

# National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

KNOWLEDGE ★ REPRESENTATION ★ COMMUNITY

## People of Color Affinity Group Leadership Meeting

Thursday, September 3, 2020

2-3pm EDT

Zoom Call

Attendees:

Pam Breaux

Carla Du Pree

Abigail Gomez

Marisa Summers

Encarnacion Teruel

### 1. People of Color Affinity Group Meeting

- a. **Pam** reviewed the draft annotated agenda with the leadership group. The leadership group was pleased with the format and agreed to change the name of agenda item number III. What's On Your Mind.
- b. The leadership group agreed that re agenda item number IV. Moving Forward Together, **Abi** would request **one star and one wish** from the affinity group using the virtual spinning wheel to pick the names. Those who are uncomfortable speaking would be asked to add their wish and a star to the Zoom chat.
- c. **Encarnacion** suggested that **Freddy E. Vélez García** and the ICP folks be invited to the meeting to which Pam agreed.
- d. The leadership group discussed recording the affinity group meeting. Concern was expressed re the group members feeling comfortable speaking candidly, as such, Pam will ask the group members for their consent to record before the start of the meeting. Both Pam and Marisa will also take notes.
- e. **Carla** received a list of mental health professionals to assist folks with navigating some of the issues our country is currently facing. She suggested that a **list of mental health professionals** be shared with the affinity group as she has received quite a few phone calls from folks who are asking for assistance and in need of emotional support. Pam asked that Carla send the document to Marisa and shared that a few resources could be added at the bottom of the agenda.
- f. **Carla** raised the issue of racial equity which many people are dealing with in their agencies, especially re funding, and how the affinity group can be of assistance. Pam suggested that this issue will come up naturally as the group continues to meet. She mentioned NASAA's upcoming Learning Series equity choice points session which will address this issue.
- g. **Encarnacion** reminded the leadership team that the first affinity group meeting will focus on reconnecting and gathering feedback. The second

- meeting will focus on sharing resources to address the feedback received. He also mentioned sharing resources via the chat as questions come up.
- h. **Abi** suggested that we devote an entire group meeting to the issue of systemic racism in our country and how folks are dealing with it in their agencies. **Carla** suggested the session be called "A Look in the Mirror".
  - i. **Encarnacion** mentioned that COVID-19 is a multi-layered disease to include the human rights movement. For example, should cultural museums close not only will the community suffer but the potential visitors as well who will miss the opportunity to learn about other cultures and ethnicities within that venue.
  - j. **Carla** suggested that towards the end of the group meeting we should remind group members that the PoC Affinity Group is open to BIPOC that work for SAA's. Pam mentioned that the PoC Affinity Group has been mentioned in NASAA Notes several times and we will mention it during the DEI awards event as well.

### **Next Steps**

- Marisa and Pam will update the annotated agenda and share it with the leadership team.
- Marisa will share the updated agenda with the PoC Affinity Group members.
- Marisa will send a reminder to the leadership team the morning of September 14<sup>th</sup> re the meeting.