

BCLA Multicultural Services Interest Group Meeting Minutes

Date: September 12, 2023 from 9:30-10:12AM **Location:** Zoom

Present: Emily (Burnaby Public Library), Ann (Coquitlam Public Library), Balbir (Fraser Valley Regional Library-Abbotsford Community Library), Ying Liu (University of Victoria), Laura (Surrey Libraries), and Andrea (West Vancouver Memorial Library)

Agenda:

1. Update on work with Studio Nuvo, the student-run/faculty-led design agency at Vancouver Community College, to design a new logo for MSIG
2. Brainstorm ideas for continuing education event
3. Roundtable
4. Next meeting
5. Other

MEETING

Land Acknowledgement

We started the meeting with a land acknowledgment.

1. Update on Studio Nuvo

Emily explained that she and Andrea had been approached over the summer break to see if the Interest Group wanted to work with some Vancouver Community College students to refresh the Interest Group's logo.

Studio Nuvo is a student-run, faculty led design agency at Vancouver Community College.

Emily and Andrea agreed that this was a great opportunity, and Emily volunteered to run point on behalf on the Interest Group. Emily shared that she hadn't heard anything from the design agency recently so she said that she would follow up with them and let us know at our next meeting.

2. Brainstorm ideas for continuing education event

Ann recently attended a cross-cultural and anti-racism workshop with Ravi and a cohort of Library Champions at Surrey Libraries. Ann explained that the workshop had been a success - the event had fostered some great dialogue. Ann is going to complete the train-the-trainer course for this cross-cultural and anti-racism workshop.

Laura will ask her colleagues at Surrey Libraries, Naomi and Jenny, if they have capacity to offer the train-the-trainer course for Interest Group members in the spring of 2024 and let us know at our next meeting. Ravi is currently on leave.

Emily will connect with Jessica to see if the workshop materials got moved over the summer as planned from Dropbox to Google Drive's file sharing platform, which is easier to access.

3. Roundtable

The Roundtable is when we share information about multicultural programming, services and collections that we are offering or would like to offer at our library systems.

Ann - Coquitlam Public Library is hosting an Indigenous Peoples Film Festival. The festival will run for three days and one day is set aside for school age kids. The festival will feature documentaries, feature length films and shorts in partnership with the National Film Board of Canada. Coquitlam Public Library will also host an Indigenous carver in the last week of September to mark this year's National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

In October and November, Coquitlam Public Library will host a series of conversations on race. The Library is also offering programming in Korean for seniors, and storytimes in both Korean and Mandarin.

Emily - Burnaby Public Library recently offered a new program - English conversation game nights. Staff prepared some conversation prompts ahead of time and attendees played games together in small groups. So far the program has been very popular and it has been a great way for newcomers to connect socially.

Burnaby Public Library will be offering a Métis Sash workshop as part of a series of Indigenous workshops.

Burnaby Public Library is also working with a community partner to host a resume workshop with a specific focus on how to create a 'Canadian resume' to help newcomers learn how to translate foreign experience and credentials for prospective Canadian employers.

Emily shared that the Fraser Health authority has a South Asian outreach worker who comes to the Tommy Douglas Branch once a month to engage with patrons. This outreach worker speaks three languages and brings health information pamphlets in six different languages.

Balbir - Abbotsford Community Library is offering English conversation circles virtually. They have been well-received.

Balbir also shared that library partners, Archway Community Services and WorkBC, have been offering programming in the lobby of the library that has been quite successful. Some participants have been able to find jobs after attending these programs. A Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction outreach worker is also coming to the Abbotsford Community Library every two weeks to connect with patrons.

Andrea - West Van Library is offering a wills and estate information session in Farsi.

The Library also has a full slate of programming planned for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation including Reading Circles for both adults and youth on Squamish Elder Sam George's memoir entitled "The Fire Still Burns: Life in and After Residential School." In partnership with North Van City Library and North Vancouver District Public Library, West Van Library will be co-hosting an evening with Elder Sam George on Wednesday, September 27th.

Laura - Surrey Libraries is running a program called "Shifting the Story: Challenging Stigma." This program features brave community members who talk to registered patrons about their experience with stigma, including mental health, substance use, disabilities, 2SLGBTQIA+, Indigenous experience, immigrant experience, living unhoused, and other topics.

4. Next meeting dates (Fall 2023 – Spring 2024)

Our upcoming meetings are as follows:

Thursday, November 16, 2023 from 9:30am-11:00am

Thursday, February 22, 2024 from 9:30am-11:00am

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 from 9:30am-11:00am

All of our meetings will be held virtually in the hopes that people from across the province can join us.

5. Other

No other items were raised.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12am.