

11 January 2019

TO: RAILS Board of Directors

FROM: Deirdre Brennan

SUBJECT: Equity, diversity and inclusion – conversation with Richard Kong

As discussed at our November meeting, Richard Kong, the Executive Director at the Skokie Public Library, will attend our meeting to talk about the work that Skokie has been doing and some suggestions for how RAILS can assist member libraries.

From my perspective, it is a RAILS responsibility to assist members with issues related to diversity. I know, from my discussions with member directors and staff, that diversity is important to our members and that it is something they struggle with. Our board discussions and decisions will assist RAILS in becoming more knowledgeable and thus more able to support members. I see this as one of the many issues where RAILS assists members through training, consulting, site visits and having strong connections with members.