

BCLA Community-Led Interest Group Meeting

November 29, 2023, from 2-4pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom

In attendance: Shideh Taleban (NVCL); CJ Pentland (NVCL); Liz Hunter (NWPL); Tara Thompson (ORL); Jessica Stol (LPL).

1. Land Acknowledgements & Introductions

2. Approval of September 26, 2023 meeting minutes

3. CLIG's New Logo

BCLA hired Vancouver Community College's Studio Nuvo as a consultant, with students and instructors working to design specific logos for BCLA's sections and interest-groups. CLIG was one of the first interest-groups to work on a logo design. CLIG's Executive Team and Cynthia Ford (from BCLA) gave input to the students and met with them several times over the last few months. Shideh shared the final five logo choices to CLIG attendees and the group discussed which logo option they preferred, as well as some edits to make to the preferred option.

The colour palate was chosen based on accessibility and colour contrast. The image was intended to be inviting, friendly, and evoke a sense of connection.

The CLIG logo, with edits, was finalized after discussion and feedback from attendees. Below is the final design chosen by the group, with the edits applied:



4. Community Development Days 2023 Feedback

The group discussed CLIG's 2023 Community Development Days and gave feedback. Discussion and feedback points are included below:

- It was nice to have two presenters during a session since it created a good flow and made discussions feel more conversational.
- Last year, the BCLA Zoom account allowed us to have several Zoom co-hosts, and these hosts managed technology settings during the sessions. This year, the event was hosted on a new BLCA Zoom account and the settings were restricted to one host, so only one person was able to manage the technology features. Technology went smoothly, but we will look into having co-hosts during the next CDD event so that we have backup support available.
- We had a lower turnout of student volunteers compared to last year.
- Recommendation that the event is planned for earlier in the year, perhaps in September rather than November. November was a busier time of year, and some libraries' training budgets had run out by early fall.
- We had between 60-100 people register for each session, and an average of 50 people attended each session.
- This was our first year including a session focusing on academic libraries and we received positive feedback from attendees.

The final report on the 2023 Community Development Days will be completed in the new year and sent to BCLA.

5. Call for New CLIG Chair

Shideh is also looking to move away from CLIG as a Chair. If anyone is interested in becoming the next CLIG Chair or if you know of anyone who would be interested, please let Shideh know. A callout will be posted on the CLIG webpage and forum in the new year.

CLIG's full Terms of Reference and Chair responsibilities can be found at [this link](#).

6. Round Table – Community-led programs, resources, discussions, and learnings

New Westminster Public Library

NWPL currently has a team of two librarians doing community-led work. They are visiting 6-7 sites in the city, and they are each sitting on 2-3 committees or community tables. They visit at the sites for several hours, get to know people, answer questions, and make library cards; they are not doing programming during these visits. Staff are seeing more populations come into the library as they build relationships in the community, as well as more inquiries from organizations who are becoming more aware of the library's resources. Some of the populations and groups they are connecting with include: people experiencing homelessness and substance use issues; BC subsidized housing; Mosaic; S.U.C.C.E.S.S.; and Immigrant Services Society (ISS) of BC.

As part of Homelessness Action Week, the library connected with a local filmmaker, Ezra King, to screen his short film about stigma, racism, and homelessness. The event included a public screening and a discussion about the film's messages and filming techniques. Ezra can be contacted at 876digital@gmail.com.

Women at a nearby Elizabeth Fry shelter had participated in a photography project, and the library partnered with them to do an exhibit in the library space. They also added a layer to the project by creating digital stories and including those in the exhibit.

Okanagan Regional Library

ORL encourages branches to do community engagement work since the branches are more connected to their local communities. Tara is still doing community engagement training via Beanstack, where staff can do activities related to community-led work and earn badges.

ORL is restarting their seed library and looking at it from a system-wide lens. They have been looking at [Pima County's Seed Library](#) in Arizona, where the library catalogues the seeds and patrons can place holds on seed varieties through the catalogue. ORL's Adult Services are collecting submissions for a community-led sustainability themed cookbook. ORL has also finalized selections for this year's [Reading Bucket Lists](#), with 25 books that are hyper-local and Indigenous. The Vernon branch does an English Corner but pairs it with knitting, crocheting, and crafting, and the Kelowna branch has a book club that's based on the themes of the global justice calendar. ORL is starting to add literacy-based play areas in their children's spaces and attach programs to storytimes in order to encourage physical literacy with language and socializing. ORL's [Vision Tech Kits](#) will be launched in the next few weeks.

The Library Champions program has started up again, but it has been difficult finding participants since the eligibility requirements can be restrictive. If anyone has tips for finding Library Champion participants, please contact Tara or share them on the CLIG forum.

