



MAP INFORMATION WORKING GROUP
(WORLD REFUGEE DAY PLANNING COMMITTEE)

Minutes

Friday May 10, 2019 1pm at ISS of BC Vancouver, Room 101

Present: Marissa DeWeerd (MAP), Sadiq Mohibi (Kinbrace/VAST volunteer), Peninah Faith Okello (Purpose), Sireen El-Nashar (Zaytuna), Claudia Buendia (MSDPR), Savleen Kaur (Options), Jenny Moss (MAP), Lama Olabi (Rainbow Refugee), Fran Gallo (Kinbrace), Mariana Martinez Vieyra (VAST); Sara Lopez (VAST), Maryam Torabizadeh (Kiwassa NH)

By phone: Katherine Griffin (MOSAIC),

Chair: Jenny Moss

- Welcome and Introductions
- No regrets received
- Reviewed and approved the Agenda
- Reviewed and approved April 26, 2019 Minutes

World Refugee Day Event Discussion: Review program, roles, responsibilities and progress to date – Jenny

- Topics of the discussion were guided by the “World Refugee Day Working Teams and Next Steps” chart created by Jenny

- 1. Promotion of WRD Event:** The event is listed under Special Events on the VPL website, except for the evening Starting Over program, which will be listed on the poster they are completing which will be very complete, with all programming included. A vote on the picture to be used on the VPL poster resulted in a picture of people holding hands (attached), which Jenny showed to the group. Planning committee members will receive electronic and printed copies of the poster by the next meeting. The poster will only be printed in English.

Marissa is leading this group. She has collected e-mails that the poster and an invitation will be sent to once they are ready. Jen and Marissa will work together on the daily media outlets just before the event. It was agreed that anyone in the group with personal contacts at organizations that can assist with promotion, should send out the invitation and poster personally and cc Marissa so she can track who has been contacted on a Google Drive document. All planning committee members are asked to run any releases by Katherine and Jenny for review before sending out.

Marissa will create a Facebook feed for MAP that can be used by all of us to share. Marissa will also set up an Instagram message. When sharing WRD promotional info in your social media accounts include other languages if you are able to do so.

Discussion re: Eventbrite invitation: it is useful to keep a count of numbers (though not everyone registers!) Should there be one or two invitations? (i.e. one for the daytime activities and the other solely for the evening Starting Over event? Marissa will look into it further.

2. **Information Marketplace on the Promenade:** *Claudia* will send Jenny the list of agencies and point people who have registered thus far so they can make sure the list includes all those who have requested tables. Planning committee members will review this list to make sure their agencies are included. Agencies must send 2 representatives to participate in the marketplace. Vancity has requested extra chairs. We will likely have approx. 40 tables this year. VPL will need our final number for tables by the end of the month.
3. **Walk With Me:** *Peninah* has joined this group. *Fran* reported that a representative of the IRB selected 5 of the 10 scenarios used last year as preferable. *Lama* will put the 5 scenarios in bullet form to make them simpler to read. *Fran* will come up with a disclaimer to add to the scenario sheets that the public will receive. There was a discussion as to whether it would be better to use scenarios which (it was argued) may have a greater impact on participants, or allow agencies to describe to the public what they do in order to avoid concerns of government. The first step will be to contact CBSA and IRCC to ask them to check the simplified scenarios with the disclaimers.
4. **Starting Over (am):** Lead: *Sireen* -We need to confirm the 3 speakers who will speak 3-5 minutes about starting over in Canada, not about their claims. *Sireen* and *Mariana* have ideas for panelists. *Katherine* and *Sireen* will meet to further discuss how to run this activity. Anyone who would like to introduce a speaker for this session please contact *Sireen* at sireen.elnashar@zaytuna.ca, who may emcee the morning event..
5. **Starting Over (pm):** Lead: *Lama* 5 speakers and 2 emcees are needed for this event and need to be identified by the end of the month. Rainbow Refugee and I Belong will work together on this LBGTQ focused event. It will be a panel with discussion afterwards. *Jorge* and *Kristi* are confirmed. *Katherine* will meet with all participants from am and pm sessions to review the guidelines and to be sure they want to participate. There should be diversity in presenters on both panels.
Lama will ask *Sharlyn* (RR) if she could facilitate the panel discussion.
Lama will work closely with *Marissa* on promoting this event.
6. **Refugee Lawyer's Panel:** Lead: *Mariana* There will be 3/4 lawyers, *Peter E* and *Lobat* (confirmed thus far), possibly: *Rob H.* and/or *Ram*; to discuss current legal issues and challenges facing refugee claimants. Q&A will follow. *Mariana* will confirm the lawyers. *Fran* and *Mariana* will work on questions for the panel. The emcee (*Mariana*) will need to guide the discussion and make it clear this is not a legal advice session.

7. **Proclamation:** Jenny has the proclamation in hand (it will be given to Mariana following the event, as MAP co-chair). The City speaker to read the Proclamation is not yet confirmed. Jenny has recruited an Elder to do a welcome and blessing: Roberta Price, Director of the Urban Indigenous Health and Healing Cooperative. The fee is \$200. Justin Negara has been confirmed as the refugee claimant speaker. Order of events:
 - Mariana will call the crowd to order and introduce the
 - Elder, then
 - Justin, then the
 - VPL Board rep and lastly the
 - City of Vancouver Mayor or rep.Speakers need to be reminded to speak into the mic.
8. **New Visual Artists:** Lead: *Fran*. Fran reported only 2 confirmed artists thus far. The group is asked to refer refugees or claimants who are interested in selling their art (no food). A few suggested participants: Ana Hernandez of Purpose, Rainer from Rainbow Refugee. Jenny will send the announcement inviting artists to participate to MAP members.
9. **Refugee Quiz:** Suggested questions were distributed to the group. *Fran* will remove/edit some of the less favoured questions and return the document to *Sadiq* and *Lama* for review.
10. **Our Lives in Music:** Lead: *Jenny* is organizing this program and requests that any suggestions of additional musicians be forwarded to her. Fabrizio, who attended last year's event will play folk guitar. Darae at MOSAIC might have some possible names as she organized a musical event before.
11. **Volunteer Support and Refreshments:** Savleen is organizing volunteers and refreshments for WRD. Jenny will contact Savleen about a budget for refreshments. Savleen will contact Blenz about free coffee. She will need to recruit other volunteers to help her as it is a long day.

Next meeting: On May24th, at 1:30pm at VPL (TBC)with a tour of the rooms.

Meeting closed: 3pm