



THE CITY OF NEW YORK BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6

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

Telephone: (718) 579-6990 Email: bx06@cb.nyc.gov Website: nyc.gov/bxcb6

Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

Honorable Oswald Feliz, New York City Council Member

EVONNE CAPERS

Board Chairperson

RAFAEL MOURE-PUNETT

District Manager

Youth and Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Laura James, Youth and Education Committee Chairperson

The Youth and Education Committee met on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 both in-person at the district office and via Zoom Video Communications. The following Board Members attended the Youth and Education Committee meeting: Nicole Carter (virtual), Fousani Hamidou, Shantavia Inabinet, Gail Irby, Laura James (virtual), Jonathan Jimenez, Magdamary Marcano, Reggie Powell, Carol Robinson, and Gladys Sotomayor.

Virtual attendance without notice (Absent): Brigette Brantley

The Youth and Education Committee discussed the following information:

- **Presentation by the Bronx River Art Center on a Funding Proposal**

The Bronx River Art Center (BRAC), a non-profit organization established in 1987, provides art and environmental programs for youth and families within the Bronx. They offer a variety of seasonal visual arts classes and free after-school programs, including MSCreate for grades 6-8 and Teen Project Studio for grades 9-12.

BRAC informed the Youth and Education Committee that they are seeking financial support from Bronx Community Board 6 to enhance local youth access to our programs. Last year, the Board's offer of \$2,700 for scholarships, while deeply appreciated, resulted in lower-than-anticipated participation. This was primarily due to the introduction of free programs like MSCreate, administrative hurdles for scholarship applicants, and the availability of TRIE discounts for eligible Bronx residents. Therefore, BRAC proposes several alternative funding models for your consideration, including a streamlined scholarship approach, funding slots in our free after-school programs, or a hybrid of both. Community support is crucial for covering program costs, ensuring equitable access, and enabling the expansion of our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) and performing arts initiatives.

In addition to financial assistance, BRAC would also appreciate other opportunities for engagement with Bronx Community Board 6, such as their attendance at student orientations and art shows, the collaborative planning of community workshops, and assistance in establishing timelines for data collection and reporting. Their objective is to partner with us to broaden arts access and engagement for Bronx youth, fostering their skill development, confidence, and creativity. The Youth and Education Committee has recommended that BRAC submit a one-page funding proposal detailing a specific dollar amount, which will be reviewed at the upcoming Youth and Education Committee meeting.

- **Discussion on the 4th Annual Toy Giveaway and Holiday Party Event**

Committee Chairperson Laura James announced that the 4th Annual Toy Giveaway and Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at the Bronx River Art Center, located at 1087 East Tremont Avenue. Committee Chairperson Laura James will provide a one-page outline at our next meeting. This outline will include event details, a cost breakdown, and outreach plans. The Youth and Education Committee is also pleased to share that Board Member Brigitte Brantley has committed to donating toys for this event.

- **Review of the Bronx Community Board 6's Preliminary Community District Needs for Fiscal Year 2025**

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett briefly reviewed the Preliminary Community District Needs for Fiscal Year 2025 for Bronx Community Board 6. He asks Board Members to review the document at their leisure and to submit comments before the end of the month. The Youth and Education Committee has strongly emphasized the importance of allocating capital budget funds to maintain the BRAC facility. Additionally, the committee expressed significant concern regarding the New York City Department of Education's (DOE) provision of services for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Historically, the DOE has struggled to meet the needs of these students, with only one-third of IEP students receiving their mandated services.



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District Manager

Housing and Land-Use and Youth and Education Committee

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Housing and Land-Use Committee		
Board Members	Signature	Virtual Attendance
Frank Franz		☐
Laura James		☐
Jonathan Jimenez		☐
Magdamary Marciano		☐
Reggie Powell		☐
Carol Robinson		☐
Gladys Sotomayor		☐
Porscha Wilson		☐
Annette Wright		☐
Youth and Education Committee		
Board Members	Signature	Virtual Attendance
Brigette Brantley		☐
Cornell Brown		☐
Fousani Hamidou		☐
Gail Irby		☐
Laura James		☐
Nicole N'diaye		☐
Carol Robinson		☐
Hoshi Salcedo		☐
Gladys Sotomayor		☐
Shantoria Inabinet		☐
		☐
		☐
		☐