

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee**
Held at the Board office on October 11, 2012

Present

Robert G. Abbott
Sylvia Alexander
Nils Graham
Lamont Parker
Bill Stone

Affiliation

CB#8, Committee Chair
CB#8, Chair of Education Committee
CB#8
CB#8
CB#8

Minutes of the Prior Meeting: In reference to the disruptive behavior of some teenagers at a local branch library, Bill Stone relayed a positive update from a patron of that branch complimenting the branch manager for quickly controlling a similar disturbance just a few days after our last meeting.

NYPL and the DOE: The effort to integrate school library catalogs and the NYPL catalog is called the MyLibraryNYC project. No schools in the district were involved in the pilot project, but the objective is to have all schools participating in this partnership by the end of 2014. Ms. Alexander expressed our common interest in offering NYPL the good office of Community Board 8 to be supportive in this project in any way possible. Further discussion with Jane Fisher (NYPL Network Manager) will be pursued by this committee and the Education Committee.

NYPL 2013 Budget: The mayor has called for significant cuts in the current NYPL budget to offset the loss of revenue anticipated from selling taxi medallions (now on hold). The impact on the branch libraries has not been detailed. The chair has requested an update from NYPL as to the formal response given to the city as to how the budget cuts would be implemented.

Kingsbridge Branch Update: After more than a full year of operation, it appears that the community really uses their new branch library. When NYPL compares their fiscal year 2011 and fiscal year 2012 statistics, they show that:

- the number of visitors to the branch increased by 79.80%,
- the circulation (i.e., borrowing of books and other materials) increased by 75.65%, and
- the number of programs/classes offered increased by 79.8%, and
- attendance at those programs increased by 90.37%.

Cultural Affairs: The chair provided an overview of the role of the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and the Bronx Council on the Arts in granting funds to local institutions and groups. In recent experience, the recipients of City or State grant money have not engaged the community board in the application process.

From the website of the Department of Cultural Affairs, the following institutions or organizations in our district are listed:

- Bronx Arts Ensemble – multi-discipline, performing arts
- Kingsbridge Heights Community Center – multi-discipline, non-performing
- Riverdale Community Center – theatre
- YM-YWHA of the Bronx – theatre
- Sinfonetta of Riverdale – music
- Wave Hill – botanical
- Riverdale Chorale Society – music

From the website of the Bronx Council on the Arts, the following are listed:

- Mozartean Players – a chamber ensemble
- The Uptown Coffeehouse – venue for folk & acoustic music
- Van Cortlandt House Museum
- Riverdale Teen Theatre – at the Riverdale Community Center
- Derfner Judaica Museum – at the Hebrew Home
- Riverdale Repertory Company – at the Riverdale YM-YWHA

The committee agreed to further explore an appropriate role of the Community Board in assisting cultural institutions and organizations in the district with respect to public funds.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Robert G. Abbott, Chair
Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee