PARTNERSHIP AS A STRATEGY FOR IMMIGRANT ENGAGEMENT

An Infopeople Webinar
Presented by Jessica Moore
May 7, 2019
• M.A. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
• DIRECT REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
• ENL & BILINGUAL EDUCATION
• PROGRAM & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
• COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH DIVERSE POPULATIONS

15 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE COMMUNITIES
• DEFINITIONS, DEMOGRAPHICS, & LIMITATIONS
• ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS & PRIORITIES
• CHALLENGES
• CULTURAL ICEBERG
• STRATEGIES
• SELF-ASSESSMENT: IT’S YOUR TURN!
• RESOURCES

THE PLAN
DEFINITIONS, DEMOGRAPHICS, & LIMITATIONS
**IMMIGRANT**: a person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.

**REFUGEE**: a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

**ASYLLEE**: a person who is seeking or has been granted political asylum.

- **ASYLUM**: The protection granted by a nation to someone who has left their native country as a political refugee.
EXPATRIATE (EXPAT): a person who lives outside their native country.

NEWCOMER: an immigrant who has lived in a country for 5 years or less.
DEMOGRAPHICS – NATIONAL TREND

SOURCE: MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE
• Census.gov
• American Community Survey
• Local School Data

DEMOGRAPHICS – KNOWING YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES MATTERS
× We don’t dive into the “how” of partnership development.

× We won’t take a deep dive into demographic data.

× Not intended as a development tool for intercultural competency.

All are CRUCIAL but not the focus for today.
Know your goals!
WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES THAT LIBRARIES FACE AS THEY WORK TOWARD WELCOMING IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITIES INTO THEIR SPACES?
Behaviors
Words and actions which are apparent to the casual observer

Interpretations
How we feel the core values should be reflected in specific situations in daily life such as working or socializing.

Core Values
Learned ideas of what is considered good or bad, right or wrong, desirable or undesirable, acceptable or unacceptable

Formative Factors
The forces which create, define, and mold a culture’s core values

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Celebrating Our Global City

- Indianapolis—Sister City Partnerships
- Hispanic Heritage Programs
- Journey through series
  - Africa 2009
  - Asia 2010
  - Middle East 2011
  - Eastern Europe 2012
- Burmese Community Days

Serving Our Global City

- Spanish Computer Classes
- English for...Language Learning Course
- Citizenship/Naturalization Community Sessions
- Burmese Community Education programs

Collaborating with Our Global City

- Making connections with ethnically diverse communities in Indianapolis/Marion County
  - African Community International
  - Asian Services of Indiana
  - Czech & Slovak Society of Indiana
  - Filipino Ramaay Club
  - Indianapolis-Hangzhou Sister City Committee
  - Indianapolis Lithuanian Community
  - Indianapolis—Pusan Sister City Committee
  - Jewish Community Relations Council
  - Latvian Community Center of Indianapolis
  - Mexican Consulate of Indianapolis
  - Muslim Alliance of Indiana
  - Namayaya School of Arts
  - Polab Cultural Society of Indiana
  - Romanian Cultural Society of Indiana
  - St. George’s Orthodox Christian Church
  - And many more!

Did you know...
The Indianapolis Public Library has more than 10,000 foreign language materials currently available to YOU!
CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITIES TO TELL THEIR OWN STORIES.

CELEBRATE
Lunch and Learn: More than 15 communities engaged over the past 5 years.

Journey through Middle East: Intentional engagement with diverse members of local Middle Eastern communities.

One Million Journeys: Individual experiences captured through photography and storytelling.
DEVELOP LONG-STANDING RELATIONSHIPS THAT RESULT IN INITIATIVES THAT ARE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN AND SUPPORTED BASED ON NEEDS AND INTERESTS.

SERVE
Spanish computer classes: Offered for more than 10 years based on language and technology needs.

Immigrant Welcome Center Pop-Up Branches: Bridges gap in service to public.

English Conversation Circles: About 32 languages represented in 2018.
INCLUDE LOCAL IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITIES IN PROGRAM PLANNING.
Journey Series: More than 4,000 attendees over the course of 4 years.

IWC Branches: Natural Helpers engaged in service to community through library branches.

Global Indy Videos: Video personalities presented by local immigrants in community.
PARTNER STRATEGIES Continued...

• Connect with community groups and invite them to meet in your library community rooms.

• Seek community feedback on collection development.

• Contract with local groups/organizations to lead projects.

• Identify community partners to assist with language needs.

• Improve language accessibility and visibility: Global City, Global Library.
SELF/ORGANIZATIONAL – ASSESSMENT
Failure

is

Inevitable

But keep pushing ...
“If you are human, you are biased.”

Howard Ross
author of *Everyday Bias: Identifying and Navigating Unconscious Judgments in Our Daily Lives*
Questions?

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