



New York City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations
Fiscal Year 2018 DCLA Preliminary Budget Hearing

Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 11:30 AM – Council Chambers, City Hall
Testimony Presented by New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl

Good morning, Chair van Bramer and members of committee. I am here today to present testimony regarding the Mayor's preliminary Fiscal Year 2018 budget for the Department of Cultural Affairs. I am joined by a number of DCLA staff.

First, I will review the numbers. We are proud to remain the largest local funder of art and culture in the United States. DCLA's total expense budget for FY 2018 is forecast at \$142.9 million, including \$107.8 million for the Cultural Institutions Group; \$28.56 million for the Cultural Development Fund; and \$6.1 million for agency operations. This does not include any funding that is typically added at adoption, including member items and initiatives from the City Council. I'd like to point out that in our current fiscal year, the agency's operations account for just 3.4% of our total expense budget. The rest goes straight to the cultural community.

Turning to our capital budget, we currently have \$807.3 million allocated for 398 active projects at 202 organizations over the next four years (FY17-20). This includes \$152 million that was added at the adoption of the FY 2017 budget. This robust funding, which is allocated by the Administration, City Council, and borough presidents offices, supports projects that are critical to growing and sustaining cultural groups in all five boroughs. Some highlights of our current capital portfolio include:

- Infrastructure upgrades at the **Dance Theatre of Harlem**;
- Reconstruction of the **Bronx River Art Center**;
- Fire safety improvements for the **Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation**;
- Conversion of an existing property for the **Louis Armstrong House's** new administration facility;
- And full restoration of the **Snug Harbor Music Hall**.

To provide a quick update on the current fiscal year budget, funds from all of this year's CDF funding and all five of the City Council Initiatives is flowing to groups across the city to sustain their public programming. As you know, there were challenges in getting funding for Council Initiatives allocated on time this year, and as I said during testimony on this topic last month, the agency is committed to working with the Council to avoid any delays for this funding next year. We have had several productive discussions regarding possible solutions with you, Chair Van Bramer, along with Council Finance. I am confident that together we can arrive at a solution before Fiscal 2018 begins.

I'd also like to provide an overview of agency programs and initiatives:

- **FY18 Cultural Development Fund:** Applications for the next round of funding were due February 13, 2017 for cultural programming taking place between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. We have nearly 800 applications that will go panel, and 364 groups in the multiyear renewal process. The panel review process, which involves close collaboration with the City Council, will commence later this month.

- For FY18 **Capital** applications, the deadline to apply for capital funding from the Mayor and City Council is coming up. So far, the volume and amount of funding requests appears to be on par with prior years.
- As part of our current budget, we are for the first time providing **energy support** for organizations that operate in City-owned facilities under my agency's jurisdiction but are not members of the Cultural Institutions Group. From BRIC to Harlem Stage to Pregones / Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, these are diverse organizations serving New Yorkers across the city. The participating organizations have all been notified of their awards and are in the process of returning their paperwork. They will receive their initial payments shortly.
- **Cultural Plan:** I want to thank you again for the opportunity last month to present testimony at a full Council hearing on this topic. Cultural Affairs staff stayed through the full hearing and reported back what those who testified after me said. We are still working toward publishing draft recommendations at the end of April. We've participated in 195 events to date. We've sent two surveys – one for the general public, and one for artists and cultural workers. Chair Van Bramer, we appreciated your support in co-hosting the discussion last month at Museum of the Moving Image with NYCHA residents. Council Member Levin hosted a workshop this past Saturday at the Park Church Co-Op in Greenpoint. DCLA staff was present for the entire event. And Council Member Koo joined us at Flushing Town Hall for a bi-lingual Mandarin-English CreateNYC workshop earlier this week. We're entering the last stretch of public engagement for the plan, so if any are interested in hosting an event in your district, let us know.
- We have made major progress on **DCLA's workforce diversity initiative** since publishing a report on our grantees in January 2016. We've activated more than \$4 million toward efforts at connecting the city's cultural institutions to new pools of talent. We invested \$500K to help launch the CUNY Cultural Corps, placing more than 70 graduates of CUNY's service corps in paid positions at cultural institutions across the city. Thanks to a matching grant of \$500K from the Rockefeller Foundation (bringing the total to \$1 million), this program is set to expand to dozens of additional cultural groups later this year. Through the City's Theater Subdistrict Council, we were able to direct more than \$2 million toward programs at 11 groups and consortiums of theaters. These programs will connect underrepresented populations with careers in theater. These are good paying jobs, often unionized. The study of employees at our cultural groups found that the theater community faced particularly tough challenges when it came to employing people from a variety of backgrounds. We have also consciously and consistently foregrounded disability in our definition of diversity. We have taken meaningful steps to better address this in the agency. These including designating a disability service facilitator and hiring a disability consultant for the cultural plan process. These positions have helped make our public events and our RFP process more inclusive. And we are creating a new position at the agency that will explicitly address disability arts and disability inclusion.
- In other recent news, my agency joined with the Department of Veterans' Services last week to announce our latest **Public Artist in Residence**, or PAIR: Bryan Doerries, who is the artistic director of Theater of War Productions. Theater of War produces programs addressing the enduring impact of war and other community issues such as gun violence, mental health, addiction, prison reform, sexual assault, and domestic violence. Co-produced by the Brooklyn Public Library, the residency will combine theater and public forums that engage both veterans and civilians. These community-specific performances will foster health and healing through open discussion and exchange. The free performances will take place in more than 60 venues across New York, including public libraries, with each of the projects tailored to the needs of different communities. The residency is being funded by The Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

With public support for art and culture an open question on the federal level, our collaboration with Council and other dedicated partners is more important than ever. We thank you for this support, and look forward to continuing our work together to make sure every New Yorker has access to the transformative benefits of art and culture.

I'm happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.



**NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
FISCAL YEAR 2018 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AGENCY OVERSIGHT HEARING**

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES & INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS
COMMITTEE, JOINTLY WITH THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES**

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Good morning. I am Tony Marx, President and CEO of The New York Public Library (NYPL). I would like to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer, Subcommittee Chair Andy King, and the entire City Council for hosting my colleagues and me today. I would also like to thank the Council for their unwavering support of libraries. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) Preliminary Budget.

INTRODUCTION

We come before you today to discuss the ongoing and increasing need for our public libraries. There is no doubt that we are living in a time of unparalleled change—a time that makes strong libraries more needed than ever, both here in New York City and across our country. Since our nation's founding, the noble mission of our public libraries has remained steadfast: to offer all people—regardless of wealth, background, or beliefs—open and free access to opportunity, knowledge, reliable information, and education. Today, libraries continue to uphold that mission by providing opportunities to all. They make us stronger by making us smarter, by bringing us together, by supporting truth and knowledge, and by leveling the playing field.



ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY PARTNERS

In recent years, the New York City Council and the mayor have demonstrated that they understand the unique and irreplaceable role that our libraries play as trusted partners in neighborhoods across the five boroughs. Thanks to your leadership, the years of budget cuts to libraries have been reversed, allowing us to expand our vital services and resources. In addition, our branches now play essential roles in a host of key New York City initiatives that aim to help those most in need, which together make our city stronger.

In particular, to support New York's vibrant immigrant communities, we partner with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs on the NYCitizenship initiative, which offers legal assistance and financial literacy guidance to immigrants seeking U.S. citizenship. We also partner with the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund (NALEO Educational Fund) to provide citizenship application assistance workshops. In perhaps one of the best examples of our longstanding partnership with the City, NYPL locations have served as the most used enrollment locations for IDNYC. We also provide free ESOL classes at locations throughout our service area, offer our TechConnect classes in both Chinese and Spanish, and provide bilingual story times at many of our locations. Beyond programming, each of our branches maintains collections in languages that serve their particular community's needs. These materials range from books and newspapers to magazines and other media. Finally, with funding from the City Council Speaker, we recently have had the



opportunity to pilot a program that provides ESOL classes to people incarcerated at the Riker's Island prison facility.

NYPL also partners with the City to reach other underserved communities. We continue to participate in a Department of Homeless Services program that connects families in 15 shelters with programs and services offered by the Library. We also lead weekly storytimes, partner with the City's Pre-K and after-school classrooms, provide family literacy workshops, and organize financial literacy courses at shelters. Recently, we have expanded the services we offer our incarcerated patrons. With funding from the New York City Council, Video Visitation services are now offered at library locations in all five boroughs. Now, for the first time, families won't have to travel far from home for the opportunity to video conference with their incarcerated loved ones.

There is perhaps no better example of how libraries strengthen communities than our early literacy offerings. By equipping our children with the fundamental skills and knowledge they need to be successful and productive members of our community, libraries are an investment in our future. In FY16, NYPL hosted more than 12,000 early literacy programs, reaching 364,708 attendees. These included storytimes, family literacy workshops, Pre-K for All partnerships, and intensive outreach to family shelters. We also continue to partner with the New York City Council's City's First Readers initiative to provide early literacy kits for children ages zero to five, in addition to storytimes and staff training.



SEVEN-DAY SERVICE FOR ALL COMMUNITIES

As the need for libraries continues to grow, we remain committed to expanding our services. In FY16, attendance at NYPL's public programs reached 1.8 million—an 18% increase over the previous year and 64% increase over FY12. The City has aided us in our efforts, increasing NYPL's baselined operating budget to \$163 million per year.

Thank you for this. The gains we have seen from your investment have been invaluable to our patrons and the neighborhoods we serve. Yet, to continue this work and ensure that we are making our services available to all New Yorkers, especially at the times of day or day of the week that they need them most, more is needed.

This is why we are asking today to expand seven-day service to more library locations throughout the city. Currently, NYPL offers seven-day service at seven branches and the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building. With an additional investment of \$34 million into our city's libraries—including \$14.5 million for NYPL—we would be able to provide Sunday service at 16 additional branches, ensuring that every Council District in the city has at least one library open every day of the week.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN OUR BRANCHES

To meet this increased need for our libraries, we must invest in our branches in addition to investing in expanded hours and services. With nearly 40 million visits a year across our 217 locations, our libraries are sanctuaries that offer a safe intellectual and physical space, where all are welcome and all come together. Yet to continue maintaining these sanctuaries, we must have the necessary resources. In recent years, with the help of



the City, we have increased NYPL's footprint, building more branches and increasing our square footage substantially. Again, I want to say *thank you* for your investment. Though we have made great progress, many of our locations are in need of repair. Currently, eight NYPL locations are in need of full, top-to-bottom renovations. The branches with the most pressing needs are Edenwald in the Bronx, Hamilton Fish Park in Manhattan, and West New Brighton in Staten Island. These are branches that, if fully renovated, will be able to provide even more of the early literacy, cultural, technology, job search, and after-school programming that their communities have come to rely upon.

In addition to full renovations, NYPL has a list of critical maintenance needs that spans the entire service area. For example: at our Allerton branch in the Bronx, the roof, windows, and HVAC system are all in desperate need of replacement. In Staten Island, St. George Library Center is plagued by maintenance concerns. The most heavily visited branch in the borough, St. George needs not only a façade and window restoration, but an interior renovation as well. As sanctuaries for all, libraries also need to be accessible to all. Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a top priority for NYPL, as many of our branches are close to a century old and in dire need of updating. The Seward Park branch in Manhattan is a great example of this. A beautiful, classic structure, it is in need of a new elevator that will help the branch ensure the best service to all of its patrons, regardless of their physical needs. It is with these concerns in mind that my colleagues and I ask for \$120 million in capital funding, including \$40 million for NYPL. Furthermore, in order to responsibly plan and maintain



our infrastructure looking forward, we at NYPL are requesting \$484 million over the 10-year capital plan window. This funding will ensure that our librarians are no longer spending their valuable time and effort on making sure roofs don't leak and boilers don't fail, but instead are fully focused on providing the community with the services they need.

CONCLUSION

As we navigate these challenging times, it is without question that knowledge, equality, and a sense of community will help guide us through this moment in history. There are perhaps no better examples in contemporary society of institutions that foster these values than libraries. For more than a century, NYPL has aided and inspired countless New Yorkers who rely on libraries and all that we stand for. With your help, we will remain temples of learning and opportunity for all New Yorkers for 100 more. Thank you again for all your support and for this opportunity to testify. We remain available to answer any questions you may have.



**TESTIMONY OF ADRIANA BLANCARTE-HAYWARD
BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND INTERNATIONAL
INTERGROUP RELATIONS JOINTLY WITH THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES**

FISCAL YEAR 2018 PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING

March 8, 2017

Good afternoon. My name is Adriana Blancarte-Hayward and I am the Outreach Manager for The New York Public Library (NYPL). I would like to start by thanking Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, and Subcommittee Chair Andy King as well as the entire City Council for their strong support of New York City libraries.

I'm very honored to be here with you today. I am where I am, and who I am, because of what the Library has done for me. As a newly arrived immigrant, about 12 years ago I stepped into my Local library, the New Dorp Library on Staten Island, with a volunteer application and found refuge and a profession I love, which inspired me to get a Masters Degree in Library and Information Science and become a Librarian who then became Library Manager of that same branch a few years down the road. I also took ESOL classes, that were instrumental in helping me improve my English language skills and allowed me to connect with my community and meet New Yorkers from all over the world.

As a new American citizen, I am proud of calling this country a home and feel an even greater sense of responsibility now as to the roles I can play. I want to stress the importance of what the Libraries do every day to serve all New Yorkers, from all walks of life.

In times when our most vulnerable patrons are afraid, uncertain of what's to come or the information that is out there - they rely on us the most. It's our great honor to be able to help: to provide reliable information, and educate people as to the tools and resources available for them. The Library is a safe place where all are served and treated equally, with respect, kindness, dignity. This is our strength. Immigrants and nonimmigrants alike, people of all ages, ethnicities and religious affiliations are welcomed through our doors regardless of immigration status or how long they have been in this country, they find a sense of community, belonging and connection.

From the parent that recently arrived to this country and it's learning about the importance of reading to their baby while connecting with other parents in the neighborhood; to the immigrant who is learning English to improve their life, and also help their children with their homework; to the people that are learning about technology (be it in Spanish, Chinese, or English) to advance their careers; to seeing someone's eyes lit-up when they find books in their native language. Having service every day of the week, 7 days, will be especially beneficial to the hard working immigrants and patrons in general.

We will continue to be friendly, patient, and welcoming. We are creating patrons for life, making our city a better place for all. We strive to offer what is needed to help people improve their lives and make New York and America better, and we are able to do this thanks to your support.

Thank you for the opportunity to share.



TESTIMONY OF NINA MANESS

BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND INTERNATIONAL
INTERGROUP RELATIONS JOINTLY WITH THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES**

FISCAL YEAR 2018 PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING

March 8, 2017

Hello and thank you for the opportunity to speak about libraries! I would like to start by thanking Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, and Subcommittee Chair Andy King as well as the entire City Council for their strong support of New York City libraries. My name is Nina Maness and I work at the Parkchester branch of the New York Public Library (which is in the East Bronx). Thanks to the support of the City Council and Mayor, I started working with the NYPL in May moving here from Montreal Canada. I'm an adult librarian, meaning I focus on working with individuals 18 and up. However, in reality I end up working with all ages.

One of the reasons I love working at the library is it offers a space for individuals to share ideas and build connections. Last month, during black history month, we had several events to foster community conversations including an African-American read-in and an event where participants were taught how to write their own freedom song. At the African-American read-in, members of our community got up and shared excerpts from black writers that shaped their life. The event was educational and emotional with many people sharing personal stories to the crowd of over 40 people. Parents and their children talked about how these books had shaped their lives and gave them strength.

Afterwards, a local musician came in and explained the history of freedom songs and how they originated during slavery but continued to live on during the civil rights era, and even today.



One audience member got so excited that in the middle of the presentation he interrupted to share a poem the presentation sparked. This kind of excitement around art and literature is exactly what we need to be fostering in people of all ages: from very young children to our beloved seniors. At the end, everyone sang a freedom song we created together. The Title of the Event was “How can we sing in a strange land?”

The event made me reflect a lot about what it means to feel your home is a “strange land”. It made me think of the new immigrant population the library serves. When there are language barriers, librarians need to find ways to let new immigrants know that the library will always be a place that welcomes them. As the Parkchester Library is open 7 days a week, I was able to start a Sunday program where English learners can come in and use the library’s access to mango languages- a language learning program. In this program, I show participants how to use our laptops and the library’s databases. Then they have 2 hours to explore mango languages. The program helps with language skills as well as technical literacy.

Equally as important, it provides a space where new immigrants can ask me questions. After the class, they are much more likely to stop and chat with me. I’ve developed a relationship with one family that comes into the library almost every day. I work with their daughter on her math homework. We talk about math, bullies at school, and her future. I also work with her parents who need help using the computers to apply for jobs. One day I was helping the father log into his email, and I asked him to put his password in while I wasn’t looking. The father said “You don’t have to look away. You always help us. We trust you. The library is here for us”. Of course, I made sure not to find out his password, but that level of trust in librarians and libraries to help people achieve their goals is vital.

It’s why I believe Sunday programs like my mango language class are so essential. The branches that are open seven days a week have more time for programs like this and more time for building connections with our community. With more funding, our librarians can make a real



difference in the lives of all our patrons. We can help make sure that New York isn't a "strange land" but a home where everyone feels welcome.



Statement by Dennis M. Walcott, President and CEO, Queens Library
New York City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs,
Libraries and International Intergroup Relations, Jointly with the Subcommittee on Libraries
Fiscal Year 2018 Preliminary Budget Hearing
March 8, 2017

Good morning, Majority Leader Van Bramer, Chair King and members of the committee. My name is Dennis Walcott, President and CEO of the Queens Library. As you know, public libraries play a critical role in a free democratic society. We empower communities and educate individuals on a daily basis. We do important work, but without your steadfast support and leadership, none of it would be possible. Therefore, it is with a profound sense of gratitude that I appear before you today to tell you how much your support means not only to me, but also to every person who works at or visits Queens Library.

Fiscal Year 2016 was a busy year for us. We welcomed over 11.2 million customers at our 65 libraries and facilities. We conducted over 68,000 program sessions that attracted over 1.1 million participants; the highest amount ever recorded. We circulated over 13 million materials and hosted more than three million public access computer sessions, connecting over 477,000 people to the internet. We served 5,500 adult learners, including 1,700 students who participated in our structured 12-week ESOL program across 38 community libraries. Eight Hundred and Sixty Five (865) customers completed job skills training. Moreover, because of the significant investment made by the New York City Council and Mayor Bill de Blasio to provide six-day service to all New Yorkers, the average operating hours per week at our community libraries increased to 46, with over 1.3 million people visiting Queens Library on Saturdays alone. Through January 31 of this current fiscal year, we have circulated over 902,000 materials on Saturdays, up 16% compared to the same time last year, and have welcomed just under 711,000 customers through our doors, up 19% compared to the same time last year. It is clear that Saturday service is extremely popular with our customers.

