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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Arts Committee
Monday, June 9, 2025 – 6:30 PM
This meeting was conducted via Zoom

Please note: The resolution contained in the committee minutes is a recommendation submitted by the committee chair to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolution is discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

Resolution for Approval:

Item 1: Protecting Federal Arts and Culture Funding

Minutes:

Board Members Present: Gayle Baron, Alida Camp, Sahar Husain, Addeson Lehv, Peggy Price, Robin Seligson, and Chelsey Webber-Brandis*.

*Public Member

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 4

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Item 1: Discussion on restoring funding to arts and cultural organizations, programming, and education.

We began with a discussion on what CB8 could do about the loss of federal funding and maintenance of or increase in state and local funding for arts and cultural organizations. A discussion of state and local funding ensued, but the committee decided to wait until the fall or until January 2026, before New York State has budget considerations. This potential future meeting would focus on the issue of funding of arts and cultural organizations at the state and local level, and the committee would like to have state elected officials attend the meeting. The Arts Committee recognized that the arts are a significant driver for the state economy, and that the loss of federal funding could impact art organizations not just at the federal level but also at the local level.

One member of the public raised that the current administration in the federal government is interested in eliminating the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the NEA's budget of approximately \$275 million, which funds both large and small artists. It was recognized that the support of the arts maintains the country's status as a pre-eminent arts creator and destination.

The following resolution was passed unanimously:

WHEREAS arts and cultural organizations are a driver of New York State and the City's economies and;

WHEREAS arts funding will enable the country to maintain its pre-eminent status as an arts creator and destination and;

WHEREAS access to the arts increases civic and community engagement and;

WHEREAS access to the arts contributes to mental health and;

WHEREAS arts and culture contribute to the quality of life and;

WHEREAS arts and cultural organizations attract residents and visitors to New York City and;

WHEREAS the NEA funds large and small arts organizations, and provided grants in 2024 of up to \$100,000 to at least 266 arts organizations in New York City and;

WHEREAS the NEA, established by Congress in 1965, has played a critical role in supporting and promoting access to the arts across the country and;

WHEREAS the NEA funds a wide variety of cultural programming, arts education, community development initiatives, and job creation efforts across the country, leading to the country's globally unmatched arts and cultural vitality and;

WHEREAS eliminating the NEA from the federal budget would result in the loss of essential funding for arts organizations, educational programs, veterans' arts therapy, and countless local initiatives that enrich civic life and community well-being and;

WHEREAS the Institute for Museums and Library Sciences (IMLS) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) also provide grants to cultural organizations and;

WHEREAS federal funding has been cut from a vast variety of arts and cultural organizations, including theatres, botanical gardens, musical conservatories, dance entities, music and film festivals, and literary magazines;

BE IT RESOLVED that CB8 urge our representatives in Congress to reinstate any and all funding cuts by the Federal Government to arts and cultural institutions including, but not limited to, performance venues, museums, visual and performing artists and entities, and arts education, and to reinstate funding to the NEA, NEH, and IMLS, and oppose any future defunding of the NEA, NEH, and IMLS.

Approved: 7-0-0

For: Gayle Baron, Alida Camp, Sahar Husain, Addeson Lehv, Peggy Price, Robin Seligson, and Chelsey Webber-Brandis*

Item 2: Debrief of arts show.

The survey sent to the artists reflected wide satisfaction with the show, as shown in the complete version of this Spring 2025 Survey Report, which is attached below the minutes. We are primarily keeping everything as it was in the last show, with the following potential changes: more signage to send artists from Third Avenue to Second to check-in, a letter inviting artists who have been accepted and confirmed for the June 2025 show to exhibit without having to submit their art again, emphasizing interactive children's art activities in the kidz' korner, and highlighting certain portions of the confirmation letter.

The Committee reaffirmed interest in a stand-up banner to draw further attention to the arts show from the public in the area. More publicity would be beneficial, particularly through social media promotion by artists. A member of the public stated that his wife, who exhibited at the show, had not been sure she could sell at the show and asked for more ways for children to be involved in the show.

