

Public Education Committee
DRAFT MINUTES
August 5, 2025

Committee Members Present: Arthur Merrill, Innes Kasanof, Tina Molé, James Sofranko, Allen Hinkley, Shilo Williams, Joseph Cetta.

Members Excused: Thomas Snow

Staff Members Present: Jason Merwin, Timothy Cox, Donald Brown, Jessica Fiedler, Lindsay Ballard, Gemma Young, Lynn Kavanagh, Barbara Puglisi, Zach Baldwin-Way, Audrey Strom and Caitlynn Gaston.

Others Present: Aaron Bennett (NYCDEP), Nick Sadler (NYCDEP), Gerson Tavaréz (NYCDEP), Mike Maloney (NYSDOH), Asher Josephson (NYCDEP Intern) and John Schwartz (NYCDEP)

The meeting was called to order at 12:28 pm.

1. Minutes from the April 1, 2025, meeting were accepted without change.
2. Workforce Development Program Rules: Gemma Young opened by commenting this exciting new program would be a fantastic opportunity for organizations in the WOH Watershed to make a real impact on individuals and community vitality more generally. She said the Program Rules provided to the Committee for their consideration were based on the Public Education III Agreement and Public Education Grant Program Rules.
Gemma thanked DEP staff for reviewing and submitting their comments which have been either incorporated or taken into consideration. She said the Program Rules contain pretty broad-based program objectives and eligibility for applicants as we open the Program up for the first time and that CWC staff - in consultation with DEP staff - will review applications against the applicant and project goals' eligibility criteria and then put forward recommended applications to the Public Education Committee. Public Education Committee and then Board will be asked to evaluate project applications during two application cycles each year – which will be determined once the Agreement has actually been registered with the City. Gemma confirmed the program was a competitive grant program, meaning the Committee have \$250,000 in Grants to award the first cycle to Applicants based on the evaluation criteria and if there are any unallocated funds they get added in to the \$250K for the next cycle and again it is competitive based on evaluation criteria. If an entity doesn't receive a grant the first cycle they apply, they can apply in the next cycle etc. Gemma asked for questions and comments about the draft Program Rules. Tina Molé asked if Gemma was going to be the Program Manager for the program, to which she responded Yes. Innes Kasanof asked if the

draft program rules could be provided for review. The Rules had been sent out in the Committee Book. Gemma said ideally she was hoping the Committee could have approved the Program Rules today so that then as soon as the Agreement was registered with the City, the Program Rules would be placed on the following month's Board agenda. Shilo Williams indicated that the Public Education III Agreement would likely be registered closer to an October 2025 timeframe. Discussion then turned to tabling a decision on approving the Program Rules either September or October, once Committee members had had more time for review.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 pm.

Next meeting: TBD