



MINUTES

International & Multicultural Advisory Committee (IMAC) Meeting

Feb 1, 2017 * 7:00-8:30 pm

Vision Room, CA Headquarters

In Attendance: Bob Anantua, Magdalena Castro Lewis, Sue Di Paula, Alex Hursky, Elvira McCulloch, Valerie Montague, Alice Pham, Arna Rubman, Jean Salkeld, Suzanne Waller

Subcommittee Chairs: Momima Malik (Cap-Haitien)

CA Staff: Monica Herber, Columbia Art Center; Laura Smit, Grace Chang

Chair's Report – Valerie Montague

- Stressed the importance of the work the Committee and Columbia Association are doing, stating that never has it been more important to convey the message of inclusion, diversity, and tolerance. She stated that we need to continue to do what we are doing, continue to be more inclusive, not just tolerant but celebratory of the diversity in this community.
- Reported that the HaitiFest celebration on January 22 was wonderful and well attended, that it was another occasion where CA stated that “this is who we are.”
- Reported that the donated books to Ghana have been shipped, and she thanked everyone who donated, sorted, labeled and made monetary donations. Laura Smit reported that books that were not shipped will be donated to the Maryland Book Bank on Calvert Street in Baltimore
- Due to an error, The Business Monthly Column: From the Desk of CA President Milton Matthews, appeared in the January issue, with more than half of the content involved CA's multicultural program, emphasizing diversity. Business Monthly failed to run it in December. Suzanne Waller questioned whether Pat Fisher would consider coming back in light of the publication of the article, and Valerie stated she would like Pat to reconsider. Overall it was unfortunate that this article did not appear earlier in the publication. She stated that it was not CA's fault that it was not out in December.

Program Manager's Report – Laura Smit

- Echoed Valerie's sentiment that what we do is ever more important, in light of what is going on politically. She stated she is committed to continue what she is doing.
- All the information presentations for France, Spain, and Ghana have been completed. There is one more for the Haiti Global Leadership Program (GLP) on Feb 23 and March 30. The deadline for the three high school exchange programs is February 17. The applications are online. Bob Anantua reported that the applications for the GLP need to be submitted by March to avoid incurring additional fees.

- Suzanne questioned whether there was any push back from parents due to security issues. Laura stated not as of now. Laura is concerned that the students from Ghana may not be able to get their visas.
- Reported on community events--Grassroots is holding a Soup'r Sundae event on Sunday, April 2, 2017 at Wilde Lake High School Cafeteria, where a number of restaurants are providing soup and ice cream for \$20 and proceeds will benefit HC's 24-hour crisis intervention center and shelter for the homeless. On February 7, there is a Chinese New Year celebration, including a lion head dance performance, held at the 50+ Center at the East Columbia Library.
- The Howard County Public School System published an article about the agreement between HCPSS and CA's International Exchange and Multicultural Programs.

Approval of Dec 7, 2016 Minutes

It was noted on page 2 of the Dec. 7, 2016 minutes that an extra period appears after a sentence as well as sentences requiring periods. It was noted that a period is needed after each bullet point. Motion was passed with the noted changes to approve the December 7, 2016 minutes.

Reports from Sister City Committees

- **Cap-Haitien, Haiti** - Momina Malik, Chair
Reported on HaitiFest, the first Cap-Haitien event, celebrating the new sister city relationship with CA. Attendance expectations were estimated to be about 200, but actual attendance totaled 406 guests. \$600 was raised for Hurricane Matthew relief through raffle ticket sales and sale of artwork. It was an honor to receive the county resolution for HaitiFest presented by Dr. Calvin Ball. A representative from the Haitian embassy also highly acknowledged the committee and their support of the program. HaitiFest had tables presenting the GLP, the Build Haiti Foundation and an Author's Table. The author sold all of his books.

