
Meeting Minutes

Anti-Black Racism Working Group

Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 6:30 pm

Location Online via Zoom

Attendees: Charmain Brown (Notetaker), Marsha Hinds Myrie, Nicole Facey, Romina Diaz-Matus, Samantha Adebisi, Teronie Donaldson

Library Staff: Shobha Oza, Sabrina Yung

Absent: Bernadette Hood-Caesar

1. Land Acknowledgement and Ancestral Acknowledgement
 - Read by SY and NF.
2. Conflict of Interest Declaration
 - No conflicts declared.
3. Review Meeting Minutes
 - August meeting minutes reviewed.
 - No edits or changes were expressed.
 - No meeting took place in September. Members visited the library in lieu of a monthly meeting, therefore there are no September meeting minutes to review.
4. Review ABRWG Annual Self-Evaluation Draft – Identify and Discuss Edits, Confirm Completion Timeline
 - Time during the meeting was given to allow ABRWG members to review the draft, shared by email prior to the meeting.
 - Brief discussion about whether there were any questions or concerns regarding the draft took place.
 - Members stated that they were comfortable with the draft and will move forward with completing it in the coming days.
 - SY will follow up with an email to offer members who were not present for this edit/review discussion to share any suggestions for change. One week will be provided for this review. Following the one-week period, SY will send the group a live link to the 2024 online form for completion ahead of the November meeting.
 - Members are encouraged to complete the form one week before the November meeting. SY will use that time to pull and review the results, to identify significant scoring discrepancies and/or concerns.
 - A reminder that the form is not anonymous. Results will be shared openly and transparently at the next meeting and help shape the 2025 ABRWG Work Plan.

5. October Board Meeting
 - SY revisited the upcoming Library Board meeting plans. The group determined which ABRWG members would be sharing an update with the Board on behalf of the group.
 - NF and TD volunteered to attend and provide an update on behalf of the ABRWG. SY will follow up with NF and TD to prepare speaking notes.
 - All ABRWG members are invited to attend in-person to support.
6. September In-Person Library Visits – Debrief
 - Between August 14th to October 9th, ABRWG members met with SY, SO and the Marketing Team, during a scheduled library visit to support marketing initiatives and explore the library to observe the user experience.
 - SA, TD, BHC and CB completed a recording for future videos, sharing their individual selected library resources and recommendations.
 - TD shared that it was quiet when he was in the library but did experience some clients that felt that the space was a bit loud for them. SY shared about the Quiet Zones strategy, and that library staff do their best to rove around and redirect to clients to the appropriate areas (e.g., upstairs if the client is looking for quiet or silent study spaces).
 - CB and SA shared their recent experiences at the Central Library.
 - Members who did not make it in-person to complete a visit will endeavour to do so soon. Their feedback is always welcome.
 - Overall, the in-person visits were a positive experience, and it was agreed that adding this activity to the ABRWG Work Plan was a good idea. Consider continuing to do so in the 2025 Work Plan.
7. August 31 – International Day for People of African Descent Event Debrief
 - SA, TD and CB attended the event and shared their experiences. Members had great, positive engagements with community members. Heard positive feedback from folks who do currently use the library.
8. September 14 – City of Pickering Cultural Fusion at Esplanade Park Debrief
 - SA and CB attended the event and shared about their experiences
 - There was a large attendance and a lot of positive community engagement.
 - The library booth had a lot of visitors that participated in activities, received information about services and gave feedback.
 - There were other opportunities to participate in City of Pickering community feedback activities – including a public art engagement for a new City facility at the museum.
9. OVEE Launch Update
 - SO shared an update on the launch of Ovee and the services it provides
 - SY suggested exploring the possibility of visiting Ovee during an upcoming in-person ABRWG meeting.

Next Meeting: November 13th, 6:30 pm (online)