

## Community Development Days – February 24 & 25, 2022

BCLA'S [Community-Led Interest Group \(CLIG\)](#) organized Community Development Days (CDD) on February 24 and 25, 2022, in order to start the discussion about community development and related topics in an informal setting, with the purpose of knowledge sharing and learning from speakers' experiences. This free, two-day (4 sessions) event, was open to all library workers and students from BC and other provinces and territories. Courtesy of BCLA, this event was hosted over BCLA's Zoom account as a Webinar. Registration was via BCLA and open and accessible to all. Participants didn't need to be a BCLA member, in order to attend.

Due to the sensitivity of the topics and for the sake of unfiltered conversations, we decided not to record any of the sessions. All sessions were facilitated by Shideh Taleban – CLIG's current Chair. With special thanks to North Vancouver City Library Communications Team for creating the poster for this event.

For more info about the sessions and speakers, visit: <https://bclaconnect.ca/community-development-days>

CDD 2022 speakers contacts and shared resources are now available on CLIG's Resources page: <https://bclaconnect.ca/clig/community-led-interest-group/resources/>

CDD planning committee: Ravi Basi , Shideh Taleban, Kelty Roberts, Ann Johannes, Jorge Cardenas, Leila Meshgini, McKelle Hansen.

CDD Executive Team: Shideh Taleban, Jessica Stol, Emily Gow, McKelle Hansen (UBC Student Rep).

CDD Tech Support volunteers: McKelle Hansen, Emily Gow, Jessica Stol, Caja Blomly (UBC Student), Rachel Lin (Langara Student),

### Registration and attendance:

Session 1: 139 registrants, 95 attendees

Session 2: 147 registrants, 97 attendees

Session 3: 130 registrants, 70 attendees

Session 4: 129 registrants, 78 attendees

For a virtual event, the attendance rate compared to the registration rate was very good.

Overall, the registration and attendance rate, displayed the thirst and interest about this topic in our profession. The sessions covered a lot of different topics and used different approaches. Attendees mentioned that they liked the order/flow of the sessions – how it began with a broader conversation about what is community-led work, and subsequent sessions explored specific areas. We noticed that conferences can be very corporate-speak or conference-speak, but the sessions were regular everyday conversations about community-led concepts, which made it more accessible and impactful. We found that the webinar format was less distracting for speakers and the chat and Q&A functions gave more people an opportunity to speak and ask questions since not many people may feel comfortable speaking up during a live conference.

Based on the feedback that we received, it was a successful and well-received event. In session 2, there was a discussion in the chat about the Freedom Convoy/Trucker Convoy, which was disruptive, but was handled well by the speakers and facilitator; some attendees noted in their feedback that the situation was a learning opportunity as how to handle hard conversations. We limited the chat to only hosts and speakers after that session.

While we didn't send out a survey afterwards, some colleagues were kind enough to share their feedback with speakers or the CLIG team. Here are some feedback comments we received:

*"I got so much out of these past two days. Thank you for your moderating and hosting. You did a fabulous job! All of the speakers were so knowledgeable and sincere. I appreciate the work the CLIG committee did to put on this event."*

*"What a great event!! Thank you for all your work in hosting and organizing the sessions. I really enjoyed having the chance to hear such an amazing variety of perspectives on community work, I've definitely got some new approaches to try."*

*"Just a quick Monday morning hello to say how fantastic last week's programming was. I learned from each of the four sessions/eight speakers, and the facilitation, organization, and tech was seamless! Really, this format was so good and the topics were so complementary and reinforcing.*

*I really appreciated Leila's response to the chat flurry on Thursday afternoon -- her skills in addressing the issue, asserting herself, and redirecting our attention made*

*a strong impression on me and were something I definitely learned from. I noted the moderation and technical response as well - limiting who could see the chat the next day and verbalizing the comments/questions there -- and kudos for that. Congratulations and gratitude to you and to the others who put together the program and participated in this for your time, skills, knowledge, and efforts."*

*"I just wanted to compliment you on putting together such a wonderful line-up of speakers and sessions. For the first time I feel like I actually UNDERSTAND what community librarianship looks like! Well done!"*

*"I wanted to reach out and say that I'm so appreciative of the work you and CLIG did putting on the Community Development Days. I felt so energized and excited by the presentations."*

*"What a powerful presentation. You were blunt and to the point. I enjoyed your presentation very much, it made me think a lot."*

*"Listening to you inspires me to do better for the new comers in my community. Thanks for doing this valuable work. you make us all proud."*

*"I really appreciated the first part of your talk in particular, and I am turning that lens on what my department does."*

*"I have a lot to consider and think about. Your years of work is incredible in this area."*

*"Super helpful to have this example of outreach to Somali community - it brings your tips to life really well!"*

*"What an amazing speaker, presenter and motivator. Wonderful presentation!!!! Thank you"*

*"This presentation has really been life altering! I really needed to have priorities realigned to what matters with inclusion."*

During CLIG General Meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup>, we learned that our reach was greater than those who have attended the sessions. Some Libraries had staff who had attended CDDs, reporting back to other colleagues and sharing their learnings.

## Discussion about future Community Development Days

Colleagues have asked if this can be an annual event?

We will look at all possibilities of formats for the future – whether it should be annual or biannual; one or two days; in-person, online, or hybrid; have breakout rooms for different lunchtime discussions, small workshops, etc.