

Date: September 12, 2023

To: RAILS Board Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Committee

From: ILA Diversity Committee

Re: Report on Committee Projects - Upcoming and Recent

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### **Upcoming Events**



#### **DiversiTEA Session at the 2023 ILA Annual Conference**

This annual session is hosted by ILA's Diversity Committee, and showcases experts within and outside the library sector who share their insights, expertise, and exemplary approaches to foster a more diverse and inclusive world.

This year's speaker is Stephen Jackson, a motivational speaker, published author, advocate of restorative justice, licensed mental health counselor, and staunch proponent of equity and inclusion.

Serving as the Director of Equity and Anti-Racism at Oak Park Public Library, Jackson places high value on public service and the enrichment of lives by skillfully integrating restorative justice and restorative practices.

The theme is "Restore, Renew, Reboot: Using Restorative Practices to Promote Organizational Well-Being" and it explores the intersection of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and restorative practices to better support and equip individuals with effective methods in engaging both staff and patrons to promote positive organizational growth and change.



## **ILA Mentorship Program – Second Quarter**

The Illinois Library Association Mentorship Program provides mentorship and networking opportunities for emerging librarians. This program assists them in understanding industry and professional standards and developing the skills needed to excel in the field. This can help to create a more level playing field for those just starting out.

The program gives the newer librarians a chance to learn from those who have been in the field longer. In addition, they gain insight into the profession that they may not have otherwise had. It also provides much needed camaraderie and community, which can be challenging to come by when starting out.

### **Recent Events**

#### **United Shades Discussion Series**

The ILA Diversity Committee seeks to explore diversity within librarianship by providing opportunities to promote understanding and inclusivity through critical discourse where important perspectives, ideas, and solutions can be heard.

The ILA Diversity Committee will present and host the United Shades Discussion Series to foster a culture of inclusivity and discussion. This discussion series is inspired by the CNN show [United Shades of America](#), where [W. Kamau Bell](#) explores different communities in the US and their unique challenges.

Each discussion will be framed around a single episode of the television series. Attendees are encouraged to share their thoughts and participate in the discussion.

- March 31, The New KKK
- May 18, Protect and Serve?

#### **Noon Network Webinar – “Gimme Three Feet”**

In May, the committee organized an ILA Noon Network webinar titled "Gimme 3 Feet," featuring author and public speaker, Kevin Hofmann.

During the webinar, Hofmann shared his perspective on inclusion and belonging, drawing inspiration from the phrase "Gimme 3 Feet," a term he first encountered while playing backyard basketball in Detroit at the age of 10.

## **Ongoing**

### **DiversiTEA Facebook Group**

The ILA Diversity has a private Facebook group, [DiversiTEA](#), to facilitate communication between and among marginalized groups (BIPOC, disabled individuals, LGBTQIA+) in the library profession. Everyone is welcome to participate, but the content will be centered on the previously mentioned groups. You do not have to be a member of ILA or the Diversity Committee to join the group