

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice & Accessibility (DEIJA)

Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 20, 2024 11:00 AM

Minutes

Present: Rachel Dworkin, Chemung County Historical Society; Karin Wikoff, Ithaca College; Virgilio Pinto, Ithaca College; Nancy Abashian, Binghamton University; Allie Shanafelter, Corning Museum of Glass; Jenny Shonk, Finger Lakes Library System; Beth Hylan, Corning Museum of Glass, retired; Mary-Carol Lindbloom, SCRLC; Christine Brown, SCRLC

Excused: Jessica Philippe, SCRLC

Announcements:

Mary-Carol Lindbloom announced that there will be a meeting with the NYS Library the day after the meeting that will address how to take our program on Digital Justice for Disability Justice statewide and it will focus on new purchases and there may be a focus group.

Notes from Last Meeting:

The minutes from the [June 18, 2024](#) meeting were approved as distributed.

Around the Table:

Rachel Dworkin – They received a grant to receive a 2025 Democracy in Action traveling exhibit. It includes information on civil rights and diversity. They also have a recorded discussion on the history of drag story time at the Steele Memorial Library. She also shared her experience at the Elmira College Civil War symposium where someone spent time denigrating DEI efforts during the lunch break. She wasn't sure how to handle this and there was discussion on how this could be a good in person program to engage in role playing to gain some experience on how to handle situations like this one.

Beth Hylan – There was nothing to share.

Allie Shanafelter – There are many projects that they're working on now including article indexing and adding themes and identities.

Jenny Shonk – They have been working on accessibility recently including visiting member libraries and finding that some (many) of the smaller ones are not physically accessible to all members of their communities. They've also been addressing accessibility issues on their website and they are bringing in the Talking Book and Braille library for a program. They are

working to provide services for people with developmental disabilities and there will be a program at NYLA on a path to belonging.

Virgilio Pinto – Virgilio had nothing to add other than he's working with Karin on collection development

Nancy Abashian – They have been working on programs/services to address accessibility for neurodivergent individuals to make sure success for all.

Karin Wyckoff – The chapter of a book is nearly complete and she is now moving to the next project involving assessment of the collection changes made during the grant period and looking at collection development for other DEI areas.

DEIJA Learning Opportunities:

Christine reported that the webinar titled Shifting the Narrative: What does it mean to center BIPOC worker needs that was presented by Twanna Hodge on June 25 was well attended and appreciated by all who attended.

Christine shared that the DEIJA Learning Circle is scheduled to take place on September 17 and will be open to all members. There was an attempt to hold the first on during the Summer and attendance was low so we decided to move it to September. This is the program that was formerly known as Brave Dialogues.

BIPOC Internship Update

Mary-Carol shared that we (Mary-Carol, Jessica and Christine) met with Jill Hurst-Wahl to discuss how we could pursue a BIPOC Cohort Group internship and Jill recommended that we first work to change the environment at libraries so that BIPOC will be able to experience a sense of belonging when they work at a library. By doing that, we will be able to improve retention and be better able to recruit new BIPOC into the profession. We will look for ways to improve the environment.

We are working to recruit an intern who will work with the board and learn more about librarianship including how systems and councils benefit libraries and possibly work to update and add to the content of our LibGuides including the DEIJA or the digitization depending on the successful candidate's interests.

DEIJA in the SCRLC News

Christine shared the articles in the June 28, July 12, July 26, and August 9 editions of SCRLC News and then asked everyone to share information/work/activities that we can add to the next edition of SCRLC News

DEIJA Advisory Committee Activities

There was a review of the proposed [Activities List](#) and Christine will work on a few changes to the list that were discussed at this meeting.

Other – No other topics were mentioned

Next Steps/Meetings – Our next meeting will be on October 15