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ACL Minutes
Friday, October 13, 2023
9:30am-12pm
Oakland Public Library: Main Library, Bradley C. Walters Auditorium

9:30–9:40: **Introductions:** Welcome to anyone new!

9:40–9:45: **Announcements**

We do have a meeting next month on Friday, November 10th, the day before Veterans day. It will be on Zoom. Professional development will be Linda Perkins talking about the Pura Belpre award.

We are doing a mock Pura Belpré! Get in touch with Angela Moffett at acmoffett@gmail.com with any questions. The discussion will be in January.

We have been requiring masks at ACL meetings, but may switch to masks strongly recommended in 2024. If you have any concerns, please talk with Caroline, carolinedavis@aclibrary.org.

For next year, we will keep alternating in person and Zoom meetings, with odd months being on Zoom and even months being in person. The current plan is for the February meeting to be at OPL Main as usual, with our April in person meeting taking place at BPL Central branch due to construction at OPL Main.

We might be having an Institute! This would mean that we would have the Institute in April instead of a regular meeting, but keep an eye out on your email for updates.

There are books that are still waiting for votes on the Distinguished list.

9:45-9:50: **Sensory storytime debriefing:** We want to acknowledge the impact of last month's training and the highlighting of problematic organizations like Autism Speaks.

Caroline addressed issues with Autism Speaks, especially how it centers parents and shuts down the voices of autistic adults. Last month's speaker also endorsed an organization that utilizes ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) therapy, which trains kids with autism to mask their autism rather than accept it. Many autistic adults do not support ABA therapy.

The issue with the speaker endorsing Autism Speaks and ABA therapy was brought up by an anonymous member and their statement was sent out via email, it is recommended to read their statement to better understand the issues from someone who is an autistic adult.

What can we take away from the training? What should we disregard? There were parts of the training that were really useful and the methods for setting up a storytime were good, but the main issue is with endorsing Autism Speaks and not centering actual autistic voices.

9:50–10:00: **Committee highlight/overview:** Learn more about ACL Committees and positions you might want to join now or in the future!

This month: Spotlight on Membership Committee and Dorothy Helfeld Fellowship Committee

Catherine spoke on these committees. Membership Committee includes networking, growing ACL membership, and the mentorship program for reviews. Helfeld Committee selects new Helfeld scholars and supports mentorship through that program. Both of these committees are looking for members.

Time commitments: Membership is about an hour per month. Helfeld is only a part of the year commitment and about three hours per month for three months in the spring.

Contact Catherine, catherinepyun@gmail.com or Celia, CJackson@oaklandlibrary.org, with any questions.

Other positions and committees are outlined in the bylaws. The President runs our meetings and board meetings. Vice President is the President-elect and runs meetings in the absence of the President. Institute Chair plans and organizes the institute; we don't have one right now but we do have a few volunteers working on planning an Institute on inclusion in libraries. Other roles include Secretary, Book Review Committee Co-Chairs, Performers' Showcase Committee Co-Chairs, and Webmaster. Angela does our professional development and Penny is the editor for Bay News.

10:00–10:15: **Celebration of Helfeld scholars:** Come congratulate and welcome our new 2023-2024 Helfeld scholars!

Welcome Hua, Audrey and Maya!

10:15–10:45: **Book reviewing:** Outstanding & Unsatisfactory or controversial (a.k.a stinky-cheese) titles only. If time remains, other titles can be discussed.

Sharing and discussion of Outstanding book reviews. Members should have received a link to the new online version of BayViews, or you can read reviews on the ACL website, bayviews.org.

10:45–11:00: **Break**

11:00–11:45: **Professional development: Designing Library Spaces for Youth:** Nina Lindsay will be joining us to share practical considerations for designing children's and young adult spaces in our libraries. She brings many years of responsibility for these areas as well as what to consider as you work with the people who help make it happen as well as the people who will be using your space.

Design “experts”: Contractors, vendors, etc. are helpful, but may be missing certain perspectives. You want to find folks who know how people use a space, have community expertise (including both those who do and don’t use the library), and staff expertise. There are many experts and perspectives that might be relevant to a design project. Professionals are not the only experts. There is a slide with a list of experts who aren’t architects or designers.

Look outside: Ask questions about other spaces in your community that are well-used or that you like the design of. Find out who designed that space! San Leandro library took inspiration from Fairyland to design the entrance to their children’s area. Fairyland is really designed for toddlers and preschoolers to explore, but the child-sized scale means it’s easy for adults to see kids. Jack and Jill Hill at Fairyland is a really good child-centered design—it is a hill that you roll down and that is surrounded by benches, so kids can go up and down the hill while caregivers use the benches.

Even experts can make mistakes and sometimes you try things and they fail.

Exploratorium in San Francisco: Between the ticket line and the main space, there is a sub-lobby that has four small exhibits, a bench kids can play on, musical lockers, and bathrooms. It gives kids a chance to touch something before entering the main museum and for adults to collect themselves and refocus.

