

BCLA Community-Led Interest Group Meeting

April 6, 2023, 10am-12pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom

In attendance: Shideh Taleban (NVCL); CJ Pentland (NVCL); Nicole Sousa (BPL); Tara Thompson (ORL); Kate Quinn-Feehan (WVML); Kelly Thoreson (RPL); Andrea Galbraith (VPL); Rebekah Adams-Brush (NWPL); Jessica Stol (LPL).

1. Land Acknowledgements & Introductions

2. Approval of December 2, 2022 meeting minutes

3. BCLA Conference 2023 (April 12-14)

The group shared who would be attending the BCLA Conference this year and the sessions they were interested in attending. Some sessions of interest included those related to community-led work, homelessness, accessibility, Indigenous programming, harm reduction, EDI strategies, antiracism, and culturally responsive practices in library spaces.

Tara Thompson is presenting at BCLA, along with Janeen Parent (FVRL), Chris Koth (NWPL), Donna Langille (UBC Okanagan), and Noreen Ma (BPL). Their session, [Community Librarianship: So What?](#), will focus on what community librarianship looks like in different communities and they will be exploring several topics, including goals and objectives, resources, and evaluating community-led work.

Shideh Taleban is also presenting with colleagues from North Vancouver City Library and Smithers Public Library. The session is called [A Tale of Two Cities: Supporting Community Members Experiencing Homelessness in Urban and Rural Settings](#). Shideh and colleagues will be sharing about NVCL's [Open Door Community Hub](#), which Rebecca Knight spoke about at a [previous CLIG meeting](#).

Andrea shared that a colleague at VPL, Audrey Wang, will be doing a [presentation on tools for empowering public facing workers](#). Nicole shared that Emily Guerrero (BPL) will be doing a [presentation on harm reduction within libraries](#).

For those interested in library accessibility, Tara shared an [online course](#) offered by the Alzheimer's Society about building dementia-friendly communities.

4. Community Development Days 2023

We are aiming to have the 2023 Community Development Days in the fall or winter. The planning committee currently includes the CLIG Executive Team, Noreen, Tara, Jorge,

and Andrea. If you are interested in joining, please email Shideh Taleban or Jessica Stol. The planning committee will meet 3-4 times prior to the event to discuss the event's topics, logistics, and to plan speakers. A summary of last year's event and sessions can be found [here](#).

The CLIG group discussed potential themes and topics of interest to cover this year, as well as how sessions should be presented. Below is a summary from the discussion:

- Preference for the event to be virtual, over Zoom. More accessible for attendees, more affordable for both attendees and CLIG, and logistically easier to organize.
- The event will be free.
- Open to all jurisdictions and to everyone in the library.
- Preference for the event to happen over 2 days, with 2 sessions each day.

CDD 2023 themes:

- Intro to com-led work
- Accessibility and com-led work
- Reporting com-led work and ethics of reporting
- Effectively connect with different groups (other languages (when having no staff that speak those languages), teens, etc.)

Other topics of interest include:

- Outdoor programming
- How different people working with can establish connections
- Building staff capacity for com-led work? Skills? Com-led work focused on teens.

If anyone has suggestions about format or potential speakers for the Community Development Days, please email Shideh or Jessica by the end of June.

5. Round Table

Burnaby Public Library

BPL's Community Development team is smaller than usual, but they are back to the number of visits they were doing pre-pandemic. Recently, they have been visiting a new senior's group and doing in-person relationship building visits to get to know the community. Several staff have also been visiting BC housing complexes. They visit when the complex is doing other programming so that they can sit and talk with community members, get to know people, and begin to understand the needs. They are trying as much as possible not to do programs during this relationship building and information gathering stage. The team has a weekly meeting where they can debrief and share information about visits with each other, but they are not writing down and documenting specific information due to privacy concerns and the ethics of reporting.

Richmond Public Library

RPL is interested in the recent CLIG conversations around evaluating community-led work, as well as navigating reporting and statistics with external stakeholders. They have been spending less time out in the community, but are bringing partnerships back into the library and are working on maintaining relationships with community groups. RPL has been working with [Aspire Richmond](#), an organization that supports people who have developmental disabilities, to run an in-branch storytime where half of the space is reserved for children from Aspire Richmond. The program has seen a growth in popularity as well as an increase in children who have higher developmental needs using the library space and attending programs. RPL is also beginning to build Sensory Kits for all locations in order to increase accessibility. The library's [Community Art Wall](#) has been a great way to connect with local art communities and to bring in artists who may not be displayed in other community spaces. RPL is continuing to work with a local grassroots group of Muslim women to bring programming into the library for Ramadan and the International Day of Islamic Art. RPL has also started a Pride Book Club, with the goal of creating space for the queer community in Richmond since there aren't many queer organizations or spaces located within the Richmond area. The book club has been a good way to begin building relationships with the queer community in Richmond.

North Vancouver City Library

NVCL is mostly doing in-person programming, with some virtual and hybrid programs. They are doing regular outreach visits to shelters, food banks, and ELL classes. Community members have been requesting ELL classes for children and youth, which the library is looking into. The [Open Door Community Hub](#) continues to operate twice a week, where unhoused and marginally housed community members can gather to socialize, access community support services, receive a care package, and participate in programming. Programs have included a monthly footcare clinic and art therapy sessions. NexGen Hearing has also been conducting hearing tests on site. NVCL partnered with Vancouver Coastal Health to offer harm reduction and naloxone training to the public. NVCL offered staff sign language classes, and will be doing a session for the public in the spring and summer. Local Coast Salish weavers will also be doing an art installation in the library space. NVCL is working with West Vancouver Memorial Library and North Vancouver District Library to host the North Shore Writers Festival at the end of April. NVCL is also trying to meet with community members in different places and reach different audiences, such as doing Books and Brews this summer and exploring the possibility of an Adult Summer Reading Club. Shideh is interested in connecting with anyone who has offered an Adult Summer Reading Club before.

New Westminster Public Library

Community librarianship has become a major focus for all librarians at NWPL. The first phase has been getting out into the community and learning about the organizations nearby, then distilling down and prioritizing who the library wants to work with. NWPL does visits with children and families at the Purpose Society and StrongStart, as well as visits to local PACT (Peer Assisted Care Team) meetings. They are also trying to begin regular visits to Aunt Leah's Place; an adult librarian is doing open-ended visits regularly, but they are hoping to do more youth-focused visits. An ongoing question at NWPL is whether they are connecting with the people they are most wanting to connect with, such as the most marginalized and those facing the most barriers to accessing library services. NWPL launched some new collections, including a ukulele collection and a seed library. With new government grants being announced, they are thinking of new programs and services that could be offered in the community.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will be in June or July. Please email Shideh or Jessica if you have any suggestions for guest speakers.