

WBGO CAB MINUTES SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

ROLL CALL: Antoinette Montague, Andrew Manns, Carrie Jaackson, Stephen Williams, Peter Kyriakopoulos, Whitney Marchelle Jackson, Rashon Davis, Reginald Blanding

5:15 pm Opening discussion with **Antoinette Montague, Board Chair, to Andrew Manns, Vice Chair**, you are respected, your presence and point of view is very important. But, if you don't show up and express your point of view so that we can work on these things, we have been putting forward suggestions for lengthening the terms of leadership for the CAB for some time, one year is not necessarily enough time, and you agreed to this initially. If you would like to be the Chair of the CAB that would be great or if you would like to be off the CAB Board that's fine, you needed to be present and attend those meetings but did not. However, we have been talking about the policies that are being looked at and reviewed by pro-bono attorneys which allow the CEO of WBGO the ability to extend the terms of leadership and CAB Members and so that is on the table as well. Andrew, we needed you to show up at those planning meetings, however, one year is not enough time for planning. Right now, I would like to put it to a vote according to certain laws for the folks that are here now since we have a quorum. We can put off the elections or the discussions of same until we have clarity at the next CAB meeting which will be in January 2026, we can put it in the chat room, or we can vote now on our by-laws etc.

Steve, to Antoinette, all we need is a motion and someone to second that motion! A motion was made by Carrie Jackson and seconded by Whitney Marchelle in the discussion to wait until next meeting in January 2026 to revisit for approval and revisited by our attorneys looking at our by-laws and term durations.

Antoinette: Steve Williams has the flexibility to put this matter off until a decision can be made for a longer term for leadership or for members of CAB.

Steve Williams: reiterated that the motion made by CAB will be to wait.

Andrew Manns: Point of Order, there is nothing in the by-laws that allows the Chairman to suspend the elections, and if we do not hold the elections, we are in continual breach of the by-laws currently governing.

Steve Williams: Let me weigh in here, your exception is duly noted, however, this is a matter that is to be taken up in a committee, this is not a matter that can be handled at this time. So, we will move forward and proceed with this meeting, duly noting your exception and we will address that at another time on a future date.

Andrew Manns: At the decision of the Chair does not agree with my point of order, and my own values and moral values then I cannot continue with the organization that is in violation of the governance which has always been there in place or no need for discussion that the by-Laws, and a such I have thoroughly void my term with the board, and I am resigning from this meeting as well as the board, thanks so much for the opportunities.

Antoinette: Note: Article 9 will allow the Cab to extend the terms.

Steve Williams acknowledges hand raise by Karen Maynard (In Chat Room) Karen continues, Andrew before you go, thanks Andrew for bringing issues up on the By-Laws, mentions her background in many Boards, same issues exist with her Alumni Association with understanding the by-laws and how to proceed. Requests that Andrew stay, and if he leaves today there will be no quorum to approve the minutes from last meeting and that his point is well taken, and is valid, please stay as a parliamentarian.

Carrie Jackson introduces **Alicia Crowe, Attorney**, to the conversation from the Chat Room, also a Jazz Singer.

Alicia Crowe, comments: Agrees with Karens sentiments and is also on many boards this issue of policy always comes up when you are on a board, a year can expire and technically Article 9 is very technical. What I'm hearing is that there are relationships here but there is work to be done. To Andrew as a colleague, if you feel that people are not following the letter of the law and that's being a stickler, I will reevaluate whether it's worth your resigning, it's not because they are not listening to you or they are not trying to hear you. This is an organization where everyone is passionate about music and the arts, it's about relationships. I'm new here but I would reconsider, you don't want to resign and regret it.

