

Archives, Reference and Research Advisory Board
January 25, 2023
Minutes

Present:

Board Members: Marco Carrion, Jason Baumann, Alison Cornyn, Pamela Cruz, Richard Moylan, Rebecca Pou, Sarah Gonzalez, Eric K. Washington.

DORIS Staff: Pauline Toole, Sylvia Kollar, LaTonya Jones, Kenneth Cobb.

1. Marco Carrion called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.
2. Review of minutes from the October 19, 2022 meeting.

Marco Carrion asked for comments or questions regarding the minutes from the October 19, 2022 board meeting. Kenneth Cobb acknowledged the error in transcribing Member Alison Cornyn's name in the previous meeting Minutes. Chair Carrion accepted the Minutes, with the necessary correction.

3. Marco Carrion thanked Commissioner Toole for her suggestion that each Board member describe an achievement or highlight of the last year. Commissioner Toole added that she noted the article (referenced in the chat) from Brian Carlin about a new curriculum recently released by the Department of Education based on Asian American and Pacific Islanders that would be pushed out to all public schools.

Jason Baumann started the highlights review by noting that the New York Public Library had hired their first curator of Islamic manuscripts and Middle Eastern studies.

Alison Cornyn said she had continued working on the Incurable Girls project during the summer and had received a New York State Humanities Council grant to place the exhibit at the Ann Street gallery. She also arranged for a woman formerly incarcerated in Newburgh, NY, to talk about her experience.

Rebecca Pou related that the new offices of the Central Park Conservancy included climate-controlled space for historical materials.

Richard Moylan spoke about the National Endowment for the Humanities grant received by Greenwood Cemetery to index their burial books. The index will include cause of death information.

Sarah Gonzalez described her new exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on the origin of Fauvism.

Marco Carrion said his organization had doubled its staff in Puerto Rico and had received federal earmarks for the community.

Pamela Cruz spoke about her past work with the New York Women in Film and Television Women's Film Preservation Fund; two films that committee previously preserved were added to the Library of Congress National Film Registry in December 2022.

4. Annual Report

Commissioner Toole suggested in advance of the board meeting that a video production be considered for the ARRAB Annual Report. Pamela Cruz, who has been shepherding the annual report committee, is excited about this new format. Commissioner Toole added that DORIS would have the in-house skills to assist with the production. Alison Cornyn seconded the idea, and Eric K. Washington said it could also be transcribed to create a written version. Commissioner Toole said she would prepare a timeline.

5. Agency Updates

Sylvia Kollar provided an update on the Municipal Archives:
-The Old Town Records project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission had been completed. The collection totaled more than 5,600 volumes dating from the pre-consolidation era. Digitization of 230 volumes had been completed and the images will be made available to the public on DORIS' online LUNA gallery.

-The Municipal Archives had begun implementation of the Preservica software to manage the Archives' digital assets; it will include a new public interface.

LaTonya Jones reported on the External Affairs unit and said they had staged four events, with 123 in attendance so far in fiscal 2023. She added that they had received a small grant for podcasts and a larger grant of \$50,000 for the volunteer program. The agency website update was continuing.

6. Other business

Eric K. Washington spoke about his work to achieve landmark status for the Colored School No. 4, and the possibility of its service to DORIS as a center for programming. He added that the Mellon Foundation has expressed interest in the School.

In closing remarks Commissioner Toole spoke about an idea to focus programming on the Sunset Park neighborhood. It would build on the successful program last spring at the Industry City facility. Perhaps the Board would accept this as an initiative. Richard Moylan said he agreed that would be good and that the cemetery had received a grant for a similar project.

Commissioner Toole concluded the discussion by noting that the agency's online auction of gifts given to the mayor had resulted in \$40,000 in revenue, to-date.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.