Rita Popper, Margaret Price, Yma Rodriguez-Thoma.

**Item 1: Discussion with the CityBridge and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs regarding art on green construction fences.**

Stephen Pierson of ArtBridge spoke at the Arts Committee meeting to speak about the pilot program with the Department of Cultural Affairs and DOB. The Arts Committee is interested in exploring how to work together with ArtBridge

ArtBridge is a not-for-profit that primarily works to beautify construction fencing and amplify artists' voices. The program that permits this type of project has been extended to July 2023.

The construction fence on Third Ave between East 76<sup>th</sup> and East 77<sup>th</sup> Streets is painted by ArtBridge. They put out an open call for art. A panel, including District Manager Will Brightbill, choose two artists. The work will be up for about half of 2022.

They paint directly on the plywood fence or print on a vinyl fabric that adheres to the fence. Artists can paint on or off site and have also produced digital images of their work. There is always a selection process with a panel of judges to evaluate or with the site owner to select.

Stephen showed slides of examples of their work in the City. They are working on 15 NYCHA developments to beautify the area and amplify the works of artists, focusing on how the community wants to view themselves through art.

Stanley Isaacs and Holmes are on ArtBridge's radar, who would include CB8 in developing an exhibit.

Overall, ArtBridge seeks to amplify voices of artists as well as beautifying neighborhoods.

We discussed how to collaborate on exhibits on construction fences.

There was a discussion that first focused on a construction fence around the Manhattan side of the Roosevelt Island tram. There was nothing of the Lori Fischer fund, and a brief discussion about working with Coler in the way that ArtBridge has with NYCHA. A member of the public spoke about art that was to have been done on fences around Coler, but that isn't which may lead to an opportunity.

ArtBridge partners with local organizations. It obtains the permits and helps guide the organizations vision. DOB is a rubber stamp. DCLA wants to be sure the art has relevant to NYC or the particular neighborhood. No words or text are allowed, nor are political or violent art or logos.

Wages: Artists are paid a reasonable wage. Raw costs range from \$10,000-40,000. Anyone who has a site in mind could send Stephen an email to begin the conversation.

Duration: Six to eight months on average. No longer than 12 months or projects are considered permanent and would have to go through the Design Commission. No fewer than four months.

Type of site: Not controversial location or site from community's point of view. An example is a large development heralding displacement in a gentrifying community. Funding and public nature of site are important. It would like a site which would have ample public views.

At this point, only ArtBridge and the Studio Museum in Harlem organization can participate in the pilot program. However, the City Council has passed legislation that would open the program to everyone.

Active construction sites are not an obstacle because ArtBridge has developed ways to make it work.

Who reaches out to owners if a site seems appealing for an exhibition on the fence: ArtBridge is well-connected with the City to expedite permits and approvals? A Board member raised the construction fence on First between 85-86 as needed an art exhibition. ArtBridge has worked with Extell.

Lisa LaChola who runs events at Carl Schurz Park and is the community assistant at Wagner Middle School who is interested in working with young folks. A few Board members raised the possibility of working with school children.

There was a suggestion that developers be asked as part of ULURP to include a working with ArtBridge for an exhibition on the construction fence.

A public member from Roosevelt Island would like to have CB8 involved in an exhibition of the girl puzzle sculptures. It was noted that Roosevelt Island would be a good base for art. A construction fence there may provide an opportunity for work with ArtBridge.

A Board member raised asking Jazz Mobile to come to CB8. Jazz Mobile brings live music. Another Board member suggesting James Cagney Place as a location for Jazz Mobile. Will pointed out that Jazz Mobile gets City funding.

There being no old or new business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45.

*Alida Camp, Chair*