

BCLA Diversity & Multicultural Services Committee *MINUTES*

May 26, 2016 Burnaby Public Library

Present: Ravi Basi, Michael Burris , Allan Cho, , Eva Quintana , Jessica Whu, Roberta Summersgill, Fereshteh Kashefi (Chair)

Regrets: Wendy Jang , Michael McCarthy, Susan Pierce

Meeting Opening:

Welcome and introductions, adoption of the minutes and agenda. A warm welcome was extended to Jessica (VPL) who was attending the meeting for the first time.

Membership

We are happy that we have received 5 requests to join the committee from librarians working in various library systems (VPL,FVRL) and departments (web, children's). 4 of these new members could not attend this meeting. New membership list will be updated and sent out. (fk)

Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-KSH7HKRS/>

The committee sent out the above survey in April (posted on BCLA listserv).

Thanks to all who took the time to answer, we received lots of valuable feedback. Eva Quintana who has managed the survey presented the results. A detailed contextual report will be prepared and shared on the listserv as well.

The first 2 questions were basically asking about languages and language groups currently served by individual libraries and anticipated to be served in coming years. There was a noticeable surge in demand for materials and services in Arabic. The committee focused on reviewing questions number 3 and 4 for this meeting.

What challenges do you face in serving multicultural communities?

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|---|--------|
| Lack of familiarity with multicultural communities and their needs (44 answers) | 74.58% |
| Lack of funding (37) | 62.71% |
| Lack of time (38) | 64.41% |
| Lack of support (26) | 44.07% |

What would help you serve multicultural communities more effectively?

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|--|--------|
| Information about suppliers (24) | 44.07% |
| Information about collection development (35) | 59.32% |
| Information about programming (37) | 62.71% |
| Information about outreach (43) | 72.88% |
| Staff development, e.g. intercultural communication (51) | 86.44% |

- There was a lot of interest in staff development /intercultural communication. The committee has put together a workshop which has been delivered to various libraries and other organizations involved in literacy / multicultural services in the past where libraries or agencies directly approached the committee to request a workshop and then the process was coordinated with BCLA office.
- Michael Burris offered to discuss the findings with BCLA Executive. The idea of including an ongoing component as part of the annual BCLA conference and perhaps offering the workshop as a pre-conference workshop seemed more practical and feasible for most libraries.

Round table:

- Michael Burris: NewToBC funding was extended until April 2017. New application for next year's funding will sent in Fall. A celebration of Library Champions program is organized for June 2nd.
- NewToBC was presented and well received in Jasper, the program also won BCLA's Merit Award.
- Allan and Fereshteh: The "Asian Heritage Month" continued with programs showcasing various Asian cultures. This year's focus was on Japanese Community. NVCL participated with a program called "A Japanese Evening of Movement and Sound" introducing Japanese traditional dance and music.
- Allan: June is the Aboriginal History Month and UBC is celebrating with various programs and exhibitions, some with collaboration with Museum of Anthropology, Vancouver Museum and Musquin Cultural Centre.
- Ravi reported that SPL is working on 2016 Literacy Report with focus on programs and services for newcomers. City Centre Branch is celebrating its 5th Anniversary.
- Roberta reported that BPL is celebrating its 60th anniversary with Burnaby Festival of Learning. "60 reasons I love my library" and 60 free holds amongst initiatives to celebrate library and its patrons.
- Jessica reported that digital collection of Chinatown stories was launched in April. This is an interactive collection of interviews and stories related to Chinatown's long term residents. And part of VPL's Community Digital Initiatives Projects.
- North Vancouver City Library has been conducting inclusive "Community Conversations" since last year. So far 150 community members have participated.
- NVCL also has recently awarded 5 "Library Small Grants" (\$500.00 each) to community members to organize social/ cultural programs or events with the goal of bringing people across cultures together. The funding was approved by the Board using fundraised money.

Next meeting dates in 2016:

Thursday September 22nd . **Location** : BPL (Metrotown Branch, 3rd floor Board Room).

Thursday December 8 . **Location** : BPL (Metrotown Branch, 3rd floor Board Room).

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30.