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

*Wednesday, July 26, 2023 – 6:30PM
This meeting was conducted via Zoom*

Board Members Present: Gayle Baron, Alida Camp, Rita Popper, Peggy Price.

Minutes:

1. Debriefing of June Arts Show/ Discussion of future events, including timing and contacts.

First, we debriefed the June Arts Show, noting the more than 70 participating artists.

The issues that arose are children at the art show, the timing of show and acceptance letters, publicity, and the need for more volunteers to set up.

Having children at the show has been controversial. Some Committee members believe the show is for adults; however, we noted that the Board Chair prefers that children participate. Those who do not support children at the arts show believe that we should have another show featuring children. One of the issues is that staying all day is difficult for children. When they leave, the empty space is negative. An art show for children is viewed as a separate endeavor from supporting adult artists.

We suggested that we send out acceptance letters after each deadline for artist submissions.

That the Arts Show occurred during a three-day weekend may have led to a smaller public turnout.

We also noted that we need as much publicity as possible, possibly recruiting artists to publicize the show. We are also interested in reaching out to art schools and professional artists' associations.

The Committee acknowledged that, as a Community Board, we are not judging art on aesthetic grounds. We are looking at pornography, violence, and copyright issues *as reasons for not including an artist's work*.

We need additional space for a February Crafts Show, which was much appreciated by the crafters and the public.

We noted that more volunteers to set up the show beginning at 9:00 would be very helpful, recognizing that Kevin Wu's participation was enormously valuable.

2. Discussion of the Proposed Rule - Artwork on Temporary Protective Structures

The second topic was the proposed amendment to DOB rules mandating art on scaffolding, construction fences, and sidewalk sheds, unless there is an opt-out. City agencies will approve art which may be used without additional approval. Use of other art must be noticed to City Council members and Community Boards. Developers and owners could opt out of posting art. The Chair expressed concern that art not obstruct views onto the sidewalk behind the scaffolding.

Will Brightbill, District Manager, provided additional information about the background of the amendment to the DOB rules. In 2021, the DCLA reapplied rules about such art, which required new legislation and amendments to certain agency rules, including DOB rules. There will be a DOB hearing on August 17 at 12:00.

The art would go on the wood bridge over the sidewalk, or on construction fencing.

The proposed rules are on the Arts Committee page on the website.

The opt-out requires an affirmative step by property owners. The exception to the opt-out is for property owned by the City or for owners receiving capital funding.

We noted the commitment from Memorial Sloan-Kettering, prior to notification of the proposed DOB rules-amendment to use art, possibly from local schools, on their construction fence.

One Committee member raised the question of logistics. If schools were to provide art to the properties, would Community Boards provide materials to the schools, for example? The Chair suggested referring to the proposed DOB rules for methodology. Will explained the DCLA approves the artists and solicits the art. If CB8 wants to ask a specific developer during a land use discussion, we could ask them to use different artists. The CB role is to be advised, but the rules do not specify an advisory role for CBs.

The law will go into effect in September 2023.

The Committee agreed the CB8 should send a letter commending the DOB for, and supporting implementing, the proposed rule, but also contain suggestions for additions to the rule.

In 10 years there may be wear and tear on the same art that is used repeatedly by those businesses that install scaffolding, construction fences, and sidewalk sheds. Will suggested adding language to the letter that artwork be maintained and in good repair, with the DOB having inspection capacity to determine when artwork needs to be replaced. We could also ask that the DCA approve a certain number of artworks per year to ensure that artwork does not become stale. We should also ask that the approvals process be easy to navigate for artists

A committee member suggested posting information for the artists to submit art for approval on the CB8 website.

The Committee will invite someone from the DOB and DCA to our next meeting to discuss logistics and implementation of the rule, including how artists submit, logistics of using alternative art, and the art selection process.

3. Old Business/New Business

The last agenda item was discussion of events. Some Committee members prefer to focus on the June Arts Show.

The Committee also agreed to look for a venue for a February Crafts Show. The 2023 highlighted crafts, and buying for Valentine's Day. We need a venue that is significantly larger than the space used in 2023.

We will look at schools who may be interested in using the space simultaneously to raise funds for the Parents Association.

The Committee agreed to support Roosevelt Island, through RIOCI, in the Arts Festival, scheduled for September. Providing materials for an art walk is one possibility. It was noted that attendance by Roosevelt Island CB8 members at the CB8 Arts Show would be valued.

A Committee member raised the question of whether the Committee also supports performing arts, as well as visual arts and crafts, and the broader question of our mission.

Budget limitations inhibiting the Committee's ability to have other types of events were noted.

A Committee member recognized the need for providing information to artists to participate in other non-CB8 events and to apply for grants and loans. The Committee recognized that there is a need to get notice to artists and the community about the information provided by the Arts Committee. The Committee also recognized the need to promote other arts events in the District.

There was further discussion of appropriate venues for the Arts Shows, and the need to plan with greater detail, including more interactions with the Board office. There was a discussion of St. Catherine's Park, which requires submission of a form for the Parks Department to approve. There may be electrical needs difficult for the Park to meet, as well as lack of restroom facilities. It was noted that Rita's building staff has been extremely helpful in setting up and providing power for performers, tables and chairs were necessary. The Committee acknowledged the significant support the development at James Cagney Place provides for the Arts Shows.

There was further discussion of working with JREC Musical Theatre.

For the Crafts Show, the Committee shall approach churches and public and private schools. The need for accessible space was noted. There was discussion of using two venues for the Crafts Show, with the benefit of two spaces promoting it on their individual email lists. Alternatively, there may be two spaces in one venue, such as at Hunter. Schools, including private schools, have cafeterias or auditoriums, but must be contacted individually. A central location is preferred.

The Committee will create a list for the Board office to contact. A Committee member suggesting enlisting Senator Serrano to help with obtaining a venue.

Will confirmed that we did not get additional discretionary funding from the elected officials.

The Committee recognized the need to reach out to new Board members to encourage them to join the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Alida Camp, Chair