

BCLA Diversity & Multicultural Services Committee *MINUTES*

Date: May 4, 2017 9:30AM

Location: Burnaby Public Library

Present:

Allan Cho

Fereshteh Kashefi (Chair)

Jessica Whu

Jorge Cardenas

Lindsay Barnes

Ravi Basi

Reta Pyke

Susan Pierce (via Teleconference)

Wendy Jang

Regrets: Michael Burris, Leila Meshgini

Introduction of the Incoming Chairs

- Jorge and Jessica effective chairs after May 4 meeting
- **Action Required:** Fereshteh will send an email with biographies

BCLA Conference 2017

- 117 registered attendees
- Shared scenarios (real-life situation, issues, challenges) sparked lively discussion for 30 mins
- It was a learning experience for Fereshteh and Ravi as well
- Full workshop was mentioned
- PNLA librarian approached us for a full workshop at the next PNLA conference
- Feedback:
 - Excellent presentation and discussion. (Susan)
 - Shared scenarios exercise was well received. May be an opportunity for checklist of competencies. (Jessica)
 - Would be nice to invite the workshop into UBC Point Grey (mentioned by Sarah DuPont to Allan)

Changes to Committee Name

- We are focused on multicultural services rather than diversity (groups are already represented in other interest groups i.e. first nations, LGBTQ, Accessibility)
- Historically, it was diversity committee and then became diversity and multicultural services committee
- It was unanimously decided by present members to update our name by removing the word "Diversity"
- **Action Required:** Jessica to email BCLA Office about updating the name "Multicultural Services Committee"

Idea for an online survey about racism in BC libraries

- Wondering if other libraries are experiencing racism between staff and public, or library and the public
- Discussion about: what are we doing for this survey
 - Developing policy or strategy?
 - Gathering data?

- We need to decide what kind of discrimination we're talking about (racial or more)
- We need to ensure that we define terminology, racism and discrimination
- We can provide examples of what we mean
- Online survey will be meant for library staff, not public/the community
- We should see a good uptake from academic libraries (with international students)
- Potential Questions:
 - What incidents have you experienced or seen racism occur in your library?
 - How did the library respond to these incidents?
 - Does the library have a policy about this?
- **Action Required:** A sub-group to be formed of people who would be interested in taking this survey on (designing it for the next committee meeting for discussion).

Committee Listserv

- **Action Required:** Jessica will ask for listserv from BCLA office and send email to long list of members that they are subscribed to the listserv and can unsubscribe

Committee Dinner

- Dinner at Nuba at Gastown (207 W Hastings St, Vancouver)
- Potential dates: Friday June 2 or Friday June 9 at 6:30pm
- **Action Required:** Jessica will send email to ask which dates work for most people and will send confirmation about date by May 19

Roundtable

- RPL is having Ravi come for a 2 hour ICC workshop to train the trainers with staff from different branches and departments [Wendy]
- RPL has observed that material in traditional Chinese book has higher demand/circulation than simplified Chinese material [Wendy]
- Chinese books are finally catalogued at SPL, using in-house cataloguers; it is their highest circulating collection [Ravi]
- NVCL is focused on their physical redesign of space and collections [Fereshteh]
- Persian book club collection are available for any libraries to borrow [Fereshteh]
- VPL has been working on a typeface project to correctly express First Nations and non-Latin scripts. With the new library website, the IPA Extensions allows the Halkomelem language to be represented accurately. This open source project will allow others to also use the extensions. [Jessica]
- A community-led reading circle for Spanish speaking women is meeting at a VPL branch. The Spanish community is asking for services and there isn't enough staff or resources. [Jorge]
- UBC Library staff is having cultural tours of Musquem Cultural Centre and surrounding area; this has facilitated better intercultural understanding. [Allan]
- UBC Library will have a new university librarian soon. [Allan]
- The tour for Taan's Moon, a Haida Moon storybook will be at SPL. There will be lots of programming for this. [Reta]

Next meeting date:

Date: Thursday September 14, 2017

Location: Burnaby Public Library (Metrotown Branch, 3rd floor Board Room)

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30.