

---

# Meeting Minutes

## **Anti-Black Racism Working Group**

Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 6:30 pm

Location: Online, Microsoft Teams

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

**Library Staff:** Shobha Oza, Sabrina Yung, Muhammad Rafeh

**Absent:** --

---

1. Land Acknowledgement and Ancestral Acknowledgement
  - Read by SY and RDM.
  - SY acknowledged Bernadettes departure from the group. A previous email with appreciation was also sent to the group.
2. Conflict of Interest Declaration
  - No conflicts declared.
3. Review Meeting Minutes
  - March meeting minutes were reviewed
  - No edits or changes were expressed
4. Maker Space Tour and Introduction – Part 2, Debrief and Reflection Discussion
  - MR led a debrief of the ABRWG visit to the Maker Space that took place at the last ABRWG meeting.
  - SY noted that members who missed the tour and hands on activity – a set of the activity pieces were held for them and a make up session or self-guided experience can be arranged.
  - MR reviewed the equipment and tools that are available in the Maker Space.
  - The following questions were explored, with the following responses:
    - What would make the Maker Space feel like it belongs to you or the Black Community?
      - Activities/experiences that encourage thinking in different ways or approach problem solving in a different way; encourages thinking of a different way to fix something or put something back together.
      - Offer a problem solving or critical thinking skills workshop.
      - Programs to learn how to use analytical tools.
      - Showcase examples of side hustles, or tools that can support side hustles.

- Demonstrate ways folks can use the Maker Space to repair things. For example, how to repair a game piece, to promote Black activities within the Maker Space - think about traditions and cultural games.
- Promote album covers that can be printed on t-shirts; consider album covers that would resonate with the Black community.
- Teens - can repair/create PS5 game pieces.
- What equipment tools or services would you want to see?
  - Mannequin display for learning how to braid hair.
  - Bring your water bottle and create your own design
  - Sewing - other sewing tools, other than the basic machine.
  - Printing digital patterns for sewing - needs specific type of paper, does that work on current printer?
  - Pattern design event - African patterns, feature cultural specific patterns.
  - Knitting kit; circular knitting tools for easier learning/beginner learners.
  - Music equipment
  - Select words/sentences/phrases and create a book; get to print/produce a small book. Promote the idea of exploring writing a book (or a story).
  - Equipment that the community can use together in a small group or in a mentor-writer relationship to explore writing/storytelling.
- What specific programs, partnerships or initiatives could support Black Makers?
  - Feature on social media stories or books created in the Maker Space.
  - Dominoes tournament; maybe print the dominoes on the 3D printer.
  - Festive gear (t-shirt) opportunities.
  - Host a showcase of that year's Maker Space creators - can submit their creations for display at a special event.
  - Can we do something like Black Brilliance where we showcase the PPL Maker Space creations weeks ahead of CreatorFest and invite all the creators to be there to speak to their creations?
  - Black Creators - Youth get to sit with creators to learn about their projects, how they made them, maybe an internship or mentorship aspect.
- What role can Black-owned businesses/professionals or community leaders can play?
  - Small businesses may want to use the Maker Space to create flyers and promotional resources.
  - Local businesses - youth design a shirt that advertises local companies for display in exchange for the local business to provide their products for the participants, e.g., Allwyn's provide patties while youth create a shirt design to promote Allwyn's brand, and the shirts can be displayed at the restaurant or the library
  - Durham Caribbean festival - can community create items relevant to the event?

- Invite summer camps; Black Boys Code/Black Girls Code - host workshop for the kids
- Partners with music focused companies - youth could come up with a jingle or short video advertisement using Adobe suite; could help them build their portfolio.
- Connect with online influencers who make videos for businesses.
- What is the bold idea we can implement or if this space was designed with Black joy, creativity or innovation what would it look like, sound like, feel like?
  - Have fun videos that connect with the Maker Space equipment available; show the set up or inspiration of what is created, how to use the equipment.
    - Playing while you walk in or walk through the Maker Space.
  - Journey through the space is visual - if sewing focused there should be fabric on the wall, space comes alive for example.
    - Be bold through space and visuals; space and visuals should reflect what we're trying to inspire and what experiences are available in the space.
  - Bicycle repair kits; hold a bike repair session to prep bikes for the season - there are Black bike groups in Durham.
  - Tools
    - Power washer
    - DIY - fix kits
  - Augmented reality book experience; scanning a book cover with a smart phone or AR glasses and you get to watch an interactive video with the book's characters.
  - Mini Maker Space for the kids; tub system - can be static or brought out, something for kids to tinker; self-directed opportunities - things people can take and do as families or independently
    - Promote the Maker Kits more, so that options are more known.
  - Steamer or iron, to help people (think job ready).
  - Meditation theme - make your own yoga mat?
  - Make your own stained glass.

#### 5. Anti-Black Racism Community Survey Preliminary Drafting

- SY shared the previous survey's highlight
- Suggestions were provided on how to update the current survey questions to get information on the initiatives and changes in the library that have taken place due to the result of the previous survey
- RDM shared questions that she drafted that can be considered as new questions to be added and/or used to reframe current survey questions.

#### 6. Black Brilliance Event Debrief

- SY and SO shared highlights from the successful event
- CB shared her experience at the event and what others shared who also attended

7. Debrief February In-Library Observations and Feedback from ABRWG Member Experiences
  - Deferred: this will be discussed at the June ABRWG meeting.
8. Public Call for New Members – Update
  - There has been one expression of interest received. SY to follow up.
  - Submissions are due April 25, so we are hopeful more expressions will be received by this date.
  - ABRWG members to continue promoting across local networks.
9. May Meeting Preparations – Staff Mixer
  - Per previous discussions, the requested staff mixer format is an opportunity to meet and connect with a variety of library staff and departments. This will be in lieu of staff progress update presentations during monthly meetings for 2025.
  - In order to meet the new Manager of Client Experience and any new ABRWG members, this Staff Mixer will be postponed to the June ABRWG (June 11). This will switch places with the observation month, there for May will be the observation month instead. SY to revised Work Plan.
  - ABRWG members to visit the library during the month of May and include their observations in the debrief conversation deferred to June.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 11, 6:30 pm – In-person, George Ashe Library**