Niteo is a partner group that has been doing a reading group for kids, as part of their [Story as Community](#) program. They pair university students with newcomer kids and the pairs practice English in the library. The program is run as 6-8 week sessions and the group follows a curriculum. The program currently runs at the Kelowna, Rutland, and Vernon branches. The CLIG group discussed how several library systems have heard from newcomer communities asking for English conversation programs for children – especially those children who are in the transition period before they can attend school in BC.

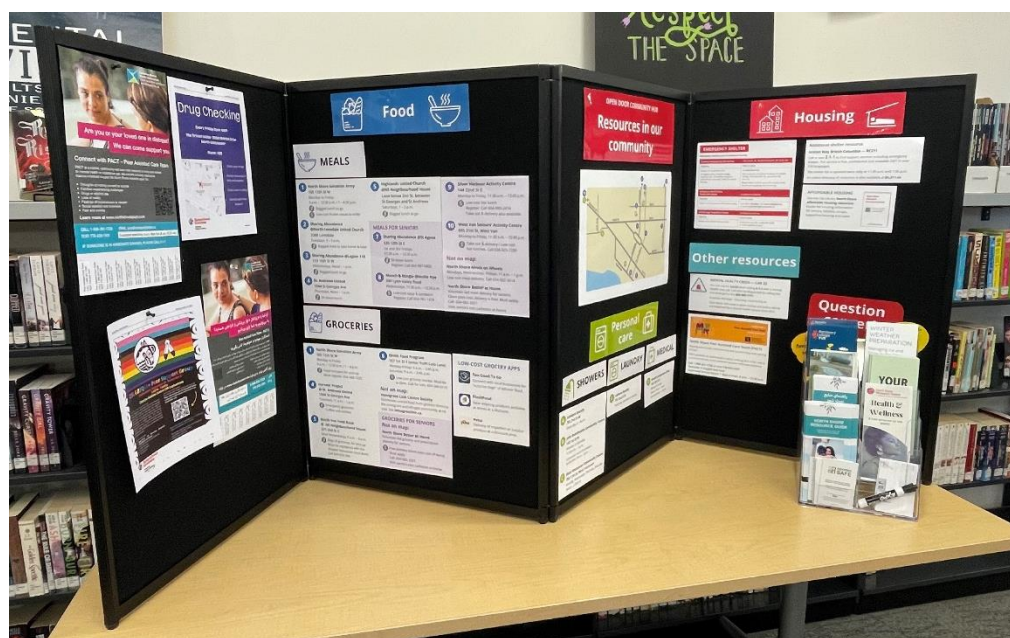
North Vancouver City Library

Starting in December, NVCL will be doing a monthly outreach to the nearby social housing, in partnership with the North Shore Neighbourhood House.

NVCL will be celebrating its centennial year in 2024. The library is thinking ahead to different programming and celebrations for the year. They will also be sending out their year-end feedback survey and using the responses for programming ideas and to guide the upcoming year. NVCL will also be engaging in a strategy planning year in 2024, and staff will be busy with research.

NVCL is also doing a community cookbook, and they have started reaching out directly to organizations to see if they want to participate by including a recipe. The library is hoping to finish the project by producing a physical book. NVCL recently started health education programs in partnership with the North Shore Division of Family Practice (a group of local physicians and doctors on the North Shore) who have been looking for ways to connect with the community. They have been offering presentations on specific topics, such as how to support people who use substances, as well as more general info, such as how to find a family doctor on the North Shore.

The Open Door Community Hub's community access workers have built in a programming approach, which as included programs like Jeopardy, Wordle, short documentary screenings, gaming, and ongoing programs (footcare clinics, hairdresser/barber services, ID clinics, etc.). The programming is tied into literacy, health, and digital services. The library has partners that also participate at the Hub, such as the Canadian Mental Health Association, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), and outreach workers from the shelter. A community resource board was recently created to help Hub attendees find resources, so that attendees can benefit from information without having to engage in conversation if they don't feel like it. A picture of the resource board is included below:



London Public Library

Two new outreach librarians have started at LPL and are working to resume and make new contacts with community partners and organizations. The library continues to be in conversation with community organizations about London's Health & Homelessness Whole of Community Response plan, especially as cold months near.

A Newcomer Meetup program has been offered at the Byron branch for newcomer children looking to practice English and build community connections. The program uses play-based activities in order to encourage conversation. There have also been children on the autism spectrum who have attended as they practice language skills as well.

In the new year, the children's librarians will be talking about Early Reader collections, decodable books, and the science of reading. This is in response to the Ontario Human Rights Commission's [Right to Read inquiry report](#) about literacy in Ontario, as well as the recent overhaul to the Ontario language curriculum in elementary schools. To learn more about the history of this issue, Jessica recommended the podcast [Sold A Story](#). The library has been seeing more teachers looking for phonics and science-based reading resources, and families are also looking for resources to support their children. Tara shared that Niteo also offers a free course on [Leadership in Literacy](#) which teaches these concepts.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be in March. Please email Shideh or Jessica if you have any suggestions for guest speakers, or if you are interested in becoming CLIG Chair.