

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging: 2023-24 Progress Report

Wyndham Robertson Library

Hollins Focus Area: Providing an inclusive academic experience.

Goal: Meet with new DEI executive director, and new building partner, Dina Hackley-Hunt to learn about her priorities; talk about how our services and resources may align with those goals; identify opportunities for collaboration.

Report: Multiple library staff members met with Dina Hackley-Hunt over the year, as her position evolved into the Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging (DEIB) Programming and Support. The library provided Hackley-Hunt with lists of books and films in our collection centered around a topic she identified as important to her work -- handling conflict and conversing across difference. These conversations helped lay the groundwork for a DEIB book group that debuted in fall semester 2024, featuring books in our collection: *I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times* and *Yellowface*. The library made these books available to the campus community in a variety of formats, including e-books and audio books.

Goal: Review and respond to DEI-related collection development suggestions in the 2022 library survey. Track purchases made based on these suggestions.

Report: The library developed a new J-term internship opportunity to address these DEI-related collection development suggestions. The intern helps diversify the library's collection by analyzing our holdings, making purchasing lists for new books, and creating materials for marketing. We hosted our first intern in this role in January 2024. Under the guidance of co-supervisors Maryke Barber and Rebecca Seipp, senior Genevieve Furges created a [library guide and exhibit to Lesbian and Sapphic representation in our collection](#), which included 15 new titles recommended for purchase by Furges. The internship will be offered again in January 2025.

Goal: Develop a plan for artwork in WRL that will help to create a welcoming physical space for Hollins students from historically marginalized populations, and more colorful and warm space for all.

Report: The library formed the Artwork Planning Team in the fall semester to produce a plan for WRL that helps create a welcoming physical space for all students, with particular attention to students from systemically marginalized populations. Members included staff from the library, the Green, and the Eleanor D. Wilson Museum, and students. The group's final report included examples of art in other libraries, a list of recommended locations for art in the building, and results of a survey asking for campus community preferences regarding artists and types of art. Perhaps most important, the group developed three guiding principles for inclusion of art in the building:

- Inspire: the art should fuel creativity and the pursuit of knowledge.

- Reflect: the art should reflect the diverse and myriad communities that make up our campus and the Roanoke area.
- Elevate: the art should lift up voices that have historically been left out or overlooked.

We look forward to using the team's report as a foundation upon which to incorporate art into the Wyndham Robertson Library.

Goal: Dedicate collection development funds to the DEI offices moving into the library -- notably, the HU Connect and Executive Director offices. We will offer support and seek ideas for the purchase of new materials for the library collection in these areas, particularly by encouraging student involvement (student assistants in these offices; students who may participate in advisory boards or affinity groups under these umbrellas).

Report: The library contacted these offices to offer funds and support in identifying materials to purchase, but due to a lack of interest and/or time, there was no response.