The Mayor honored his commitment made to libraries last year and baselined the operating funds for all three systems in his Fiscal Year 2018 Preliminary Budget. This is a significant achievement, and we thank him sincerely. We also thank the City Council, led by Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Finance Chair Julissa Ferreras-Copeland and Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer, for their perseverance and hard work to secure that agreement. In fact, if the Council did not match the Mayor's allocation with \$22 million in FY 2016, we would not be in the position we are in today.

While deeply appreciative of everyone's efforts, we cannot rest on our laurels because there is even more work to be done. I have visited every community library, attended many community functions, and spoken to a multitude of people including our wonderful library staff, and the recurring sentiment is this: our spaces, materials, programs and services are in very high demand and more important than ever.

In order to meet this demand, **Queens Library, the New York Public Library and Brooklyn Public Library are collectively seeking \$34 million in additional operating funds from the City, of which Queens is seeking \$9.75 million.** With this funding, Queens Library will provide: seven-day service at 14 of our community libraries (one per Council District); expand our STACKS afterschool programming and Google CS First computer science clubs to every community library in the system; purchase and make available 2,000 mobile hotspots to our customers; provide robust translation services to our customers; and provide more resources to our New Americans Program and Jobs & Business Academy.

In Fiscal Year 2016, over 317,000 young people attended Queens Library programming for children and teens. Recognizing our potential and the importance of serving the needs of this age group, Queens Library provides

a free, evidence-based afterschool program called STACKS, which enhances students' learning experiences through structured and unstructured age-appropriate activities that build emotional, social, and academic skills. We are currently offering this program at 20 of our community libraries, and the response has been tremendous. Due to the program's popularity, we have waiting lists at nearly every location as many parents are struggling to find quality afterschool programs in a safe environment for their children. Expanding this program is a top priority for us.

In July 2016, Queens Library launched a partnership with Google to provide Google CS (computer science) First programming clubs to our customers. Google CS First is a free program for children in grades 4-8, designed to increase access and exposure to computer science education through after-school, in-school, and summer programs. Queens Library staff members provide computer science instruction in project areas such as art, storytelling, fashion, music, game design, and more. This program has been tremendously successful with parents and young people. In fact, over 1,800 children signed up to be a part of the program. Unfortunately, we only had the capacity and funding to accommodate 296 students at 26 community libraries. Programs like this unlock worlds that children never knew existed, and provide skills that many can build on as they prepare to deal with an information-based and computer-dominated economy. Expanding this program to every community library is another high priority for us, but we need additional funding to do so.

Queens Library is at the forefront of bridging the digital divide in our communities. We pride ourselves on being the borough's technology hub. For too many Queens residents, however, the digital divide presents barriers to education, job opportunities and tasks of daily living. Approximately 30% of the borough does not have broadband access or a computer at home. In certain communities, that number is much higher. As part of a multi-pronged effort to bring digital equality to the borough, should we receive the necessary funds to do this, we will purchase up to 2,000 mobile hotspots to augment our collection and help meet demand.

Queens Library is also proposing to expand our digital access points to family homeless shelters and hospitals. We are in the process of identifying potential partners to initiate a pilot program soon. We will be in touch with our partners in government as we progress in our planning. This initiative is another innovative new way to reach people outside our physical spaces, and has the potential to change the way people see libraries and access materials. It also supports the Administration's efforts to provide educational resources to homeless families outside of our facilities, particularly homeless children. The Department of Education's Afterschool Reading Club (ARC) is a special service available for students in Grades K-5 and their families who live in shelters. It offers engaging reading experiences and support, homework help, family engagement and arts. Queens Library is proud to collaborate with the DOE on this initiative.

As many of us already know, Queens is the most diverse county in the United States. The residents of this borough hail from over 190 countries and speak over 160 languages. We are undoubtedly a community of immigrants. Queens Library recognizes and celebrates this rich diversity, so we continually strive to create programs and services that meet the unique needs of our neighborhoods. With this in mind, Queens Library proposes to implement a robust translation services program that will consist of hiring full-time and part-time staff translators, training and certifying current staff members that speak other languages, and providing a telephone service that offers customers and/or library staff assistance in 200 languages. With great diversity comes great responsibility, so we are excited to embrace the challenge of providing this type of service to the people of Queens, and especially to our new Americans. However, in order to provide a vibrant, system-wide, language assistance program, we will need funding from our partners in government.

On the capital side of the equation, we are sincerely grateful to Mayor de Blasio for including libraries in the City's Ten-Year Capital plan. With a pledge of \$100 million over ten years, Queens Library finds itself in a better position to plan effectively.

As you know, maintaining our 65 locations and aging infrastructure is a short and long-term challenge for the Library. The average community library is 61 years old. More than a third of them are over 50 years old. They are heavily used, and most were not constructed to accommodate the traffic that we see due to the growth in demand for our services. Additionally, the vast majority of libraries are poorly configured to meet the demands of the digital age – with too few electrical outlets, too little space for classes, group work, or space for individuals working on laptop computers. Our challenge is to modernize our facilities, maintain our critical

infrastructure and to expand our public spaces in order to thrive in the 21st century. Because of these challenges, **Queens Library, the New York Public Library and Brooklyn Public Library are collectively seeking \$120 million in capital funds from the City in Fiscal Year 2018, of which Queens is seeking \$40 million.**

In Fiscal Year 2017, Queens Library received \$5 million in unrestricted capital funding from the City Council. It was allocated as follows:

- **Central Library:** BMS/Cooling Tower, \$2,000,000
- **Corona:** HVAC, \$50,000
- **Maspeth:** HVAC, \$500,000
- **North Hills:** HVAC, \$850,000
- **Rego Park:** Roof, \$800,000
- **Rosedale:** Roof, \$500,000
- **Seaside:** Condenser, \$300,000

We have a capital need of \$354 million over the next 10 years to modernize all of our facilities and bring them into a state of good repair. We have \$85 million worth of needs in Fiscal Year 2018 alone, with \$52 million constituting critical maintenance needs. With additional capital funds, we would seek to address critical maintenance issues at every library that has the need, which includes:

- **Fresh Meadows:** Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Control
- **Maspeth:** Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Control & Roof Replacement
- **Astoria:** Accessibility Renovation
- **Corona:** Expansion of the Library Building
- **Langston Hughes:** Façade Restoration
- **Broadway:** Security System Upgrade
- **Rego Park:** Replacement Facility
- **Seaside:** HVAC Improvements

Libraries are an indispensable institution and the cornerstone of a strong democratic society. Our mission is to provide quality services, resources, and lifelong learning opportunities through books and other formats, in safe and comfortable facilities, to meet the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs and interests of anyone who visits us. I am proud to say that Queens Library does an outstanding job in meeting the needs of our diverse constituents. When we are asked to do more with less, we deliver. When the City needed a reliable partner to advance key initiatives such as IDNYC, UPK, the New Americans Corner and most recently the Video Visitation program, we successfully embraced the challenge. Our accomplishments have been many, but so too are our needs. With your help and increased generosity, we will be able to meet our operational and capital needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, Chair Van Bramer.

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY
PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING
Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries & International Intergroup Relations
Jointly with the Subcommittee on Libraries
March 8, 2017

Thank you, Speaker Mark-Viverito, Majority Leader and Cultural Affairs and Libraries Chair Van Bramer, Libraries Subcommittee Chair King, our Brooklyn delegation, and the entire City Council for supporting New York City's libraries.

We are so grateful that your leadership resulted in the baselining of our expense funding, preserving citywide six-day library service. We thank you on behalf of all of our patrons, particularly the thousands of working families who are now able to visit their local libraries on weekends. While baselining was important, this year, we must go a step further, because no city can be truly great without world-class libraries.

The budget requests we submit to you today will not reverse decades of neglect, nor instantly restore the city's 217 public libraries to a state of good repair. But the fulfillment of our requests will continue the progress you set in motion two years ago, when you increased our budgets for the first time in a decade.

With Brooklyn Public Library's share of the three systems' \$34 million expense funding request, we will be able to expand seven-day library service to approximately one-third of our branches. Nearly every community in Brooklyn would have access to a library that is open every day of the week. With seven-day service, we will be able to open our doors wider than ever to children, families, jobseekers, immigrants, seniors, teens, and all of the other patrons who turn to us because the library contributes something of value to their lives.

With your support, we will also grow our collection, purchasing more materials in more languages to serve more people discover the world and define their place in it. We will also create new spaces for teens and upgrade existing children's areas that are showing signs of wear.

But we cannot implement seven-day service responsibly without your full support. Seven-day service will require staff, space, and materials that we can only invest in with the full commitment of this council and the administration. We urge the council and the administration to continue investing in libraries by supporting our full \$34 million expense funding request.

If you visit our branches on a Saturday or Sunday, as I know many of you do, you see what a difference our expanded hours have made in the lives of our patrons. Our services have never been more in demand:

- Despite the fact that children are increasingly playing and learning with electronic devices, our story time programs are standing room only.
- Even as news outlets report the continued growth of America's economy, our job search and resume writing workshops are full.

- And I am sorry to say that our immigration attorneys and passport office are nearly overwhelmed, as people frightened by the rhetoric of their own government turn to us for trustworthy, reliable information.

Libraries have always been a place where all New Yorkers can feel safe and welcome. Never have we felt a stronger need to be there for patrons who are fearful of what the future may bring. More people are coming to the library than ever before—and they need us more than ever.

Unfortunately, our ability to serve the public is greatly compromised by the physical state of our buildings. Most are plagued by maintenance issues, equipment failures, and drab, uninspiring interiors. Our capital funding request is comprised of two separate asks. Each is essential to the future of library service in New York City.

First, the three library systems are requesting a total of \$120 million in funding this year, \$40 million for each of the three system—funds that will be devoted to state-of-good-repair work in branches throughout the city. For BPL, \$40 million is double what we typically receive. We will use the funds to address some of our most critical capital needs, including failing infrastructure and equipment that has long exceeded its useful life. Sadly, these needs persist throughout the borough.

At Brownsville Library, for example, the HVAC system has failed. We are forced to employ ugly, noisy chillers to make the building comfortable for patrons and staff. We have chosen Brownsville as one of five Brooklyn libraries that will receive a full overhaul thanks to our inclusion in the most recent ten-year capital plan.

The bad news is that we do not have sufficient resources to address similar problems at dozens of other locations throughout the borough—including libraries like the McKinley Park branch in southwestern Brooklyn. This small branch is one of our busiest. Its children's programs are full of young families, many of them recent immigrants. Its ESL classes are in high demand, drawing 40-80 attendees per session.

McKinley Park should be a centerpiece of our system, an example of what libraries can do for their communities. But the building's condition is, frankly, an embarrassment. It requires a new roof, HVAC system, and boiler—and it would benefit greatly from new lighting, shelving, furniture, and flooring.

But at our present level of funding, we cannot perform necessary preventative maintenance. Because other systems are in even more dire condition, we know that the only way that the roof will be repaired at McKinley Park—or the HVAC system replaced at Saratoga, or the boiler at Carroll Gardens—is if we are forced to respond to an emergency.

The branches I have mentioned comprise only a portion of Brooklyn Public Library's \$280 million in unfunded capital needs, including \$80 million in emergency repairs. Which brings me to the second piece of our TriLi capital ask: a total ten-year capital plan allocation of an additional \$1.2 billion for all three systems.

The administration's inclusion of libraries in the most recent ten-year plan was a very encouraging development. It allowed us to prepare and plan for the future. Yet the investment amounted to less than one-quarter of the three systems' total capital need and does not address the critical maintenance issues we are confronted with throughout the city.

We would be grateful for your support of our collective ten-year capital request, of which Brooklyn Public Library's portion is \$325 million.

Of that \$325 million, \$200 million would be applied to critical infrastructure needs: HVAC systems, roof replacements, and ADA accessibility. One-hundred million dollars will fund badly needed improvements at Central Library, which at 350,000 square feet is the largest and busiest public library in Brooklyn, with more than 1.3 million annual visits. And \$25 million will purchase new technology for the branches: computers, self-checkout machines, and other equipment that our patrons and staff depend on. We are not asking for luxuries, but for the tools we need to provide the residents of this great city with the library service they deserve.

Your support of our two capital asks—\$120 million for the three systems this year, and 1.2 billion additional dollars in the ten-year capital plan—is essential to the future of New York City's most democratic institutions.

There has never been a better time for this city to stand up for its values by supporting public libraries. Thank goodness, libraries are places where intellectual curiosity is celebrated, wisdom is a virtue, and civility prevails. These values define public libraries, and have for centuries. They will endure here, regardless of what happens elsewhere, because we and our librarians believe in these values and will fight for them.

I am proud of the way our librarians have served Brooklyn Public Library's patrons over the past several months. To cite only one example, the staff at Bay Ridge Library spoke for all of us when they posted a sign outside the branch that read: "You are welcome here. You are loved."

New York City's libraries are and always will be a safe haven for the undocumented; a provider of hope to the unemployed; and a source of endless wonder for children just beginning to explore the world around them.

In Brooklyn, a little girl can see at the library people who look and speak and dress differently than she, yet come here for the same reasons she does: to read books and make friends; to learn, play, and have fun. Libraries teach not only literacy, but empathy.

Every day we welcome people to our branches who arrive in this country hungry for opportunity. We also welcome those who simply arrive hungry. We serve immigrants who have little knowledge of English and no prospects for employment. They do not understand their rights, and therefore cannot assert them.

In many cases, libraries are the only civic institution they trust. We can reach them. And we want to do more to help. If a city's budget is an expression of its values, I hope that this year, we will express ourselves forcefully, by supporting libraries and the people who need them most.

Thank you.

I would like to thank the City Council chambers for the opportunity to testify on half of the Brooklyn Public Library. My name Janelle Welch and I am the Neighborhood Library Supervisor at the Crown Heights Branch. I've worked for BPL for over 16 years, starting as a part-time shelf organizer and with encouragement from staff obtaining my MLS degree. I'm just not a library worker but as well as a library user, I live twenty blocks away from my branch, So I'm familiar with what the community need as well as what they have been asking for from the library. For the past two years, Crown Height has been one for the few branches to provide HotSpots or portable Wi-Fi dev ices to the community for free internet access. The library also provide free Wi-Fi for in library use, Crown Height haves 20 laptops, 10 desktops and we also are one of the twelve branch to offer the TeleStory free video visitation program, over a live video feed at the library. My locations as well as the other branches are extremely busy with the patrons, which are always great thing from the time we open our door until closing, it shows how important the libraries are to the community. One of the major dilemmas of Brooklyn Public Library is emergency infrastructures of the building. Our buildings need help, from HAVC/cooling systems, to Boilers/heating units. You're either freezing or frying in some branches. Most branches if not all have critical roof repairs/ replacements. After any type of rain shower I can walk around the building playing connect the water marks on the ceiling from the leakages seeping through; and when it not coming from the ceiling it is, coming out of the bathroom. I know that I'm one of many who are asking for help, but libraries are important to need of the communities. I've very thankful for the hard and great work that you have always been providing to all of the library systems. As librarians, we support the freedom to read. We champion the right to access information for all people, regardless of race, creed, religion, or economic disposition. Libraries are everyone's university. These may feel like cliché's but they remain truisms. Libraries work because we do. Please keep on investing in libraries.

Thank You

Janelle Welch

Brooklyn Public Library



FY18 Preliminary Budget Hearing

New York City Council

March 8, 2017

Tony Marx, The New York Public Library

Dennis M. Walcott, Queens Library

Linda E. Johnson, Brooklyn Public Library



New York
Public
Library



Queens Library

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INVEST IN LIBRARIES

Invest in All New Yorkers



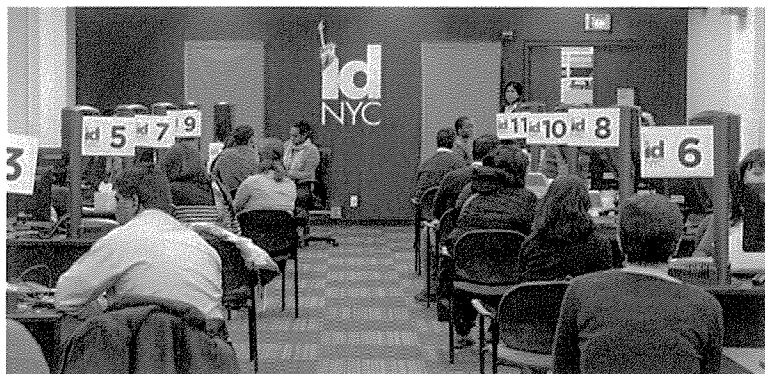
Asma and Aaria Rahman | Mosholu Library, The New York Public Library



