

ARLIS/NA

ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY of NORTH AMERICA

2015: 43rd Annual Conference
Fort Worth, Texas | March 19–23, 2015

Diversity Committee Meeting

March 21, 2015

Submitted by Kai Alexis Smith

Meeting Coordinator: Kai Alexis Smith

Note Taker: Billy Kwan

Attendees:

Rina Vecchiola, Kai Alexis Smith, Stacy Brinkman, Mary K.(not present), Kate B.(not present), Billy Kwan, Emily Walz, Simone Fujita, Megan Williams, Gregory Most, Jennifer Himmelreich, Martha Gonzalez Palacios, Heather Gendron, Natisha Harper

Introductions and Welcome to New Members

Two new members: Emily and Simone; and one member will be rolling off: Stacy, however, Stacy will remain as a representative of the Diversity Grant Task Force. One member stepped down early last year, Elvia Arroyo

Task Force Update

It is a work in progress; the Task Force met with ARLIS/NA Executive Board at the annual conference to discuss some high-level issues, mainly the sustainability issues of planning and ultimate grants under the current structure of ARLIS/NA and its agreement with TEI, and the overall strategy of relying on IMLS grants to attain the goals of this initiative. (Stacy, Billy, Jon, and Kai had the meeting with Kristen, Greg, and Heather on March 21st.)

Projects Update

- Alternative Voices
 - All committee members will be responsible for voting every year.
- Partnership with Education Subcommittee regarding webinars
 - Cultural competencies
 - Diversity-related webinars
 - Crossing borders, possible partnership with International Relations committee
 - Leadership
 - Leadership Institute is integrated into the conference schedule. It is a 4 hour workshop on Monday afternoon with goals of preparing incoming chairs and helping leaders find out the expectations of their positions. There may be a webinar version after the conference.
- Travel Awards Committee Liaison decision
 - Diversity Committee proposed having a standing Diversity Committee member on

the Travel Awards Committee (TAC). However owing to confidentiality issues, the Diversity Committee representative would not be able to share any award-related information outside of TAC. There was also a discussion about the Diversity Committee sending cultural competency outlines to all TAC members or instituting in the organization as a whole to promote diversity in the award granting process.

- Chapter Liaisons
Diversity Committee members continue open line of communication with the chapters
- Partnership with Stimulating Creativity in Practice SIG for addition funds for Student Diversity Travel Award
Working with group to see if possible auction can raise funds to get a second Diversity Travel Award Winner.
- Conference Program Proposal
There was a discussion about the program on customizing library services for diverse users at the conference, including the speaker Lou Weaver [one of the winners of the 2015 Alternative Voice Travel Awards]. Suggestion was made to work with the joint conference program chairs and the Alternative Voice fund to organize programs related to diversity.

Discussion & Next Steps

- New ARLIS/NA Board structure
 - Advancement Liaison (Ann Roll) to the following three committees: development, membership, and diversity; more integrated to address issues in these three areas. Our Executive Board Liaison is no longer the past president.
- There was also a discussion about a more integrated and documented approach of addressing diversity throughout the organization, starting from membership, travel awards, conference programming to leadership and nomination.
- Also a discussion about the role of the Diversity Committee as an outreach agent, influencing other committees of the organization, and promoting diversity by bringing/highlighting issues/discussions related to diversity from outside.