One member of the Committee suggested reaching out to additional artists' organizations to get more visual artists in the show. It was also suggested that the middle row start at the end of the Citi Bike stand, but it is important to point out that the middle row needs to have space for walking across the row every few tables. We decided to have one deadline, in an effort to have a sufficient number of artists to fill the spaces at future Art Shows without having too many to exceed the available spaces at the show. The committee also decided to have the Tuesday after Labor Day as the deadline for art submissions, with the expectation that this deadline would be helpful for the board office.

A member of the public suggested getting sponsors, such as craft studios, who would bring interactive art materials. We raised the idea of having a day devoted to interactive art rather than having it at the Arts Show, with the understanding that the Arts Show was created to support artists.

The importance of the arts for the community was reaffirmed, with the committee targeting its efforts on getting more artists to submit for exhibition at future shows. More outreach to schools and other arts organizations might be able to attract more visual artists. With the possibility that contacts at the schools and arts organizations could help in sending our flyers to their students, faculty, or members.

Artist submissions will be due the Tuesday after Labor Day, and artists who have been in the Spring 2025 Art Show will receive an invitation in mid-July with a deadline three weeks later to reconfirm their interest in being in the art show and acceptance of the CB8 terms as contained in the acceptance letter. The reconfirmed Spring 2025 artist will not be required to resubmit their art for the next show.

We had a good variety of music at the show, and we plan to extend invitations to JREC Talent Unlimited students and the other musicians to perform again. We're looking for other musicians as well, as music adds an additional dimension to the arts show.

More board volunteers in the beginning, and board members coming to the show, would be greatly appreciated.

We intend to keep the same flyer format and colors.

A special thank you to the photographers, Peggy Price and Fahad Hussain, was noted.

Item 3: Old Business

No items of old business were discussed.

Item 4: New Business

No items of new business were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Alida Camp, Chair

Report: June 2025 Art Show Survey

Prepared by Jon Kraus

Out of 112 artists who participated in the Art Show, 63 artists responded to the survey as of June 16th.

1. How would you rate your overall experience at the June 2025 Art Show?

Out of **63** respondents:

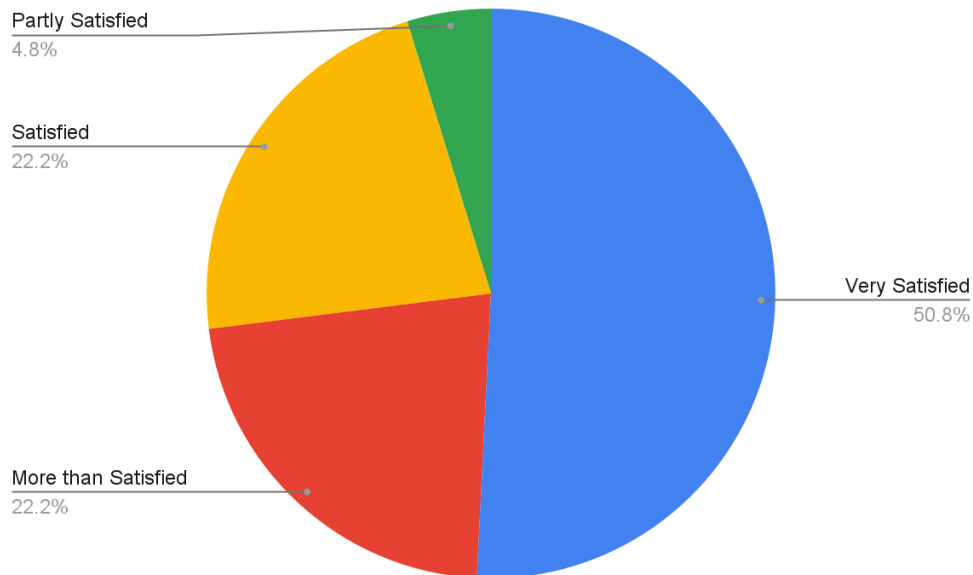
32 respondents selected “*Very Satisfied*,”

14 respondents selected “*More than Satisfied*,”

14 respondents selected “*Satisfied*,”

3 respondent selected “*Partly Satisfied*,”

0 respondents selected “*Not at all Satisfied*.”