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INVEST IN LIBRARIES

Invest in More City Partnerships



IDNYC



Video Visitation



Homeless Outreach



City's First Readers

INVEST IN LIBRARIES

Invest in NYC's 217 Branches

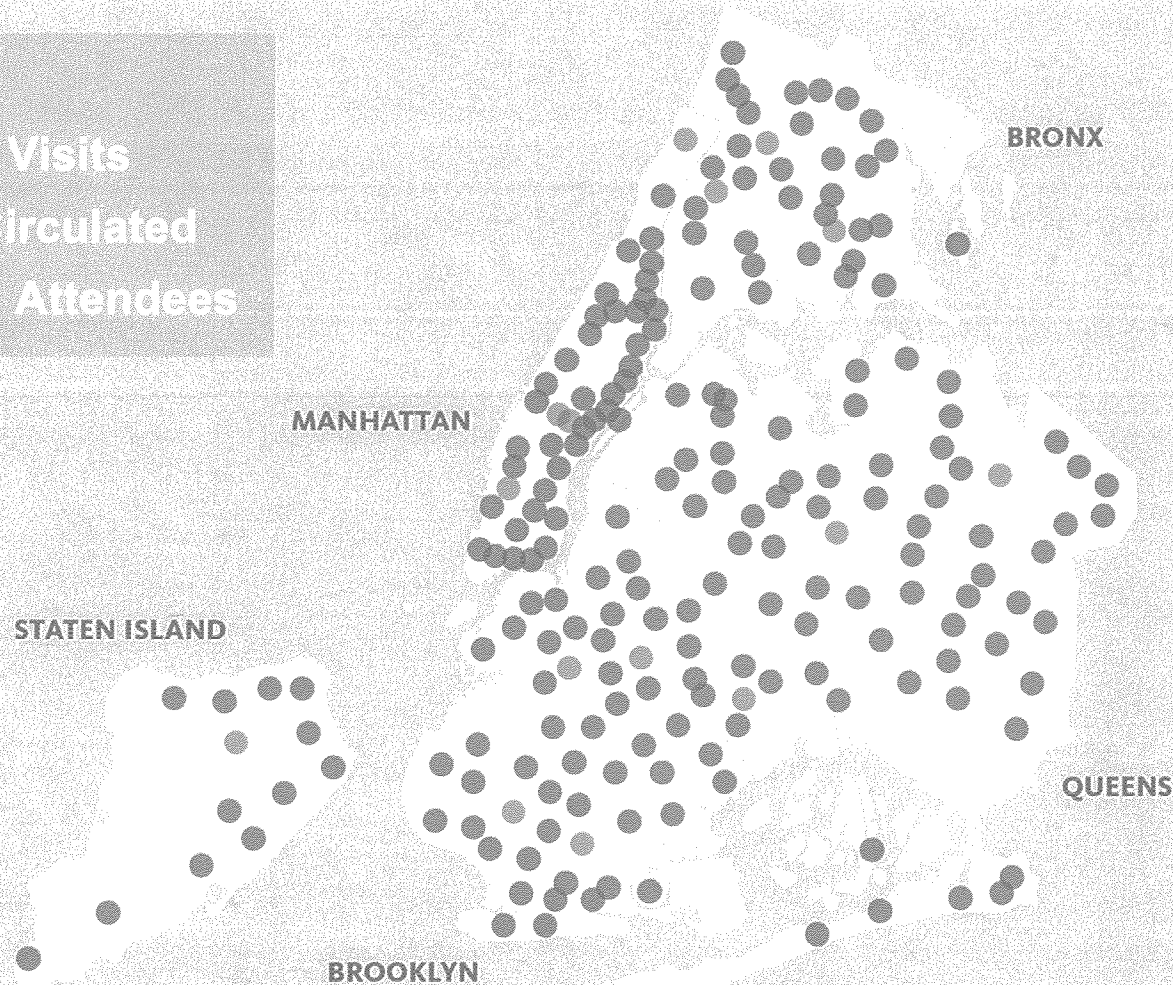
FY16: CITYWIDE

37.5 Million Library Visits

50.7 Million Items Circulated

3.9 Million Program Attendees

- Libraries now open 6 days a week
- Libraries now open 7 days a week



INVEST IN LIBRARIES

FY18 Budget: Operating Needs



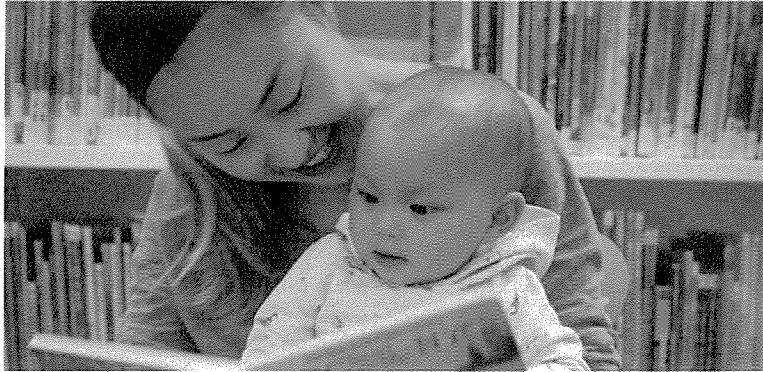
Hollis Library, Queens Library

7-DAY SERVICE FOR ALL COMMUNITIES: \$34 MILLION

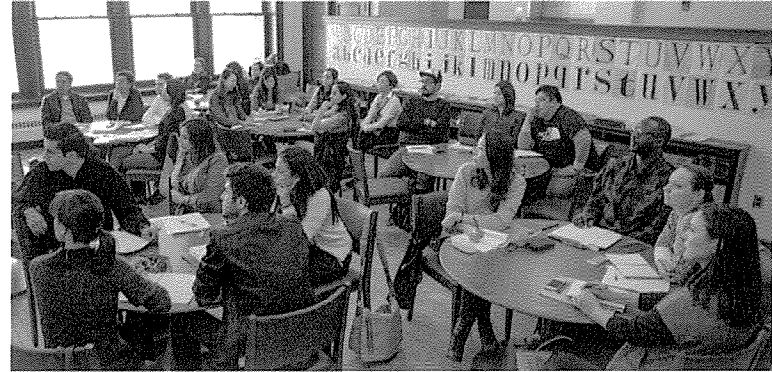
	Current 7-Day Branches	With Increased Funding
BPL	5	16
NYPL	8	23
QL	2	14
<hr/>		
TOTAL:	15	53

INVEST IN LIBRARIES

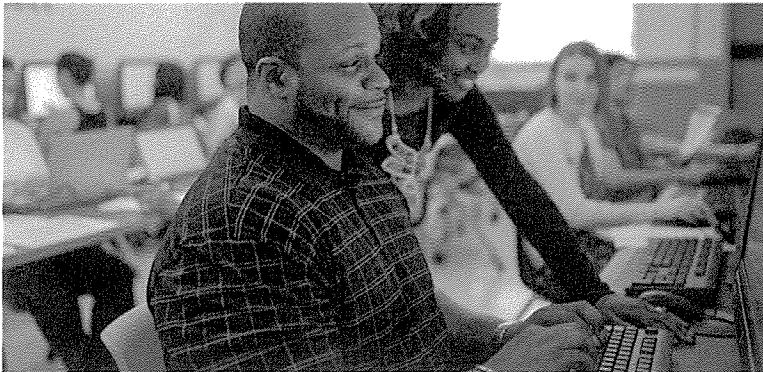
FY18 Budget: Operating Needs



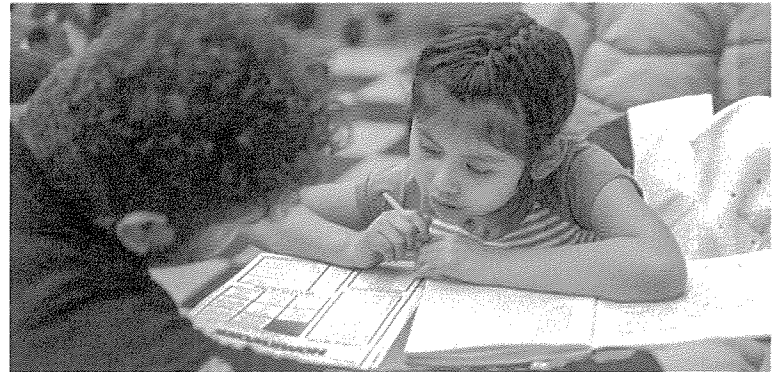
Early Literacy



ESOL



Technology Classes



Educational Enrichment & Support

INVEST IN LIBRARIES

FY18 Budget: Operating Needs



Graduates of the Ready 4 Business program, July 2016 | Flushing Library, Queens Library

INVEST IN LIBRARIES

FY18 Budget: Capital Needs



Brownsville Library, Brooklyn Public Library

CRITICAL MAINTENANCE NEEDS: \$120 MILLION IN FY18

- Brooklyn Public Library: \$40M
- The New York Public Library: \$40M
- Queens Library: \$40M

INVEST IN LIBRARIES

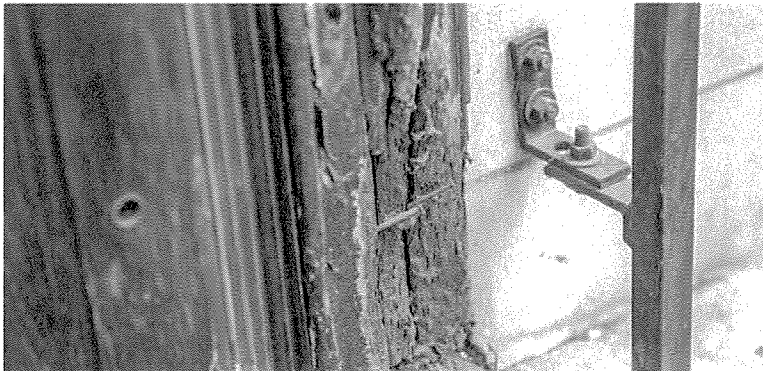
FY18 Budget: Capital Needs



Canarsie Library, Brooklyn Public Library



Glendale Library, Queens Library



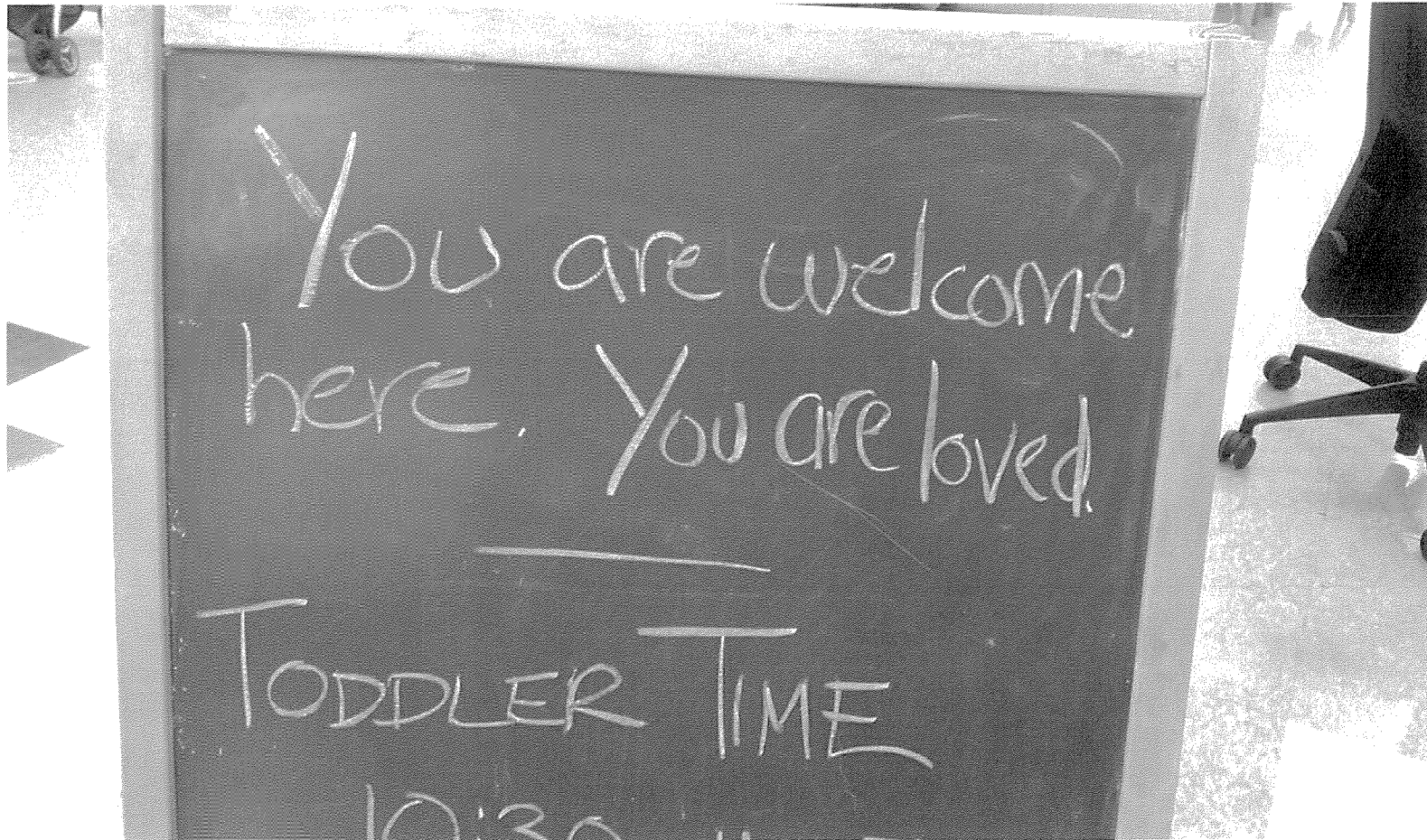
Seward Park Library, The New York Public Library



Richmondtown Library, The New York Public Library

INVEST IN LIBRARIES

FY18 Budget: Capital Needs



Branch message to patrons, November 2016 | Bay Ridge Library, Brooklyn Public Library

FY18 Budget: Needs for 3 Library Systems

OPERATING

**7-DAY SERVICE FOR ALL COMMUNITIES:
\$34 MILLION**

- Brooklyn Public Library: 16 branches
- The New York Public Library: 23 branches
- Queens Library: 14 branches

CAPITAL

**CRITICAL MAINTENANCE NEEDS:
\$120 MILLION IN FY18**

- Brooklyn Public Library: \$40M
- The New York Public Library: \$40M
- Queens Library: \$40M





New York
Public
Library



Queens Library

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Cultural Institutions Group

Testimony to the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries & International Intergroup Relations
Preliminary Budget Hearings, March 8, 2017

Good afternoon, I'm Carl Goodman, Executive Director of the Museum of the Moving Image and current Chair of the Cultural Institutions Group (the CIGs). I am here today to provide testimony on behalf of the CIGs – a coalition of 33 cultural organizations on city-owned land and located in all five boroughs of the City.

I want to acknowledge the Council's vital support for culture and the arts in New York City, support that yields a monumental return on investment for all of its residents, through the education of its children, adults, and seniors; social services for those with the greatest need, support for small businesses, and the enrichment of the City's tax base.

We are grateful to the Council and the administration for last year's one-time \$10 million increase to the DCLA budget, which was split evenly between the CIG's and the cultural organizations receiving funding through the City's Cultural Development Fund, referred to as the program groups. Let's also not overlook the Council's expansion of programmatic initiatives that allow artists and cultural organizations to better serve school students, seniors, and immigrants.

This is the third year that we have worked with the program groups to advocate for increased resources for culture and the arts. Our joint advocacy is not merely strategic; it is borne out of deep, natural, longstanding, and growing connections between and among CIGs and program groups.

As the council determines its budget priorities for FY 2018, I am pleased to join with my colleagues in support of a \$40 million increase to the DCLA budget, to be split evenly – just like last year – between the CIGs and the Program Groups. Included in this \$40 million, we ask that the City consider baselining the \$10 million increase that we received last year.

So how do the CIG's leverage these funds?

- We offer 37,200 on-site programs to 4.1 million participants. These programs integrate with many, many other City agencies and offices – from the Dept. of Aging, Sanitation, Corrections, NYCHA, Immigrant Affairs, Crisis Management, and the Department of Education. For example, the Queens Museum's *New New Yorkers* program offers skill-building, literacy, and art-making classes, taught by teaching artists in native tongue, to newly arrived adult immigrants.

- CIGs work with 2.5 million school children, the large majority from its public schools. We also provide opportunities for lifelong learning to New York City residents of all ages. For instance, the Studio Museum's Art & Minds program which provides an ongoing series of tours and workshops designed for adults with dementia and their caregivers.
- We create jobs. We have over 13,700 full and part-time employees including 4,500 union employees. We also offer workforce development opportunities such as the New York Botanical Garden's Explainer's Program—a competitive paid internship program for High School students.
- We support emerging and established New York-based artists and others through employment opportunities and programs which provide space, professional support, and exhibition opportunities.
- Programs from the Hall of Science and the Museum of Natural History, among others, advance technical literacy among youth, and are a breeding ground for future scientists and technology industry workers.
- We serve as incubators for the development of emerging and mid-career artists. Wave Hill's Sunroom Project Space commissions five emerging New York City area artists to create new work, and exhibits that work for six weeks. A growing NYC tech startup will allow Museum of the Moving to award \$36,000 to eighteen artists who will create "animated gifs" that activate the Museum's elevator
- We are affordable, with many institutions offering free days, suggested rather than required admission prices, and discounted admission, and free memberships to IDNYC and Cool Culture cardholders. In 2013, even before IDNYC free memberships, 35% of visitors attended for free with the median ticket price of \$10 across all institutions.
- We have a strong and direct impact on city economy, spending over \$364 million on local vendors on goods and services, and that's a drop in the bucket compared to what our visitors spend on surrounding small businesses.

The requested \$40 million increase to the DCLA budget split between the CIGs, will have a catalytic effect on the cultural landscape of New York, allowing us to raise additional private funds, and producing immediate and demonstrable benefits that are far in excess of the dollars put in.

With the potential abolishment of, or severe cutbacks to, four federal agencies that provide funding for many of our programs, increased support from the City helps to fill the gap and sends a powerful message to the entire nation that the arts and culture are not merely an amenity; they are a necessity.

In the three months ahead each and every councilmember will be hearing from us, so they can better understand why the requested increase will directly benefit their constituents. More important, each and councilmember will be hearing directly from their constituents, and learn about the invaluable, life-changing, and life-affirming cultural experiences, not to mention the jobs, that we enable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Testimony
to the
City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and
International Intergroup Relations**

**By
Virginia P. Louloudes, Executive Director
Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York**

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

CITY HALL



Good Morning, I'm Ginny Louloutes, the Executive Director of the Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York, the service and advocacy organization for New York City's 360 nonprofit theatres.

I want to thank the City Council for their incredible support of the arts, and in particular, for your generous support of the A.R.T./New York Theatres, which officially opened on January 18th of this year.

It seemed prophetic that we opened the theatres in the days prior to the Inauguration of our new President; for they gave us something to celebrate: two new theatres that would serve as a "safe space" for free speech and the sharing of differing points of view.

I can think of no other time in recent history when the arts are as necessary as they are today. For example, on January 28th I attended a revival of *The History Mystery* originally produced by TADA in 1995! The play depicts three teens as they go back in time to meet their favorite historical figures: a young Eleanor Roosevelt; a young Martin Luther King, and the grandmother of one of the teens.

TADA's artistic director, Nina Trevens, decided to rewrite this piece last summer in response to the multiple shootings of young black men. She also wrote it assuming that we would have our first woman president. After the election she had to make revisions. The white children who taunted the young Martin Luther King now sounded all too familiar.

But the scene when a young girl goes back in time to meet her Japanese grandmother, who has just learned that she is being sent to an Internment Camp, was the scene I found most chilling. President Trump had just issued his travel ban and Kennedy Airport had become the site of confusion as Immigration personnel tried to retain immigrants and refugees despite their legal status. ***The History***



Mystery seemed incredibly relevant. And I felt tremendous hope for our country as protesters, lawyers and elected officials showed up at Kennedy Airport to aid the immigrants.

That pride and hope continues as I look at the plays we will produce this season at The A.R.T./New York Theatres. The Movement Theatre's *And She Would Stand Like That*, depicts *The Trojan Women* by reimagining Hecuba's children as queer and trans people of color; Theatre By the Blind will produce a festival called "*The Other Plays*" six plays about diversity and otherness from racial, religious, political, sexual and social perspectives.

And *The Assignment* by Houses on the Moon explores the long-term emotional effects of gun violence.

Those of us in the arts have a responsibility to preserve free speech, and to continue to foster a sense of hope among our citizens. I will leave you with this directive, from *Make Them Hear You*," one of the songs from the musical *Ragtime*,

GO OUT AND TELL THE STORY.
LET IT ECHO FAR AND WIDE.
MAKE THEM HEAR YOU.

HOW THAT JUSTICE WAS OUR BATTLE AND HOW JUSTICE WAS DENIED.
MAKE THEM HEAR YOU.

AND SAY TO THOSE WHO BLAME US
FOR THE WAY WE CHOSE TO FIGHT
THAT SOMETIMES THERE ARE BATTLES
WHICH ARE MORE THAN BLACK OR WHITE.
AND I COULD NOT PUT DOWN MY SWORD
WHEN JUSTICE WAS MY RIGHT.
MAKE THEM HEAR YOU.



