
Meeting Minutes

Anti-Black Racism Working Group

Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 6:30 pm

Location: In-person – George Ashe Library, Silent Study Room

Attendees: Charmain Brown (Notetaker), Nicole Facey, Romina Diaz-Matus, Salome Odeny, Samantha Adebisi

Library Staff: Sabrina Yung, Claire Schillaci

Absent: Scerena Officer, Teronie Donaldson, Shobha Oza

1. Land Acknowledgement and Ancestral Acknowledgement
 - Read by SY and RM.
 - SY welcomed CS, Client Services Lead, who joined the January meeting as part of her learning goals and as a direct result of the continued ABRWG work plans currently in implementation.
2. Holliday and New Year Appreciation Reception
 - Deferred from the December meeting (cancelled due to weather and illnesses)
 - SY thanked the group on behalf of the library, for their work over 2026.
3. Conflict of Interest Declaration
 - No conflicts declared.
4. Review Meeting Minutes
 - November meeting minutes were reviewed
 - No edits or changes were expressed.
5. Determining 2026 Chair or Co-Chairs and Notetaker(s) (postponed from December)
 - RDM shared that she is open to remaining Co-Chair.
 - During the November meeting, ScO agreed to place her name forward as Co-Chair.
 - SaO and TD communicated that based on their busy schedules, they are unable to put their name forward as Co-Chairs.
 - After some discussion, it was voted that RDM and ScO would be co-chairs for the 2026 term. Note, as ScO was not in attendance, follow up needed to confirm ScO will proceed in this role.
 - SA offered to be notetaker and CB agreed to be back-up notetaker.

6. Work Plan 2026

- Regarding scheduling of meetings for 2026 and based on reflection of the previous work plan, there would be intentional months designated for members to make visits, participate in library/community activities and participate in online learning (in lieu of a monthly meeting).
 - This would include visit/observation month in February when members are participating in Black History Month activities and events
- SY updates regarding the opening of the Greenwood Heritage Library and Dorsay Community and Heritage Centre tentatively scheduled for Spring 2026.
 - The May ABRWG meeting is scheduled to take place at the new library for a tour and to meet the new Local History Specialist.
- Part of the ongoing learning of the library staff is on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Intellectual Freedom (IF). To engage the ABRWG members in this learning, the June ABRWG meeting time would be used for members to complete the AI and IF online learning module, in preparation for an exploration discussion on how the library can enhance support for local community members on these topics.
- Based on 2025 Staff Mixer feedback from ABRWG members, this format for progress reporting worked well and was preferred. For 2026, we'd like to keep to this format with a few adjustments for improvement.
 - The July ABRWG meeting will be a "staff mixer" to go through the progress updates of the various ABRWG Work Plans and Recommendation Lists. A representative from each set of plans will attend to provide progress updates in the mixer format.
- It was acknowledged and discussed that August tends to be a busy month for the community events. The decision: No monthly ABRWG meeting in August will take place, so that members can participate in various community events (e.g., Emancipation Day, International Day for People of African Descent, Cultural Fusion, etc.).
- SY proposed that ABRWG consider participating in the annual PPL Staff Learn Day during Fall 2026. Date and location are TBD but planned for September. The format of ABRWG participation would be completely up to the group (e.g. workshop, presentation, panel, etc.).
 - Discussion took place as to possible ideas of what the group would share including members' personal experiences, the work ABRWG has engaged in, the progress to this point and next steps moving forward.
 - It was agreed that tailoring participation to the theme of the Staff Learning Day and sharing insights to staff members that may not be directly engaged in ABR work as part of their position/role would be a priority in the planning.
 - SY and SO to further engage the planning committee for staff feedback, to help identify learning goals and outcomes desired.
 - ABRWG representation TBD as plans become more firm.

7. February Planning – Community Event List and Feedback Gathering Tool
 - No monthly meeting in February for ABRWG members. In lieu, ABRWG members will attend and participate in Black History community events and activities at the library or in the community, and share engagement feedback or observations.
 - SY shared a draft form that ABRWG members are encouraged to complete when they visit the library or community events to document their experience to share at future meetings.
 - This form is to ensure that accurate and timely information about the experience is captured. Each interaction would be a separate entry.
 - The form can be used for both interactions with community residents (e.g., when members support the library outreach table or when members attend events as residents in the community) and for observations (e.g., something you noticed in the community related to library services or something you observed when visiting the library).
 - The information from the live form will be collated and shared at future ABRWG meetings, as the group debriefs the various observation months.
 - Members reviewed the draft and approved the form.
 - SY to turn draft into an online form. A link will be shared for ABRWG members only.

8. Black Joy Holiday Market Debrief (postponed from December)
 - Several members attended this event to support the ABRWG booth including SaO, RDM, and ScO.
 - SaO and RDM shared that it was a great event with several attendees inquiring about the work of ABR in the library in general and the ABRWG specifically.
 - SaO shared that there was inquiry as to whether Black hair workshops were being offered at the library. SY will share this note with the events team.

**Next Meeting: ~~Wednesday, March 11, 6:30 pm, in-person at the Central Library~~
The March meeting was cancelled and rescheduled to **Wednesday, April 8, 6:30 pm, in-person at the George Ashe Library.****