Reported seeing many engaged committee members and stated that it is in everybody's interest to continue their interest in the program. She thanked Laura, Grace and Valerie who was the MC. She thanked Valerie for bringing in volunteers from her Delta Sorority, as well as the number of student volunteers. Laura and Momina will finalize the next meeting to encourage more committee involvement and help contribute towards CA's 50th Birthday celebration. She encouraged committee members to attend future Cap-Haitien events.

Bob Anantua reported that he and David Weeks just returned from Cap-Haitien. The trip had two goals: one, to prepare for the upcoming Global Leadership Program (GLP) for high school and college students; and two, to strengthen the sister city relationship by collecting art work for the Sister Cities Art Exhibition during CA's 50th birthday celebration. They also met with the mayor's office, the sister city committee and the president of the university and the rotary to help solidify the sister city relationship.

Suzanne congratulated them on their success and asked how to reach out to the community. Momina replied that interest forms were collected from HaitiFest visitors. Bob stated that he

and Laura had a meeting with the Oakland Mills village board to combine efforts to engage the Haitian community.

Valerie suggested that the committee report to the CA board about these culture fests, to show how IMAC promotes programs about the people within the community, different from other CA offerings such as gyms and pathways.

A slide-show of the artwork brought back by Bob, approximately 15-20 pieces, from Haiti was presented to the committee. Laura reported that some will be on sale at the 50th Birthday Art Exhibition. A jurying committee is being formed to determine which artwork will be displayed.

- **Cergy-Pontoise, France** - Debra Paper

No one was present from the committee to report on Cergy-Pontoise. Laura stated that the committee is working on looking for artists and for people who will be attending the 50th celebration, and finding host families.

- **Tres Cantos, Spain**

Laura asked if anyone would step up to be the chair of the committee. Due to the resignation Patricia Fisher, there are no plans to go ahead with the adult exchange

- **Tema, Ghana**

No one was present from the committee to report on Tema. Laura stated that she is looking for families interested in the Ghana exchange program. CA has had three information sessions. CA is continuing to work with Tema to get things in place on their end.

- **China Planning Committee (Liyang)** – Hui Dong, Vice-Chair

Valerie reported that the Liyang committee is still waiting on the Chinese government.

Elvira McCullough asked how CA sister cities were established. Valerie explained that they have all developed in different ways. Cergy-Pontoise came about because the head of the 3M Company in Cergy-Pontoise was from Columbia; For the Tres Cantos relationship, the President of CA had connections in Spain, which led to the sister city relationship in Tres Cantos. The head of the African Art Museum of MD suggested the idea of a sister city in West Africa, which led to the relationship with Tema, Ghana. The Cap-Haitien relationship came about through the connections of The Build Haiti Foundation, which is a local non profit organization that works with the diaspora and also undertakes projects near Cap-Haitien, Haiti. Valerie explained that most of our sister cities are planned communities, generally within 25 miles from a nation's capital. The process involves the following requirements:

- 1) presentation to CA Board to convince CA to have a sister city relationship with the interested city
- 2) have people from that country in the community
- 3) city is safe to send people to the sister city
- 4) have people to help the CA staff

Valerie noted that a River Hill board member from China suggested a sister city relationship with a city in China and the China Sister City Planning Committee made a presentation about the city of Liyang. Elvira observed that CA does not have many French or Spanish people in the community. Suzanne responded that we have students studying the French and Spanish languages. A suggestion was made that we keep Sister City International informed about our programs and activities.

Columbia's 50th Birthday

- **Sister Cities Art show**

Laura reported that the reception for the 50th Sister City Art Exhibition is set for June 18. Anticipate needing host families for about ten days for the visitors, from June 16-26, approximately.

There will be two exhibits at two different locations at HCC: 1) Columbia The HeART of Columbia at the Rouse Gallery and 2) Sister Cities Art Exhibition at the Art Department Gallery, which is where the artwork from Sister Cities will be displayed, and some artwork will be for sale. The committee decided the name of the event will be: Columbia's 50th Birthday-International Sister Cities Art Show [Now changed to Exhibition].