PROCLAIM IT FROM YOUR PULPIT.
IN YOUR CLASSROOM WITH YOUR PEN
TEACH EVERY CHILD TO RAISE HIS VOICE
AND THEN, MY BROTHERS, THEN
WILL JUSTICE BE DEMANDED
BY TEN MILLION RIGHTEOUS MEN.
MAKE THEM HEAR YOU.
WHEN THEY HEAR YOU
I'LL BE NEAR YOU AGAIN.

In this spirit, I want to urge the City Council to increase the Budget of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs by \$40 million dollars so that we can continue to MAKE THEM HEAR YOU.

Thank you.



Good Afternoon:

My name is Marissa Richardson, I am a member of the leadership of Urban Librarians Unite. I'd like to thank the Chair of the committees and the speaker for the opportunity to speak here today. I'm here to speak on the organization's behalf. It's lovely to see you all here today as we once again ask for you to increase funding for libraries in New York City. I'll reiterate the numbers we are in line with the libraries in asking for \$34 million in operating funds and \$120 million in capital funds.

Representatives of the libraries have laid out the need very carefully and given you details about the hours we will gain and the access the people of New York City will have. This extends out to the farther neighborhoods of New York City that perhaps aren't pretty and have two lions in the front. There will be calls for us to have more books or less books or different books.

None of that is what I want to talk to you about today. I have a little more freedom in what I can say than some of my colleagues up here do so I am going to get right to the heart of the matter. You **MUST** give libraries this funding because, in case you haven't been paying attention, the fabric of our democracy is under attack. I really wish that was hyperbole but unfortunately it really is not.

Propaganda is on the rise, hate crimes and bigotry are increasing, fake news is confusing and hiding the truth daily, education is being bought and sold and history seems to have suddenly become a fluid concept. You know where **NONE** of that is true? The **LIBRARY!** The library becomes a place where we can get to the root of information about what is currently going on in the world and how we as citizens can organize and take action. Very quickly libraries have become the people's university with increased attention to adult learning and senior programming. Libraries quickly become our great equalizer in these times because all you need to access information is a little bit of plastic. And hey, now you don't even need plastic. There is, in fact, now an app for that in all NYC library systems.

Above all, we have to consider what increased funding would look like to quality of life in New York City. With \$34 million dollars in operating fees the door of the libraries across NYC can remain open with selective Sunday service, a boon for working families. \$120 million dollars in capital funding means that we can offer our patrons safe and accessible buildings to enter every time they come to the library for decades. I'm going to make the wild assumption that we are all here because we want to make our city a better place, right? You folks work behind the scenes to make my job possible, you don't get to see what I see every day in my work. The library, through **YOUR** work as well as mine, unshackles the minds of our citizens and shows them new horizons in their own lives and in their communities. Let's work together to help the library help New York City!

Thank you for your time!

Urban Librarians Unite - 48-46 45th Street, Woodside, NY 11377

urbanlibrariansunite.org

@ulunvc

Dear Members of the Cultural Affair and Library Committees,

First and foremost thank you for allowing me the time to testify. My name is Adriana Mitchell and I am the Neighborhood Library Supervisor at the Brooklyn Public Library Brighton Beach Branch. I've worked for the library for the past 11 years as a library associate at the Pacific Branch, as a Librarian trainee at the Carroll Garden Branch, as Librarian at the Windsor Terrace branch, as a Library information supervisor at the Sunset park Branch and now as Neighborhood Library Supervisor at Brighton Beach specializing in Children services at all locations aforementioned.

I've been invested personally and professionally in Brooklyn Public Library since I began bringing my daughter now 14 to Story time at the Central Library. I've experienced hands on all the wonderful services BPL has to offer from volunteering as an English Language facilitator to all other cultural, educational and recreational services BPL has offered throughout my career.

I have so much respect and love for BPL. It has offered me the opportunity to impact people's lives in a positive way, to be of service to my community, and to be exposed to diversity. Public Libraries are an essential part of every neighborhood. They are gathering places, safe havens, sometimes the only means for children to receive homework help, to fulfill the high demand for Adult English language learning, a warm or cool place for those who do not have anywhere else to go, to minimize the digital divide by providing use of computers, computer classes, and Wi-Fi, and all of this for FREE.

Unfortunately the reality for us is that buildings are run down and not upgraded to 21 century library needs, not all libraries are fully staffed. We can't increase our programming due to lack of funds and all of these factors impact service to our customers. Over the course of the years I've seen the struggles for funding fighting to recover little by little the funding taken away, the baseline funding struggle and the lack of Capital funding, which has taken Libraries to a neglectful place.

I do want to mention though that I also know that over the last 2 years our funding has improved. We are able to invest in books again and to hire a lot of staff, and I thank you for that. But it does not stop there and we are graciously asking to continue investing in libraries, reinstate full funding and we must have full support in Capital funding for our libraries so our families can continue to have free access to cultural educational and recreational services, so every neighborhood continues to have a safe, beautiful place where they can gather and have access to information for the own personal growth and wellbeing.

Sincerely,

Adriana Mitchell/Neighborhood Library Supervisor

Brooklyn Public library Brighton Beach Branch

16 Brighton 1st Road

Brooklyn NY 11235

Thank you to all Chairs of the Committee.

FOR THE RECORD

COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND DEVELOPMENT

PO Box 20464 Columbus Circle Station NYC 10023

212 877 4394 elfreud@aol.com

City Council, Budget Hearings

250 Broadway

NYC, NY 10007

March 8, 2017

**Statement to NYC Cultural Affairs Committee Hearing March 8, 2017 re:
funding for proposed**

Gilder Center at the American Museum of Natural History

The American Museum of Natural History is a fine institution. However, our Committee strongly opposes its request to expand on to precious parkland.

The people in this community are outraged at the Museum's plan to build the Gilder Center on Theodore Roosevelt Park. They certainly do not want their tax dollars used to further this ill conceived and unnecessary land acquisition.

The green space and magnificent old trees are far more precious than the out of context atrium that has almost the same square footage as the 1/4 acre park the museum proposes to use. Furthermore, this sort of acquisition would set a very bad precedent for future museum expansion.

Improving the physical structure of the museum is a good idea and could be carried out within the confines of the space they now occupy.

Olive Freud
President

Olive Freud
Chao Dan

Testimony on the FY18 Preliminary Budget
Presented by Heather Woodfield on behalf of New Yorkers for Culture & Arts

I want to thank the Council for the opportunity to testify on behalf of New Yorkers for Culture & Arts — a new organizations which is the culmination of a merger between the New York City Art Coalition and One Percent for Culture. New Yorkers for Culture & Arts will advocate for strengthening policy, increasing and securing sustainable public funding, while advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion to help ensure a vibrant future for arts and culture throughout New York City.

We commend the City Council, the Administration, and the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) for supporting culture and arts through both expense and capital funding. Now more than ever, with the threats of federal cuts to arts, humanities, and science, it is vitally important that the City continue and grow its support for culture and arts. Therefore, we are joining with members of the cultural community, to ask for a funding increase of \$40 million to the Department of Cultural Affairs to be equally divided between the CIGs (Cultural Institutions Group) and the CDF (Cultural Development Fund) for grant making. Even with a \$40 million increase the DCLA budget would still be less than 0.3% of the overall city budget — a very small contribution in light of the social and economic benefits which culture and arts brings to New Yorkers.

An additional \$40 million would provide DCLA with fiscal capacity to increase funding for currently funded institutions and organizations, including underfunded groups, the five borough arts councils, which administer re-grants programs which serve individual artists and local cultural organizations, and a wider and more diverse array of new grantees. With an additional \$40 million in funding, cultural organizations could expand life-long learning for opportunities for all New Yorkers, access culture and arts for City residents, programs aligned with city priorities and in collaboration with City agencies, and workforce development opportunities including artist support.

We urge you to increase funding for DCLA by \$40 million to be divided evenly between the CIG and CDF. Thank you for time today and for your steadfast support for the nonprofit cultural community. We look forward to continued collaborations between city government, cultural organizations, and artists in order to better serve all New Yorkers.



REGINA
OPERA
C O M P A N Y

P.O. BOX 150253
BROOKLYN, NY 11215
Email: info@reginaopera.org
718-259-2772

PRESIDENT

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EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT/ SECRETARY

Linda Cantoni

VICE-PRESIDENT

José Alejandro Guzmán

TREASURER

Joseph Delfausse

Dear Members of the New York City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations,

For 47 years, Regina Opera has offered year-round, fully-staged operas and ticketed and free concerts in Southwest Brooklyn.

Regina Opera performances are places where thousands of Brooklyn residents, many of them retirees, come to meet their friends, stimulating their minds and getting them out of their home. Attending our performances distracts them from their troubles. We have also been told that our performances are of high quality.

Regina Opera provides affordable entertainment for audiences who may not otherwise attend live opera performances. Some are on a fixed income and cannot afford the tickets. Some cannot travel to Manhattan. Others are intimidated by the "Major" opera houses, or have not been exposed to opera previously.

Regina Opera offers matinee performances, reducing travel after dark. The response of the audience is overwhelming. 4000 people will attend performances during Fiscal Year 2018, taking advantage of the low cost and free tickets: between \$20 and \$25 for operas; and \$12 for Concerts; less for students. Many tickets are donated to Senior Centers.

Regina Opera is unique in Brooklyn. Music schools and other groups present occasional operas or concerts in Brooklyn, but Regina Opera is the only group presenting professional-level, fully-staged operas and operatic concerts year-round, and the company has been doing so for 47 years.

Regina Opera also helps the entire community: the performances add to the cultural vitality which serves as a magnet for prospective residents and businesses. We directly affect the economy of this locality by employing local residents and purchasing local goods. Our performers and audience members frequently shop and eat in this area.

Regina Opera depends on the support of audience members and on New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. We ask that the expense funding for culture be increased by \$40M increase in expense funding for culture divided evenly between the Cultural Institutions and Cultural Development Fund so groups like ours we can fulfill their goals of a person in each seat, and great singers on the stage.



Testimony for Increase or Elimination of Cultural Immigrant Initiative Budget Cap

Good afternoon, my name is Amy Fiore, I am the Director of Development for TADA! Youth Theater, a small non-profit company that provides classes, camps, residencies, performance, and training opportunities to children in NYC as well as affordable original musicals for family audiences in NYC. I am here today to implore you to consider increasing or eliminating the budget cap that limits the Cultural Immigrant Initiative grants to organizations whose budget is one million dollars or less.

According to the Department of Cultural Affairs website, The Cultural Immigrant Initiative funds are intended to support “eligible programs that serve a significant number of immigrant/foreign-born New Yorkers, or present or represent the traditions, cultures, and/or experiences of immigrant communities in NYC”¹. The value of this initiative is immeasurable, especially in a city like ours. As Speaker Mark-Viverito was quoted in October of 2015, “Immigrant experiences are central to the fabric and history of New York City and today, over three million foreign-born New Yorkers from all over the world call this city home. Cultural expression through art, music, dance and more celebrates this vibrant diversity of experiences and stories and allows us to share and appreciate that diversity together.” In this political climate, the necessity for a program like this is even greater today than when it was created in 2014.

The ability to apply for this funding, however, is limited only to arts and cultural organizations whose operating budgets are \$1M or less², despite the Department of Cultural Affairs asserting since the inception of the Initiative the issues created by such a threshold, since it rules out excellent services to immigrant communities by some of the city’s finest arts service providers.

I certainly don’t doubt the challenges that the smallest cultural organizations in our city face. I imagine their struggles to be enormous and the resources few and far between. I have read about organizations like Thalia Spanish Theatre struggling with funding cuts from private corporations and foundations.³ But sadly, slightly larger, (and perhaps even significantly larger) cultural organizations are also suffering from proportional budget cuts in funding as well as decreases in individual contributions. Since the financial crisis of 2008, corporate funding for my organization has dwindled to practically nothing. Long-time foundation funders are regularly spending down their endowments or moving on to serve newer, smaller cultural organizations because they assume us “mid-size” arts organizations are comfortably funded by their counterparts. When I served as Managing Director for my \$2M organization for 6 years, I experienced first-hand the stress and uncertainty of making payroll every month. I now feel the pressure my board needs to put on the development staff to find new and increased funding sources in order to continue serving our constituency, and sometimes even to keep the lights on.

The benchmark \$1M budget cap is a seemingly reasonable one. But anyone who has tried to rent an apartment or buy a gallon of milk in Manhattan after previously shopping in Long Island City knows that \$1M does not always equal \$1M. The location difference among eligible (and hopefully eligible) cultural organizations is a significant variant that should be considered when determining the budget limit for this initiative. For my organization based in mid-town Manhattan, 15% of our annual budget is spent on rent for the space we

¹ http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcla/downloads/pdf/initiative_guidelines.pdf

² <http://observer.com/2014/12/mark-viverito-and-van-bremer-announce-new-immigrant-arts-funding/>

³ http://www.timesledger.com/stories/2015/41/cultureinitiative_2015_10_09_q.html

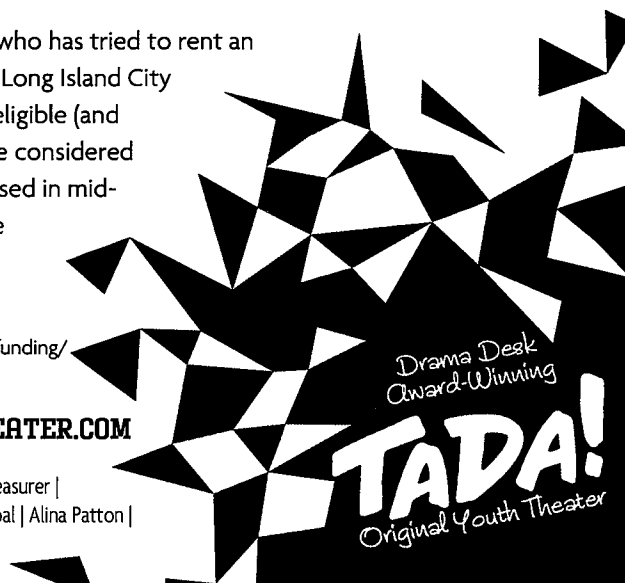
15 West 28th Street | NY, NY 10001 | 212.252.1619 | WWW.TADATHEATER.COM

Producing Artistic Director Janine Nina Trevens | Executive Director Rod Christensen

Board of Directors: Chalmers Browne, President | Elana Weinstein, Vice President | Stephen T. Rodd, Treasurer |

Laura Esposito, Secretary | Brian Burchfield | Marcia Dunn | Adam Houhoulis | Jordan Peele | Deepak Nagpal | Alina Patton |

Stephanie Tighe | Julie Turaj | Rohit Verma | Darcy Volpe





...to provide our programs and serve our mission, without over a quarter-of-a-million dollars

in annual rent – an amount that is apparently inexpensive for our neighborhood - our financial statement would look drastically different...and the kids we serve would have to travel further and likely not be able to reach us at all.

It is also well-known (and reflected in census data) that immigrant groups cluster in certain areas. A 2011 article from the New York Times mapped that Dominican immigrants made up 46% of the population in Washington Heights while 44% of the population in Forest Hills was Filipino. Ukrainians, Russians and Uzbecks made up 84% of Brighton Beach.⁴ In speaking with representatives from several council offices, I understand the intention of this initiative was, in part, to serve those densely populated immigrant communities by funding tiny immigrant-run cultural organizations who are best equipped to provide organic cultural programming that celebrates the specific heritage of the constituency they serve. I do not, for a moment, suggest that a *minimum* budget be set for this funding or wish that any well-deserving group loses out to a larger organization.

I wonder, however, about the other communities in New York City that are characterized by the melting pot we imagine our city to be. My organization sought to propose arts education programs in widely diverse schools that enabled children to explore and share their cultural heritage with classmates and their community by researching their own immigration to the US and collectively creating a theater piece that celebrates their diversity. Of course there would be great value in small ethnic cultural groups providing programming that exposes students to a culture beyond their own, but when the funding is niche, the experience has the potential to be limiting. And in this time of political turmoil, experienced arts educators would be invaluable in facilitating a creative and unifying program in schools that serve children from a number of different cultural backgrounds. The experience of those educators comes at a cost to my organization as well...one that puts us over the \$1M budget cap.

Council Member Van Bramer said in 2015, “By increasing funding streams to immigrant organizations and cultural groups...we are empowering more New Yorkers and increasing access to the arts in every neighborhood. Everyone in every corner of our city, regardless of their economic or ethnic background, is entitled to the world-class culture that makes our city great.”⁵ On behalf of my organization and many mid-sized organizations like mine, we agree and hope you can help make it so by eliminating the budget cap in the Cultural Immigrant Initiative.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Presented by Amy Fiore, Director of Development

212-252-1619 x116 / afiore@tadatheater.com

⁴ <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2011/01/23/nyregion/20110123-nyc-ethnic-neighborhoods-map.html>

⁵ http://www.timesledger.com/stories/2015/41/cultureinitiative_2015_10_09_q.html

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Drama Desk
Award-Winning

TADA!
Original Youth Theater



**Testimony of Cat Parker
League of Independent Theater**

Before the New York City Council

**Preliminary Budget Hearing - Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup
Relations**

March 7, 2017

Thank you to Chairman Jimmy Van Bramer and to the committee for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Cat Parker, with the League of Independent Theater. The League is a 501 (c) 6 Political Advocacy Organization, and is testifying today on behalf of the city's 50,000 independent theatre artists, 86% of whom vote.

I am here today, to join with other members of the cultural community, to ask for a funding increase of \$40 million to the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) to be equally divided between the CIGs (Cultural Institutions Group) and the CDF (Cultural Development Fund) for grant making.

The cultural funding in New York suffered a series of cuts during and after the 2008 financial crisis, at a time when other sources of funding, public and private, were also being cut back and withdrawn.

The budget has never returned to that 2008 level, in real terms or as a percent of the city budget, although City Council has fought for increases over the last few years.

Now, we're facing a new crisis: the Federal Government is targeting the rich culture of our city in retaliation for attempting to keep an open, inclusive community. The National Endowment for the Arts is fighting for its survival, but cuts may hit the arts in other ways. The New York City Housing Authority has already seen at least \$35 million in cuts, and many other programs may see similar cuts that impact the arts – for example, cuts to cultural exchange funding or increased visa requirements.

We still don't know how bad the pain will be for our community, particularly for the smallest, most diverse independent arts organizations throughout the five boroughs.

The contrast between our fortunes nationally and locally couldn't be starker. In New York, we know that strong cultural institutions allow more stories to be told, more ideas to be heard, and more people to be included.

This summer, the city will be adopting a Cultural Plan asked for by this Council. It speaks to the hope of an even more robust, diverse, and exciting cultural exchange.