2. How did you hear about the June 2025 Community Board 8 Manhattan Art Show?

Out of **63** respondents:

19 respondents heard about the show through direct **CB8M correspondence** (including the open submissions **email** to previously attending artists).

19 respondents heard about the show through **word of mouth (friends, neighbors)**.

7 respondents who heard about the show from the **LinkNYC Kiosks stations**.

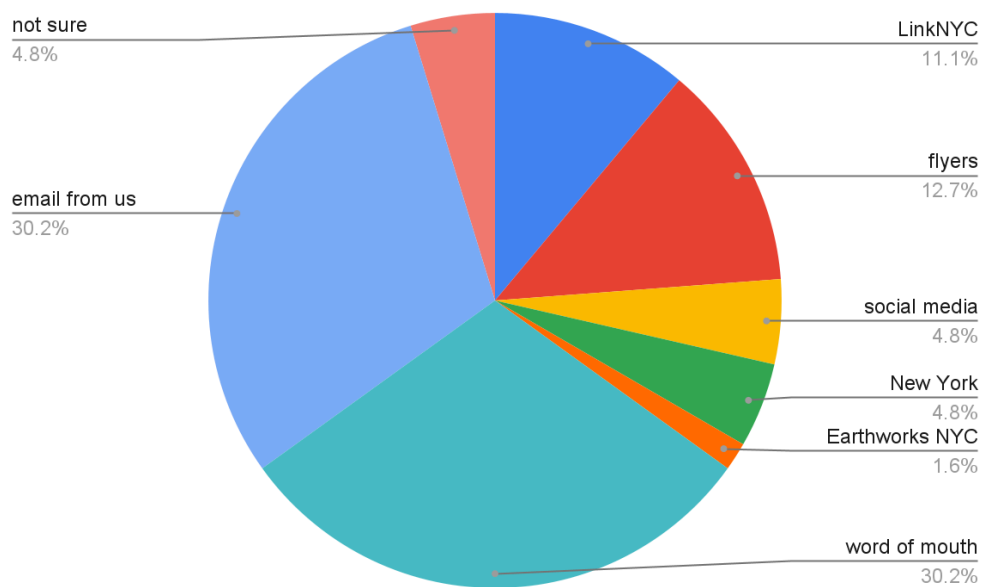
8 respondents heard about the show through **physical flyering** around the neighborhood.

3 respondents heard about the show through **social media** (Specifically Instagram).

3 respondents heard about the show through the **New York Handmade Collective (Arts based collective)**.

1 respondent heard about the show through the **Earthworks NYC (Arts related non-profit)**.

3 respondents weren't sure how they heard about the art show.



3. Have you participated in a previous CB8M Art Show or Crafts Fair?

Out of **63** respondents:

32 respondents said "Yes."

31 respondents said "No."

4. Would you prefer the rain date to be in the same week (Sunday) or the week after the selected date of the event (next Saturday)?

Out of **63** respondents:

52 respondents said "Same week (Sunday)"

11 respondents said "Week after (next Saturday)"

5. How would you rate your interactions with the Community Board 8 Manhattan staff during the submission and confirmation process prior to the show?

Out of **63** respondents:

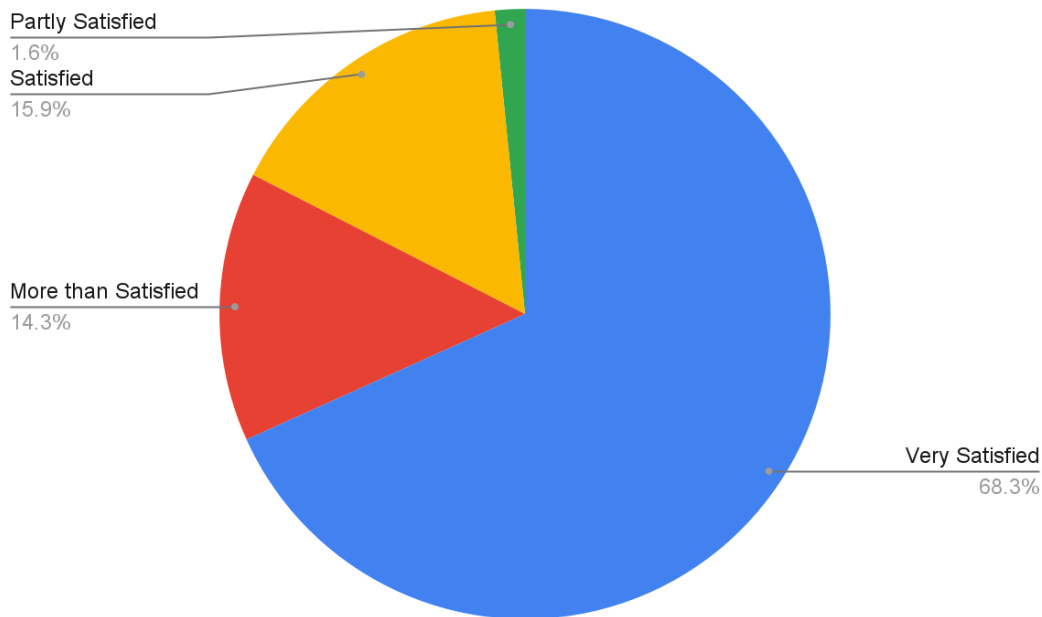
43 respondents selected "*Very Satisfied*,"

9 respondents selected "*More than Satisfied*,"

10 respondents selected "*Satisfied*,"

1 respondent selected "*Partly Satisfied*."

0 respondents selected "*Not at all Satisfied*."



6. What could the Community Board 8 Manhattan staff have improved on during the submissions and confirmation process prior to the show?

Out of the **40** respondents:

20 respondents had nothing to **add and were satisfied with the process.**

10 respondents stated that **communication toward artists could be improved.** Specifically, the time between the submission of the application and the actual acceptance was a long period without communication as well as the acceptance letter being sent very close to the day of the show. They would have liked to receive an acceptance letter earlier to have more time to prepare their artwork and promote the show.

2 respondents suggested **receiving pre-designated spaces for artists.**

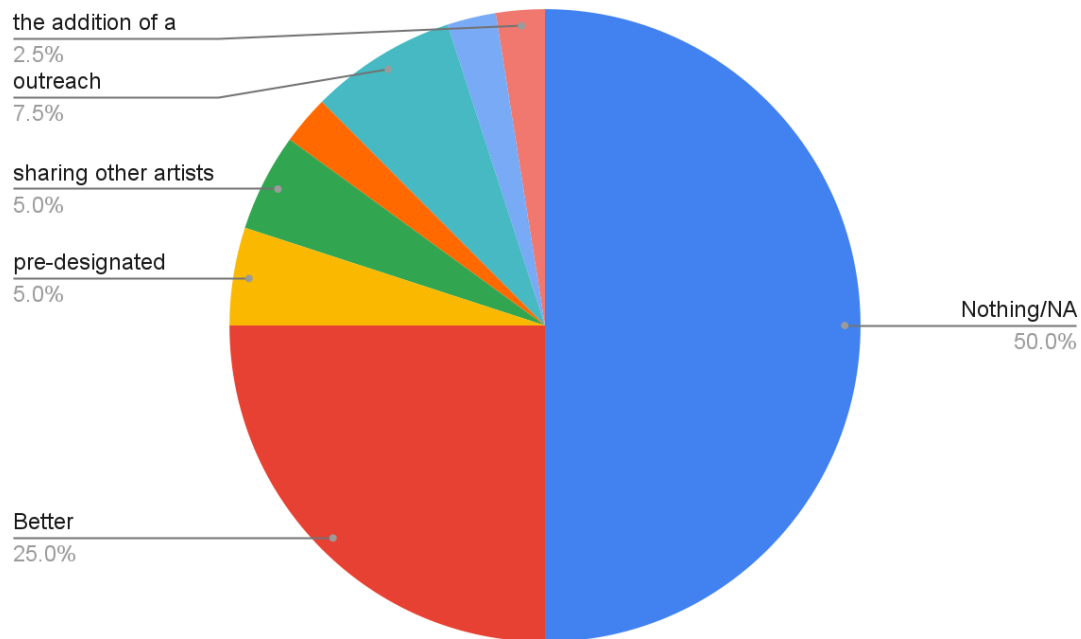
2 respondents suggested **we share other artists and their artwork as examples.**

1 respondent suggested having **a newsletter featuring artists.**

3 respondents suggested **outreach was lacking and asked us to use more promotional materials.**

1 respondent brought up **not seeing or interacting with community board members** during the art show.

