

**Create Bed-Stuy
Weeksville Heritage Center
March 16, 2017**

ATTENDEES

Andrea J. Fulton	(718) 812-4252	OneRightAnswer@gmail.com
Michael Howard	(718) 498-2150	MHoward216@gmail.com
Herb Bennett	(718) 398-8052	Ben3nett@optimum.net
Wema Harris	(917) 981-4161	wemaharris@gmail.com
DeeArah Wright	(718) 344-7075	deearahw@gmail.com
Tia Powell Harris	(301) 452-2844	tia@weeksvillesociety.org
Tai Allen	(718) 508-2680	tai@artscraftsinc.com
Glory Edim	(202) 664-2440	Glory.edim@gmail.com
Carolyn Jenkins	(347) 715-6053	wildflower@gmail.com
Clarence Robinson	(347) 893-8329	Kamit4ever@gmail.com
Stevenson Dunn Jr.	(347) 822-9535	Stevenson@bishoponbedford.com
Kendra Ross, Facilitator		
Claudie Mabry, Note taker		

My Idea (big or small!) for arts and culture in NYC is...

A cultural economic agenda to develop all creative skills, art forms etc. with a business and professional strategy for the economic visibility of all cultural an artistic expressions and opportunities in all communities – Herb Bennett, 11218

If you were in charge of the budget for arts and culture in NYC, what’s the one thing you would fund?

Schomberg Center, the Billy Holiday Theatre, Weeksville Heritage Society, BRIC Arts Media – Clarence Robinson, 11218

INTRODUCTIONS

- I am a Brooklynite
- I am jazz
- I am a fundraiser
- I am an artist
- I am an architect
- I am a mom
- I am a wife
- I am a dancer
- I am a writer

- I am an educator
- I am wherever I need to be in the space I need to be in
- I am a parent
- I am an adult
- I am a literary advocate
- I am a transient
- I am an arts administrator
- I am a playwright

WHAT ARE THE TREASURES OF BED-STUY?

- Weeksville Heritage Society and the preservation of Bed-Stuy history
- Boys and Girls High School – the pride and joy of Bed-Stuy
- The first CDC in the United States is in Bed-Stuy
- The legacy of the Underground Railroad in Bed-Stuy
- The various Churches
- The artists in the community
- Arts as economy
- The cultural assets
- The people
- Fulton Arts Fair
- The various parks
- All the varieties of communities that come in for Bed-Stuy cultural events
- Legacy homes – black owned homes
- Largest moderate to middle income home ownerships of black people in the country
- Politicians – great Assembly Members
- Black owned businesses
- Small businesses
- Restaurants
- Food
- Schools, colleges and universities
- Clothing, shelter, food (protections)
- The “Bed-Stuy Aesthetic”
- Fashion and style
- Do-or-Die Bed-Stuy
- The vernacular of Bed-Stuy (before Biggie Smalls)
- Resiliency
- Black brilliance
- Kid Flix
- Block parties
- Pink Cadillacs on Utica Avenue
- Black militancy
- Foot soldiers
- Sports – especially Basketball
- Activists and activism

- Sistah's Place
- African Street Festival
- Community services
- The Vanguard
- Stuyvesant Heights
- Dwana Smallwood Gallery
- Tompkins Avenue
- Community of 'firsts'
- Jackie Robinson
- Police Athletic League
- Central Brooklyn Jazz Consortium
- Libraries
- Diversity – even within the black community
- Global food
- Hunter Fly Houses
- Community-led education
- Education
- Community demands within the system
- Decentralization – community-run schools
- Galleries
- Skylight Gallery
- The Bishops Gallery
- Billy Holiday Theatre
- Lena Horne's home
- Josephine English's home
- Brooklyn Children's Museum
- Noel Pointer Foundation
- Assada Ya
- Restoration
- Bed-Stuy Alive
- Community gardens
- Ford Madison
- Bed-Stuy Campaign Against Hunger
- City Harvest
- La Cima
- STooPS
- The Beer and Wine Festival
- Soul of Brooklyn
- Afropunk was created in Bed-Stuy
- Von King (Tompkins) Park
- Nubian Conservatory of Music
- Bed-Stuy and Crown Heights working together

WHAT IS NEEDED TO AMPLIFY THESE PLACES?