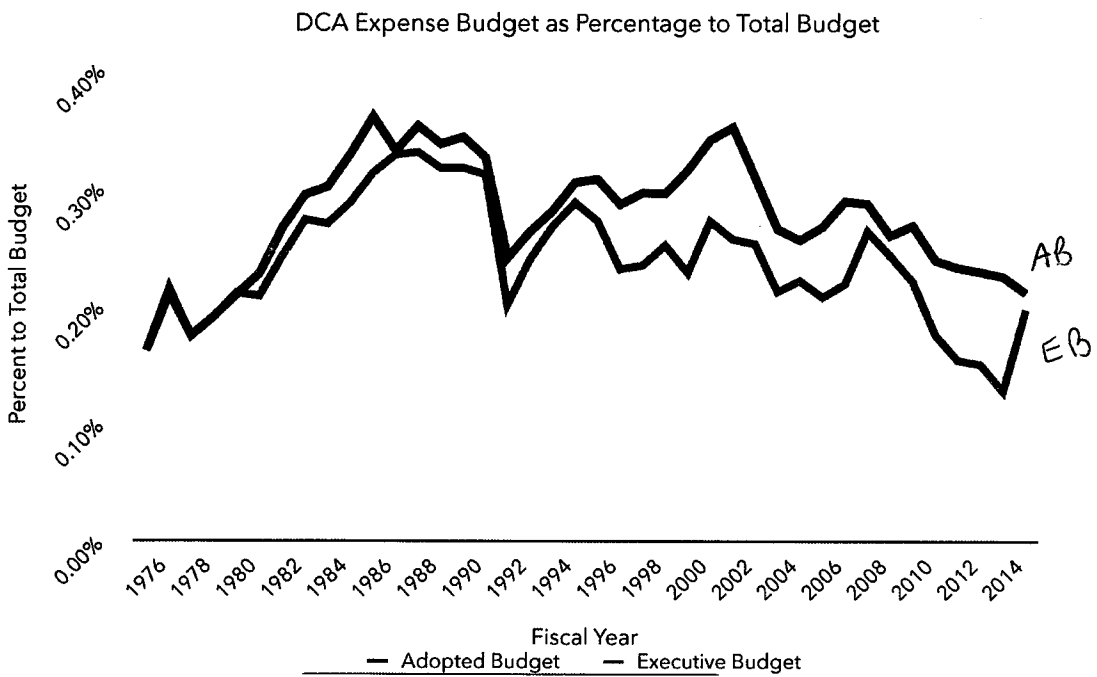
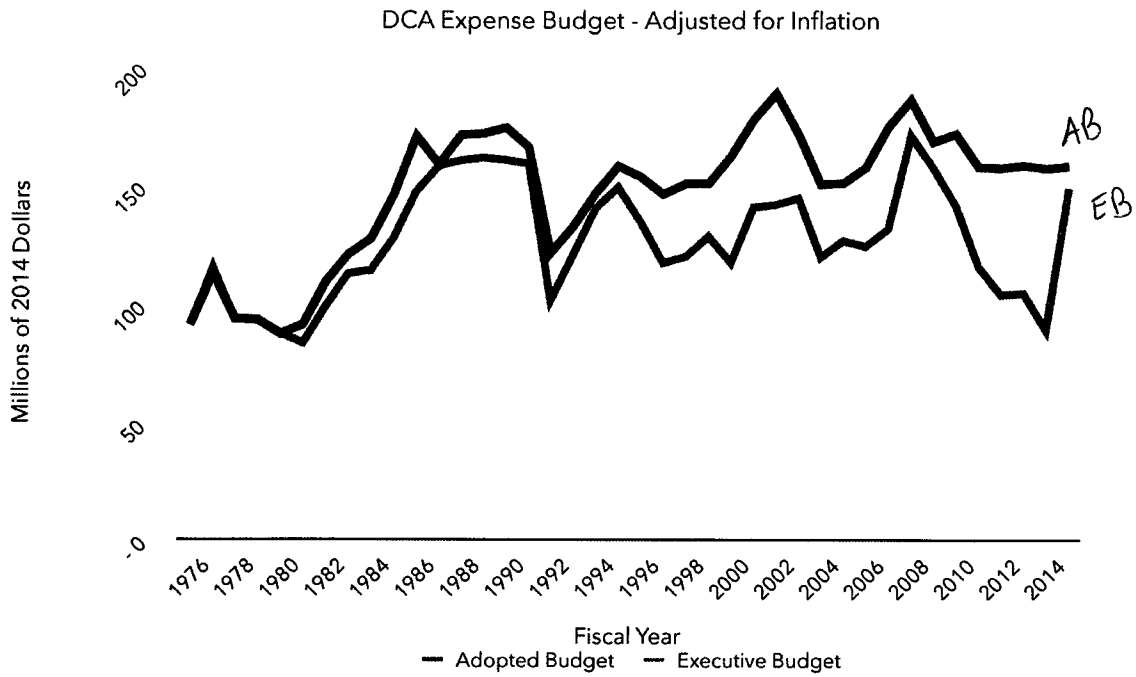
We call about the City Council to continue its commitment to all of the beautiful, vibrant exchanges of theater, dance, comedy, music, art, and more that make this city even more tolerant and inclusive, to continue to be a cultural beacon for the world.

That's why I am here today with our colleagues in the cultural community, to ask for a funding increase of \$40 million, to help sustain these and a thousand other programs in this city.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Our Budget Ask

An increase of \$40 million to the DCA divided evenly between the Cultural Institutions Group and the Cultural Development Fund (CDF)



League of Independent Theater Program Proposals



1. Support **transparent, searchable access** to city and community spaces for rehearsal or performance.

Proposal: Searchable database for privately owned public spaces. *[Completed]*

Proposal: Searchable database of Community Facility Spaces.

Proposal: Searchable database of unused or under-utilized city-owned spaces. *[See: #CitySpaces proposal co-sponsored by CMs Kallos, Van Bramer, Cumbo, and Rosenthal]*



2. Create program for artists to **exchange** participatory **workshops** for rehearsal/performance **space**

Proposal: Exchange workshops with public school students for rehearsal/performance space within schools. *[Piloted at a public school in Queens]*

Proposal: Exchange workshops with seniors for rehearsal/performance space within senior/community centers.

Proposal: Exchange workshops with NYCHA residents for rehearsal/performance space.



3. **Reduce** zoning and tax **barriers** to preserve existing performance spaces and encourage creation of new ones

Proposal: Exempt owners' property tax for square footage rented to not-for-profit arts organizations at below market rate. *[Unanimously ratified by all 12 Manhattan community boards]*

Proposal: Designate Cultural Zoning (similar to manufacturing zoning) that would earmark certain spaces for cultural use that cannot be converted into other uses, to preserve the character of cultural districts.

Proposal: Rent controls or stabilization for small business, similar to residential rent control.

Proposal: Property tax reductions for developers that are purchasing assemblages in exchange for temporarily activating their space for rehearsal/performance.



4. **Reduce high costs of electricity and utilities** for non-profit independent theater.

Proposal: Include non-profit performance venues in the favorable electricity and utility rates enjoyed by religious institutions and the VFW.

Proposal: Enable utility companies to donate the cost of utilities to non-profit arts organizations as a tax deduction.

Proposal: Provide seed funding for an Independent Theater solar co-op.



5. Secure **affordable, low-cost housing** for working artists.

Proposal: Create clustered units of affordable housing with live/work space included.

Example: Westbeth Artist Housing, housing 300 artists with live/work space.

Example: PS109, 89 units of affordable live/work space in East Harlem, 50% of which must be drawn from the local community.

Proposal: Support rent control and rent stabilization protections.



6. Secure **affordable, healthcare** for working artists.

Proposal: Create a Single Payer health system for New York.

Proposal: Ensure any future healthcare proposals understand the fiscal need of artists.

Proposal: Support grants to current healthcare initiatives, such as the Actor's Fund.



7. Commission an **economic impact study** for independent theater.



8. Support **cultural exchange, and multilingual arts organizations.**

Proposal: Establish an International Artist Liaison to connect organizations looking to work with international artists to legal and funding resources.



9. **Expand** existing Department of Cultural Affairs programs to include independent theater.

Proposal: Expand the Cultural Institutions Group to include independent theater anchor venues.

Proposal: Expand the Theater Subdistrict Fund to include arts organizations with budgets below \$250,000/year.



10. **Recognize the history** and impact of independent theater

Proposal: Designate new cultural districts.

Proposal: Install plaques at sites of historical import for Independent Theater.

Proposal: Rename streets after founders of the independent theater community.

Closed Arts Venues (2009-2016)^{1 2}

The following is a list of the independent theater, music, and dance performance spaces known to have vanished in the period of current crisis. This is likely an incomplete list.

285 Kent - 11211	The Living Room – 10002
29th Street Theatre - 10001	Magic Futurebox - 11232
3rd Ward - 11237	Manhattan Theatre Source - 10011
78th Street Theatre Lab – 10024	Michael Weller Theatre - 10036
92YTribeca - 10013	Nat Horne Theatre - 10036
Actors Playhouse – 10014	Oasis Theatre - 10019
Amato Opera Theatre - 10003	Ohio Theatre -10012
b.pm. - 11211	Pelican Theatre - 10036
Bowerie Lane Theatre – 10002	Perry Street Theatre - 10012
Brooklyn Rod & Gun - 11211	The Piano Store – 10002
Center Stage – 10010	The Pink Pony – 10002
Chelsea Repertory Company – 10011	Red Room - 10003
Collapsible Hole - 11201	Provincetown Playhouse - 10012
Collective Unconscious - 10002	Sanford Meisner Theatre - 10011
Common Basis Theatre - 10036	Show World Theatre - 10036
Creative Place Theatre - 10036	The Spoon Theatre – 10018
Culture Project – 10012	Stage Left Studio - 10001
Dance New Amsterdam - 10007	Studio Dante - 10001
Death By Audio - 11211	Sullivan Street Playhouse - 10012
Douglas Fairbanks Theatre – 10036	The Tank on 42nd Street - 10036
Douglass Street Music Collective - 11217	Theatorium - 10002
Emerging Artists Theatre – 10036	Theatre 5 - 10036
Exit Art - 10018	Theatre Studio - 10036
Flatiron Theatre – 10011	Theatre1010 - 10028
Galapagos Arts Space - 11201	Todo Con Nada - 10002
Gene Frankel Theatre – 10012	Two Moon Art House and Café - 11215
Glasslands - 11211	Trilogy Theatre - 10036
Greenwich Street Theatre – 10014	Variety Arts Theater - 10003
Goodbye Blue Monday - 11221	Village Gate Theatre - 10012
Grove Street Playhouse - 10014	Vital Children's Theatre on 42nd Street - 10036
Hinton Battle Dance Laboratory - 10036	Where Eagles Dare – 10018
House of Candles – 10002	Zebulon - 11211
Incubator Arts Project - 10003	Zipper Factory - 10018
Intar Theatre on 53rd Street – 10019	
Interart Theater - 10019	
Location One - 10013	
John Houseman Theatre - 10036	
Jose Quintero – 10036	
Joyce Theater - 10012	
The Living Theatre – 10001	

¹ *List of lost / closed Off-Off-Broadway Spaces.* New York Innovative Theatre Awards, Inc. <http://www.nyitawards.com/news/newsitem.asp?storyid=78>

² *Closed Venues.* JACK Arts. <http://www.jackny.org/closedvenues.html>

Faith Steinberg, W. 75th St. NYC – Community United – 3/8/17

Mr. Richard Gilder ^{BD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMNH} the so-called philanthropist, more like a tax

dodger, has ^{HIRED} sent out a very well-paid stooge to manipulate our local

City Councilmembers, the public and our ostensibly progressive

elected officials in the City and State, plus at least one social service

NGO that I know of (working for the homeless and seniors) thus

having full support from these latter institutions. The sum of these

City and State investment in this boondoggle, is at least one million, ^{THE GILDER CENTER}

and growing ^{to \$165 M} of our tax dollars without ever asking the public.

(NYCHA--NYS and NYC funded housing-- receives \$3.6 M or

thereabouts, for the years 2016 to 2020 and its essential to mention

60,000 and counting, homeless, including families with children.

Disgraceful.

The claim is that the Museum has in storage artifacts (sometimes I

hear 37 thousand, sometime 37 million, they haven't gotten their story

straight, and these artifacts ^{AND RESEARCH} will cure the world of all its illnesses and

if you believe this I have a good bridge to sell you.

The eponymous Center is scheduled to be named for the Richard Gilder, who is a Reaganite, a member of the right-wing think tank, Manhattan Institute, that in this day and age of Climate Change is, of course, denied. The Center will be an energy-guzzling, massive building with not a solar panel in sight and will have a school for children and labs for scientists granting PhD degrees.

First, classroom education and degrees is not the mission of a
THE GILDER CENTER IS NOT A CULTURAL
Museum. The Museum itself is one huge learning facility that has
INSTITUTION.
exhibited many beautiful exhibits that I have been seen over the
years. As far as teaching children, I would not trust a Museum whose
driving force (Mr. Gilder) believes that man has conquered nature (I
kid you not) and deceitfully contends that "all men are created equal."
to exhibit his magnanimity. That should be "all men are created equal
under the law." I would not trust a person who cites such drivel to be
in charge of an institution that educates children or offers PhDs to
scientists.

Among the worst things is virtually destroying TR Park, razing seven
magnificent trees. The shameful media have on their Board of

3
Trustees billionaires (at least in one instance that I'm sure of), and have either totally ignored this situation or barely mention it—and some are the most reliable and prestigious media.

By the way, Maya Lin, the brilliant architect of the Vietnam Memorial on the Mall in Wash. D.C., is renovating the Smith College Library. She found that the Library had some wasted space and has cut back on the original foot print allowing for *more* green space in the area.

Exploring the Metropolis, Inc.

Workspace Solutions for NYC's Performing Arts Communities

205 Lexington Ave 17th Floor
New York NY 10016-6022
212.886.2503
office@exploringthemetropolis.org
www.exploringthemetropolis.org

New York City Council

**Cultural Affairs, Libraries & International Intergroup Relations Committee
Council Chambers – City Hall**

Preliminary Budget Hearing Testimony FY18

Wednesday March 8, 2017 1 PM

My name is David Johnston and I am the Executive Director of Exploring the Metropolis. I would like to thank Councilmember Jimmy Van Bramer and the Cultural Affairs Committee for the opportunity to testify today.

Since 1982, Exploring the Metropolis (EtM) has focused on solving the workspace needs of New York City's performing artists. Currently, we administer the EtM Con Edison Composer Residencies, the Choreographer + Composer Residency in partnership with the Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning, and the Ridgewood Bushwick Composer Residency.

Since 2009, EtM has supported nearly 70 composers, choreographers and performing artists, providing them with more than \$650,000 worth of no-cost rehearsal space and cash support. In addition, EtM has provided more than \$110,000 worth of support to NYC's nonprofit cultural and community centers to maximize their space usage, and supported more than 60 free public programs for New York City audiences, ranging from new music premieres to work-in-progress dance showings, composition workshops for visually impaired students, and even a new children's opera.

Why is workspace important for performing artists in New York? Why is this important to New York City?

For our Jamaica program, applications tripled in the second year. We were anticipating an applicant pool more geared towards emerging artists. But since beginning the program, we've had artists like Pam Tanowitz and Christopher Williams (Bessie winner), and Jen Shyu (Doris Duke Performing Artist).

Other EtM Artists have won awards, recognition and commissions from the Pulitzers, the Jerome Foundation, the Kleban Foundation, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Kronos Quartet, American Composers Orchestra, New Music USA, the MAP Fund, Latin Grammys and the Doris Duke Foundation.

Artists at all career stages in NYC need this support. It's not just emerging. Workspace can be prohibitively expensive even for those at a more advanced level.

There's the impact on communities. We have artists like Randy Woolf, a Guggenheim fellow, is now in residence in a senior facility in Bushwick. Randy has a PhD from Harvard in composition and has worked over the last 30 years with artists like John Cale, Maurice Sendak and Heidi Latsky. He needed a quiet space to work because his wife teaches piano in their home during the day. We're matching these amazing artists who need space with communities that want the arts.

I am here today, to join with other members of the cultural community, to ask for a 40 million dollar increase to the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) for the City Cultural Institutions Group and the Cultural Development Fund (CDF.)

Workspace for artists has been emerging as a vital issue in the City Cultural Plan. An increase in our DCA funding would allow us to expand opportunities for artists and audiences in the communities we are serving, like Flushing, Jamaica, Bushwick and Upper Manhattan. It would allow us to plan and implement a city wide residency network, utilizing community and cultural centers with available space, making these residency and workspace opportunities available for dance, theater, music, to create and develop new work for any genre, for performing and creating artists at any career stage in any community in the City, from Corona to Bushwick to Mott Haven to St. George.

Cultural organizations and artists are essential to our economy, and they contribute to our city's cultural vibrancy which serves all our citizens. It is vital that the city continue to support the full scope of nonprofit culture and we hope that the upcoming Cultural Plan will reflect this scope.

Thank for you opportunity to testify today.

David Johnston
Executive Director
Exploring the Metropolis
david@exploringthemetropolis.org



**TO: Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer
Members of the New York City Council Committee on Cultural
Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations**

RE: NYC Department of Cultural Affairs FY18 Budget

DATE: 7 March 2017

Majority Leader Van Bramer and Members of the Committee, please accept my deepest appreciation to give testimony today regarding FY18 Budget for the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs. The Asian American Arts Alliance is a proud grantee of DCLA and, for 35 years, has supported individual artists and small arts groups across the five boroughs of New York. I am also proud to share that I am one of the Co-Chairs of the newly formed citywide arts advocacy group, New Yorkers for Culture & Arts, which is a union of the New York City Arts Coalition and One Percent for Culture. I know you will be hearing testimony specifically from New Yorkers for Culture & Arts later today.

I join my nonprofit arts colleagues today to ask for a funding increase of \$40 million to DCLA to be equally divided between the Cultural Institutions Group and the Cultural Development Fund. The increase would allow more New Yorkers from each of the Council's districts to be better served by arts and cultural activities, thus transforming lives and increasing the diversity of all the stories that deserve to be told, heard, and honored in our communities. Certainly, there is no greater time than now for us as a City to support diversity and a multiplicity of views through the power of arts and culture.

To that end, the Alliance supports the Asian American cultural workforce in New York, welcoming all who identify as having roots from the Pacific Islands through the Middle East, including North Africa. 47% of our community are New Americans.

While Asian Americans make up more than 15% of the city's population and are the fastest-growing racial and ethnic group, they remain underrepresented across nearly all disciplines. Also, according to DCLA diversity study last year, Asian Americans also

only make up the 7.38% of staff and 3.78% of senior leadership at our arts and cultural organizations.

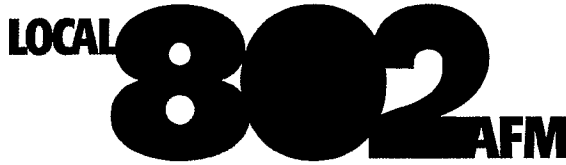
While all of us benefit from the impact of the organizations that make up the CIGs, it is also the small, community-based arts organizations that work directly in neighborhoods, serving people where they live and work. And a great many of these serve New York's most marginalized, including communities of color. More than a third of all DCLA grantees have annual operating budgets of \$100,000 or less and are disproportionately reliant on government funding, making them particularly vulnerable to whatever happens as the outcome of these budget hearings.

