

Meeting Minutes

RBMS Diversity Committee

ALA Midwinter Conference, Philadelphia 2014

Pennsylvania Convention Center, Room: 110A

Sunday, January 26, 2014, 8:30-10:30AM

Members present: Chella Vaidyanathan (co-chair), John Hopkins University; Katharine Chandler (co-chair), Free Library of Philadelphia; Michelle Mascaro, University of Akron; Katie Henningsen, University of Puget Sound; Elizabeth Joffrion, Western Washington University.

Guests: Megan Scauri, Princeton University; Shannon Supple, UCLA Clark Library; Samuel T. Huang, University of Florida; Meghan Constantinou, Grolier Club.

1. Call to order and introductions: Katharine Chandler and Chella Vaidyanathan volunteered to record minutes. The meeting commenced after the initial round of introductions by members and guests.

2. Update on the 2014 Diversity Committee Seminar: Elizabeth Joffrion mentioned that our seminar proposal, "Unveiling the Past: Hidden Diversity in the Archives and Special Collections" has been accepted and the event will be held in Las Vegas. The three speakers are:

- a) Shayne del Cohen, Public Historian, Activist, Consultant, Member of Nevada's State

Historical Records Advisory Board

- b) Michael Kelly, Head of Special Collections, Frost Library Amherst University

- c) Paula Mitchell, University Archivist, Southern Utah University

3. Membership Survey Update: Katie Henningsen and her team used previous RBMS surveys for creating the recent one. They will make the questions available on Google docs so that the committee members can contribute their input about the survey questions. Moreover, Diversity

input on membership survey with Membership and Professional Development will continue for next couple of months.

4. Historical Documents update (Web site): Katharine Chandler mentioned that she will check with Athena Jackson regarding the location of the historical documents. Juli McLoone will contact the web team about uploading the historical documents. As soon as all the information is available, the documents will be uploaded to the website.

5. Diversity Tool Kit Update: Chella Vaidyanathan has updated the Diversity Tool Kit. She brought print-outs with the highlighted updates/ additions and passed them around for everyone. She will email/ circulate the electronic version to committee members for feedback and additional input. Committee members can continue to input ideas until May.

6. New committee co-chairs for July 2014: Both Katharine and Chella are completing their terms as co-chairs. Juli McLoone and Elizabeth Joffrion have accepted to be the in-coming co-chairs. They will be on board on July 1, 2014.

7. New Business:

a) Members discussed the possibility of having future virtual meetings for at least Midwinter conferences. This will make it possible for members to participate in the committee work.

b) The committee is looking forward to the rolling out of new website options. Members also discussed various outreach opportunities such as using the website, postcards, etc. for outreach purposes.

c) Katharine talked about requesting the Executive and Budget Committees for funds to send members from the Diversity committee to the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) in 2014. The conference is held once every two years.

d) Our committee is also co-hosting Brown Bag Lunch again this year in Las Vegas.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 am.