



**Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford**  
**Mayor's Conference Room – 10th Floor**  
**Government Center, 888 Washington Blvd.**  
**Stamford, CT 06901**

**Our Mission:**

To inform, celebrate, promote, understand,  
appreciate and respect the many diverse  
cultures that enrich Stamford

**September 23, 2019**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Eva Weller, Corey Paris, Jeré Eaton, Marty Levine, Deborah Goldberg, Meera Banta, Sandra Barrett, Hayate Jandar, Shobhna Bhatnagar, James Hinton, Zeba Mohib and Ana Gallegos.

Eva Weller, Chair, called this meeting to order at 6:15pm

**Welcome**

Eva welcomed MMC members and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She welcomed our guest, Lucas Romero, President of Peruvian United of CT and asked that he share information about the organization and an event they are sponsoring for Hispanic Heritage Month. Eva reported that new member Eileen Heaphy is not able to attend tonight's meeting because she suffered an accident. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope she will be well enough to attend the next meeting. She has much to offer since she has been a leader in the Irish community and was, among other honors, the Marshall for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Stamford. She served in other leadership positions and was on the Board of Representatives for many years representing the East Side of Stamford. Eva introduced Zeba Mohib as a new member of the MMC and asked all to introduce themselves to Zeba to make sure she feels welcome.

Lucas thanked the MMC for the opportunity to be at the meeting. He said that he is the President of Peruvian United and part of Latin United for Guatemala and works at Westhill High School. He said that when working with young people he tried to send positive messages and encourage the students to continue their studies and work toward a higher education. He said that in June the Peruvian United organization provides scholarships. He shared the names of two Peruvian dance groups and suggested we extend invitations to them to participate in MMC events. Ana mentioned that both groups and a third group have been participating in our events. Eva thanked Lucas for coming to the meeting.

Zeba Mohib said that she has lived in Stamford since 1970. She has two daughters who graduated from Stamford Public Schools who are now living in Washington, DC. She has seen how Stamford has been growing and becoming a better place to live. She enjoys living in Stamford and loves helping and serving others. She mentioned some volunteer opportunities she has been involved with: Norwalk Open Shelter, cooking for the homeless and volunteering for different events.

Vanessa Avery, Consulting Director to Sharing Spaces Initiative and a faculty member at Yale, also joined the meeting.

Eva asked members to take a few minutes to review and approve the minutes from June 24, 2019. Jeré Eaton moved to approve the minutes; Meera Banta seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Budget report**

Jeré presented the following Treasurer's Reports by Fiscal Year:

13/14 \$8,250	14/15 \$7,835	15/16 \$ 0
16/17 \$0	17/18 10,980	18/19 no report yet

She said that she would see if she could obtain the other year's budgets from the Mayor's Office or

Finance Department.

Eva reported that the budget for the current year is \$9,000; the first expenses will be the MMC International Dance Festival. Eva thanked Jeré and James for providing names of companies from the State of CT DAS promotional contract #18PSX0314. With that information, she was able to purchase grocery bags for events throughout the year at a better price. The order was placed in the last fiscal year, ending June 30<sup>th</sup> for 1,500 bags. Eva said that the Council started the planning process to determine events and activities for this year and we can continue the discussion after the International Dance Festival expenses are reported, so we know how much will be available for fiscal year 2019/20, ending June 30, 2020.

#### **Updates:**

##### **International Dance Festival 2019**

Corey gave the following updates for the event on October 6<sup>th</sup>. It was decided by the Committee that the event will be called the International Dance Festival. He stated that this has been suggested in previous meetings and also reported that this year the Mayor won't be in town. The Committee members met and started the planning. Corey reported that Ana and Corey prepared invitation letters and sent them to the Mayor, Superintendent of Schools, Dance Groups, community members, organizations, some businesses and churches as well as friends in the community. Press releases, certificates and programs were also prepared. We sent invitations to 12 dance groups. The groups that confirmed their participation are: Shital's Dance Group, Taller Marinera "Portal Norteño", Danza Guatemalteca, Grupo Quetzal, New Generation and Peruvian Yachay. Lana (Poland) and Kevin (Puerto Rico) sent their apologies for not being able to participate because of previous commitments, but are hoping to participate in future events. Shobhna and Meera will coordinate the dance groups. Sandra and Nino will contact volunteers and let them know their assignments.

Mayelin Gonzalez will do face painting. This year she will assist Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of Stamford Public Schools. Following the recommendation from the Council there will be only 10 raffle prizes. Hayate and Ana will put them together. The raffles will be: 10 gift cards from Barnes & Noble, 2 family package passes for Six Flags and gift cards from Dunkin Donuts (Shobhna and Hayate). The Mayor is giving a lunch for two children and four adults. We'll request prizes from the Ferguson Library, as well. Children will get a red ticket at registration. Hayate generously will provide coffee for MMC members and volunteers. She will request water donations for dancers and volunteers. Ten volunteers have confirmed their attendance. Ana asked the MMC to please let the committee know if someone has names of volunteers.

