



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457

Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

Honorable Oswald Feliz, New York City Council Member, 15th District

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MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. RAFAEL MOURE-PUNNETT
District Manager

March 14, 2024

Dr. Sarah Sayeed
Chair & Executive Director
NYC Civic Engagement Commission

Bronx Community Board 6 would like to raise a concern regarding the Tremont and Belmont TRIE project for FY24. Our Board has been involved in the People’s Money over the course of the last two years, conducting idea generating sessions and collecting votes. The winning project was announced as a “Neighborhood Cleanup in Tremont”, with “a team of youth and adults ... spotting, reporting and addressing debris, refuse... in the Tremont neighborhood”. Community Board 6 participated in stakeholder meetings where nonprofit organizations were discussed that could potentially take on the funding. The coordinating agency for our neighborhood, the Neighborhood Initiative Development Corp (NIDC) announced to the group that the Davidson Community Center was selected, but we were not informed that the scope of the project was changing. The Davidson Community Center is a nonprofit based in the University Heights neighborhood and was not one of the groups suggested by the Tremont / Belmont Taskforce on Racial Inclusion and Equity stakeholders.

Community Board 6 has since come to learn that the Davidson Community Center was allocated \$50,000 in TRIE money to paint a mural on East Tremont Avenue in the neighborhood of Mount Hope. No local residents identified this neighborhood as “Tremont” in a NY Times [survey of local residents](#). The Davidson Community Center’s implementation plan specifically describes engaging Community Board 5, which does not encompass the neighborhood of Tremont.

The Board is concerned that the project being implemented is not in the TRIE neighborhood where ideas were collected, idea generation sessions were held, or votes collected. The project is also not at all the same project voters selected – voters did not want a mural. At no point was this project defined by zip code to stakeholders or voters. **We are extremely disappointed with the Civic Engagement Commission’s decision to take this project away from our neighborhood. This decision is blatant disrespect to the community members and stakeholders of Tremont and Belmont who have participated in the People’s Money.**

We have been informed that the CEC intends to allocate \$30,000 towards this project in FY25, as \$20,000 was already spent by the Davidson Community Center. The Board asks that this project be fully funded as voters intended – with a \$50,000 allocation. The residents of Tremont should not get the short end of a stick if the CEC allocated funds to a group unable to implement the project as voted on. The Board is happy to help identify eligible nonprofits that operate in East Tremont to implement the Tremont Clean Up.

Regards,



Evonne Capers
Chair
Bronx Community Board 6

CC:

Angel Caballero - Executive Director, Davidson Community Center
Office of Management and Budget

Greer Mayhew - Bronx Borough Director, Office of NYC Comptroller

NYC Council Member Oswald Feliz

TRIE Stakeholders