Meeting Minutes – April 2017

NY Public Radio Community Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting Information

Subject: **April 2017 Meeting & Guest Speaker Minute Highlights**

Date: April 4, 2017

Host Location:
New York University
Silver Building of Arts & Sciences
31 Washington Place
New York, NY 10003

Time: 6:30 PM **Adjournment:** 8:23 PM

Invited Guest Speaker(s) Kathleen Drohan, Director of Instrument Drive, WQXR
Kahane Cooperman, Director of 2016 Oscar-Nominated *Joe's Violin* and Former Executive Producer, *The Daily Show*

Attendees (E = Excused; X = Present; P=Phone; VC = Vice Chair):
13 -- Public Attendees, including signees Margot Perron, President & Park Administrator and Leslie Landon, Development Director of Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy, Sarah Heard, Marlene Birnbaum, Richard Wooley, Catherine Kinkade, Artist, and Alfred Friedland of City University of New York –Baruch (Mathematics)
14 -- CAB Members, Staff Liaison and Trustee Liaison: Attendees/Signees: Officers: Lue Ann Eldar, Chair; Merwin Kinkade (VC), Dr. Barbara Gerolimatos (VC), Grace Clarke (VC), Raesha Cartagena (Secretary), Trustee Liaison: Dr. Mary White; Staff Liaison, Alex Murry; Excused Members: John Bacon, Chad Bascombe, Gary Brocks (P), Liz Buffa, Stan Ince, Kathryn Tornelli, Lisa Nearier, Adam Wasserman, and Jacob Wojnas (P). Excused: Carole Chervin, Judith Cholst, Esq., Andrew Greene, Carmina Lu, Steven Rapkin, Theodore Schweitzer, and Nancy Walcott (VC)

AGENDA		Presenter	Time Allotted
1	Opening Remarks and Approval of Agenda (April 4, 2017)	Eldar & CAB	20 minutes
2	Screening of Joe's Violin followed by conversation with Kathleen Drohan and Kahane Cooperman	Drohan & Cooperman/ CAB Members and Public Attendees	24 minutes
3.	Commentary		60 minutes
4.	CAB Business	CAB	16 minutes

APRIL DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

1 CAB Chair Lue Ann Eldar (LE) opened the meeting with an introduction to guests Kathleen Drohan (KD) and Kahane Cooperman (KC). LE also extended a warm welcome to new CAB Trustee Liaison, Dr. Mary White, who will be replacing former NYPR Trustee Ellen Polaner, CAB and public attendees, and thanked NYU for hosting. LE recognized the 2016 CAB "Ambassadors," who volunteered by offering estate/auction documentation and other expertise and collected instruments at their offices or community orchestras, notably Park Avenue Chamber Symphony, and WQXR collection stations. [Ambassadors: John Bacon, Barbara Gerolimatos (BG), Lue Ann Eldar, Lisa Nearier, Grace Clarke, Carole Chervin, Judith Cholst, David Sztyk, Andrew Greene, and Steven Rapkin]. Chronicling of one WQXR instrument donor Joseph Feingold's story was the subject of Joe's Violin – a Holocaust survivor and immigrant, who years later develops an unusual and heart-warming *friendship* with a Bronx student –an immigrant of Dominican heritage—through their shared violin.

2 WQXR's KD prefaced the screening by introducing KC and reported that WQXR was able to collect a total of 6,000 instruments from 2014 to date. Prior to this special behind-the-scenes perspective, KC and KD had been a part of industry and public film screenings with TV hosts Stephen Colbert and Jon Stewart with whom KC worked over more than a decade, we settled in for an emotional 24-minute journey. A pin could have dropped and there wasn't a dry eye. KC mentioned the idea had come while listening to WQXR (105.9FM) during her New Jersey to New York commute. An announcement that featured drop-off locations to donate instruments and Joseph Feingold as one of the donors. An emotional reaction compelled KC to send a note to Listener Services. KD was contacted, and the rest is history. Following are quotes and highlights from the conversation. KC: "Every kid is Brianna--they just need an avenue for them to move forward." I had the car radio on and heard a promo. Did the violin have a story? What is the student's story? I was compelled to type a note." KD: "The station received a lot of calls after airing Joseph's story—a Holocaust survivor who donated a violin." The station sent KD a list of callers. KC's name appeared as a filmmaker who wanted to tell the story and a collaboration evolved. KC explained that she would document an intergenerational tale – 91-Year Old Russian Holocaust Survivor Meets 12-Year Old Dominican Girl from The Bronx. Questions about the budget came up. KC put up her own money and started a Kick-Starter campaign with a $35K goal enough to do a trailer. We raised 140% netting $45K after fees. Described as a labor of love, with in-kind services, the project broke even – "a beautiful experience." The film entered several film festivals – including Tribeca, Moscow and Canada—and got a few international sales in Brazil. Conde Nast eventually purchased the rights and Joe's Violin is available online and on the New Yorker website. When asked about her filmmaking process, KC replied that there was no pre-script and it was filmed as it unfolded. KD admitted she cries each time she sees the film, stating "This was about earning people's trust." Fast-forward KC noted that Brianna played the same violin piece for her audition to enter Talented Unlimited High School and went on to say how much she loves documentaries and non-fiction filmmaking to capture real-life {this was her third film). "You never know how it's going to turn out –taking the viewers on the same journey as you. It is a gift not to know what is going to happen." WQXR's KD, a flutist in her youth, offered comments on successful relationships that formed with sponsors such as Sam Ash for collection and repairs and reported that the DOE recognizes that the number one reason a kid doesn't play an instrument is because they don't have one. WQXR filled this void. KD reported that each instrument that WQXR collected, catalogued and prepared for use can serve up to five students over 5 years. "Music is significant in everyone's life—connects us at a time we need to connect in a wordless way."

3 After the film, CAB Member Chad Bascombe noted that the connection between humans and their respective histories makes the film relevant. CAB Vice Chair Dr. Barbara Gerolimatos (BG) mentioned her wanting to donate her junior accordion and collecting instruments as a CAB Ambassador. She also recounted the documentary's positive impact on her fellow Village Temple members. Acknowledging Brianna's desire to teach music, LE mentioned that a student's musical journey can transfer into other professions and cited her own journey as an example --a banker turned nonprofit CEO to envision and lead the programming and design of a cultural and education destination now known as Casita Maria Center for Arts, and recognized Raesha Cartagena for her part as the Development and Community Relations Director. The Bronx's Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy President Margot Perron, who invited all to the park's May 11th "Gratefully Green" event recognizing WNYC Host Brian Lehrer, said she would donate her daughter's violin. Marlene B., Alfred F. of Baruch and Richard W., a political speech writer, offered their WQXR listening experiences--on transistor, and most recently at recorded live events in The Greene Space, Radio Love Fest at BAM, Live from Carnegie Hall, rendering insight and context --beyond informing and entertainment. Sarah H. and Marlene B. expressed interest in joining the CAB, KC mentioned that she donated footage to the Holocaust Museum, and KD reported that there was a correlation with film screenings and subsequent contributions. When asked about her next projects, KC plans to produce *The New Yorker Presents* and a crime documentary examining The Clutter Family story about which Truman Capote wrote.

4 Action Items:

1. Recruitment Interview and Decision Schedule – Clarke, Recruitment Chair – May 2017
2. Review 2017 CAB applicants and select interviewees – Clarke, Buffa, Wojnas – June 2017