



MINUTES

CA International & Multicultural Advisory Committee (IMAC) Meeting

December 9, 2019 7:00- 9:00 pm

Room 2002 @ CA Headquarters

In attendance: Magdalena Castro Lewis, Hui Dong, Marcy Gitt (Chair), Farida Guzdar, Roberto Martin, Rhoda Nunez-Donnelly, Arna Rubman, Jean Salkeld (Co-Secretary)

CA Staff: Laura Smit

Introductions

Marcy Gitt asked everyone to introduce themselves, where they live, and their committee affiliations. Rhoda Nunez-Donnelly was in attendance representing the School System's World Languages Department.

Chair's Report - Marcy Gitt

Marcy reported that she attended the Columbia Association Holiday Party in December where Laura Smit was recognized for 10 years of service. Marcy also participated in a "China Town Hall" which was organized by the Baltimore - Xiamen Committee on 11/18.

Program Manager's Report

Laura announced that she plans to retire in August 2020. The search for her successor will start in the spring so that the person who replaces Laura can shadow her during the summer Sister Cities European High School Exchange. Laura reported that she attended and helped find international vendors and performers for Glenelg Country School's World's Fair on Dec 5.

Approval of October 2, 2019 Minutes

The October Minutes were approved as written on a motion by Magdalena Castro Lewis and seconded by Hui Dong.

Reports from Sister City Subcommittees

Liyang, China

IMAC member, Farida Guzdar, reported on the trip she took to China from Oct.16 - 31, 2019 with 17 Howard County residents. The tour, led by Jun Han, Columbia's liaison with Liyang, visited Beijing, Xian, Liyang, Suzhou, Hangzhou and Shanghai. The group was greeted with great hospitality in Liyang. Over 3 days, the group was treated to two lavish banquets, visits to Guanhua High School and the adjacent Middle School, and visits to the homes of six of the

students who came to Columbia in July. At the schools, each person was paired with a student learning English. Sue DiPaula, IMAC Vice-Chair, was the delegation leader in Liyang, and made several speeches during the group's stay in Liyang.

Cergy-Pontoise, France

Jean Salkeld, Chair, announced the dates for hosting French adults in Columbia for the next exchange: Oct, 17-26, 2020. Planning meetings will begin in Jan. 2020.

Tema, Ghana

Grace Chang organized a cooking class on the cuisine of Ghana at the River Hill Village Center on Nov. 8 with 30 in attendance. Laura announced there will be a pre-screening on Jan 16 of Black N Black, a 90-min. documentary about the relationship between Africans and African Americans in the US. After the pre-screening, plans will be finalized to screen the film three times in Columbia in February and March with moderated discussions following the film.

Cap-Haitien, Haiti—No report

Tres Cantos, Spain—No report

Upcoming events and programs

- Pre-screening of Black N Black documentary – Jan 16, 6:30pm at HCC
- Chinese cooking class – Feb. 21
- Youth /Artist Competition, Sister Cities International, entry deadline is March 9
- 3rd annual Explore Columbia's Sister Cities event, Sun, March 22 at the Mall

FY20 IMAC Meetings: Feb. 5, April 1, June 3, 2020

Upcoming programs

- World Languages Café: Jan. 28, Feb. 25, March 24
- International Book Club: Dec. 11 – Akin by Emma Donoghue (French Riviera)
- Jan. 8 – The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman (Australia)
- Youth in Conversation – Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Jan. 27. Any Howard County high schooler can come to discuss topics such as race, culture, and identity in a group led by Rebecca Dietz and several other adult leaders, including Trent Hall from the Howard County Office of Human Rights.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean E. Salkeld, Co-Secretary

