



THE CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 3

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Alysha Lewis-Coleman, Board Chair

Susan Stetzer, District Manager

March 28, 2018

Mr. Tom Finkelpearl, Commissioner
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
31 Chambers Street
New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioner Finkelpearl,

At its March 2018 monthly meeting, Community Board 3 passed the following resolution:

TITLE: Support for Loisaida Cultural Plan

WHEREAS, along with El Barrio/Spanish Harlem, Los Sures of Williamsburg, and the South Bronx, Loisaida has been identified as a “core community” for Latinx, with a history of cultural spaces including The Nuyorican Poets Café, the Clemente Soto Velez Cultural Center, and the Teatro SEA children’s theater; and

WHEREAS, Loisaida, Inc. and project partners have prepared a document of testimony, findings, and recommendations driven by a proposed Cultural Citizen Bill of Rights that seeks to:

- 1) ensure the protection and ownership of cultural sanctuaries and spaces,
- 2) demand cultural equity in accessing Fair Share funding across all City agencies and
- 3) strengthen and sustain Loisaida neighborhood based cultural organizations that advocate for Latinx and People of Color (POC) residents, artists and cultural workers; and

WHEREAS, Loisaida, Inc. has prepared recommendations including:

- Funding reform and the allocation of base-line funds for social impact groups
- Qualitative definitions of organizations’ relationship with communities served
- Dedication of tourism tax revenue, workforce development and other funding streams to working class communities and communities of color
- Decriminalization of cultural expressions in public (e.g. drumming sessions and improvised music) through a permitting process

- Mapping under-recognized and non-traditional cultural assets and including in City marketing and visitor resources
- Support and funding for living archives of otherwise neglected Latinx cultural legacies
- Address technology gaps and digital divides that exist in working class Latinx and POC communities
- Coordination of a shared data platform for neighborhood-level cultural information and distribution of cultural information (e.g. LinkNYC network screen time)
- Supporting artistic residencies, incubators, employment of youth of color in technology
- Development of youth school curricula that builds cultural capacity and entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS, Loisaida, Inc. is seeking to engage community partners and stakeholders in order to see to it that identified recommendations become a part of the City's Cultural Plan; and

WHEREAS, Community Board 3 has supported Loisaida, Inc.'s efforts in the past and continues to share concerns and a desire for community engagement; so

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CB 3 supports Loisaida, Inc.'s grassroots efforts to create and sustain a strong cultural and civic environment for Latinx and POC on the Lower East Side.

If you have any questions, please contact the community board office.

Sincerely,



Alysha Lewis-Coleman, Chair
Community Board 3



Carolyn Ratcliffe, Chair
Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee

Cc: Kathleen Hughes, Asst. Commissioner of Program Services, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs
Max Ryan, Director of External Affairs, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs
Libertad Guerra, Director, Loisaida Inc.