The committee reviewed the Art Invitation Letter, which was sent out in mid-December. It was noted that artists are responsible for the shipment of their art. Laura stated the CA Art Center suggested a mix of framed and unframed art to be displayed. Noted that cost of framing artwork will be high, which is a concern.

Laura reported that the Artist Exhibition Agreement is a standard agreement with artists in the US, but requires review from CA's attorneys and solicited feedback from committee on any international concerns. Committee agreed the date should be written in the agreement, "this 17th day", and the following suggestions were made by the committee on the numbered items within the Artist Exhibition Agreement:

1. Committee expressed concerns with the collection of unsold art after the event and should include the following language "return of artwork will be coordinated with the artists or their representative."
2. Concerns with insurance of artwork was raised and phrasing of this clause in the agreement. Monica Herber from the CA Art Center advised that the artists themselves have the choice to send in their work insured or not. Laura Smit to follow-up with HCC to determine whether artwork displayed at HCC is insured.
3. No change required.
4. Laura reported that the 10% deducted from sale of artist's works will be donated to the Alex Waters Fund. Monica stated that this is a generous figure, as normal practices can be as high as 40%.
5. No change required.

A suggestion was made to have Laura contact Sister Cities International on how they run art show programs.

A question was raised whether to broaden the scope of where the artists are from. Committee decided to not make any changes. Alex and Suzanne volunteered that they would be interested in jurying the art for the art show. Laura solicited volunteers to help out with the hanging of the art at HCC.

- **March 19 Kick-off, 11:30 – 4:30 pm**

Laura reported that CA will be holding a kick-off of the 50th Birthday Celebration at the Mall in Columbia on March 19, 2017. CA has invited international performers to come and perform during the celebration, integrating American performers as well as international performers. Bob suggested a playlist of international music during the event.

CA has money available for the event and is currently in the process of determining how the money will be distributed among the performers. Duration of performances are about 10 minutes, approximately two per hour in various places in the mall.

The following performance suggestions were made by the committee:

1. Performances at the lakefront on June 24
2. Columbia orchestra
3. Interfaith Choir
4. Columbia Pro Cantare
5. HC Youth orchestra
6. GT Jazz Band

Review of IMAC Charter

Valerie reported that CA tried to standardize all the committee charters. The following suggestions were made: 1) members are not required to live in Columbia; 2) students do not need to be recommended by their teachers; 3) participants will be selected by IMAC; 4) efforts will be made to get representation from all of the villages; and 5) no voting on member inclusion. Suggestion made to change the charter to appropriately fit IMAC, as it is currently too rigid and constraining.

A request made in the previous meeting to change the name of the committee was addressed, to change Multicultural to intercultural, to take this opportunity to think about the different meanings of the words to make a recommendation during the charter change process.

Laura suggested sending out definitions of each, and committee decided to further discuss the request and make a decision at the next meeting.

One member noted that changing the name could be detrimental to name recognition and continuity.

The next IMAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 5, 2017.

Minutes submitted by Grace Chang, reviewed by Sue DiPaula, IMAC Secretary.

Important Dates

- Deadline for Sister Cities High School Exchange Applications: Feb 17
- Info Sessions: BHF's Global Leadership Program: Feb 23, March 30 at 7pm at CA
- World Languages Café – 4th Tues: Feb 28, Mar 28, April 25
- International Book Club: Feb 8, Mar 8, Apr 12
- Columbia's 50th Inaugural Day Celebration – Mall in Columbia – Sun, March 19, 2017
- Sister Cities 50th Birthday Art Show – June 10 to July 17
- Next Culture Fest: *Oceania: Australia, New Zealand & Pacific Islands*– May 7, 2017
CA will publish a Press release soon. CA is currently looking for tables for this event.