A bakery Nina has been to has a little bench in front of the pastry case, where kids can sit and look at the pastries while you wait in the long line.

Understand the audience: This is really important. *The Power of Play* and *Reimagining School Readiness* are books Nina recommends. You want to really think about who is using the space.

YALSA Teen Space Guidelines: Nina uses these as a framework for the remainder of the

presentation.

Solicit feedback and input: This includes gathering your experts and making sure you are getting a variety of experts. Be wary of design by committee—there are times where a group choice is necessary, but having all staff vote on paint color or carpet color is not really effective. Input is important, but having someone make a final choice is usually a better option, given things like budget constraints, having to make choices for durability, and so on.

Provide a library environment that encourages development of youth: Think about the needs of kids at different developmental stages. Height and movement can make a big difference for how kids interact with a space. What kinds of play do different age groups engage in? How are caregivers supporting kids in these spaces?

TouchPoints in Libraries Training: The notebook from this is one of Nina's favorite resources for understanding kids at different ages.

Design isn't only the physical space. It should reflect the community via materials, activities, etc.

Provide and promote materials: How are the collection, displays, and entryways supporting use of the space? Think about alternative uses for space and how spaces can be flexible for different library needs.

Furniture and technology: Durability—assembly required is usually not good for youth and high use spaces. Look at the joints, seams, and surfaces and how they fit with how the objects will be used. A mistake they made on tables: the surface was pebbly/textured and it was impossible to clean crayon marks off the table; they were able to go back to the vendor and ask for a new surface. Shelves on wheels can work, but can also create issues if they are too big or your surface (carpet) isn't friendly to wheels.

Incremental design: Can be helpful to try one change at a time if you are trying to fix a problem. One change or small changes can give an opportunity for feedback. It's not good for things to change constantly; you have to wait and see if a change works.

Advocate: There are different levels of advocacy and you may need to think about the specific project and who needs to have input into the project. This could be the difference between moving things around in your picture book section vs. doing a feasibility study for a full building renovation. At times you may need to tread carefully, compromise, and think about relationships.

Q&A

The Rockridge renovation was funded by the community. It gave people more buy-in, but did it also create more problems of opinions? The community decided to assess a Mello-Roos property tax on itself to fund the creation of a new library building. The

Friends of the Rockridge Library group is a strong group that is active and present. It does solicit more opinions from the community because their presence is bigger. It has given lots of opportunity to practice good communication with the community. Rockridge has a children's space which is one third the size of the adult space, but represents 50% of the circulation. The children's space can feel really crowded and may have been a problem of the design team not considering children in the design process (but Nina doesn't know this for sure).

For the Dimond branch's renovation, they had to close a high-use branch. The input phase included the community and then there was a smaller design phase. Some groups are really good about getting their voices heard and others are not invited or not listened to. It's important to respond to everybody and to be clear about why you made the choices that you did.

With a youth services room/branch remodel, youth services staff may not be sitting at the decision table. Those at the decision table may ask vendors for a proposal, so youth services staff will want to speak with someone at the decision table to get your voices heard. Furniture is really tricky and often a balance between durability, comfort, and your space.

Teens will determine how they want to use things and will find things they can use in different ways.

You can reach Nina at nlindsay@oaklandlibrary.org with any questions.

11:45–12:00: **Business meeting**

- **Consent calendar**

- Approval of September minutes
- Treasurer's report
 - Checking: \$22,997.32
 - Savings: \$4,310.00

Jennifer approves, Catherine and Kimberly second.

- **New business / Committee updates**

An Institute committee is forming. Kimberly and Jessica Walker are starting it, reach out to Caroline if you are interested in joining that team. The theme is inclusive libraries.

Performers' Showcase will be taking applications beginning in the middle of this month. It will take place on Saturday, February 3rd, 2024. To be eligible, performers must not have performed at a showcase in the last three years.

BayViews was online for the first time this month! Get in touch with Penny to fix any typos/mistakes in reviews. Reach out to Penny as well if you want to help out with posting reviews, pikly@aol.com.

Board meeting is Friday, October 27th at 11am. (This is corrected from what was initially said at the meeting.)

- **Announcements**

- Job openings: *Please e-mail these to the Secretary (lillianwhithaus@gmail.com) if you would like them to appear in the minutes.*
- Humbug witch queries
- Book/Resource recommendations: If you have a topic that you need resources for, request them here.

Rachel is looking for books to share with younger kids who are dealing with the Israel/Palestine conflict. Reach out to Rachel with any recommendations, rachael.reiley@ousd.org.

- **Feedback and appreciations:** Feel free to email Caroline (carolinedavis@aclibrary.org) and Shani (shani13reads@gmail.com) additional comments! This will also be a space to acknowledge and appreciate fellow ACL members. If you have an upcoming birthday, have a professional or personal success or accomplishment (promotions, job changes, graduations, etc.) you'd like to share, please let us know. We want to celebrate you!

Happy birthday to folks with October birthdays!

12:00: **Adjourn**

Submitted by Lillian W.