Steve Williams: takes a question from Chat Room:

Wayne Winborne, (guest speaker) has extensive experience in the non-profit sector, and has served on numerous boards. He's been a funder on many occasions for 30 years from programming officer with the Ford Foundation, Corporate America, Prudential, was not

on the foundation staff, but close, and did sponsorship. He is Chair Emeritus of Bedford Stuy Corporation oldest Corp in America, Former Board Chair of Billie Holiday Theater, longest running in the Country, and others winning Presidential Awards, President Joe Biden and other dignitaries. This is the Advisory Board, not the Formal Board of Trustees, you are exempt from your rules and following your by-laws, but even if it were the formal board there is a lot of leeway of de facto behavior, things happen and you continue or go back and retroactively clean up. You can go back and amend things with a full quorum also for members who are absentia.

Look at the by-laws, see if they are UpToDate, if they are the original by-laws I suspect they say you are supposed to be meeting in person, but now everybody is having electronic meetings, the quorum for example. I would say stay the course, there is no party that has violated laws, the CAB is playing a very critical role but is not fiduciary or administrative body that is responsible.

Steve Williams comments: Note, this is not a governing board.

Wayne Winborne, the board of trustees, they are liable, so be gentle with yourselves all of the time.

Steve Williams: thanks Wayne Winbourne for his comments and input. We are very intentional about reviewing and revising the by-laws of this board and it is in progress right now, I would suggest for the purposes of this meeting. I am moving forward to seeing that we set aside Mr. Manns concerns for a committee to address this outside of this meeting, clearly Andrew with all due respect and with the best intentions this is not the most productive approach to resolving any issues that you or anyone else may have about the

governing of the process of this CAB. Again, I would strongly recommend that you move to set Mr. Manns' concerns aside for discussion and we continue with the process of running this meeting today.

Andrew Manns: I appreciate everybody's remarks and reflections and I'm particularly very touched by Mr. Winbourne's comments (inaudible) and experience, and moved by that everyone has to clean up past mistakes, I want to make sure that we don't have those kinds of mistakes and to do it the right way in the beginning, and raised that issue back in July.

Antoinette Montague responds: that is not true, as a matter of fact it was brought up in May as matter of fact, everything you have asked that we bring up has been brought up in Prep meetings, that you have not attended multiple times, and there is not one issue that has not been sent to the CEO Steve Williams and Michelle Ralph-Rawls, anyone who raises any issues on the CAB is addressed each and everything.

Steve Williams: Again, let me reiterate on these issues nothing is getting accomplished. To Andrew I'm hoping that you did not intend to derail this meeting with a Point of Order, because that's another discussion, You and I personally should have but clearly nothing is getting accomplished and is counterproductive I have ever witnessed in this board, and I have been a part of this organization for 5 years, let's move forward.

Obi Board Trustee Member: Addresses Andrew, even if you want to leave the CAB, please for now rescind your resignation, I will be a witness to follow up on this.

Antoinette continues with meeting agenda requests review and approval of May 5, 2025, CAB Minutes. **Carrie** makes a motion to approve Peter seconds, minutes are so approved. **Antoinette introduces** Steve Williams, CEO, for his quarterly report.

Steve Williams: he is going to truncate his report for our special guest, **Wayne Winborne**, we are exceedingly grateful that he has take time of his busy and involved to participate in this meeting, many thanks to Antoinette and the Advisory Board for pressing forward, as indicated we are in the process of reviewing the By-Laws of this organization and we will keep you posted s we move thru that process by the end of this calendar year.

Second on my list is the information pertaining to the upcoming WBGO SEPTEMBER FUN DRIVE, which is most critical because of the recent recission of funds through the Corporation of Public Broadcasting, we have roughly \$400,000 of a gap in our funding for the coming fiscal year that needs to be filled, and we've had enormous response to what has happened in Washington, DC, many of our listeners' have stepped up in a major way to do everything that they can to support this radio station in the aftermath of this recission vote. The most recent numbers I've seen pertaining to the response of listeners to that vote we have seen a triple-digit increase in the amount of money that has come in both amount and the number of people who have pledged over the last two months.

