



MINUTES

CA International & Multicultural Advisory Committee (IMAC) Meeting
May 8, 2018 * 7:00-8:30 pm
Vision Room (Board Room) @ CA Headquarters

In attendance: Bob Anantua, Magdalena Castro Lewis, Hui Dong, Marcy Gitt, Farida Guzdar, Joan Holloway, Alex Hursky, Barbara Kellner, Laurie Liskin, Kathie Martin, Roberto Martin, Valerie Montague (Chair), Gabriel Pomary, Linda Postsiadlo, Arna Rubman

CA Staff: Laura Smit, Grace Chang

1. Welcome & Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

2. Chair's Report – Valerie Montague

Valerie reported that we had wonderful event in the Mall of Columbia on April 22, 2018 celebrating all our sister city committees and she thanked all the volunteers for their service. The Board unanimously approved Liyang as an official sister city of Columbia.

3. Program Manager's Report – Laura Smit

- She thanked all the volunteers who made the Explore Sister Cities a wonderful success.
- We are currently working on the European sister Cities HS exchange. 11 going to France, and 13 to Spain. Will send out an announcement with the date of the welcome party at the SportsPark, and this committee is invited to join in welcoming the European students.

4. Approval of March 7, 2018 Minutes

- There were three corrections to the March 7, 2018 IMAC meeting minutes. Page 3, line 28 - "...Gabriel Pomary's travel agency (September 16-26, 2018); page 4, line 31 - "...various projects with the Vision Modern School,.."; page 4, line 40- "...visited Universite Le Roi Christophe.."
- The minutes were unanimously approved.

5. Report on *Explore Columbia's Sister Cities Event on April 22*

- It was acknowledged that the entertainment was great, and that the Lord & Taylor court in the Mall in Columbia was a fabulous location for the event.
- Costs of the event included payments to performers of \$200, except for Kwame Ansah Brew who received \$400. The sound technician was paid \$450. Other costs incurred included the purchase of the five sister city

banners. The venue space was free. Most of the materials purchased for this event will be useful for future events.

- Marcy reported that visitors to the China table, not only were interested in China, but were very interested in what CA in general offered, e.g. the World Languages Cafe.
Suggestion made that in the future, volunteers rather than station themselves at the tables, walk around and talk to the visitors in the crowd, act more like greeters.
- It was difficult to gauge the number of visitors who attended the event.
- Committee would like to hold this event annually, and in a colder month when it would bring more people indoors. The committee recommends that CA hold the event again in the mall in the fall and promote it more through other written CA communications, ie the Fitness Emails as they are sent out to more people.
- The parent company of the Mall of Columbia has been sold. We will hope that the new management will be open to co-sponsoring the event in the future, without any cost to CA.

6. Reports from Sister City Subcommittees

➤ **China Sister City Planning Committee - Liyang, China - Hui Dong**

- The CA Board has approved in their last meeting on April 26, to moving forward to creating an official sister city relationship with Liyang.
- The delegation from Liyang has postponed their visit as there has been a change in the mayoral staff. Hui mentioned July or October as possible dates. Laura asked the Liyang committee to relate to Liyang that July would not be a good month as the sister city European exchange will be underway that month.
- Two dance schools/studios performed well during the Explore Columbia's Sister Cities event on April 22. Upon hearing about our event, Liyang is considering holding a sister city event of their own.
- A middle school in Liyang would like to establish a weekly class taught remotely by a Howard County English teacher from Sept-January/February. The middle school would pay the teacher for the semester commitment. The students would be in class beginning 7:00am (China time). Linda Potsiadlo expressed interest in teaching. Kathie Martin from Howard Community College's English Language Center also has teachers who are fluent in Chinese who might be interested. The Liyang committee will work towards finding a teacher.
- Jun Han may bring a group of middle school students from Liyang in October. She would be seeking host families for the visit.
- A second trip to Liyang for Columbia residents may be planned for spring or fall 2019.

