

(Pending Committee Approval)

**Revised Minutes of the Special Committee on Racial Equity Meeting
Bronx Community Board 8
November 7, 2024**

[Meeting Recording](#)

Attendees:

Committee: Margaret Della (chair), Bob Bender, Kelli Buford, Sebastian Chittilappilly, Caesar Tobar-Acosta

Absent: Adiana Rivera

The Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE) meeting began at 7:02 pm and the Chair welcomed the community to the meeting, and recognized new and recurring committee members. A quorum was present and the April 2024 minutes were unanimously approved.

The Committee discussed the following areas:

- Reviewed SCRE [webpage](#) and resources. Took in-depth review of Resource Guide on Combating Hate:
 - Check NYC Veterans link in guide, add NYC nonprofit on hate
 - Create Google Translate link
 - Create Flyer with QR code to post in community
- Acknowledged New York State (NYS) Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) passed
- Discussed people desensitized to word 'hate' and need to think before speak
- Discussed continuing to keep 'hate' as a recommended Standing Committee topic.
 - Discussed the CB8 Budget process
 - Elevate equity to be the top vetting tool for budget requests
 - Elevate past SCRE speakers and post YouTube links to SCRE page
- Joint meeting with HHSS Committee on science of digital detox and 'burning' hate via exercise, nature, and other data-backed self-care
- Explored retitling SCRE
- What is our **vision** for the future we want to see
 - What does the community really want
 - Build community over chaos

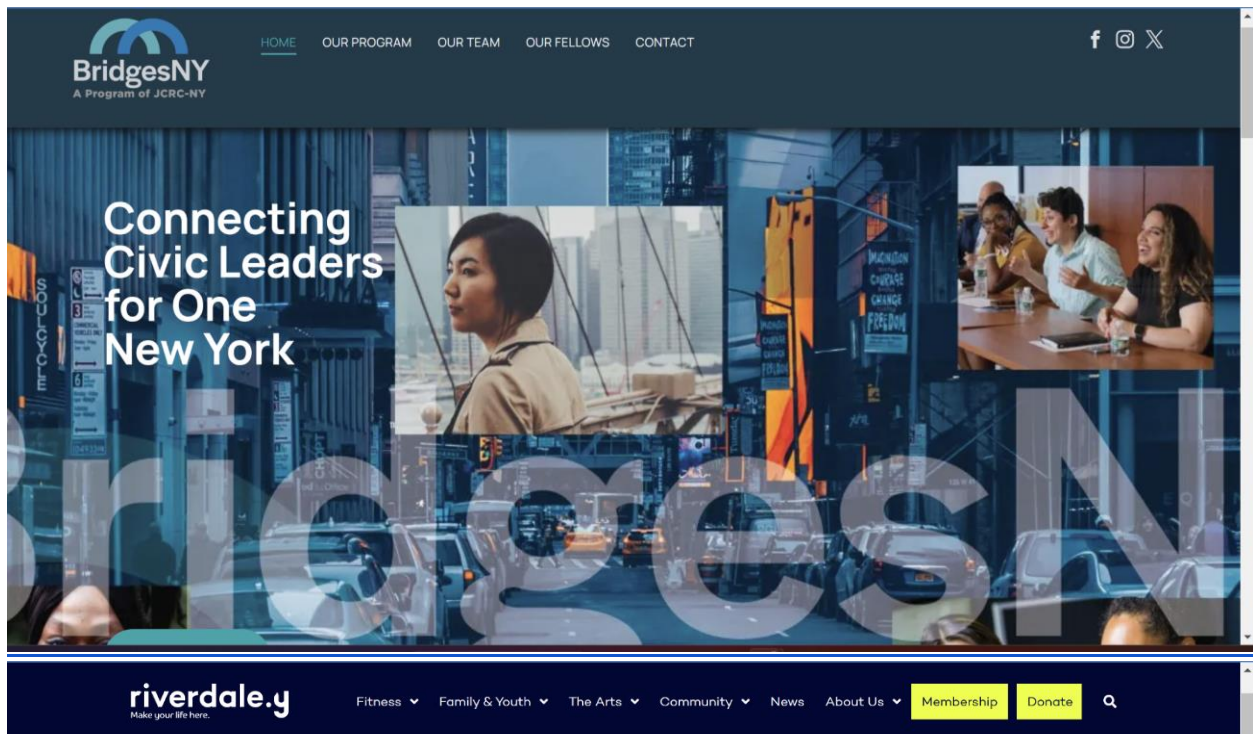
The Committee agreed upon the following next steps:

- Caesar agreed to follow up on youth-led conversation with Youth Committee Chair
- Explore technical requirement of renaming special committee with further input from Law Rules and Ethics Chair
- Spring speakers: NYS ERA ballot initiative, line between free speech and hate, rescheduling September 2024 speakers, intergenerational bridge building
- Promote [The Bridges-NY Fellowship](#) connects, develops and empowers the next generation of civic leaders in NYC. **Application due Monday, November 25.**

- Promote [We Are The Bronx Fellowship Against Hate. Applications are due by Friday, November 29,](#) for potential fellows who share our commitment to combating hate in our borough and city.
- Explore Spring convening, breaking bread-youth, create art, BBQ, open dialogue, table event, parasocial relationships, third spaces
- Find updated data on EEOC/discrimination

Next Meeting in January, March, April. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Minutes submitted by Margaret Della.



We Are The Bronx Fellowship Against Hate

We Are The Bronx Fellowship Against Hate (WATBFAH) is an integral part of our response to the challenge of rising hate in our respective neighborhoods, borough and city. This initiative is being launched by Riverdale Y, in partnership with JCRC of New York, the Mayor's Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes as part of the Partners Against the Hate (PATH-Forward) initiative as well as The Bronx Community Foundation and Council Member Eric Dinowitz's office.

We welcome applicants who serve in mid to senior level roles from any Bronx based nonprofit, faith-based, or government organizations that serve as messengers and partners within their respective communities to combat and respond to bias-motivated violence.

Sessions will feature speakers, workshops, and site visits, and will be supplemented by an overnight trip to Philadelphia and Washington DC, museum visits, and additional bonding and learning opportunities. In order to truly understand and gain appreciation for the diversity of the Bronx, each session will be held in a different neighborhood – all locations will be easily accessible by public transit.

Fellows will be given the opportunity to use seed grant funding to create programming designed to bring communities, including their own organizations, together in meaningful ways.

If you have any questions about the fellowship, please contact Scott Kalmikoff, Director of Community Engagement at skalmikoff@riverdaley.org / 347-913-4432.