The Committee recommended that ice cream to be given to children with yellow tickets at the end of the dance program. Eden Huang is helping with the donation request and will give out the ice cream at the event. Corey is getting the map for the Map Activity. It will be on an easel at the end of the registration table. Eva Weller is getting all the ingredients needed for the popcorn. Regan Allan from PLTI/SPEF is letting us use her popcorn machine for free. The committee recommended that the popcorn be given to kids only during the registration time, but the consensus at the meeting was to give popcorn to everyone once registration has begun and throughout the program and raffles. Each area will have signage with the MMC logo and text "Sponsored by the Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford". Shelly was asked if he would again provide the donation of goodies for the bags (shopping bags) as he had done so generously in the past, as well as, to use a room at The Hampton Inn for putting the bags together on 10/4 or 10/05. We so appreciate Shelly's generosity. Ana will let the MMC know the date and time.

The Committee would like to request all MMC members to please take turns at the registration table, help with putting the bags together and arrive at 9:30am the day of the event. Jeré added that planning and details for this festival should be set by the June meeting.

Ana reported that Arthur Augustyn from the Mayor's office helped with sending the flyers to the SPS through Peach Jar. He also provided a link where we can add/submit flyers directly. The flyer and the press release will be published on the City page, as well. Hayate kindly offered to send the flyers to private schools.

Corey asked if any members would like to be the Event's MC. Meera Banta volunteered to MC and she suggested that Ana assist with Spanish. In addition, it was decided that all MMC members would be introduced at the beginning of the program.

**Festival/Expo Report**

Eva asked Ana to present the Festival/Expo report because Beatrice indicated that she would not be able to attend the meeting.

Ana reported that The Mayor's Multicultural Council "Festival of the Arts Stamford" took place on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 2:00pm to 5:00pm at Stamford Government Center (Café 4<sup>th</sup> floor) The MCs for the event were James Hinton and Beatrice Chodosh with Ana translating and assisting with certificates. The Mayor, David Martin, attended the event.

The artists who participated were:

\* **Dance groups:** New Generation Director Darwin Salinas – USA/Ecuador; Los Sabrositos Director Kimberly Charles and Steven Lopez–USA; Victor and Amanda Trejo Dance Group – Peru; Sabor Latino Danza Folclórica Director Patricia Barrientos - USA; Peruvian Yachay Director Danny García – Perú; Nalini Goolsarran Dancer – India; Albanian Youth Center Greenwich Director Angjelina Nika - Albania; Diversity Steppers - Founder Shaquana Shaw – USA; Artes Ancentrales Grupo Quetzal Maria Sandoval - Guatemala

\* **Singers:** Gaspar Escobar - Uruguay; Brittany Santacroce - USA; Wilma Cárdenas - Chile

\* **Instrumental Musicians:** Brianna Milena Barrientos Saxophone - Colombia; "The Anthonys" Anthony De Paz & Carlos Boltes Instrumental music Guatemala/Ecuador/Chile

\* **Art and Photography Exhibition** Fabian Cortez – Mexico; Mayole Gonzalez – Cuba; Inna Linov – Ukraine; Amrita Majumder – India; S.A.L. Studio Santiago Sierra – Colombia and Dominican Republic

Ana said that the budget proposal request was for \$1,030.00 and the final expenses were only \$680.00. She reported the expenses for the event below.

Items	Estimated Budget	Final cost
Venue /Place	0 (Government Center/cafeteria)	XX
Snacks (Maya's Restaurant)	\$300	\$300
Flyer	\$100	XXX Pamela Cevallos
Program/printing	\$200	XXX Anu Hooja
Sound system music	\$380 (Big T's Sound and Music)	\$380 (Big T's Sound and Music)
Misc. expenses (plates, forks, napkins, tablecloths) water	\$50	XXX Beatrice, James, Eva Weller
23 Certificates	Mayor's office: Valerie and Marjorie	XXX
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,030.00</b>	<b>\$680.00</b>

**Announcements**

Deborah invited the MMC to attend the Jewish Film Festival and the different events organized in partnership with the AJC Westchester/Fairfield. She also invited the MMC to the Jewish Historical Society Heritage Award Celebration honoring Judith Altmann and Agnes Vertes in recognition of their work in Holocaust and Genocide Education. The event will take place on November, 17 2019 at noon at Temple Beth El in Stamford.

Sandra announced High School Reunion Night in Chelsea Piers.

James suggested that we should have conference calls to share updates of events. There is a free number that we can use.

He also added that in order for everyone to know what is going on, it would be a good idea to send summaries, updates or highlights related to ongoing MMC projects.

Jeré passed out flyers and information about the Tees sale.

Ana reminded the Council to help to spread the word about Census Jobs and the importance of everyone being counted.

**Next Meeting:** October 28, 2019 at 6:00pm, Government Center 10<sup>th</sup> floor.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Submitted by:

Ana Gallegos  
Secretary