

Archives, Reference and Research Advisory Board
September 24, 2020
Minutes

Present:

Commissioner Pauline Toole; Assistant Commissioner Kenneth Cobb, Pamela Cruz; Glenda Grace; Idillio Gracia-Pena; Sylvia Kollar; Richard Moylan; Robert Snyder; Tom Shcherbenko;

- I. Review/Adoption of Minutes from June 2020 meeting
- II. Members share information on current projects: Generally all working on remotely on various projects including Rob Snyder who is working on a paper on Paul O'Dwyer, and a clearing house of resources/documentation of the current Covid crisis as well as the Black Lives Matter movement; Pamela Cruz has been working with archival colleagues on reinventing how to keep archives and people connected; Idillio Gracia-Pena is working on his biography.
- III. Sylvia Kollar updates on archive's activities
 - Update on Move Progress and expected date of relocation
 - Transcription projects in place to support remote work for staff
 - Digital platform updates on ArchivesSpace and standarding collections for access.
 - Reference services are responding to requests online, and preparing for onsite reference services.
 - LGRMIF grant project to digitize WNYC film collections is ongoing.
 - NYSL grant to treat oversize Central Park and Brooklyn Bridge collections ongoing through December.
- IV. Commissioner Toole updates on other agency activities
 - Agency Schedule
 - Review practices and experiences of NYC public libraries before opening for researchers onsite
 - Women's Activism
 - Nearing 7,000 stories published
 - Archival Society sponsored contest for multiple story writers
 - Participated in Light up NY in Purple for Women's Equality Day
 - Focusing on suffrage centennial and voting; and collaborating with civic engagement groups
 - Volunteer Coordinator
 - Public Programs have all been canceled, but planning on an event in October focusing on the Incurribles exhibit and the treatment of young women in the criminal justice system.

- AmeriCorps Volunteer joined the team to assist in organizing recruitment of volunteers; conduct virtual tours of the exhibition spaces and highlight collections.
- Legislative Agenda
 - Proposal to consolidate the ARB and the ARRAB is moving forward
- Dealing with the City's deficit
 - The agency is working with the OMB targets for budget cuts and layoffs
 - Mayor recently furloughed management staff in effort to further delay layoffs.
 - The agency has to cut over 500K in budgets over the next two FYs, and currently able to cover those cuts with open positions that will not be filled.

V. Discussion of ARRAB Report

- The Mayor's Office of Appointments has filled the Board's current vacancies, and final confirmation is pending, but a full board is likely for December.
- Current rough draft of report complete, and working concurrently on the 2020 report was discussed and agreed upon.

VI. Other Matters

- There was discussion about the importance of implementing the Board's initiatives, especially at this time. Idillio and Pamela will work with other members of the board to have separate planning meetings.