The Alliance was privileged to hear many such voices just on Monday at our community convening to inform the City's Cultural Plan process at the newly renovated Elmhurst Library—a program generously supported by Council Member Peter Koo as part of the Cultural Immigrant Initiative. All who attended were deeply engaged and deeply invested in this City and the role that arts and culture can play in enabling individuals, families, and neighborhoods thrive.

We are grateful for your leadership in the \$10 million increase to this year's budget. But, more than ever, there's still so much to do.

I urge the NYC Council to increase expense funding for FY18 to the DCLA by \$40 million so that organizations like the Alliance can continue and expand our work.

Thank you for your kind attention.



Associated Musicians of Greater New York
322 West 48th Street, New York, NY 10036
Phone 212-245-4802 • www.local802afm.org
Fax 212-245-6389 (2nd fl) • 489-6030 (3rd fl) • 245-6257 (4th fl) • 245-6255 (5th fl)

FOR THE RECORD

**NY City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International
Intergroup Relations**

**Testimony regarding Fiscal Year 2018 budget on behalf of the Associated Musicians
of Greater New York, Local 802, AFM**

March 8, 2017

Good morning Chair Van Bramer and members of the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations. My name is Christopher Carroll and I am the Political Director of the Associated Musicians of Greater New York, American Federation of Musicians Local 802. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on the importance of the city's cultural community and the importance of providing the support that our city's artists and cultural institutions need and deserve.

I also want to thank Chair Van Bramer and the entire City Council for supporting our artist community in the Fiscal Year 2017 budget. Your commitment has been extraordinary, and we hope that the cultural community will continue to receive vital support in the coming years, especially in light of the funding priorities currently being indicated by our Federal government.

Local 802 is the largest local union of professional musicians in the world, comprising musicians of all styles and backgrounds, from the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic, to the musicians on Broadway and thousands of musicians playing in recording studios, jazz clubs and venues across the city every day.

Our ultimate goal is to strengthen our City's artistic environment and cultural fabric, working every day to champion live music in our communities, advocate for fair

wages and the treatment of musicians, and promote policies that allow musicians to afford to live, work and raise their families here.

Musicians come to New York from across the country and the globe for the opportunity to perform with the most talented artists and be part of the most creative community in the world. As a result, New York City has become a cultural capital of the world, known for its diversity, its creativity, and the unparalleled artistic talent that work here. However, for the city to maintain its current standing, it must adequately support the artists that create our cultural environment and support the organizations that provide artists, New Yorkers and visitors with the opportunities to experience our city's cultural heritage.

Music and the Arts, vital to economic and social health

Music and the arts have a profound impact upon New York City's economy, bringing direct and indirect economic benefits that are driving our economy, creating jobs and helping New Yorkers and business owners thrive and grow. With over 1,300 cultural organizations in New York City, New Yorkers are gaining access to the vitally important role that music, art, dance, theater, film, museums, science and literature play in our lives and in more neighborhoods, not to mention the hundreds of thousands of jobs directly created and the multi-billion dollar economic impact these institutions have on local economies and small businesses.

Additionally, the role the arts play in the social and cultural health of our neighborhoods, districts and boroughs cannot be overstated. Music, performance and the arts are a part of our common heritage, part of our past and present, providing the life-blood of our City's culturally diverse communities by bridging social, economic, educational and lingual divides. The value of the arts and our cultural institutions is felt far beyond that which can be measured through economic impact, impacting our values and core beliefs by celebrating diversity and encouraging inclusiveness, encouraging interaction and championing creativity, bolstering our education and providing access to new experiences and ideas.

The musicians of Local 802 work each and every day to support these values, teaching young children in public schools, bringing the therapeutic and social benefits of music to our seniors, hosting career mentorship events like the Council for Living Music's Jazz Mentors and teaching at workshops that are free to the public, as well as countless social and community advocacy initiatives that they devote their time and energy to every day. In our Country's current cultural, political and social climate, these values are priceless.

However, many musicians – students, emerging musicians and established artists – struggle to build a career that is economically sustainable and artistically fulfilling. With Cornell University studies estimating musicians' median income to be \$29,600 annually, and the Center for Urban Future finding that musicians and singers make less than the national median income when adjusted for New York City's cost of living, it is clear that New York City is quickly becoming a place that the artists who have made our artistic environment world-renowned can no longer thrive or support a living.

This reality is made even more difficult by the lack of government support that arts and cultural institutions currently experience in this country, and will undoubtedly continue to experience in the Trump administration.

Between 2008 and 2015, federal, state and city programmatic support for Cultural Institutions Group members and cultural organizations declined an alarming 11 percent and 6 percent respectively. This has been partnered by similarly alarming diminutions of support from the National Endowment for the Arts, which between 2008 and 2015 declined 4 percent, and by the New York State Council on the Arts, whose support declined by 29 percent.

Sadly, this trend is expected to continue. With President Trump's administration indicating that the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities are to be eliminated, increased City programmatic support for the CIGs and other cultural institutions across the five boroughs is vital, especially now that they are arguably more important - and more at risk - than ever before.

Beyond the economic and social value of the arts in our communities, we cannot overlook the Create NYC initiative, the City's first comprehensive cultural plan, which many of the members of the Committee are either involved with or keenly aware of. This plan, if it is to be inclusive, impactful and successful, must adequately support the artists, performers and workers who contribute to our cultural environment and footprint.

In order for the Create NYC plan to be successful, it must reflect the needs of the workers who drive the industry by going beyond the traditional confines of DCLA's current operations and making recommendations that will encourage financially viable and sustainable careers, implement incentive reform, expand affordable artist housing and space, better fund and celebrate our city's cultural community, strengthen the arts in our public schools, and ensure that the cultural capital of the world is a place where musicians, performers, writers, dancers, actors, stagehands, teachers and all artists, can afford to live, work and raise a family.

In order for New York City to continue to be a global leader and standard bearer of cultural vigor and diverse heritage, the City must adequately fund our artists, our institutions, and our initiatives. We ask that the City and Council work together to fund an increase of \$40 million for the DCLA budget, shared between the Cultural Development Fund grants and the Cultural Institutions Groups, as well as be prepared to support and implement the recommendations that are made in the Create NYC plan.

Thank you again for allowing me to speak. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have now, or at your convenience at any time in the future.



THE CENTER FOR ARTS EDUCATION®

**Testimony for the
New York City Council Preliminary Budget Hearing – Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and
International Intergroup Relations
Delivered by Lisa Levy, Director of Advocacy & Engagement
March 8, 2017**

My name is Lisa Levy, and I am the Director of Advocacy and Engagement for The Center for Arts Education. Thank you to Chair Van Bramer, the staff, and the rest of the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations for inviting us to testify here today.

Our work is in three areas related to arts learning for NYC's 1.1 million public school students: Learning opportunities for public school students and their parents, professional training for school leadership, teachers, artists and advocacy for policies and funding to support the arts and arts education. We are a nonprofit that celebrated our 20th birthday in 2016. We are based in Manhattan and proudly operate programs in over 150 schools located in every borough.

I joined CAE in December and am very happy to be here today while you are working on the FY18 budget. We share a great interest and commitment to being stewards of the resources required to ensure public school students receive a well-rounded education. My focus will be on arts education which research shows leads to improved social, emotional, and academic outcomes, increased attendance and graduation rates, and expanded career opportunities and skills for our students, leaders and workers of tomorrow.

First, thank you all for your leadership over the past few years. Thanks to this Council, and this administration, funding for cultural institutions and arts education increased substantially since 2014. This means that more teachers have been hired to teach in our public schools, more students are

learning the performing and visual arts, and have gained access to the resources for a well-rounded education. This has also translated to more New Yorkers visiting our cultural institutions and more learning taking place both inside and outside of our classrooms.

The new four-year annual \$23 million funding allocation that the Council and Mayor agreed to in 2014 is positively effecting classroom learning experiences of tens of thousands of students, some of them are having an art teacher for the first time. The funding is alleviating some of the real inequities in the delivery of educational services including in arts education.

Again, the Council did the right thing proposing the funding line and ensuring it was baselined for four years. We should renew this funding and expand this work. We should invest more in arts learning. We must continue our work to close the equity and learning gap.

This past December, the New York City Department of Education released its *Annual Arts in Schools Report* covering the 2015-2016 school year which reflected the second year of data available since the city implemented the annual arts education funding initiative. It reports modest and grand gains:

- Funding for school-based arts education increased by almost \$32 million last year over the previous year. This reflects not only the annual \$23 million financial investment, but also principals committing additional funds from their own budgets for increased arts programming;
- There was a citywide increase of 113 arts teachers working in public schools last year. This was in addition to 175 arts teachers who were hired during the 2014-15 academic year. Many of these teachers are now teaching in schools that did not previously have an arts teacher;
- There was a 50% increase in the number of eighth grade students who completed two arts courses in two different arts disciplines by a certified arts teacher, as mandated by New York State Law.

As you might recall, the lack of arts teachers and cultural partnerships in many city schools, specifically in the South Bronx, Central Brooklyn, and East Harlem, was a key disparity brought to light in Comptroller Stringer's report issued in 2014 and was a major catalyst for the city's financial investment.

The percentage of schools that have at least one arts and cultural partnership continues to make slow progress, with the increase from 84% in 2013-2014 to 87% in 2014-2015 remaining steady in 2015-16 at 87%. The goal of every school having at least one cultural partnership is reasonable and within sight.

The hiring and placement of the new arts teachers at schools lacking arts teachers represents a very strategic and targeted approach by the Mayor, Chancellor, and Department of Education's Office of Arts and Special Projects to address these long-standing inequities. We look forward to the progress that will be made with the addition of more than 250 new arts teachers over the last two academic years of the funding. This momentum must continue to ensure all students receive the arts learning they are entitled to.

Access to the arts does not end in our city's classrooms, and thanks to this Committee, and the entire City Council and Administration, because of the funding for the New York City ID, hundreds of thousands of people, including families with children, have gained free and discounted access to our Cultural and Heritage Sites. According to a report recently released by Mayor de Blasio, in the first year and a half of the program alone, more than 400,000 memberships with cultural institutions were initiated using IDNYC.

Additionally, thanks to this Committee, and this Council and Administration, we can soon look forward to New York City's first Cultural Plan. The cultural plan and its process is a tremendous opportunity for all the branches of the arts and cultural sector to help drive good governance, build strong communities, address issues of inequity and lack of participation, and strengthen already successful programs that serve millions. As our Executive Director, Lisa Robb, testified before this body last month, The Center for Arts Education supports a cultural plan that holds this as a core

recommendation: every year, in every school, every student receives the arts instruction they are entitled to by law.

We appreciate the chance that producing the Cultural Plan has given organizations like ours who work with those who, while they live in a city rich with cultural offerings, may not be able to take advantage of the resources around them. By asking people what they need and want to see in their city and their neighborhoods, we can make sure that culture and heritage can truly be appreciated and accessed by everyone.

And in a final note, in addition to supporting this important educational funding line, CAE joins New Yorkers in calling on the Council to support an increase of \$40 million for the Department of Cultural Affairs budget. Arts and culture are a hallmark of life in New York City and a vital part of what makes New York a global capital of arts and commerce. The city's rich array of arts and cultural organizations should be an invaluable part of the education of our all our public school students. Almost 1000 organizations are directly funded by DCLA and many provide arts education services and experiences for students and New Yorkers of all ages. The work these grants support help to improve social and academic outcomes and school culture, while also providing our students with invaluable introductions to careers in the arts and creative sector. With an increase in funding currently funded organizations can expand their educational offerings and the DCLA can also offer funding to a wider array of deserving groups and artists thereby expanding equity and access citywide.

Working together, we can address these inequities and close the access and experience gaps too many residents experience. In addition to the city's increased investment for arts education in the education budget, increasing the DCLA budget by \$40 million can help ensure that every school in New York City has cultural partners to bring the arts and creativity to life for its students.

On behalf of the board and staff at The Center for Arts Education and the tens of thousands of students, educators, and families we serve annually we thank you for your time and consideration. Thank you Chair Van Bramer and all the other members of the Cultural Affairs Committee for your service to New York.



CCCADI

Testimony – March 8, 2017

**To: New York City Councilmembers Committee
Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations Committee.**

**From: Marta Moreno Vega, President/Founder Caribbean Cultural Center
African Diaspora Institute**

**Title: 40 Million Dollars to Stabilize and Support the Growth of Community
Based Under Funded Organizations in New York City - Grounded in
Economically Disenfranchised Communities of Color in New York City**

Culture is simultaneously the fruit of a people's history and a determinant of history, by the positive or negative influence which it exerts on the revolution of relationships between man and his environment, among men/women or groups of men/women* within a society, as well as among different societies...Amilcar Cabral 1970
(*women my addition)*

The present outdated funding structure of New York City dates to a period before segregation in the South where White Eurocentric institutions focused on the cultures and artistic production of European America. The Civil Rights Movement, Black, Latinx, Asian and Native American public movements that followed in the 60's on make clear that the diverse cultures in a democratic society integral to the national and local growth of the country were/are important part of the history, cultural and art life of the creative industry of the nation and obviously New York City. These movements insisted that the histories, traditions and creative productions that affirm the lives of these diverse cultures be part of the cultural life of the City and Nation.

Yet, in New York City – where people of color presently are the numerical majority and the diversity of cultural contributions that built the nation and city as unpaid force labor - Native and African people and their descendants continue to have our creative institutions and productions under funded and growth stunted due to marginalization and under resourcing. Our institutions receive limited program funds without support for the administrative and operational costs essential to run our organizations while 33 groups that are part of the Cultural Institutions Groups receive, operations, administrative and program funds. Last year City budget provided the opportunity to change this inequitable distribution of funds yet chose to maintain the same formula of inequity by providing increases to CIG organizations with the additional 10 million dollars added to the budget of DCLA and maintaining community organizations like CCCADI at the same level.



The formula of approximately 85% of City funds to 33 institutions consider important to the cultural life of New York also reflect Boards of Directors that are overwhelmingly White and wealthy. DCLA's own research has indicated that the executive staffs of these institutions are overwhelmingly white. The creation of an internship program focused on training young people of color by passes the expertise already available and trained by community based organizations skilled in the art forms of their communities. Still within this construct the organizations of color that are part of the CIG groups receive significantly less funding that their colleagues. This is a clear indication that funding favoritism and the continued underfunding and devaluing of our major institutions of color perpetuate the divide between the valuing of Eurocentric cultural production.

The distribution of approximately 15% to more than 1200 smaller institutions relegates them to "a culture of poverty." Provided minimum program support without operational costs minimizes the probability of growth and steers organizations to underpay artists and their staffs in order to provide programmatic services to our communities. This process intentionally structures a system of underfinancing that destabilizes and "nickel and dimes" our organizations sustaining our organizations in a "cultural art matrix of poverty." The attached chart provides you a financial break down of how funds are distributed.

The Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora requests that the New York City Council investigate this system of funding distribution that maintains the "Tale of Two Cities" that this administration vowed to destroy.

Our Request: Further that the New York City Council establish a 40 million dollar Community Based Cultural Arts Initiative, as a line item to be allocated and distributed to community based art and cultural organizations grounded in ethnic communities. That these institutions reflect the art practices that support, racial, social justice practices that empower of communities. That the value of our institutions be recognized as critical to the cultural life of New York City by developing a conscious system of public cultural awareness initiative that is inclusive valuing the ethnic communities and institutions that reflect New York City.

FY2017 Adopted Budget Adjustments - DCLA \$10M increase

Organization	Initiatives	Other Adjustments	TOTAL
CULTURAL PROGRAMS (CDF)	\$ 24,889,740	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 29,889,740
OTHER 15 CIGs	\$ 1,436,257	\$ 1,330,918	\$ 2,767,175
METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART	\$ -	\$ 641,119	\$ 641,119
THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SO	\$ 165,250	\$ 548,179	\$ 713,429
AMER MUSEUM NATURAL HISTORY	\$ 100,000	\$ 527,120	\$ 627,120
SNUG HARBOR CULTURAL CENTER	\$ -	\$ 444,399	\$ 444,399
BROOKLYN MUSEUM	\$ -	\$ 348,568	\$ 348,568
NY BOTANICAL GARDEN	\$ 89,000	\$ 267,800	\$ 356,800
TOTAL, TOP 6	\$ 354,250	\$ 2,777,185	\$ 3,131,435
BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN	\$ -	\$ 186,030	\$ 186,030
BKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM	\$ 19,687	\$ 184,483	\$ 204,170
SI INSTITUTE ARTS & SCIENCES	\$ 10,000	\$ 137,455	\$ 147,455
S.I. ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY	\$ 32,000	\$ 131,770	\$ 163,770
WAVE HILL	\$ -	\$ 125,163	\$ 125,163
BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC	\$ 15,750	\$ 116,973	\$ 132,723
QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN	\$ 61,000	\$ 99,273	\$ 160,273
NY HALL OF SCIENCE	\$ -	\$ 78,223	\$ 78,223
S I HISTORICAL SOCIETY	\$ 10,000	\$ 66,454	\$ 76,454
MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NY	\$ 21,000	\$ 65,499	\$ 86,499
STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM	\$ 10,000	\$ 60,962	\$ 70,962
N.Y.SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL	\$ -	\$ 39,612	\$ 39,612
TOTAL, NEXT 12	\$ 179,437	\$ 1,291,897	\$ 1,471,334
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER-PS	\$ -	\$ (241,751)	\$ (241,751)
TOTAL DCLA	\$ 26,859,684	\$ 10,158,249	\$ 37,017,933



FOR THE RECORD

New York City Council
Testimony: March 8, 2017

I would like to begin by thanking the Cultural Affairs and Library committee for the opportunity to testify. My name is Janel Peterson, and I am the New Americans Project Coordinator for Brooklyn Public Library and a long-time Brooklyn resident. I have been working for the library since 2010 coordinating programs for immigrants such as English Conversation Groups, Citizenship Prep Groups, and the formalized Citizenship Classes.

Over the years, the demand has continued to grow for opportunities for immigrants to learn English. The library has focused efforts to meet the needs of the community and now hosts fifty-four volunteer-led English Conversation Groups throughout thirty branches. Last year alone, the conversation groups served 16,000 participants.

Due to the overwhelming response from participants to provide information and assistance with citizenship, we created the Citizenship Prep Groups. Shortly thereafter, we also added formalized Citizenship Classes and free Immigration Legal Services to the library. Now someone seeking assistance with preparing for the Naturalization Exam can go to one of the six formalized classes or to one of the fifteen volunteer-led Citizenship Prep Groups. We had 369 students enrolled in the formalized classes from 2014-2016. Someone can also be connected to free, one-on-one immigration legal assistance. Due to high demand, we are currently making appointments for late April.

Working as both an ESL teacher and a coordinator, I've seen the importance the library plays in the lives of many immigrants. The library is a safe and welcoming place for everyone. It is an environment where people share and learn from one another. The classes become a support group for those who may not have family or friends in this city. In the library, people find a sense of community.

