Annual Report 2017

Diversity Committee

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Leadership Update
As I am stepping down as chair of the Diversity Committee, Amanda Meeks will be the new chair starting at the annual conference in New York in February of 2018.

Narrative
Membership: Jenny Ferretti, Amanda Leftwich, and Nichole DeMichelis are stepping down as members. Amanda Meeks will be recruiting new members to fill these spots hopefully by the annual conference in February.

Activities:
- Diversity Committee members participated in the Leadership Institute at the New Orleans conference, where they learned about implicit bias.
- Organized and presented a Diversity Forum at the New Orleans annual conference on February 8. The Forum, attended by over 70 participants, focused on the impact of the Trump administration on racial politics in the US, and given these developments, how libraries could work towards upholding the diversity and inclusion values of ARLIS/NA
- The Diversity Committee distributed evaluation forms at the Diversity Forum in New Orleans and worked hard to analyze the ample feedback. The feedback clearly articulated that Forum attendees wanted to take away concrete skills and learnings; this feedback was shared with the ARLIS/NA Executive Committee, and was foremost in considerations for the planning of the Diversity Forum at the upcoming New York annual conference, which will focus on rolling out implicit bias training to even more conference participants
- To fund the Project Implicit Bias speaker for the New York conference, the Diversity Committee submitted a Special Funding Request to the ARLIS/NA Executive Board; the request was approved and funding secured
- The Committee advised on a question about demographics for the ARLIS/NA membership form
- We provided recommendations to the Membership Committee in the crafting of a webpage titled “10 Ways to Engage with ARLIS/NA”
- Jenny Ferretti represented the Committee on the Census Data Analysis Task Force
Nicole Beatty represented the Diversity Committee in reviewing proposals for the New York annual conference with an eye towards diversity/inclusion programming. The Committee has reached out to Diversity Travel Award winners in New Orleans and New York with members of the committee (Patricia Gimenez and Jenny Ferretti) meeting with award winners at the annual conference, and welcoming them. The Committee identified winners of the Alternative Voices Award and provided feedback to the Executive Board on clarifying the criteria for who should receive Alternative Voices funding in the hopes that the process of identifying award winners will go smoother in the future.

Plans for the future:

- The Committee is exploring how the use of Twitter to share timely articles and news stories about diversity and inclusion could be activated so that any ARLIS/NA member can contribute to this collective sharing of diversity-related resources.
- The Committee would like to explore the possibility of doing diversity/inclusion related webinars for the benefit of the membership and to keep diversity issues front of mind year round.

ARLIS/NA Strategic Directions

In Progress:
- Develop plan for diversity in recruitment procedures for committees and appointments. Executive Board.

Completed:
- Census for Art Information Professionals, Diversity Committee.

Cancelled:
- Crossing Borders Webinar Series. IRC

ISSUES FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (concerns, suggestions for additions to Strategic Directions Action Scorecard, etc.)

- Should the Diversity Committee make progress on the idea of using Twitter as a forum for the wider membership to contribute diversity/inclusion related news items/articles, etc, it should probably be added to the Strategic Directions Action Scorecard.
- Given the current political climate, it will be important to keep diversity/inclusion issues front of mind for the organization and remain vigilant in advancing our diversity/inclusion core values in all the work that we do.