

Notes

Community Led Interest Group Meeting

Tuesday, May 28th

Brighthouse Branch – Admin Offices – Board Room

10am - 12pm

In attendance in person: David Kerr (SPL), Adair Harper (BPL/WVML), Andrea Lukic, Eleonore Shaffer (VPL), Winifred Chong (RPL), Allison Jones (WVML/BPL), Ariana Galeano (RPL), Anthea Goffe (Coquitlam), Kelty Roberts (VPL), Millicent Mabi (RPL), Gordon Yusko (UBC), Jorge Cardenas (BPL), Alina Gherman (New Westminster), Janeen Parent (FVRL), Anne Bechard (RPL),

Difficulties with teleconference system: regrettably, we didn't get a chance to have Tara, Rachel, Rachel, and Mikale join us.

Anne welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The notes from the February meeting were approved.

We did a round of introductions – we had new participants.

Review of BCLA Conference – what sessions were attended? What was notable?

Panel on social isolation - Janeen, Danielle, Millicent, Shideh and Nicole.

-full room of over 200 attendees.

Pedal-powered community libraries panel shared 4 different perspectives and practices and was very inspiring.

Gordon Yusko presented to the trustees group re: the small business accelerator, Indigitization, Making Research Accessible initiative, "right to read", etc. Gordon is working with group of rural primarily indigenous librarians who are disconnected from the wider library community. The trustees day was very valuable.

We discussed the need to submit more proposals to the BCLA conference that focus on community-led.

There is a lot happening around children's services and it was presented at the YAACS preconference – consider integrating into BCLA more generally.

Discussion as well of public and academic libraries connecting together more robustly.

The Community-led class at SLAIS/iSchool

No word yet on whether it will be offered next year or not. There were two dozen students registered during this most recent offering.

From instructors' perspectives it was difficult to find readings, because there's not a lot of formal publishing about this model. Halifax and other libraries have lots of internal documents and policy documents but not a lot widely available. There's an opportunity to be reading work from different disciplines around community organizing and engagement.

We informally suggested possible ways to get research/writing done, including formulating Young Canada Works or LAC or co-op postings.

Discussion turned to weaving community-led orientations and practices throughout the library's work. There's a need to do both formal (strategic planning, service planning, monthly reporting) and informal (coffee, culture, relationship building) internally to back up the external relationship building.

Change in Chair and Secretary

Kelty Roberts from VPL will be the new chair, taking over from Anne Bechard.

Shideh Taleban from North Vancouver City Library will be the new secretary, taking over from Heather De Forest.

Both by acclamation.

Current and incoming chairs and secretaries will meet together in July to transition the work and the new leadership will convene the next meeting in September.

Roundtable Discussion

Ariana reported on a partnership between RPL and the Musqueam Nation that involved a series of public arts events and workshops, culminating in a celebration event for all who had participated.

Janeen reported on FVRL outreach to schools: "get carded" events via partnership with teacher-librarians. Talking with classes and doing over 200 card sign ups in a day. Has resulted as well in initiatives like lending robots to coding clubs. Outreach librarians often bring local branch staff with them and there can be a staff perspective shift through the process.

Eleonore described ongoing outreach to residents of temporary modular housing. The work is slow going because the housing managers are very busy. There is some growing connection with public health nurses.

David and Ariana also reported that they are connected with modular housing tenants. In other situations, the residents, not the managers, are making decisions about what organizations will come into the space, and so a relationship building approach is ongoing. Distribution/donation of books is one step being taken.

We had a discussion about whether other materials beyond books were taken to these visits. Some bring pamphlets, posters for event – but only highly relevant ones, taking into consideration eg that some groups are not able to travel to event spaces. Others only take business cards. Stuff may be useful as a discussion starter, but most important is having humans outside of the libraries to form relationships.

Jorge mentioned switching our thinking from 'what do you do after you come up with the idea for a program' to 'how do you come up with an idea for a program' and even to 'do you have to do a program?' – taking the focus away from room bookings and towards partnerships.

We discussed connections between library systems and how we can work cooperatively with community partners. How can we leverage the Community-led Interest Group to support cross-system collaboration that will move the dial?

Shared to the group at meeting, and via the website and list:

McCreary Centre Society (2019). Balance and connection in BC: the health and well-being of our youth. Results of the 2018 BC Adolescent Health Survey. (report)

Getting to the heart of community through discovery (webinar June 11)