NO PRIVATE MATTER
LIBRARY SIGHTLINES ON CULTURE AND APPROPRIATION

ARLIS/NA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH MARCH 2019

BARBARA HACKETT COX, ARTIST TO ARTIST, INDEPENDENT NETWORK OF MULTICULTURAL ARTISTS EDUCATORS AND ORGANIZATIONS

DEBORAH ULTAN, ARTS & ARCHITECTURE LIBRARIAN, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Libraries can help to activate and support healthy dialog on cultural appropriation.
NO PRIVATE MATTER: LIBRARIES & A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

GOAL

Build collaborative programming to advance arts education praxis and access by bringing together a highly diverse group of artists, arts educators, academics and cultural organizations who work in different ways, places, and organizational frameworks that represent national and international entities and multicultural voices.
“When you start talking about aspects of identity, everything is so emotionally laden that people sometimes lose sense of logic and rationality, because questions about identity cut so very, very deeply, for all people, and especially so for indigenous peoples...”

Candessa Teehee, assistant professor of Cherokee and Indigenous Studies and coordinator of the Cherokee Language Program at Northeastern State University
NO PRIVATE MATTER: LIBRARIES & A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Shape questions that focus on the creative process and how we express ourselves through visual expressions.
LIBRARIES & A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: KEY TERMS FOR DISCUSSION

- COLONIALISM
- CULTURAL APPROPRIATION
- AFFINITY
- AUTHENTICITY
- IDENTITY POLITICS
- KINSHIP
- REPRESENTATION/MISREPRESENTATION
- STEREOTYPES
Talking about Cultural Appropriation begins with the acknowledgement of colonialism and how colonialism has impacted the arts.
LIBRARIES & A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: WHO CAN HELP US TALK ABOUT CULTURAL APPROPRIATION? WHO CAN BE OUR LEADERS?

- American Indian Studies Faculty
- American Literature Faculty
- Arts Educator
- Cultural Anthropologist
- Curator
- Ethnic Studies
- Non-Profit Leader
- Student(s)
- Visual Artist
LIBRARIES & A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE:
WHAT ARE THE TALKING POINTS AND THE QUESTIONS?

What is it you have or do that intentionally or unintentionally appropriates?

If you were an artist (or are an artist) is the subject matter yours?

How might the visual arts help facilitate decolonization?

Is making art a form of concern? And does it matter what form the concern takes?

Can artists take on subjects that are not their own?
The authenticity of a thing is the essence of all that is transmissible from its beginning, ranging from its substantive duration to its testimony to the history which it has experienced.

Walter Benjamin
The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction
NO PRIVATE MATTER: BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Benjamin, Walter. Art and Mechanical Production


- Kraehe, Amelia M. (Senior Editor) (2019) To Whom It May (Not) Concern: Notes for a Dialogue on Art Education Beyond Diversity and Inclusion, Art Education, 72:2, 4-6, DOI: 10.1080/00043125.2019.1561141