- **Cergy-Pontoise, France** – Linda Potsiadlo for Jean Salkeld
 - CP committee volunteers served well during the Explore Sister Cities event.
 - The committee is awaiting news from Chantal with the CAJA with more information about the art exhibition in France in September. Laura reported that Debra Paper and Carol Jo Roeder, who are members of the Cergy-Pontoise Sister City Committee, were among the seven artists selected out of 11 artist submissions. Another jurying committee will be deciding which art pieces will be selected for the exhibit. The seven artists will travel to France in September, some with one companion; host family stays are being arranged..

- **Tres Cantos, Spain** – Magdalena Castro-Lewis
 - One of the Spanish artists who came here in June 2017, Flor Orjales, emailed Magdalena Castro-Lewis that although there is interest on our side in holding a culinary exchange, Tres Cantos doesn't really have the infrastructure to run an adult exchange. She also indicated that because adult children often still live at home until they get married, it will be hard to find host families. Flor will continue to talk to people in the ministry of culture.
 - Laura will speak with the Spanish youth program director who will be coming to Columbia through the high school exchange program this summer to enlist their help to promote the idea of a cuisine/wine exchange with Tres Cantos.
 - A suggestion was made to have Columbia host an exchange first, to show the Spanish counterparts the idea of a culinary exchange.

- **Tema, Ghana** – Gabriel Pomary
 - The committee is working hard to promote the September tour of Ghana. Gabriel reported that five people have signed up to go, and one has already paid in full. He is coordinating the trip with a former IMAC committee member who now lives in North Carolina; while she has reported having interested parties, no one has committed with any payments. A first information session was held on May 7. The next information session is June 19. The 'Adopting the Central Library' program, the city official has been requesting that the committee adopt the high school libraries. Still leaning towards the central library as it services the community and students, however to keep good relations with the city, a sub-committee has been formed to draft a letter to communicate our desire to have them be more involved and vested in the adoption program. The committee has been informed that the Tema Central library is not under the city's jurisdiction.

- **Cap-Haitien, Haiti** - Bob Anantua

- Bob expressed his happiness to have been involved in the Explore Columbia's Sister Cities Event.
- The Cap-Haitien Sister City Committee is seeking projects that will interest and engage the community.
- The Build Haiti Foundation is holding their annual fundraiser on May 12, 2018. IMAC members were encouraged to attend and purchase tickets in advance.
- The last Sister City meeting was cancelled due to a lack of RSVPs. Bob suggested that notice of the meeting be sent out a week ahead of the meeting date.
- The July Global Leadership program has 16 people going to Haiti this July. 11 of the participants are students. As part of the orientation, they will be invited to the WLC to practice their French creole.

7. Fall CultureFest focused on African continent with HoCo Library System

- The fall CultureFest will focus on Africa, and will take place Sun, Oct 14, from 1- 4:30pm at the Miller Library. IMAC members discussed using interest in the ***Black Panther*** movie to focus on the cultures and countries in Africa that were highlighted in the movie. Laura explained that in the past that CA has done a multicultural fair on West Africa some years ago before we started doing CultureFests with Howard County Library System. We also did a CultureFest on North Africa and the Middle East. We have not focused on East or South Africa.
- A suggestion was made to involve the African Art Museum of Maryland to exhibit pieces of art at the culturefest, and at the same time help promote the Museum of African Art. Laura, Farida Guzdar and some other IMAC committee members will reach out to Doris Ligon at the museum to discuss collaboration of the CultureFest.
- "Black Panther's Africa" was a suggested title for the event. The Committee was tasked to think of other titles for the event.

10. Next IMAC Meeting

- Note change from 1st Wednesday of the month to the second Tuesday of the month for the next meeting, to be held on July 10, 2018.

Member announcement:

Farida Guzdar has a family music endowment at HCC and is holding her annual fundraiser on June 2, 4pm in Monteabaro Recital Hall at HCC to provide scholarships for students. Tickets are \$40 at howardcc.edu/dolly or call 443-518-1970

For Your Calendar: Upcoming Programs and Events

- Build Haiti Foundation Awards & Fundraising Event: May 12, 6 - 9pm
- World Languages Cafe: May 22, June 26, July 24

- International Book Club: May 9, June 13, July 11
- Trip to Ghana, Sept 16 - 23, 2018
- Africa CultureFest: Oct 14

Minutes Submitted by Grace Chang