We expect that overwhelmingly positive show of support to continue at the end of September. Rosalind Turner, who is Membership Director, is here with us today, I've invited her to give us some basic information about what lies ahead for the September Fund Drive.

Rosalind Turner: We do have a large goal in front of us to reach by September 30th of \$400,000, and the ways in which we plan to do that is to revved up our on air solicitation, we have a campaign that is launching its small vignette with questions that Steve have taken the time to answer both audio and video, we are also conducting putting flyers in direct mail package to all of our current members and our lapsed members first in an effort to get them to reup and to upgrade, renew and give additional gifts to help us to meet that goal. We also have our on-air fund drives which will kick off the on-air portion on September 25th and we will be live thru Sunday, the 28th, and then the 29th and 30th are the last are the final days of our fiscal year, those will consist of what has become very lucrative and our power hours during the most listened to times of our weekday programming which of course Monday-Friday, 11 am during daybreak, 1 pm during favorite things and 4pm during prime time.

Our counting has started to get \$400, 000, and thanks to those of you, particularly Carrie and Antoinette, who have answered the call to come on air and help us fundraise, the invitation is open to all CAB Members who are interested in participating in our on-air fund drives are welcomed and encouraged.

Steve: I'm going to echo Rosalind's comment about the availability of CAB members and those who are not members of the Community Advisory Board, but just interested parties who would like to help in some way during this fund raiser drive we welcome your support and involvement. Question to Rosalind, I normally see Sylvia Brewer, I don't see her on this call, she would be the point of contact for Volunteers.

Rosalind Turner: Note, if you are interested in answering phones please reach out to Rosalind Turner, or email sbrewer@wbgo.org.

Our current percentage is about 9% of the people who give, if we could get that up to 13-15% we'd be golden.

Antoinette to Whitney one of the points of issue with a few of our board members is what is the charge of the CAB and are we to be responsible for fundraising, these are not our responsibilities, however, they are truly a point of prerogative to support our station, if you choose.

Steve interjects it is not the responsibility of any member of the Community Advisory Board to quote unquote fundraise, but I'll submit that anyone interested in the welfare and survival of the progress of this radio station yes, it is part of your charge to support.

Your support is needed if you listen to the radio station, we certainly appreciate it, **to Rosalind**, I see something in the Chat seeking confirmation can you pop your email and in Sylvia's into the Chat for those who would like to contact you to volunteer, **Rosalind** remarks she will put her information into the Chat.

Antoinette: moving onto our next point, Montclair Jazz Festival,

Steve: The next several weeks WBGO will be prominent in several important community events again the Montclair Jazz Festival, downtown, we will be there in signage in person, Leslie Harrison also on this call will be one of the hosts, we will also be present at the White Plains Jazz Festival, in a week, please support the festivals and WBGO.

Antoinette, WBGO will also be present at the OSPCA, West Orange, **Leslie Harrison** notes, and the Pittsburgh Jazz Festival, along with Co-Host Janice Seigel, of Manhattan Transfer, September 18-21 next weekend, the train is sold out and free if you can get there.

Steve: You will see WBGO Marketing Campaign, we have a modest marketing campaign now in the field both in the Newark, NJ as well as in the New York City in the 5 Boroughs, we are on billboards, on transit connections, and we are also conducting this campaign digital means both on-line and via Spotify, WBGO is being represented one way or another. Welcomes new employees, not present at today's meeting and acknowledge them, Sherril Angirful? new Marketing Manager, Monifa F. Brown, Community Engagement Specialist, is not confused with Monifa Brown, on-air host, also welcoming in Tia Coleman, Newark Resident. Steve takes a question from Chat Room, Rasheeda? WBGO Supporter this year,

Rasheeda: I want to volunteer and spend an afternoon supporting the station, her organization, The Universal Temple of the Arts, over several years purchased spots on WBGO. How can we be more intentional with listing the station as a media sponsor and other things. We are not sure how to do that to other organizations and non-profits that are interested in that as well.

