



ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

## Annual Report 2005 ARLIS/NA Diversity Committee

Submitted by:

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*And*

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**Leadership Update:** D. Vanessa Kam and Laurel Bliss were appointed co-chairs of the Diversity Committee in Houston, and will continue as co-chairs after Banff (approved by Margaret Webster).

**Board Liaison:** Eumie Imm-Stroukoff

**Committee Membership (2005-2006):** D. Vanessa Kam, Laurel Bliss, Hannah Bennett, Alba Fernandez-Keyes, Shalimar Fojas, Tom Grieves, Ray Anne Lockard, Dorothy Tao, Alessia Zanin-Yost.

**Activities:**

### **Student travel award**

We submitted an agenda item to Margaret Webster for the pre-conference board meeting, the post-conference board meeting, and the membership meeting. We proposed the following: "We request that the Student Diversity Award for Conference Attendance (\$750) be offered every year by ARLIS/NA as a permanent, ongoing, annual award. Our understanding is that this travel award is currently offered only during the years that it is approved by ARLIS/NA."

### **Committee webpage**

One of the items discussed in our meeting in Houston was creating a committee webpage that would serve as a clearinghouse for diversity issues and information of interest to the ARLIS/NA membership. Server space at the University of British Columbia has been approved and the committee will discuss possible content during the Banff conference.

## **Diversity outreach**

We have contacted V. Tessa Perry, the current chair of ALA's Committee on Diversity (<http://www.ala.org/ala/diversity/commondiversity/committeediversity.htm>) in order to appoint a new liaison from our committee to theirs. We're interested in coordinating our efforts with those of the ALA committee as well as the ALA Office for Diversity. This would include linking to some of the resources on their website and having our liaison attend some of their meetings at Annual and Midwinter. One of the agenda items at our committee meeting will be appointing this liaison.

## **Conference events**

We have scheduled a Diversity Forum for Monday, May 8 from 10 am - 11 am during the annual meeting in Banff. As in the past, the forum provides an excellent opportunity to discuss diversity vis a vis ARLIS/NA, brainstorm, dialogue, evoke dynamism, etc.

## **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 Banff, to take place on May 8, from 10 to 11 am. The membership was notified of the Diversity Forum via ARLIS-L. The Diversity Committee has contacted the American Library Association in the interests of identifying a Diversity Committee member to liase with proponents of ALA'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.

Status: Ongoing.

The Student Diversity Award for Conference Attendance was offered again by ARLIS/NA for students from traditionally under-represented groups to attend the 2006 ARLIS/NA Annual conference at Banff.

Action Item: The Diversity Committee asked the ARLIS/NA Executive Board to consider making this award a permanent annual award, and to add this as an agenda item for their pre-conference meeting.

**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.

Status: Ongoing.

The Diversity Committee has found web space to host a Diversity Committee website, and will be discussing content at the meeting in Banff.