

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX

**MINUTES OF THE LIBRARIES & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON MAY 4, 2009
AT THE BRONX LIBRARY CENTER**

Present

Robert G. Abbott
Maria Khury
Bridget Maybury
Thomas Durham
Michael Alvarez

Affiliation

Committee Chairman, CB#8
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NYPL, Network Manager

Old Business – Discussed the issues raised at the joint meeting with the Economic Development committee regarding the role of the arts in revitalizing areas of the community. Preliminary contact with landlords of vacant store fronts, particularly on Riverdale Avenue, will be necessary before exploratory meeting with local arts association to have studio space in the stores. Economic Development Committee will continue to explore this idea.

Guest Speaker – Mr. Michael Alvarez, Network Manager for the NYPL, provided an overview of activities at the local branches including progress update on Kingsbridge construction and the successful toddler program at Spuyten Duyvil. We reviewed and confirmed the capital and expense budget priorities for 2011 and we were encouraged to write letters to the Mayor and members of the City Council to restore library funding and ensure the future of 6-day service.

Following our discussion and tentative plans for future meetings, Mr. Alvarez conducted a tour of the Bronx Library Center. It is an impressive facility that is actively used by the local community and by many visitors.

Community Service Awards (CSA) – Following the tour of the library, the Board Members reconvened as the committee to review nominations for the CSA. All of the nominees deserve to be recognized but the committee concluded that the work of Susan Di Raimo with the homeless, and the tutoring efforts at the Riverdale Neighborhood House and the Riverdale Community Center were particularly significant. These three will be issued awards at the May general meeting.

Robert G. Abbott, Chairman
Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee

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