- Resources
- Money
- Awareness
- Fiscal models
- Funding
- Human capital
- Cultural capital
- Media
- Communications
- Advocacy
- Coordination
- Planning
- Organizing
- Survey and fact finding
- Management
- Community buy-in
- Partnerships
- Collaboration
- Youth input and buy in
- Operational strategies
- Town halls
- Cultural mapping
- Intergenerational collaboration
- Training
- Job training
- Jobs for youth
- Timely promotion
- Call to action
- Engagement
- Strategic planning
- Branding
- Artist economy
- Cultural economy
- Endowments
- Recognizing multiple forms of activism
- Participation

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Making sure any new policies enforce affordability
- Cross industry support for arts and culture
- Update communication strategies for programs, events, and opportunities
- Leverage community organizations that specialize in fundraising to help with leveraging resources

- Educate the community around social entrepreneurship, and how to be self-sustaining
- Create artist sanctuaries
- Seed money for creative economy structure
- Create a cultural tax credit and other incentives to spur cultural development and community re-investment
- Create a system through business improvement districts that give incentives to small businesses to support artists and cultural institutions, for a tax break
- Crowdfunding for local cultural initiatives and opportunities
- Educate artists on funding sources and opportunities other than grants and scholarships
- Create an Advisory Board for Bed-Stuy within the Cultural Plan
- Make sure all future arts funding goes specifically to the arts, and don't combine with other budget items
- Enforce cultural equity in all forms
- Expand arts and culture events that support community engagement
- Always make sure arts and culture funding stays true to the cause

Create the Bed-Stuy Cultural Council – a model that can be replicable across the city

- Will be a grassroots movement
- They will guide the community on cultural implementation
- Appoint a liaison between the Cultural Council and the Community Board
- Can support the Community Board in arts and culture priorities
- Elections will take place once or twice a year (or have the option of co-operative leadership, where no elections or term limits occur)
- Members within the Council can rotate positions
- Votes can be collected through Block Associations
- The Council will be representative of the diversity of Bed-Stuy, and will reflect the values of the people who live there
- The Council will serve to preserve the historic culture of the neighborhood
- The Cultural Council will have committees that focus on one of the 8 issues addressed in CreateNYC
- The Council will also preserve the Bed-Stuy aesthetic
- Design the Council to be 'community for-profit' rather than 'for-profit' (profit sharing rather than interest model). It would follow a co-operative final model such as The Commons (a pool of money that people in the community contribute to fund arts in the community)
- The Council will levy low membership fees, and will always give members something in return (such as performance tickets, a work of art, etc.)

NEXT STEPS

- We all need to meet again and discuss the Culture Council implementation (we can meet at the Bishop Gallery)
- Send out the notes to everyone at the workshop to review before we meet again
- Invite others to the next meetings, and make sure to invite young voices into the discussion

- Analyze other cultural plans in the United States for best practices on arts and cultural economics
- Research cultural/artistic/sustainable economies
- Analyze the Cultural Council's role, values, policy stance, budget, calendar, and communications across entities
- Establish the mission of the Cultural Council, which will define what leadership will look like and who will serve
- Identify ambassadors and artists in the community to gain interest in the Cultural Council and attend meetings

Notes from Larry Weekes of the Fulton Art Fair via email:

- Bed-Stuy / Crown Heights needs an Arts Center similar to Jamaica Arts and Learning Center. This should be a multi-disciplinary center. This should have a performance space, a space for an art gallery, rehearsal spaces and work space for artist in residence. There should also be a place to nurture writers This center should also be a place for after school music and art programs. This should be a place for artist to get info about grants and opportunities. It should also be place where people can gain information about careers in the arts both creative but also management.
- I would also like to see more art work displayed in public spaces. There should be sculpture in Restoration Plaza, Fulton Park and other public green spaces. Trash receptacles should be made into artworks. The frieze by Richmond Barthe located in the Kings borough Houses is in serious neglect. We need more murals in public spaces and in our schools.
- There should be an art walk featuring artist studios and business that will display artwork by neighborhood artist. Bed-Stuy should embrace artist much as Barcelona embraced the art of Antoni Gaudi.

There is a lot of creative energy in the neighborhood that needs a center that will highlight this energy.