



Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, June 8, 2019 11:00 PM via Zoom
Notes

Present: Nancy Abashian (Binghamton U), Camille Andrews (Cornell U), Sarah Glogowski (Finger Lakes Library System), Beth Hylan (Corning Museum of Glass), Mary-Carol Lindbloom; Virgilio Pinto (Ithaca College); Jessica Philippe; **Excused:** Fabina Benites (MRC); Mechele Romanchock (Alfred U).

Introductions. Welcome to Virgilio Pinto, Ithaca College representative on the committee.

Around the Table:

Sarah- Counties are opening for curbside pickup. Doing a delivery run of supplies- masks, gloves, etc. First week back in buildings for many libraries.

Camille- Working with Cornell's DEI initiative to address an institutional response to recent events and protests.

Nancy- BU starting with curbside delivery. Bigger challenge will be when students return, keeping to 50% capacity. BU is deciding on a response to the Black Lives Matter movement. Hoping that an actionable statement in a timely manner will be forthcoming.

Beth- CMOG put out a statement and the beginnings of a plan. New library director asked Beth to address recent events with the library staff. Working from home until July 1st.

Institutional Responses to George Floyd's murder:

Cornell issued a statement; individual units are also responding within that context.

IC- The College sent something out as well as individual groups. Library hasn't posted anything.

Sarah indicated that PULISDO (public library systems organization) is working on a statement.

CMoG- as above.

Programming ideas: Talking circles? Book/article discussions? Mary-Carol has been participating in an evening BRAVE Dialogue circle (six sessions), led by Seth Thompson, TC3's Chief Diversity Officer/Director of the Office of Diversity Education and Support Services. It was offered to the Dryden/Groton Belonging group. The last section focused on next steps/action. If we did something similar, it would need to lead from personal reflection into library work. Can we get IMLS grant funding? 2-pronged approach. Giving white librarians a baseline of understanding--but also supporting action and not just talking. How can we support this work with accountability partnerships? It was noted that BIPOC folks have a very different experience with talking circles, especially when it comes to group composition.

Next Steps:

If possible, Mary-Carol should submit an IMLS CARES Act grant to support “action circles.” The grant is due on Friday. (Follow-up note: The grant was submitted. If funded, InterFaith Works from Syracuse--which since 1996 has worked with schools, colleges, and businesses in “BRAVE Dialogues”--will conduct the sessions. They also provided a letter of support for the project.)

Jessica will create and send a Google Doc to the group to contribute ideas on how libraries can take action.

Notes taken by Jessica