When I walk into the library, I often pass by a group or a class in session. Looking in, I see familiar faces and hear people sharing stories. Many patrons take part in multiple programs the library offers, allowing us to become part of their daily lives and them to be an integral part of the library. As I continue into our office, I hear the continuous ringing of phones and people being connected to numerous services. At this time, we have over 100 phone calls from people seeking immigration assistance a week.

We have programs for immigrants seven days a week. The majority of the programs take place during the evenings or on Saturdays. Often people are working and are only available to take part in these services at these times. If it were not for the extended hours during the evenings or on the weekend, a large portion of the immigrant community would not be able to receive these services. Today, we are here to ask you for your support by continuing to fund the library systems. By doing so, we can provide more opportunities for people in the community, especially immigrants, to learn, teach, and share with one another.



FOR THE
RECORD

**Snug Harbor Cultural Center FY18 Capital and Discretionary Requests
Written Testimony of March 8, 2017**

Good morning, Committee Chairs and Members of the Council. My name is Jeffrey Manzer, Chief Financial Officer and Interim President of Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden on Staten Island.

I am here first to express my gratitude for your consistent and strong support of Snug Harbor, and especially for your encouragement and advocacy last year when Snug Harbor was at risk of shutting its doors. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to visit Snug Harbor, I'd like to briefly describe our organization. The origin of our site go back to the late 1700s, when Robert Richard Randall, last heir of a wealthy shipping family, reached out to his friend Alexander Hamilton to prepare his will. Hamilton suggested that the fortune be used to benefit the sailors who gave the Randall family so much. When Randall died in 1801, the entire family estate and fortune were used to form a private charity to build and operate a retirement home for "aged, worn out, and decrepit sailors."

It was unprecedented. For nearly 150 years Sailors' Snug Harbor was open to any former sailor in need and at risk of dying destitute on the streets, regardless of religion, race, nationality, or even gender. At its peak, Snug Harbor had close to 1,000 residents and 50 buildings, including dormitories, hospitals, a theater, a church, workshops, and a greenhouse, with three farms, ponds, and gardens, all for the benefit of the sailors. However, by the middle of the 20th century, the charity faced a declining endowment and aging infrastructure (many buildings had already been abandoned or demolished). In the early 1970s it moved the last 300 residents to a small, modern facility out of state. The site was at risk of being bought and completely razed by private developers.

The property was rescued by the City of New York which purchased the site and saved its historic buildings. Snug Harbor Cultural Center was created, the Staten Island Botanical Gardens was brought to the site, and several cultural institutions were provided homes on campus. Today Snug Harbor functions as a free and open public park as well as a cultural center for New Yorkers interested in art exhibitions, theater performances, concerts, horticulture, history, architecture, urban farming, and education. I encourage all of you to come visit our unique campus.

After many years of attempting to cope with aging infrastructure and facilities as well as maintaining many dozens of acres of open park land, Snug Harbor's financial resources were tested to the limit. We took on significant debt to fund ongoing operations. A year ago, we were at risk of closing permanently. The elected officials in this room, and many who are not present, supported us, advocated for us, fought for us. It is with great gratitude we can say that your support and work resulted in significantly increased operational funding from the Department of Cultural Affairs that will allow us to remain open and be a vibrant resource to the City.



I would not be here today to speak to you if not for your support. Thank you. You have invested in us, and we are determined to show you a return on that investment.

There is more work to be done. Our next major step is to replace our aged, failing infrastructure. We currently have two infrastructure projects in process – one to replace and upgrade electric service on the site, and one to replace underground pipes and an obsolete cooling plant. The City's Department of Design and Construction is active in both projects. Both projects are partially funded, and Snug Harbor is requesting additional Council funds in order to complete the pipe and chiller project. We have also requested discretionary funding to support 1) the Snug Harbor Heritage Farm, a working produce farm that serves as an education destination for schoolchildren, and whose produce serves both restaurants and citizens in need and 2) a program series to introduce schoolchildren to high quality performing arts.

The North Shore of Staten Island is undergoing an incredible renaissance. In the near future millions of visitors from around the City, the country and the world will take the ferry to ride the New York Wheel and patronize the Empire Outlet stores. Snug Harbor intends to be a part of this revitalization. We will play a part in providing experiences and building memories for those who come. With your continued support, Snug Harbor will leave a lasting impact on them.



Snug Harbor Cultural Center FY18 Capital and Discretionary Requests

<u>Project</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Requested from</u>
HVAC Infrastructure	Capital	\$ 3,000,000	City Council
Electrical Upgrade	Capital	\$ 1,000,000	BP/DCA (no Council request)
Snug Harbor Heritage Farm	Discretionary	\$ 7,000	City Council/Speaker
Youth Matters	Discretionary	\$ 7,000	City Council/Speaker

CAPITAL REQUESTS (submitted 2/13/2017):

HVAC Infrastructure (City Project ID 850-PV490-INF)

Funding Submission ID: 800193388-F3030

FY18 Request: \$3,000,000

Snug Harbor is an expansive campus with 26 buildings, many of which are landmarked or otherwise historic, and whose average age is over 135 years old. Many of the major buildings are served by a central heating and cooling plant.

The central heating plant serves 12 buildings. Very old underground pipes connecting the central plant to the buildings have suffered from repeated splitting and steam leaks (see photos). This underground infrastructure is in urgent need of replacement in order to sustain heat to the buildings.

The chilling plant consists of a central unit serving five buildings (other buildings on site either have their own air conditioning system or use window units). The existing system is very old, in poor condition, inefficient, leaking, and in need of replacement. In addition, the most historically significant building on site (Building C, opened in 1833), which serves as an art gallery and performance space, lacks air conditioning of any kind. The capital project includes replacing the central chiller plant and connecting Building C to it for the first time.

The project was partially funded in FY16, and the FY18 request will complete the funding for the project.

Site-Wide Electrical Upgrade (City Project ID 126 PV490ELEC)

Submission ID: 800193388-I3816

(Funds for the existing, partially funded project are being requested from other sources)



DISCRETIONARY REQUESTS

Snug Harbor applied for Discretionary Funding for the **Power of Green Education Initiative** and **Youth Matters** program from:

- SI Delegation
- CM Borelli
- CM Matteo
- CM Rose
- CM Mark-Viverito

Program Title: **Power of Green Education Initiative** (Submission Confirmation # 37284)

FY18 Request: \$7,000

The Power of Green Education Initiative contributes to the operation and the development of programming of the Snug Harbor Heritage Farm, a 2 ½ acre produce farm that opened in 2012. The Snug Harbor Heritage Farm is already involved in the greater New York City community. It currently serves as a destination for schoolchildren to learn about plants, the food system, and healthy eating. Furthermore, through an agreement with the Food Bank for NYC, the farm has grown produce for under-served New Yorkers for two years, and trains charity food workers in small plot, high-yield gardening to give them the knowledge to combat hunger in their own neighborhoods. The FY18 requested funds will be used to continue developing educational programming at the farm as well as contribute to farm operations.

Program Title: **Youth Matters** (Submission Confirmation # 42040)

FY18 Request: \$7,000

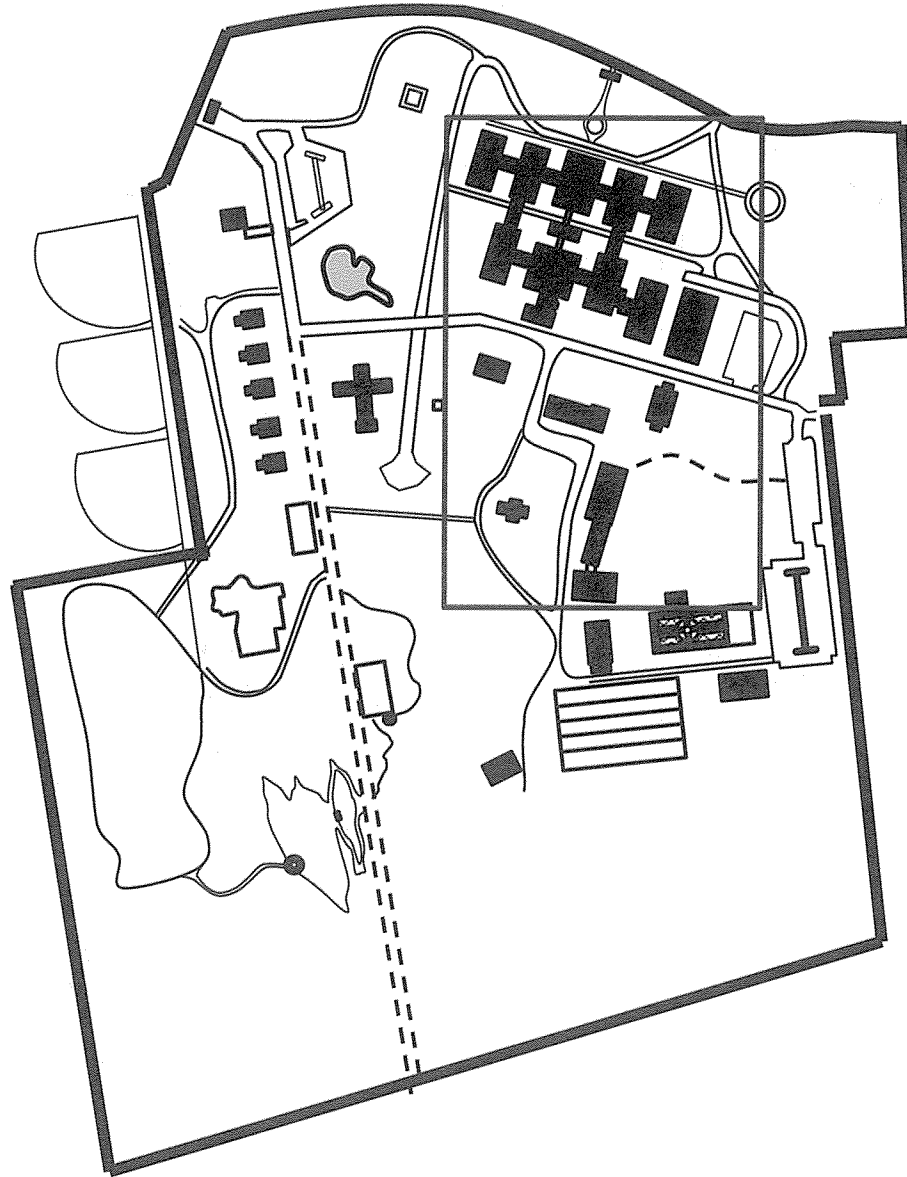
Snug Harbor's *Youth Matters* program provides educational experiences in the performing arts for students. Through performances, workshops, and artist talks, students learn about the world by engaging directly with art and professional artists. Geared toward public school students in grades 6-12, *Youth Matters* allows students to experience high-caliber educational performances in dance, theater, spoken word, and multimedia. The FY18 requested funds will be used to attract professional performers to participate in the program.

If you have any questions, please contact me at jmanzer@snug-harbor.org or 718-425-3506.

Jeffrey Manzer
Chief Financial Officer and Interim CEO
Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden
1000 Richmond Terrace, Bldg. P
Staten Island, NY 10301
www.snug-harbor.org



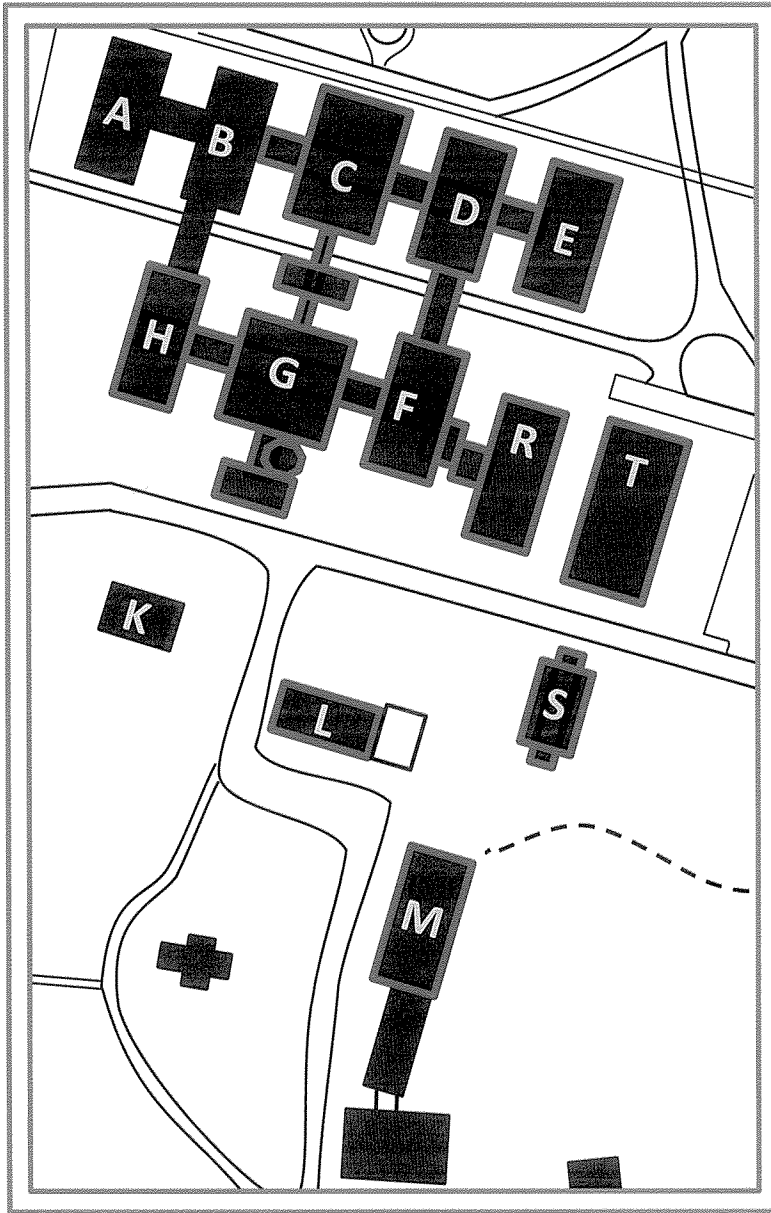
Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden
FY18 Capital Funding Request: HVAC Infrastructure



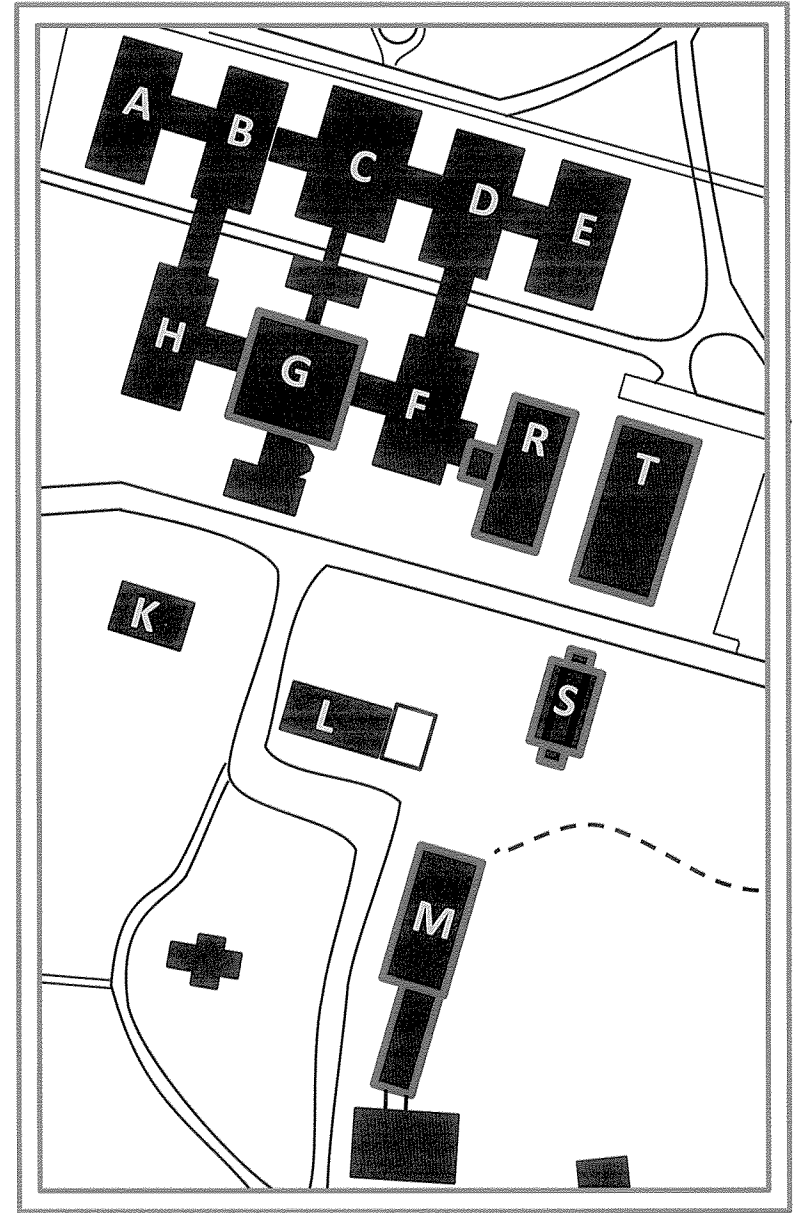
Area of Campus Served By Central HVAC Infrastructure

Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden

FY18 Capital Funding Request: HVAC Infrastructure



Buildings Served By Central Steam Pipes



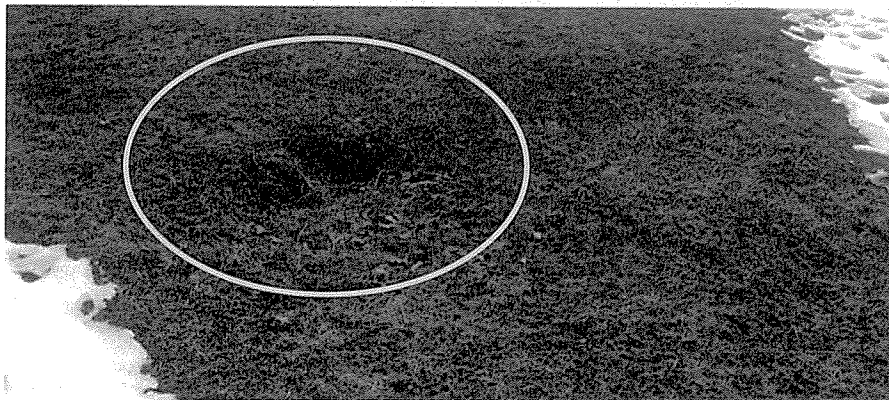
Buildings Served By Central Chiller



Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden FY18 Capital Funding Request: HVAC Infrastructure



Underground Steam Leaks Prevent Snow From Accumulating



Underground Steam Leak Causes Soil to Sink



Steam Leak In Utility Tunnel



Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden FY18 Capital Funding Request: HVAC Infrastructure



Steam Leak Due to Failed Iron Steam Pipe



Excavated, Failed Iron Steam Pipe

GREATER NEW Y

Bugs Will Get Top Billing in Museum

By CHARLES PASSY

The American Museum of Natural History is hoping insects will be the new dinosaurs.