How are you getting the word out with the Community Advisory Board meetings, can you empathize a little bit more. We budget \$5,000.00 to \$6000.00 yearly between the two events we need media sponsorship connections, Sheila Anderson and Antoinette Montague have both been hosts for many years, and Antoinette has performed for our organization, moving forward we want to keep this working for many years to come. We also would like to become official sponsors of WBGO events and need to know who to contact.

Steve: to Rasheeda there are 2 ways, one is something that has recently been established at WBGO, initiated by CAB Chair, Antoinette Montague, Artist Support Action Project (ASAP) on air announcements, it will garner low cost paying for WBGO Support that is one way to achieve low cost, we offer it to artist community as a way to support other avenues, I also invite you to use email address swilliams@wbgo.org Send me a note and I will get back to you at length with other alternatives for us to work together.

(Rasheeda will follow up via email to Steve)

Antoinette refers to our special guest Mr. Winborne that out of respect to him she's going to move her portion over to him for the sake of time. **Antoinette:** Carrie Jackson suggested that we have Wayne Winborne speak. The next part of our meeting is Eat, Sleep, Jazz, Repeat, and forge alliances to depend upon ourselves as the world shows its true energy and colors towards the arts and that we have to believe in jazz, blues and move forward.

Antoinette: Introduces Special Guest Wayne Winborne:

Wayne, advises that he had his opening concert tonight at Clements Place, and would have to leave shortly to get there with his big band that meets once a month, its an honor and a thrill to meet with CAB and to participate in this meeting, awestruck by people by who choose to spend their time in the service of others, even when its selfish, its not work when I get to hang out with Leslie Harrison, Sylvia Brewer, Sheila Anderson, Carrie Jackson, Antoinette Montague and others.

In terms of jazz this is the first job I've had and have always been a jazz head, I was drawn to jazz as a young boy did start playing the saxophone and was with some serious musicians in High School and College, and as it turns out I have always been a bit of a jazz nerd. When I was undergraduate in my junior and senior year along with another colleague student, we taught jazz history and we called it history and appreciation while we were in college. There is a process you must go through if you are a student. It was an actual class our peers got credit for it. It was extremely popular class. I would love to tell you It was no fail because we were students, basically you go through this process and get credit for it. Because we were students wisely, they didn't let us give letter grades to our peers obviously. All of the athletes that took the class literally, the entire football and basketball teams took it, it was very cool as an undergraduate to be teaching this class, I discovered that I have always had this deep abiding love for music. I used to play back then but stopped and went into graduate school and in a different direction and so I find myself here years later.

My interest in music is obviously musical, but they are also sociological and I dare say political, economic, technological, I'm teaching one class, **Introduction to Jazz the Art of Listening** and Stephon Harris handles the music, he's a genius and truly an educator. I like to put music in a social context, I was going to start out by telling you a little bit about myself, the Institute of Jazz Studies (IJS) history and its growth over the past 70 years or so, parallels the growth of jazz to the late 20th century.

Jazz is always tied to the time period that it is in. As humans it is always so reductionist in our cognitive thinking always truncate history when we look back and talk about it, it's just what we do. That truncation process always loses information. I always find that whatever we are talking about is always deeper and more complex than we typically think. Jazz is the same way, looking back on this period I think people will think the same way. One of the things I was going to talk about was jazz and democracy and it's kind of a mess right now, it's the least paid for music on the planet and therefore people assume it's the least popular. I've been in this position for 10 years as the Executive Director of Institute of Jazz Studies and the first year I was there I get a call from an NPR Station because USA TODAY, had an article that jazz was dead, note another jazz is dead article, they have all kinds of reasons for saying so, it's paid for and it barely registers as a blip these days in terms of the music that purchased. This is still true in terms of the downloads; they go through all this stuff and wanted some quotes from me about how I felt about jazz being dead. Jazz is thriving and 10 years later it's still thriving not necessarily the business side.

