Thursday, May 2 @ Kent District Library

Equity + Diversity + Inclusion SUMMIT

agenda

8:30 AM Arrivals, registration and morning refreshments
9:00 AM Welcome ................................................................. Lance Werner, Executive Director, Kent District Library (KDL)
9:15 AM Equity Design at the Seattle Public Library or Building equity into the DNA of Your Organization
Overview of the SPL Approach .............................. Marcellus Turner, Executive Director and Chief Librarian, The Seattle Public Library (SPL)
An introduction to Community Listening .......... Valerie Garrett-Turner, Assistant Director for Public Services, SPL
Tom Fay, Director of Library Programs and Services, SPL
10:30 AM Break
10:45 AM Definitions of equity, diversity and inclusion..... Marcellus Turner, Tom Fay and Valerie Garrett-Turner, SPL
11:45 AM Lunch and networking
12:45 PM Year of Learning .................................................... Sara Proano, KDL
1:45 PM Defining Disability Diversity in Society .............. Rich Jones, Advocacy Program Manager, Disability Advocates of Kent County
2:45 PM Break
3:00 PM Panel discussion ..................................................... Moderator: Ana Ramirez-Saenz, CEO and Founder, La Fuente Consulting
Graci Harkema, Diversity & Inclusion Director, Founders Brewing Co.
B. Afeni McNeely Cobham, PhD, Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer, GRCC
Marcellus Turner, The Seattle Public Library
Beca Velazquez-Publes, Director, Urban Core Collective
4:00 PM Concluding comments ........................................ Lance Werner, KDL

biographies (in order of presentation)

Lance Werner, Executive Director, Kent District Library
Lance has served as Executive Director for Kent District Library since 2011. In 2018, he was chosen as Library Journal's Librarian of the Year, and in years past, he was the recipient of the Joey Rodger Leadership Award from the Urban Libraries Council, Librarian of the Year Award from the Michigan Library Association (MLA), the WSU Distinguished Alumni award and Library Journal's Mover and Shaker Award. Lance is currently involved in the ALA Policy Corps, WSU's Capital Campaign, MLA's Legislative committee and just graduated from Michigan Political Leadership Course. When Lance isn’t with his first family (at home) and second family (at the library), he's likely to be fishing on a river with a good friend, enjoying the discovery of each new day.

Marcellus Turner, Executive Director and Chief Librarian, The Seattle Public Library
Marcellus Turner has been in the position since 2011 and has enjoyed his role in finding creative solutions and approaches to the exciting, unique and ever-changing opportunities and challenges that urban libraries face.

Turner is the former executive director of Jefferson County Public Library in Lakewood, Colo. He previously worked for libraries in Rockford, IL, Tacoma, WA, Atlantic City, NJ, as well as academic libraries in Tennessee and Louisiana. He holds a master's degree in library science from the University of Tennessee.
Valerie Garrett-Turner, 
Interim Assistant Director – Public Services, 
The Seattle Public Library

Valerie is responsible for delivery of system-wide services to library patrons and the implementation of the Library’s service priorities. This includes oversight of the Central Library, 26 neighborhood libraries, Mobile Service and three Service Units.

Valerie has been with SPL for more than 20 years. She holds a master’s degree in library science from the University of Arizona and a Certificate of Public Library Administration through the Public Library Administration. When off duty, she enjoys container gardening and visiting museums.

Tom Fay, Director of Library Programs and Services, The Seattle Public Library

As a native of southern Nevada, Tom Fay’s 36-year career in libraries began in 1983 as a page in a rural library. He has most recently held roles as the Executive Director of Henderson Libraries and the Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Las Vegas Clark County Library District in Nevada. In 2015, Fay accepted the position of Director of Library Programs and Services at the Seattle Public Library.

He enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter experiencing the great outdoors in the Pacific Northwest.

Sara Proano, Community Engagement Manager, Kent District Library

Creating opportunities to bring the library to the community, especially under-served areas, is Sara’s key focus. This is accomplished through innovative approaches that include outreach programs, the new KDL Bookmobile and the Library Card Challenge. Prior to joining KDL in 2018, Sara held several positions at the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, including Employment Services Collaborative Coordinator, Director of Language Services and Domestic Violence Case Worker.

Rich Jones, Advocacy Program Manager, Disability Advocates of Kent County

The vision of Disability Advocates of Kent County is that each person, regardless of their abilities, has equal rights and opportunities and that our communities are accessible and welcoming to all. Their mission is to work alongside people with disabilities as they seek to lead self-directed lives and advocate for accessible and welcoming communities. Rich has an M.A. in Counseling from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. He’s the former Regional Director of Protection & Advocacy for the State of Nevada, Director of Compliance & Continuous Quality Improvement for Mojave Mental Health Services in Las Vegas, Nev.

Ana Ramirez-Saenz, Founder and CEO, La Fuente Consulting

Ana brings an integrated perspective that guides organizations through their cultural transformation process. As a thought leader in the field of organizational development, she brings ground level expertise in diversity, inclusion and cultural intelligence. She delivers forward-looking solutions that address the most challenging diversity and inclusion issues. She helps clients address the issues that stand in the way of an inclusive work environment.

Ana has over 15 years of experience in working with c-suite management of Fortune 500 Companies, as a management consultant, diversity and inclusion strategist, educator, instructional designer and training professional.

Graci Harkema, Diversity & Inclusion Director, Founders Brewing Co.

Graci comes from the technology industry, with a background in diversity and inclusion. At Founders, she is dedicated to driving inclusion and integrating diversity to ensure an open and safe work environment; helping evolve strategies to attract and engage a diverse and inclusive workforce and workplace; and prioritizing D&I in the craft beer industry. She is passionate about serving her community by volunteering her time on non-profit boards and committees in the LGBTQ community. Graci is recognized as a “40 Under Forty Business Leader of West Michigan” by Grand Rapids Business Journal and has a bachelor’s degree from Grand Valley State University. Graci is originally from the Congo and now resides in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

B. Afeni McNeely Cobham, PhD, Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer, GRCC

Dr. McNeely Cobham, a native of East New York, Brooklyn, has worked in higher education for twenty-seven years as a faculty member, administrator and consultant. In the fall of 2018, she joined Grand Rapids Community College as the inaugural Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer. In this role, Dr. McNeely Cobham works with students, faculty, staff, and community members to embed principles of diversity and social justice into the bedrock of the institution.

Beca Velazquez-Publes, Director, Urban Core Collective

Beca believes that communities have the answers needed to dismantle systemic racism and oppression. She works daily to provide a platform for community voices to be heard in order to shift the narrative for people of color. By creating pathways for professional of color to via the Transformative Leadership Program, UCC is creating a pipeline of future leaders from communities of color who are service oriented and have the capacity to fulfill leadership positions across sectors.

Beca received her Masters of Public Administration in Non-Profit Leadership from Grand Valley State University where she was awarded a King Chavez Parks Future Faculty Fellowship. She is a proud National Equity Project Fellow and founding member of the Latina Network of West Michigan.