1 respondent suggested **the addition of bathrooms/portable toilets.**



7. How would you rate your interactions with the Community Board 8 Manhattan staff, Arts Committee, and volunteers during the day of the show?

Out of **63** respondents:

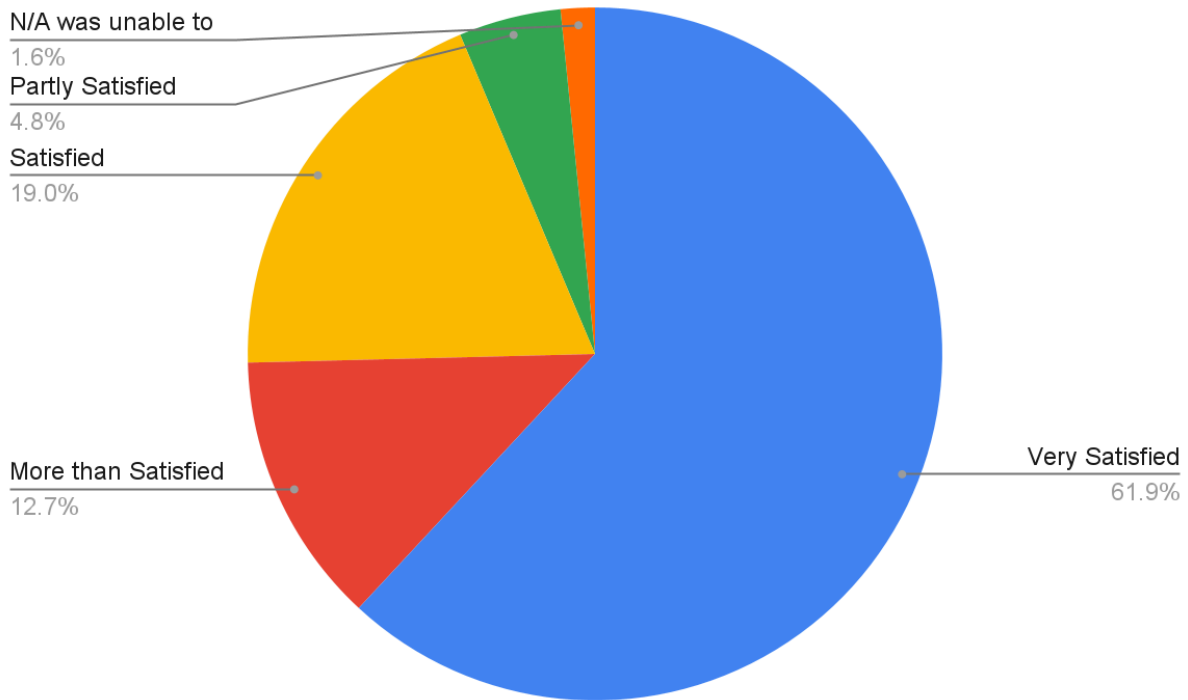
39 respondents selected "*Very Satisfied*,"

8 respondents selected "*More than Satisfied*,"

12 respondents selected "*Satisfied*,"

3 respondents selected "*Partly Satisfied*."

1 respondent selected "*N/A was unable to attend the show.*"



8. If you said N/A above, why were you unable to participate in this year's show?

Out of **2** respondents:

1 respondent said they found out too late to be included in the show.

1 respondent said they were unable to attend because of business travel.

