

CITE-C Final report on activities for AY19-20

This report will be posted on the CITE-C website, reported to the faculty and the Board of Trustees, and shared with the Communications team for potential inclusion in stories and in the Lowdown

2019-20 CITE-C Socials and Initiatives

In 2018, CITE-C Socials were created to provide a venue for raising awareness about issues pertaining to DEI issues as well as providing a space for learning/having difficult conversations. Below is a list of programming for AY19-20. Unfortunately, due to the closing of campus due to the global pandemic, our events stopped in March.

September 2019 *Exploring Social Justice in the Misinformation Age*

CITE-C collaborated with the Freedman Gallery by holding a reception during the above mentioned exhibit. This exhibit examined social justice and included a variety of topics focused on inequality, including: gender, race, sexual orientation, ethnicity, socio-economic status; poverty; racial profiling; the criminal justice system; immigration; access to education and healthcare, child welfare, and more. Art can inspire, educate, spark discussion, transform lives, and engender change, so it is no surprise that social justice issues are frequently the subject matter and concern of artists. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Freedman Gallery in the future.

October 7, 2019 *Las Madres de Berks* with Michelle Angela Ortiz, Director

While immigrant detention has only made national news over the past two years, it's been making headlines in Berks County for much longer. Home to the Berks Family Residential Center, this federal facility has been housing immigrant families, including very young children, for several years. For this event, we showed the film "Las Madres de Berks" that features some of these families and their experience in detention with their children. After the film screening, we held a talk back with the director, Michelle Angela Ortiz. This event was an approved experience event and had approximately 100 participants.

October 15, 2019 *I Dreamed a Dream: Immigrant Youth Education, Opportunities, and Obstacles with Greater Reading Immigration Project and Pennsylvania Immigration Citizenship Coalition*

This event included an update on the legal battle over DACA, local DACA student testimonials, a discussion with local area policy makers including State Senator Judy Schwank and Reading School District Superintendent Khalid Mumin.

February 3, 2020 *Black History Month Celebration*

This event was held as a kick-off to Black History Month in the main lounge of the student center. It featured performances by Xion Step, the Albright Rap Collective, and spoken word poetry by Jazer Willis. There was also a raffle of books by black authors donated by the Society of Black Alumni (SoBA).

March 4, 2020 *Stonewall Era Art, the rise of Queer Visibility, Abstract Expressionists, and Popular Cultural Changes with Liz Bradbury*

This event was all about the artists and societal movements that surrounded and empowered LGBTQ people leading up to and after the Stonewall Rebellion in 1969,

when everything about the Queer community began to change. It was put on by Liz Bradbury from the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center. It was the best of times, it was the worst of times! Queer artists of that period were part of the second wave of Abstract Expressionism, Pop, Op, Photo Realism, and the beginnings of Performance Art. Their decisions to be out and proud fueled and were fueled by the Civil Rights, Anti-War, and Women's Movements, the Sexual Revolution, and the Stonewall Rebellion. This event was an approved experience event and had approximately 100 participants.

LGBTQ101 Trainings (12/3; 12/10; 2/4; 2/6)

In addition to these 5 stand-alone events, CITE-C also brought to campus a training on LGBTQ diversity and inclusion. Bethany Bower, MSW and Vice President of the LGBT Center of Greater Reading, facilitated four LGBTQ training sessions for students, faculty, staff, and administrators. In these sessions, she covered foundational concepts and vocabulary that provided a better understanding of the LGBTQ community. In addition, she discussed ways to make sure our campus is inclusive and accessible to people of all gender and sexual identities. These trainings were open to faculty, staff, students, and administrators. After 4 trainings, approximately 50 staff, faculty, and administrators had completed the training. We hope to bring these back to campus in AY 20-21 as it is safe to do so.

Reading Groups

We began to search for a replacement to *Between the World and Me* as a campus read. In the fall, we held reading groups on *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo, and in the spring groups focused on *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace* by Jeff Hobbs. We found both books to be extremely helpful in understanding racism and the lived black experience. However, neither seems like an appropriate or accessible replacement to Ta-Nehisi Coates. This is something we will continue pursuing next year.

2019-20 FYS and the Campus Read: *Between the World and Me*

In academic year 2018/19, in an effort both to satisfy a long-felt faculty need for cross-curriculum continuity and to address recent incidents on campus that disrupted inclusiveness, the faculty endorsed a resolution to adopt Ta-Nehisi Coates' *Between the World and Me* as a campus-wide common reading. Several groups themed extra-curricular exhibits, speakers and events around this theme. Due to the disruption of the global pandemic, this book will be used for a third year in a row in academic year 2020/21 due to its continued relevancy and consistency for faculty.

As always, this group will continue its mission of trying to make Albright a more inclusive and equitable community. Next year we plan to continue more programming, more open forums for discussion, increased trainings on race and LGBTQ issues, and policy changes to reflect our Inclusivity and Equity statement. Suggestions are always welcome.