



## Annual Report 2006 ARLIS/NA Diversity Committee

Submitted on March 28, 2007 by:

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**Leadership Update:** D. Vanessa Kam and Laurel Bliss were co-chairs of the committee for 2006. They will need to rotate off as co-chairs this year, as agreed upon when they were appointed as co-chairs in 2005.

**Board Liaison:** Eumie Imm-Stroukoff

**Committee Membership (2006-2007):** D. Vanessa Kam, Laurel Bliss, Hannah Bennett, Martha Gonzalez Palacios, Krista Ivy, Dorothy Tao, and Alessia Zanin-Yost.

### Activities

Laurel Bliss attended the ALA Committee on Diversity meetings at the ALA annual conference in June of 2006 and the Midwinter meeting in January of 2007. Major points included reports from sub-groups, discussion of diversity programs being sponsored at conferences, Spectrum's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the new diversity blog ([blogs.ala.org/diversity.php](http://blogs.ala.org/diversity.php)), and opportunities for collaboration beyond ALA.

### Student Diversity Award for Conference Attendance

This award is still being offered by ARLIS/NA to students from a traditionally under-represented group who are currently enrolled in an accredited graduate program in Library Studies and/or Information Studies or have recently graduated (within 12 mos. of graduation).

### Conference events

We have scheduled a Diversity Forum for Sunday, April 29 from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm at the Ardmore Room during the annual meeting in Atlanta. As in the past, the forum provides an excellent opportunity to discuss diversity vis a vis ARLIS/NA, brainstorm, dialogue, evoke dynamism, etc.

After submitting **three** proposals to ARLIS/NA for conference sessions at the upcoming Atlanta Conference, we are happy to note that one of them was approved. "Expanding Horizons: Developing and Accessing Diverse Collections" will take place on Friday, April 27. The focus of this session is as follows:

With increasing emphasis on multicultural collections, how do art and visual resource professionals handle issues regarding non-western art, and non-art related disciplines? This session will focus on strategies to identify, acquire and provide access to multicultural collections.

Topics included will be:

- Difficulties in obtaining multicultural materials
- Politics/Controversies in cataloging
- Providing access to materials with an eye toward new technologies, and the cultural studies landscape.

Speakers:

Jennifer Strickland, Ithaca College

D. Vanessa Kam, University of British Columbia

Terri Boccia, Clark Art Institute

Laurel Bliss, San Diego State University, Moderator

### **ARLIS/NA 2006-2009 Strategic Plan**

Goal I: To increase the effectiveness and support the professional growth of art librarians and visual resources professionals.

Objective A. Assist members in maintaining current awareness and understanding of technological advancements, changing trends in collection development, technical and user services, management and administration, intellectual property issues, research and best practices in librarianship, public policy, and other emerging issues in the work and cultural environment.

Objective D. Collaborate with other professional associations or library or information science faculty in the development of art information programs for librarians, visual resources professionals and library science students.

Status: Ongoing.

Goal I and Objectives A and D speak to the continuing need to raise awareness around diversity issues in our profession. The Diversity Committee consistently seeks ways to keep diversity in the forefront and highlight its relevance in all aspects of our profession.

Action Items: The Diversity Committee has scheduled a Diversity Forum at Atlanta, to take place on Sunday, April 29 from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. The membership was notified of the Diversity Forum via ARLIS-L. The Diversity Committee has identified a diversity committee member to liase with ALA's diversity committee to keep abreast of that committee's diversity initiatives.

Goal III: To be an advocate for our members, the profession, and ARLIS/NA.

Objective C. Craft and administer effective recruitment and retention strategies to attract and maintain new members.

Objective D. Provide proactive outreach to library schools to diversify our membership and the profession.

ACTION ITEM: Vanessa Kam will discuss possible collaboration on this topic with the Membership Committee at the annual meeting in Atlanta.

The Student Diversity Award for Conference Attendance was offered again by ARLIS/NA for students from traditionally under-represented groups to attend the 2007 ARLIS/NA Annual conference at Atlanta.

Goal IV: To strengthen and increase the effectiveness of ARLIS/NA's activities and operations.

Objective C. Enhance the ARLIS/NA website by populating it with relevant content to create the premiere website for art library professionals.

Action Item: The Diversity Committee would like to explore having a Diversity Committee web page on the ARLIS/NA web space. This will be an agenda item for our committee meeting in Atlanta.