9. What could the Community Board 8 Manhattan staff, Arts Committee, and volunteers have improved on during the day of the show? (Consider: arrival and wait times, set-up period, table/chair availability, position of the booths, amount of foot traffic, quality of the catering, ability to access staff/Committee member/volunteers, clean-up period.)

Out of the **46** who responded:

14 respondents did not have anything to add for improvement and were satisfied with everything.

11 respondents mentioned the **outlined spots and space, and the sign-in process** could have been better.

- 1 respondent mentioned wanting to have assigned spaces at the show.

- 2 respondents mentioned that the allotted spaces were too narrow and would have liked to receive more space such as 10" spaces.
- 1 respondent said they would like to have enclosed spaces at the event.
- 2 respondents mentioned that the waiting time to sign in was too long.
- 1 respondent mentioned it being impractical on how artists were asked to move their tables/display together.
- 1 respondent said the artist should have been moved away from the musician performance space.
- 1 respondent said artists should have better ways to help load and load cars near the location of the event.

2 respondents mentioned the **visibility of and communication with the Board members** could have been better.

- 1 respondent said we should be putting up big signs about the show on 2nd & 3rd Ave (There were posters boards and a CB8 banner put up at East 91st Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenue, and the nearby area).
- 1 respondent mentioned to wear something (a special hat, a badge, etc.) that could easily be seen to know who was on the staff.

3 respondents said that there could be a **better effort to advertise the show**.

- 1 respondent mentioned that most visitors found out about the show as they walked past it and did not know about it beforehand. Therefore, they did not come with the desire to buy artwork.

6 respondents suggested **materials for setup, chairs/tables should be provided or a delivery rental to deliver tables and chairs** paid for by the exhibitor.

1 respondent mentioned they were affected by dog poop at the event and that bringing cleaning materials to the event would help.

4 respondents mentioned that it would be nice to get free food from a vendor, like previous shows (Chick-fil-A usually gives out donated food, but the event had to be moved to a Sunday. So they became unable to donate food).

3 respondents mentioned the need for portable toilets, even though there was already bathroom access for participants.

1 respondent felt the quality of art included varied widely.

1 respondent mentioned high winds at the event, but admitted that such conditions are out of our control.

10. Would you be interested in attending a future Art Show or Crafts Fair organized by the Arts Committee as a participating artist/crafter?

Out of **63** respondents:

63 respondents said "Yes."

0 respondents said "No."

11. If not, please explain why.

Out of **2** who responded Yes:

1 respondent said yes, but with the change suggested (Send confirmation of participation earlier if possible, provide an on site toilet facility and optional lunch box for exhibitors who are unable to leave their stand and have a separate Arts Show and Crafts Show).

1 respondent said yes, but they might change the artwork they bring.

12. Please write down any further comments you may have for the Community Board 8 Manhattan staff and Arts Committee in terms of putting together this show or future shows.

Out of the **38** who responded:

22 respondents said it was a great show and would love to join the next upcoming show.

2 respondents mentioned that the September 2024 art show had a higher public attendance than the June 2025 art show and the indoor craft show.

- 2 respondents felt like the show had less foot traffic than the previous show.

2 respondents mentioned **the need for space between the artist tables.**

- 1 respondent was particularly concerned about the layout of the space between artists and the potential of a middle row being used at the art show.

1 respondent mentioned **wanting to be a part of the arts committee** (the office staff has already touched base with this person).

1 respondent mentioned **people they talk to demonstrated an interest in the September art show.**

2 respondents had **suggestions for improved promotion and advertisement of the event.**

- 1 respondent suggested giving flyers out to local restaurants, banks and nearby businesses.

- 1 respondent suggested having more advertising done as neighbors weren't aware of what was happening.

1 respondent suggested **having two separate shows, one being an Art Show and the other being a Crafts Show.**

1 respondent suggested **having two days designated for the art show instead of just one.**

1 respondent suggested **making participation in the art show as frictionless as possible.**

1 respondent suggested **more communication during the artist application process.**

1 respondent suggested **having two rain dates.**

1 respondent suggested **staff using identifiers or buttons at the event.**

1 respondent suggested **a way for fellow artists from the show to communicate with one another.**

1 respondent suggested **portable toilets at the event.**