We are hearing more jazz now than ever, TV commercials, movies, samples, jazz is being heard all over the place, much more than it used to be in my opinion. Every other town, every other little jurisdiction has a jazz festival even if it's just half day, even 12-6pm. Every University has a jazz program, most offer degrees in jazz,

When I finished college in 1982 if I'm not mistake there were 6 Universities in this country that gave degrees in jazz, OBERLIN CONSERVATORY did not offer a major in saxophone in those days, and everybody has jazz faculties now. These are no small things, we can go back to and look at Hot House Magazine 20 years ago; I can go back in the archive and pull up it is much thinner than it is now.

It's coming back, and why, because of restaurants and other venues, now the money is not that good because musicians and artists give us this great music and are not making nearly what they should be making. Record companies are making more money than they are off of recorded work and so they are loathe to record. I hear music being played that is called jazz and it has absolutely nothing do with the music. Debates are part of jazz and has always been a part of the conversations, there will always be folks who like Louis Jordan better than Charlie Parker, which has always been the case. This has always been a part of the organic nature of this great music, and I suspect one difference is that in those days there weren't a lot of folks calling themselves jazz musicians, that's the other part of the advantage in looking at history and being a part of it as an archive. When I started the question was what we are going to do with the music collections of these great artists/musicians:

Quote: Jazz is worthy of serious academic study Serious Literature Professor at NYU (English Literature Class)

You now must purchase the collections of famous artists; I don't have the acquisition budget to purchase. Wayne Shorter's (Native Newark, NJ) collections went to New York Public Library.

Schomburg In New York paid 3 mil for Sonny Rollins Collections.

Barry Harris papers no bids, he was an extremely important figure, I'm naming figures from the last century what produced these musicians.

Wayne: A friendly amendment he explains that this is not typical of him, but he must be timely for his next appointment. He is super impressed with the time framework the CAB has given and applauds the board for the work we are doing and the work role we play. We are called to support WBGO and this music any way that we can. I think that we are called to reach into ours and other people's pockets to the extent that we can, I believe strongly in that, this is nothing new to us, we do this philanthropy is something that is a part of us all and the community, the arts. I hope that you will take that seriously and do what you can, I know that it is in your heart and you will do that. I hope that folks that are employed by WBGO and the folks on the board never feel that they are alone, we all get to benefit from this music. I have commitments tonight, but I want to do a couple of things. First, I want to invite you to allow me to host your next meeting at the Institute of Jazz Studies (IJS) or at Clements Place Jazz, which seats 70 folks or so.

I can also arrange a tour of our archives for you or at least a presentation of what I do for money over at Rutgers, but also, I could

do a real blown-out version of the talk I had prepared for you. I would also like to do some visual things not Zoom because we use slides so that you can really enjoy it. I'm assuming you are meeting on Mondays at this time monthly, I would love to do that for you all and find your way over to Newark. If not, we can still host it on the 4th floor of the Dana Library in our meeting room, we have the capability of doing a two-way Zoom, we would still be in a room, I can pontificate.

Steve: I can attest to Wayne's (gift of gab) we are deeply honored that you would take anytime to join us in this meeting, and also support the radio station which you have done consistently and luxuriously taken a trip to South Africa on behalf of WBGO, we are honored and blessed to be in your mist.

Wayne: I'm going to step up my game and write you a check in terms of my donation because I understand the impact of **CBP?** for the current political situation I just want you to know that I'm going to step up what I've done personally and want to make that pledge to you.

Steve: I appreciate it and I know that you are going to follow through. Steve acknowledges in the Chat Room (**Karen Maynard** as part of the community is the meeting at the Institute of Jazz Studies (IJS) going to be open to non-CAB Members, the answer is yes.

September 8, 2025, Meeting Ends at 6:40pm

Minutes Submitted by: ***Carrie Jackson,***

CAB Secretary