

Meeting Minutes – May

NY Public Radio Community Advisory Board Meeting



Meeting Information

Subject: May 2016 Meeting & Guest Speaker Minute Highlights

Date: May 9, 2016 **Location:**

Time: 6:32 PM **Adjournment:** 8:39 PM

Attendees: Five of 7 Nominees for 2017-17 CAB: Liz Buffa, Stan Ince, Peter Kentros, Samantha “Sam” Pedreiro, & Kathryn Tornelli, plus 9 other public attendees.

Anita Aboulafia	E	Lue Ann Eldar Chair	X	Ellen Polaner NYPR Trustee Liaison	E
John Bacon	E	Barbara Gerolimos Secretary	X	Steven Rapkin	X
Chad Bascombe	X	Andrew S. Greene	X	Theodore Schweitzer	E
Gary Brocks	X	Sue Hornik	E	Laura Selkaly NYPR Trustee Liaison	E
Raesha Cartagena	P-E	Merwin Kinkade Vice Chair	X	David N. Szyk	X
Carole Chervin	X	Carmina Lu	X	Helen van der Voort	E
Judith Cholst	E	Alex Murry NYPR Staff Liaison	X	Nancy Walcott	X
Grace Clarke	X			Adam Wasserman Vice Chair	X

Excused, Phone

1	Approval of Agenda (5/9/16) and Approval of Minutes (4/11//16) w/corrections	Eldar & CAB	5 minutes
2	Guest Speakers Andy Lanset and John Passmore	Presenters	60 minutes
3	CAB Business: Officer Statement of Interest; Recruitment Report Intro to Class of 2016-2019: Requests & Project Update & 16-17 Schedule	Eldar, Gerolimos	50 minutes
4	Public Comment	Public Attendees	10 minutes

Discussion Highlights

- Approval of Amended April Minutes and May Agenda
- CAB Chair Eldar introduced Andy Lanset, Director, and John Passmore, Manager, from the NYPR Archives Department (“Archives”). Passmore spoke first, outlining Archives’ mission to preserve NYPR’s almost 100-year history. 140,000 objects have been catalogued. Of these, 28% digitalized with the long-term goal of making recordings publicly-available and searchable online. 60-70,000 tapes of WNYC programming are kept in a controlled environment on Archives’ 7th Floor space.

Passmore gave an example of the use of a \$25K grant from the Academy of Medicine to retrieve, digitalize and make available an early radio medical show online. Archives also works with New England Document Restoring Center to restore sound on old storage devices. Passmore noted that storage on film lasts longer than digitalized copies. Once programs are digitalized, they are available to the listening public and Passmore encouraged all to visit American Archive of Public Broadcasting <http://americanarchive.org/> to discover historic programs of publicly-funded radio and television. Lanset took the CAB through WNYC’s 92 and WQXR’s 60 years of historical highlights and noted that the 16-year-old Archives Dept. was established when NYC was purchased by NYPR. Archives’ mission is to gather and search for old materials on eBay or in private collections.

To name just a few, NYPR Archives works with the Peabody Collection, Paley Center for Media and NY Public Library on digitalizing older materials under a currently funded project to convert an additional 600 of 1,300 hours of content for online listening and research, which will ultimately include Mayor LaGuardia talks to the public, Mayor Lindsay's materials and Robert Moses' ribbon-cutting ceremonies and criticism of his critics. The Archives Dept. provides a lot of background materials for current news programming, i.e., supplementing Andrea Bernstein's coverage of Secretary Clinton's presidential campaign and her political evolution. Lanset's overview of the preservation process and link to historical recordings can be found at <http://wnyc.org/archives> and those supported projects by NEH are available at <http://www.wnyc.org/blogs/neh-preservation-project/>

Lanset's presentation focused on the historical perspective of WNYC, stating that the dynamics we observe today socially and politically are not that much different than at the time WNYC was forming in the mid 1920's to late 1940's. He went on to cite some pioneering historical radio firsts --first quiz show, first live broadcasting of Lindbergh Historic Trans-Atlantic Flight press conference on the steps of City Hall, one of the first to broadcast an anti-Nazi rally, and first to broadcast the Masterworks Music Hour in 1929 (forerunner of WQXR) -- plus noteworthy programming from and about the social advances, cultural arts and challenges of various ethnic, immigrant and regional communities. Lanset also described some of the political conflicts-of-interest that arose when NYC owned the station, including reading off names of people arrested for patronizing prostitutes in the Koch Administration in the 1970's. He also noted that during NYC's ownership of WNYC, regular archiving of programming was not done, resulting in large gaps in radio history. Archiving was also dependent upon state budgetary constraints and/or fiscal crises at the time.