On Wednesday, the museum unveiled the first detailed plans for a \$340 million expansion. The five-story Richard Gilder Center, slated to open in 2020, will have a mix of exhibits and classrooms.

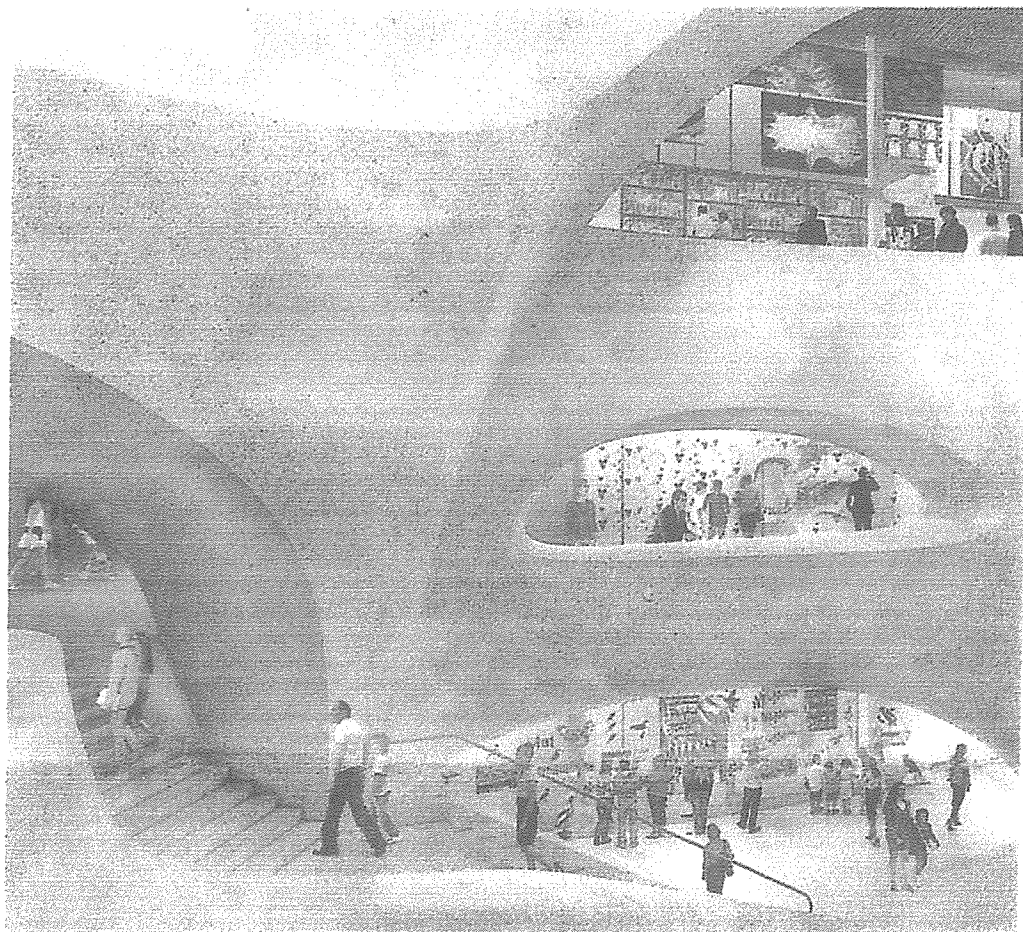
Much as dinosaur displays are a big draw of the existing museum, bugs will be in the limelight in the new space, museum officials said. The Gilder Center will contain a 5,000-square-foot insectarium. It will feature both live insects and collections of specimens, plus everything from digital displays to larger-than-life models.

A separate 3,000-square-foot live butterfly gallery will also be part of the center.

Museum officials said the emphasis on insects makes sense given how they are closely tied to a range of areas of scientific research, from climate change to health.

"Insects are getting a starring role because they have a starring role in nature," said museum President Ellen Futter.

The light-filled Gilder Center space, which is being designed by architect Jeanne Gang, a 2011 recipient of a MacArthur "genius" grant, will go well beyond displays of insects. A 21,000-square-foot glass-walled "Collections Core" exhibit will showcase 3.9 million specimens and objects from the museum's permanent collection.



A rendering of the American Museum of Natural History's future Richard Gilder Center.

'Insects are getting a starring role because they have a starring role in nature.'

tional offerings, since the center will feature 15 new spaces

nual visitors the museum serves. The museum has already raised \$277 million, or more than 80% of the project's cost.

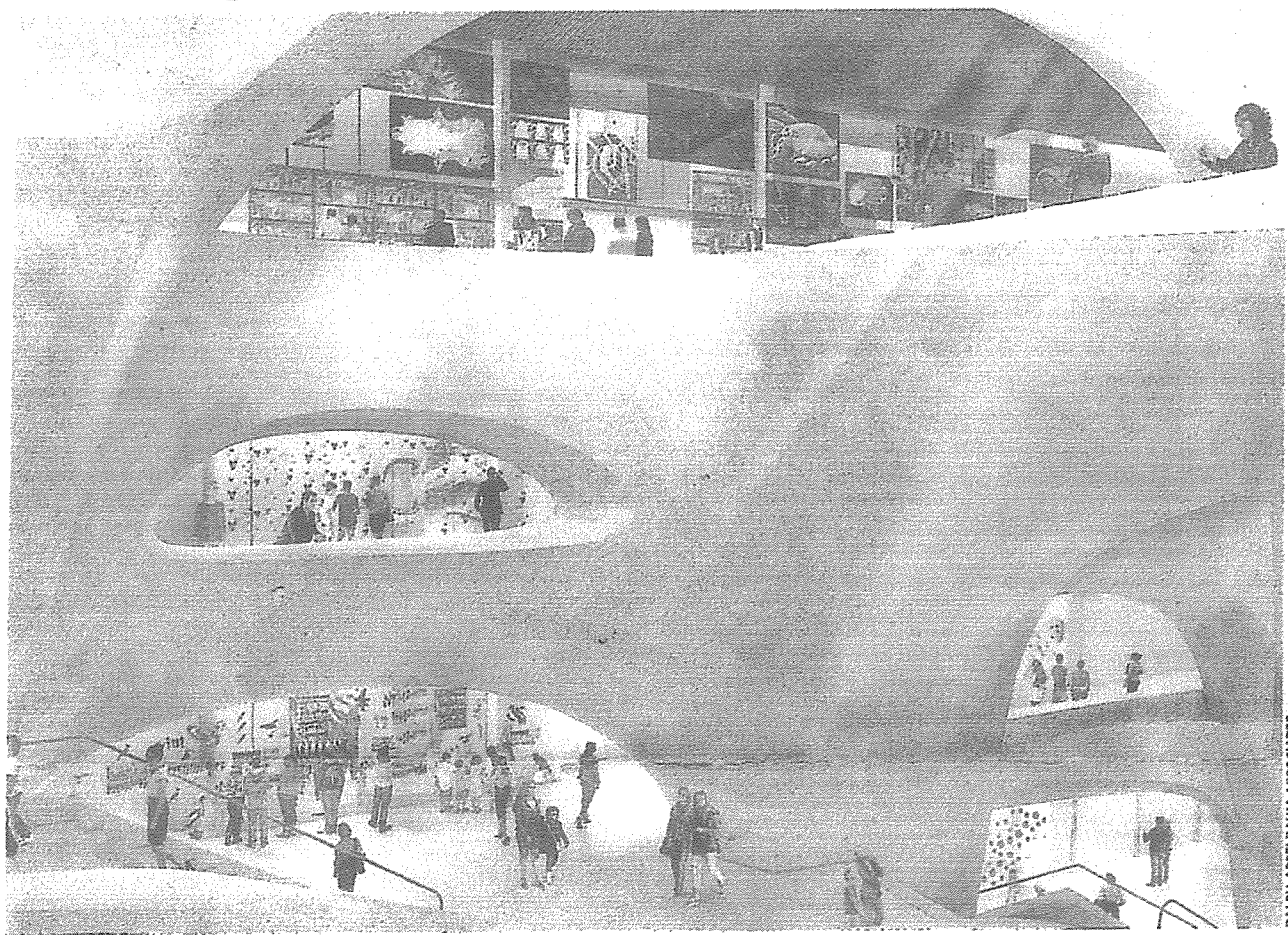
The Gilder Center isn't being welcomed by everyone. Some Upper West Side residents have opposed it, saying it will reduce the urban green space (specifically, Theodore Roosevelt Park) on which the

conducting an environmental-impact assessment of the project.

Museum officials said they are continuing to keep the neighborhood in mind, having already reduced the center's overall footprint in response to concerns. But Michael Hiller, an attorney who represents Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt

ER NEW YORK

Billing in Museum's New Space



RALPH APPELBAUM ASSOCIATES

1 of Natural History's future Richard Gilder Center.

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ice (specifically, Theodore
osevelt Park) on which the
seum sits and add too
ch pedestrian and vehicular
ffic to the area.

The New York City Depart-
nt of Parks & Recreation is

conducting an environmental-
impact assessment of the proj-
ect.

Museum officials said they
are continuing to keep the
neighborhood in mind, having
already reduced the center's
overall footprint in response
to concerns. But Michael
Hiller, an attorney who repre-
sents Community United to
Protect Theodore Roosevelt
Park, a neighborhood group,
vowed that the fight is hardly
over.

The center "is not a done
deal—not even close," he said.

Coming Next At the Museum

When built, the American
Museum of Natural History's
Gilder Center will include:

**5,000-square-foot insectar-
ium** with exhibits of live in-
sects and collections of insect
specimens.

**3,000-square-foot butterfly
gallery** with live butterflies in
various environments.

**21,000-square-foot " Collec-
tions Core,"** a glass-walled
showcase featuring 3.9 million
specimens and objects from the
museum's permanent collection.

**9,520-square-foot Invisible
Worlds immersive theater,** a
space that will spotlight facets
of nature "too small, too slow,
too distant or too long" to be
otherwise seen.

15 educational spaces incorpo-
rating zones devoted to middle-
and high-school students, plus
an area for teacher training.

Sidney Goldfischer, MD
161 W. 61 St. (26C)
New York, NY 10023
sgoldfischer@verizon.net
212 262 0619

April 11, 2016

Owen Wells
Director of Environmental Review
NYC Department of Parks
The Arsenal
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Re: Scope of Work-AMNH Gilder Center for Science, Education and Innovation

I am submitting my evaluation of the AMNH's proposal for a Gilder Center for Innovative Science in response to the Park Department's request for comments on this Scope of Work document. Three critical components of this proposal are addressed.

- I. THE ABSENCE OF ANY PROGRAMMATIC PLANNING FOR RESEARCH.
- II. A WASTEFUL AND INADEQUATE COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH.
- III. DESTRUCTION OF PRECIOUS AND IRREPLACEABLE TREES AND PARKLAND.

Total absence of any programmatic planning of proposed research activities.

The proposal is devoid of any plans for recruiting scientists, identifying the fields in which they will work and the nature and cost of creating, maintaining and sustaining facilities for their research. There is also no provision or even consideration of research that poses significant environmental concerns. These range from housing for experimental

animals to huge, costly and power-hungry imaging facilities. There is also no discussion of the absolute need to provide affordable housing and family related facilities in the overcrowded and expensive West Side if AMNH wishes to recruit young investigators and research fellows.

I use the term "absence" of plans because the 30 pages of the Scope document does not contain a single sentence concerning these fundamental issues. A building is described in great detail, but there is not an inkling of what type of innovative science will take place in the building. However, provisions have been made for expanded new administrative offices and entertainment and catering sites.

My views derive from extensive experience in biomedical research, education and administration that began as a lab technician in 1956. I became an NIH funded investigator, a Distinguished University Professor and Chair of the Pathology and Associate Dean for Scientific Operations at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Although I am confident that my criticism is well founded, I do not expect you to take my views as the last word. **But, it would be irresponsible if government and museum officials who are prepared to spend scores of millions on the Gilder project did not first consult regarding its feasibility and cost with the Presidents and Deans of AMNH's neighbors: world renowned research institutions like the Rockefeller University, Sloan Kettering - Memorial, NYU and Mount Sinai, before spending a dime on this fantasy.**

Wasteful and inadequate community educational outreach.

The AMNH's grandiose educational proposal to "educate the next generation of teachers, scientists and workers to ensure a scientifically literate nation, our nation's workforce preparedness, and opportunities for young people" is totally unrealistic and borders on the delusional. It is replete with innovative buzz words like, "human health, climate change, and biodiversity," but devoid of any example of how it intends to achieve a single specific goal.

We have been told that AMNH intends to bus students from the outer boroughs for their scientific education. This is an irrational process that

would have school children spending hours in traffic to sit in a classroom in the west side of Manhattan to be educated about green house gases while their buses are spewing such gasses and burning fossil fuels. If the millions that this effort will cost are spent on smaller, better equipped science classes in the city's public schools, science education (and neighborhood traffic and parking) could be easily and vastly improved.

Destruction of trees and parkland.

There is no evidence that the ill-conceived Gilder project will be worth a single tree or square inch of parkland. Our marvelous city can build subways, restore waterfronts, build 100 story condos and bring clear water down from upstate, but it cannot create its most precious asset, green parkland and open skies.

The greenery that survives will be deprived of essential sunlight by the new shadows that will be cast by the Gilder building. AMNH's Scope Document consistently refers to it as "five-stories". This is deceptive as the Gilder will be 105 feet tall; the height of a 10 story apartment house. Mechanical, water storage and exhaust facilities housed on the roof-top are additional and not even counted. These will rise as much as 15-20 feet.

SUMMARY

In 50 years of practice, teaching, research and scientific administration, I have not encountered such an ill conceived project. I urge you to send the Museum back to the drawing board and create a realistic, creative, non-destructive project worthy of this magnificent Museum and Mr. Gilder's generosity.

Sidney Goldfischer, MD

SIDNEY GOLDFISCHER, MD
161 West 61 St. Apt 26C.
New York City, NY 10023
212 262 0619
sgoldfischer@verizon.net


City Council, Budget Hearings
250 Broadway
NYC, NY 10007
March 8, 2017

Statement to NYC Cultural Affairs Committee Hearing March 8, 2017 re:
funding for proposed
Gilder Center at the American Museum of Natural History

The American Museum has now abandoned its grandiose “plan” to create a Center that will permit it to “educate the next generation teachers, scientists and workers to ensure a scientifically literate nation, our nation’s workforce preparedness....” This proposal, which is nothing less than a Trumpian delusion, has now been abandoned in the light of community opposition. This is evident in the attached Wall Street Journal article entitled “ **Bugs Will Get Top Billing in Museum’s New Space.**”.

Cutting edge STEM science has been replaced by display cases for millions of bugs and enhanced catering facilities: Worthwhile endeavors, but not worth \$350,000,000. Such huge sums would be much better spent on enhanced science teaching in our neighborhood schools. Attached please find a detailed analysis of the Museum project submitted to the Parks Department on April 11, 2016. This was written in response to a request for comments from the public and I am waiting for a reply.

Far more egregious than the waste of public funds is the proposed destruction of precious park land and trees that will be lost forever.


Sidney Goldfischer

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Tom Finkelparl

Address: 31 Chambers St

I represent: Dept of Cultural Affairs

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 3/8/17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: FAITH STEINBERG

Address: W 75 ST. #1B

I represent: COMMUNITY UNITED

Address: NYC, NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-8-17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: FRAN GARBER

Address: 599 E. 7 ST (1A) BKL

I represent: REGINA OPERA CO.

Address: _____

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DAVID JOHNSTON

Address: 205 LEXINGTON AVE

I represent: EXPLORING THE METROPOLIS

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARTA MORENO LEON

Address: 120 EAST 125

I represent: CCPAD 1

Address: 120 EAST 125 ST.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Heather Woodfield

Address: 21-32 45th Ave LIC

I represent: New Yorkers for Culture & Arts

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Andrea Louie (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 20 Jay Street, Brooklyn 11201

I represent: Asian American Arts Alliance

Address: Same

PUBLIC

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Camilla Calamandrei (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 121 W 72 Apt 17

I represent: Myself

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/8/17

Name: Carl Goodman (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 3601 35 Avenue

I represent: Cultural Institutions Group

Address: 3601 35 Avenue Astor

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/7/2017

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Catherine O'Green

Address: 534 LUNONIA Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

I represent: ARTS EAST N.Y.

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: March 8, 2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: William Raudenbush (R-AU-DEN-BUSH)

Address: 139 W. 80th St #4

I represent: Community United to Protect TR Park

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 3/8/2017

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Regina Karp

Address: 172 W 79th St NY NY 10024

I represent: Citizen Community United

Address: to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: GINNY COULOUDES

Address: _____

I represent: APT 1NY

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Adriana Mitchell

Address: Brighton Beach Library

I represent: Brooklyn Public Library

Address: Brighton Beach

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lisa Lewy

Address: 150 14th St Brooklyn NY

I represent: The Center for Arts Education

Address: 266 W 37th St NY NY

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Marissa Richardson

Address: 252 Java St Brooklyn NY 11222

I represent: Urban Librarians Union

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-18-17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Cot Parker

Address: 379 Lefferts Ave #6A Brooklyn 11225

I represent: League of Independent Theatre

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-8-17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Isabel Quinzanos

Address: Harlem

I represent: League of Independent Theatre

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/8/17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Adriana Blancarte - Hayward

Address: 445 5th Ave

I represent: NYPL

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
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Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/8/2017

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nina Marens

Address: 118 E 116th St, NY NY 10029

I represent: NYPL - Parkchester

Address: 1985 Westchester Ave, Bronx NY 10474

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-8-17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LINDA E JOHNSON (BPL)

Address: 10 GRAND ARMY PLAZA, BK, NY 11238

I represent: BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Address: 10 GRAND ARMY PLAZA

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/8/17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name:

Tony Marx (President NYPL)

Address:

445 5th Ave.

I represent:

New York Public Library

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

of increasing accessibility

Date: 3/8/17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name:

Michelle Norris

Address:

21-37 23rd Street

I represent:

Citywide Council on Special Education

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 3/8/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name:

Sidney Goldfisher, MD.

Address:

761 W 61st (26c), NYC 10023

I represent:

"Preserve Russell Park"

Address:

at AMNH

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: MARCH 8

Name: JUDITH CALAMANDRE (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 172 W 79 ST

I represent: Self

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Amy Fire, Director of Development (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: TADA! Theater 15 W. 28th St. Manhattan

I represent: Non-profit regarding cultural immigrant

Address: initiative budget cap.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/8/17

Name: Nagat Almatore (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 53-00 65 place Apt 6F Maspeth NY

I represent: Queens Library

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CLAUDIA DISALVO

Address: 150 W 74th ST

I represent: Community United to Protect Beautiful Park

Address: As Above - Suite 6E

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Janelle Welch

Address: Janelle Welch

I represent: Brooklyn Public Library

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/8/17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dennis Walcott

Address: _____

I represent: Queens Public Library

Address: _____

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Janelle Peterson

Address: Janette Peterson

I represent: Brooklyn Public Library

Address: _____

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