

## **International & Multicultural Advisory Committee (IMAC) Annual Report – FY 20**

The members of the FY20 International & Multicultural Advisory Committee (IMAC) were Marcy Gitt (Committee Chair) and Kim Banks, Camellia Blackwell-Taffel, Magdalena Castro Lewis, Paulomi Desai, Kathie Martin, Rhoda Nunez-Donnelly, Susan DiPaula, Lucie Geinzer, Farida Guzdar, Joan Holloway, Alexandra Hursky, Laurie Liskin, Roberto Martin, Valerie Montague, Alice Pham, Linda Potsiadlo, Arna Rubman, Jean Salkeld, Sherman Taffel, and Suzanne Waller. Sister City Committee Chairs were Bob Anantua (Cap-Haitien, Haiti), Magdalena Castro Lewis (Tres Cantos, Spain), Hui Dong (Liyang, China), Gabriel Pomary (Tema, Ghana) and Jean Salkeld (Cergy-Pontoise, France). The staff liaison was Laura Smit. IMAC met 5 times during FY20 and the five individual sister city committees met 2 - 6 times.

### **Committee accomplishments for FY 20:**

- **International Exchanges/Programs:** Support for two July 2019 European sister cities youth exchanges with [Cergy-Pontoise, France - 18 teens & Tres Cantos, Spain - 24 teens](#); two youth programs with [Liyang, China - 15 Chinese students](#) in Feb and July 2019. Participation in planning two trips organized for adults to [China](#) (Oct 2019, 18 participants) and [Ghana](#) (August 2019, 5 participants) including 4 members of IMAC; assistance with [visit of 2nd Liyang official delegation](#). *Expenses of youth and adult participants in sister cities exchanges and trips were fully paid for by participants with minimal cost to CA, other than staff time and administrative expenses.*
- **Multicultural Events/Programs:** Two Chinese cultural events: CA Chinese Cooking Class at RHVC in Feb 2020 (35 participants) and the Jan 2020 Asian Lunar New Year Celebration at Columbia Mall. Monthly World Languages Cafe (1,250 participants ) and International Book Club (165 participants). Three events focused on African heritage, including [Let's Talk: The International Day of Drumming and Healing](#) (June 2019, 250 participants) and screenings of the documentary [Black N Black](#), followed by discussions (Jan & March 2020, 140 participants). *Let's Talk* commemorated the 400th anniversary of the arrival of enslaved Africans in Virginia in 1619, acknowledging the painful impact of slavery, racial discrimination and racism in the U.S. The documentary, *Black N Black*, explored the relationships between African Americans and African immigrants.

### **FY21 Proposed Charges submitted for approval by the CA Board**

- Provide briefings and support for the successor to CA liaison, International Exchange & Multicultural Programs Manager, Laura Smit, who is retiring in fall 2020, including history, relationships and exchange activities with Columbia's five sister cities.
- Assist CA liaison with developing local multicultural events, whether virtual/online or in-person, that celebrate the cultures of Columbia's sister cities and the cultural and ethnic communities of Columbia/Howard County.
- Collaborate with local arts & culture, education and non-profit groups to build and enhance relationships with and awareness of Columbia's ethnic, cultural and immigrant communities.
- **Committee recommendations, if any, with justification, for consideration by CA Board:**

**Committee Charge approved by CA Board \_\_\_\_\_, 2020**