The Q & A with CAB members included: Q. "Do other NY institutions lose archival material?" A. "Generally, yes. Rarely do public and commercial institutions have archiving and preserving departments." Q. "What is the best way to preserve recordings given that digitalization has preservation issues?" A. "While multiple copying of film makes recording muddier, digital is exact, yet it needs to be monitored when migrated to make sure all is there and stored in redundant systems." Q. "Does NYPR Archives have interest from clients and what is the frequency of requests for archival materials?" A. "There are many requests a week from for-profits and non-profits. For-profits are referred to NYPR Business Development. Nonprofits are processed by Archives, and older archives are referred to [Municipal Archives](#);" and Q. "What is the historical nature of reporting?" A. "It has changed over time and circumstances. While city-owned, there were different pressures for reporting. Now, it is fairly progressive." The Q & A with the public attendees included: Q. "What is optimal staff size for your department and what differences are there in preservation requirements?" A. "Archives is now in a good position to manage material with multiple storage places, yet we are challenged by the need to keep old recording media equipment to recover stored programming on outdated obsolete systems." A. "What is the importance of Word in archiving?" A. "Ideally, the development of a voice transcript digital system enables content search whereas legacy analog allows only title searches." Of interest to all, Q. "What is the best way to archive personal material?" A. "Lots of copies in lots of different places." In closing, Lanset then allowed members of the CAB and Public to gently circulate an older recording form (16" lacquered disc) to explain the difficulty in retrieving recorded sound from older forms, some requiring obsolete media methods.

3. Chair Eldar asked for Statements of Interest for June CAB Officer elections. Eldar stated her interest in continuing as Chair; Kinkade agreed to continue as Vice Chair and Wasserman asked to vacate his Vice Chair position but retain his membership on the CAB; Gerolimatos will vacate the Secretary position and step up to Vice Chair; Clarke stated interest in also being Vice Chair (up to 4 are allowed), leaving 1 Vice Chair and the Secretary positions open. The motion to re-appoint the 2013 class to a 2nd 3-year term was approved for Aboulaflia, Bacon, Brocks, Green, Schweitzer, and Szytk. 2013 CAB members Van der Voort and Hornik decided not to renew their appointments and in gratitude their resignations were accepted. Gerolimatos, Recruitment Committee Chair, introduced 5 of 7 2016 candidates were recommended for membership for 2016-2019. Former Chair Rapkin stated that one can express interest up to the day of the election as well. New recruits Buffa, Ince, Kentros, Pedreiro and Tornelli were introduced. Eldar thanked the Recruitment Committee (Gerolimatos (Chair), Bacon and Clarke) for their yeoman's efforts on selecting finalists, who span regionally from Brooklyn, NJ, Bronx & Manhattan and generationally from recent grad to seasoned professional. They also represent multiple spoken languages and study or work in social services, finance, medical, statistical research and the arts. Given feedback gathered from the public and during the April Recruitment interview process with over 21 semi-finalists, Clarke drafted a Twitter template, which Eldar referred to Murry to pass to WNYC Social Media. Noting a previous recommendation to improve CAB navigation was slow-moving from December, Chervin and Rapkin requested a contact name from Murry. Eldar thanked all who volunteered for the Instrument Drive or gave feedback and recognized Chervin and Clarke as well as Tornelli and another member of the public (D. Lacher) for their suggested solutions to improve communications. Eldar shared that The Greene Space agreed to post CAB meetings on its event calendar in the coming year, which should help. The CAB will attempt scheduling meetings on Tuesdays to free Mondays. Kinkade and Gerolimatos have second and third Tuesday obligations and Szytk suggested circulating a schedule for CAB concurrence.
4. Public Comment: Former CAB member Prof. Alfred "Fred" Friedland reported that David Caplan, a 25-year NYPR BOT member and CAB Liaison, and City Year Board Member passed away. <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nytimes/obituary.aspx?pid=176926367> Next CAB meeting is 6/13/2016 in the Greene Space with John Hockenberry of *The Takeaway*. RSVP for 6/22 [BOT meeting](#) to cab@wnyc.org by 6/17 for coordination.

ACTION ITEMS		Responsible	DUE DATE
1	Statement of Intent to run for an Executive position due in June	Eldar & CAB	6/13
2	Provide feedback to Chair about potential 2016-2017 scheduling conflicts	Eldar & CAB	TBD
3	Plan CAB Dec. or Feb. reception & explore ways to engage NJ communities	Eldar Schweitzer	TBD-Ongoing