



Minutes

International & Multicultural Advisory Committee (IMAC) Meeting

September 6, 2017 * 7:00-9:00 pm

Room 2002 @ CA Headquarters

In Attendance: Sue DiPaula, Steve DiPaula, Lucie Geinzer, Marcy Gitt, Valerie Montague, Arna Rubman, Jean Salkeld, Larry Schoen, and Suzanne Waller

Subcommittee Chairs or Representatives: Bob Anantua (Haiti), Momina Malik (Haiti) and Magdalena Castro-Lewis (Tres Cantos)

CA Staff: Laura Smit

1. **Welcome & Introductions-** Members introduced themselves, noting their Columbia village and why they were here.
2. **Chair's Report** – Valerie Montague.
 - Valerie gave a report to the Columbia Board of Directors on July 13, telling why the IMAC is the most inclusive and diverse committee in the Columbia Association. She invited Board members to come to IMAC activities and see for themselves.
 - Valerie reiterated that all the subcommittee chairs should assume more of the day-to-day administrative duties of the subcommittees. The subcommittee chairs should organize the meetings, keeping Laura and the IMAC informed of their progress.
3. **Program Manager's Report** – Laura Smit
Laura noted that the IMAC needs representatives from the villages of River Hill and Dorsey Search. All her other comments will be made under the agenda items to be discussed.
4. **Approval of June 7, 2017 Minutes**
Several corrections were needed: Jean Salkeld should to be added to the list of those in attendance and Jun Han's first name should be corrected from "June" to "Jun." The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.
5. **Election of 2017-2018 IMAC Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary**
 - The slate presented was Valerie Montague for Chair, Suzanne Waller for Vice-Chair, and Sue DiPaula for Secretary.
 - The committee unanimously approved the slate. Their term will start on November 1.
6. **Report on June/July Cultural Exchanges**
 - Sister Cities 50th birthday art exhibit at Howard Community College, 6/18-7/18: The artwork was beautiful and very well displayed.
 - Spanish and French Adult Artist Exchange, 6/15-6/26: There were two artists from Spain and seven (including spouses) from France who came with their artwork. There was good interaction among the artists and IMAC members and friends. Our guests particularly liked the Mission

- Barbeque meal at Barbara Kellner's house, and the sailboat ride and crab feast in Annapolis.
- Sister Cities French and Spanish High School Exchange, 6/25-7/30: Six Howard County high school students went to France and nine French students came to the U.S. Fourteen American students went to Spain and fourteen Spanish students came to Columbia/Howard County. Laura said that this was the 8th year she has run the European exchanges, and noted that there were some unexpected challenges this summer that she hadn't experienced in previous years. As a result, a few changes will be made to the student application through which the matching is done, to the hosting agreement and the chaperone responsibilities, which will be shared with our counterparts in Spain and France.

7. Reports from Sister City Committees

- **Cap-Haitien, Haiti** - Momina Malik, Chair

The Taste of Haiti Event, a fundraiser for the Build Haiti Foundation, was held on June 11 at Howard Community College. There were good performances and good food items, but the turnout was disappointing. The committee is going to meet this month to discuss how to draw more people.

Bob Anantua reported on the Global Leadership Program (GLP) that took nine high school students, one University of Maryland College Park student and four staff members to Haiti from July 6-15. The students were from Glenelg Country School, Marriotts Ridge and Long Reach. Everyone had a blast, according to Bob. They spent a day at the beach, traveled to Port-au-Prince and went to museums, played in a soccer tournament, and participated in workshops at the local community center. U.S. students paired with Haitian students and discussed issues related to the four pillars of the GLP – education, economic development, environmental sustainability, and entrepreneurship. Valerie asked how the GLP markets itself to get participants, hoping that those techniques could be used to get students to go to Tema, Ghana. Laura hopes that CA could leverage the GLP database of students. Bob noted they could mention the Tema program in the GLP newsletter.

Bob also reported that Hurricane Irma was scheduled to hit Cape-Haitien at 2:00 pm on September 7. Valerie asked Bob to keep us informed of the situation there.

- **Cergy-Pontoise, France** – Debra Paper, Chair (unable to attend)

Laura reported that Debra has not been able to attend the IMAC meetings due to her job, so Laura asked for someone from the committee to step up as the Chair. Jean Salkeld volunteered. Laura will inform Debra, who we hope will continue as a committee member.

- **Liyang, China Planning Committee** - Jun Han, Chair (unable to attend)

Laura reported that plans for visiting China from October 10-25 were being finalized. Two CA board members are among the people going on the trip – Dick Boulton (Dorsey Search) and Alan Klein (Harpers Choice).

- **Tema, Ghana** - Gabriel Pomary, Vice Chair (unable to attend)

Laura reported that Gabriel is going to find out where our boxes of books went as the Tema library is being remodeled. A challenge this year has been finding American students to go to Tema. It is difficult to overcome some of the misconceptions about Africa. Valerie suggested that

a “many touches” approach should be used. Bob suggested that individual schools could be targeted instead of all Howard County schools. Arna Rubman volunteered to be on the Tema committee, which is scheduled to meet next week.

- **Tres Cantos, Spain** – Magdalena Castro-Lewis, Chair
Magdalena asked for members to join her committee. Suzanne Waller volunteered even though she doesn't speak Spanish. Magdalena noted that everything in Spain is very political, and her contacts wanted to have a food festival in Spain but had to go through the Ministry of Culture and the mayor. To date, no adult exchange has been arranged.

8. Fall Events

- Sale of Haitian and Ghanaian art at Color Columbia Plein Air Paint Out on September 9: Laura passed out a postcard with the information on it. Artists will be working around Lake Kittamaqundi and Wilde Lake. She also had a map that showed where the Haiti and Ghana tables would be.
- Oktoberfest and Multicultural Festival of the Orthodox Church of St. Matthews, 10/6/-10/8: This is arguably the largest multicultural festival in Columbia. Laura will call John Zahor to ask if IMAC could have a table and what it would cost. Valerie Montague and Arna Rubman would be interested in manning our table on Sunday afternoon, October 8. Jean Salkeld will help as well if she is in town. Laura will also send out a sign-up sheet to ask for more volunteers.
- Oceania CultureFest: Australia, New Zealand & the Pacific Islands, 10/22: Grace Chang, Laura's assistant, will be running this since Laura will be in China. Items are needed for the Australia table. Arna Rubman has a didgeridoo and a boomerang. Valerie will manage staffing the CA table.
- International Holiday Crafts and Art Fair, 12/9: This is supposed to be a fundraiser for FIRN. It is probably too late for the IMAC to be involved this year. Laura wants to compile a database of vendors who want to sell their international arts and crafts. Vendors could be charged for a table as a way to raise money. A venue would have to be found and it could possibly be combined with another event.

9. Promotion of Summer Youth Exchanges and Scholarships

Valerie Montague wants the committee to brainstorm on the following two topics at the next meeting: Ideas to expand marketing of summer 2018 Sister Cities Youth Exchanges; and

- Fundraising to build up the Alex Waters Fund at Community Foundation of Howard County: This is a scholarship fund for high school students going to France and Spain established by a mother in memory of her son who died. The fund is being depleted with no infusion of money.

10. Next Meeting Dates and On-going Multicultural Programs

- Next IMAC meetings: Nov 1, 2017; Jan 3, 2018
- World Languages Café: Sep 26, Oct 24, Nov 28, Dec 19
- International Book Club: Sep 13, Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 13

Respectfully submitted, Sue DiPaula, IMAC Secretary