Annual Report 2012
Diversity Committee

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Chair: Patrick Tomlin
Executive Board Liaison: Jon Evans
Members: Kai Alexis Smith
Sylvia Roberts
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2012 Activities
The committee met twice virtually and communicated via email throughout the year. As the committee had largely met only at the conference in the past, a Google site (https://sites.google.com/site/arlisnadiversitycommittee/) was generated to archive new meeting agendas and minutes, communicate internally among members, and provide a space to create and preserve committee- and diversity-related documents and information resources. Meetings and discussion focused primarily on the Strategic Plan action items for which the committee is responsible or plays a supporting role.

The Diversity Committee is the primary agent for the following action item in the Strategic Plan:

GOAL III. CREATE STRONGER LEADERSHIP THROUGH PROMOTION, COOPERATION, AND ADVOCACY

A. Expand the Society's programs to attract those new to the art information profession and those from a diverse range of institutions.

1. Schedule appearances at college job fairs to promote art librarianship as a potential career path for students and to promote student membership in ARLIS/NA.
   a. Diversity Committee
   b. Membership Committee

Status: In progress.
Working with chapters liaison Laurel Bliss, a survey soliciting information about local fairs was created using Wufoo that was subsequently disseminated to regional chapters. This resulted in two responses. However, upon contacting representatives for the university job fairs, the committee was told that representation by organizations such as ARLIS was not typical, but that such fairs were intended to target potential employment opportunities rather than provide information on careers in specific professions per se. At this time, then, the committee is discussing alternatives to the job fair model, such as brown-bag luncheons or other formal/informal events within LIS programs.
Additionally, the committee agreed to be secondary agents in the following strategic plan action item:

**GOAL I. ARTICULATE NEW DIRECTIONS AND IDENTITY FOR THE PROFESSION**

C. Advocate the art information professionals’ value and relevance so as to strengthen our membership’s standing within our institutions and their respective constituencies.

1. Anticipate, articulate, and address those issues impacting both the importance and the relevance of the art information professional in a series of white papers.

Status: In progress. The committee will discuss potential white paper topics at the 2013 annual meeting.

Finally, members of the Diversity Committee have been in contact with the ARL Diversity Office to explore potential collaboration with ARL that would result in a grant to provide scholarships to students from underrepresented populations who wish to pursue a career in art librarianship. A similar grant has been established with the Music Library Association. Proposals are due in October.

**Issues for the Executive Board**

As stated above, the committee believes that venues other than job fairs (e.g., brown bag sessions, perhaps led by ARLIS volunteers, in SILS departments) might be more suitable for carrying out item III.A.1 of the Strategic Plan.

Looking ahead to 2013, the committee hopes to collaborate with other ARLIS/NA committees, special interest groups, and divisions (Membership Committee, the LGBT SIG, and the Academic Libraries Division, for example) to explore opportunities for recruitment and retention of ARLIS members from underrepresented groups in a manner in line with the larger objectives of the strategic plan. The committee also hopes to explore outreach activities with organizations such as REFORMA, the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association, and other groups.