There were no officer changes for 2013-2014. The current chair was in office from 2012.

The Diversity Committee continued to address Strategic Plan Goal III Objective A, which calls for efforts to increase diversity efforts in the organization by raising visibility of the art information professions within underrepresented groups at the student and new professional levels. The Committee collaborated with and sought out the assistance of local chapters and other ARLIS/NA Committees, such as Membership and Professional Development, to reach these goals.

Investigation into a proposal for an IMLS Diversity Grant yielded, in the end, a decision to pursue other means of reaching the Strategic Plan’s objectives in the near future, but nevertheless proved fruitful in several ways. After preliminary work carried out by member Stacy Brinkman, resulting in a draft budget and a prospectus, Executive Board Liaison Deborah Kempe and Gregg Most met with IMLS planning officers in the early Fall to discuss the project’s feasibility relative to the size and experience of the organization with similar grants. The decision was then made to refocus on the Laura Bush 21st Century Library Collaborative Planning Grant as a first step toward a possible IMLS Diversity Grant in the future. The Committee is currently exploring the most effective means to address the requirements of the Collaborative Planning Grant application.

Diversity Committee members Kai Smith and Elvia Arroyo successfully proposed a session entitled “The Politics of Diversity in the Art Information Profession” for the 2014 ARLIS/NA annual conference in Washington, D.C. Speakers for the panel include Mark Pompelia (Rhode Island School of Design), Charlene Maxey-Harris (University of Nebraska), Eumie Imm-Stroukoff (Georgia O’Keeffe Museum), and Jina Park (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) Kai and Elvia will co-moderate the session. In addition, Ms. Maxey-Harris was recommended to receive the Alternative Voices Speakers Fund, which encourages the participation of non-ARLIS/NA speakers from traditionally underrepresented racial or ethnic groups.
Going forward, the Committee plans to work with Hannah Bennett and/or the SPC to strengthen the language of the next iteration of the Strategic Plan to emphasize the organization’s commitment to diversity and inclusion.