Anti-racism in action

Territorial Acknowledgement

Our work is situated in Burnaby, which is located on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the handaminam and Skwxwú7mesh speaking peoples.

- Going beyond inclusive programs and outreach
- Working in tandem with internal assessment and structural change
- Improved working conditions for BIPOC staff leads to improve services to community

Equity work at BPL

- Three standing working groups:
- Trans Inclusion
- Indigenous
 Initiatives
- Anti-Racism

- Members come from across the organization
- Non-supervisory roles
- Extra paid hours if needed
- Consult and work together

First Steps

- Commitment to anti-racism
- Decision to conduct an audit
- Selecting the consultants
- Proccess guided by two committees one made up of equity group leads, one of management

Shaping the Plan

- Consultant's workplan shared with staff
- How to consult and who to consult guided by conversations with equity leads
- Decided on a mix of small group interviews, individual interviews, and anonymous survey
- Group interviews conducted in staffing groups, with some BIPOC caucuses. Separate groups for board members, and senior staff & supervisors.

Supporting the Process

- Gave staff many options to engage, to respect need for privacy
- Built in an hour after interviews for staff to reflect and rest
- Resourcing staff time and replacement time
- Communicating with senior staff about supporting the process

Sharing the Audit

- Physically printed out copies and distributed to every staff
- Set aside staff time to read the report
- Conducted debrief conversations, facilitated by the consultants, to continue the conversation and give staff time to connect and reflect

Next steps

- Anti-racism Commitments forthcoming
- All exempt positions posted as BIPOC-preferred, for 5 years
- Board created a \$5,000 scholarship fund for BIPOC staff and residents of Burnaby who are attending Library School
- Closer look at job descriptions and how they are weighted
- Expanded collections in non-English languages

Next steps

- Anti-racism work takes time, and needs strong relationships
- Resource it properly, through money and staff time
- Centre those most impacted within the organization and support them in leading