

Audre Lorde to Howard Zinn Library
Meeting Agenda | Thursday, 6:30pm, January 5, 2012
Facilitating: Meghan B.

Coverage discussion for events on 1/14 -- Linda Stout and the movie on injustice, specialized reading lists for MLK events. [STACIE steps up to the plate!]

Introductions & choose timekeeper, minutes-taker [5 min]

Meghan, Frances, Heather, Marcus, Stacie, Terranova, Daniel, Anna, Vered, Myrna, Kristin, Tim, Tom

Anna taking notes (and by notes, I mean transcribing as fast as I can!). Take general vote on which agenda topics to cover first. Prioritize Tim's arrival since he's only here for today, then twitter, then archiving.

New Orleans does not have a library, he's making contact to see what we do in person. He thinks a library is a good place for multiple entry points into the Occupy movement. The GA and people's mic is not always a good way to start for people who want to share ideas and speak together.

~~**FSU check in--**~~

~~Joanna and Heather returned all FSU items to Eden before she left for the winter.~~

~~The idea of sharing space can probably be tabled for now, post-eviction. Maybe later we'll want to collaborate on programs, etc., please volunteer if you'd like to spearhead this idea.~~

Archive [15-20min]

Research results:

1. Archiving assistance requested from Matt Hacker with GA records: numbering proposals using the week for ex: 13.1 is first proposal in week 13. Also, GA would like to archive their tweets - this may include Media.

Kristin-- maybe we could fill in the gaps, the service WGs are asking for is to provide the proposals full-text. We could hold them. We have some from back when people brought them by the tent.

Daniel-- bigger question: we should be assigning WGs point people, gathering things like the silk screening group, WGs are producing a lot of things. The Boston Occupier we should be collecting. [DANIEL has contact in the Boston Occupier, so we'll stay up to date.]

Kristin-- now that we're back at GAs, or starting to get there more often, this may be better. Transparency is key. Bringing the awareness to people without freaking them out! Finding a way to let people know we're not saying they're "done", but preserving as history is made.

Heather-- signs people. Contacting the individual groups to let them know we'd like copies.

Daniel-- let people know we're not taking it away from them.

Marcus-- may be a good approach to make a 3 Easy to Remember rules for preserving your documents/minutes/pamphlets/posters. Give them the power. A lot of it is in active use, so just helping them manage their own documents and kind reminders that this stuff is valuable and not to be thrown away when their finished with them.

Daniel-- yes, it's a preservation according to the needs of the collection. Create a resource guide to get us started.

Kristin-- let's look at what people/groups are actually producing. What's on the wiki? That's supposed to be the go-to place where people put whatever they produce. But there's probably stuff outside of it. What other areas are we missing?

Marcus-- What about a questionnaire?

Myrna-- Maybe we should propose to GA, announce there is a movement to archive and this is what we're thinking.

Daniel-- from OWS experiences, (passes around two articles ["The Anarchivists" from *The BrooklynInk* and "The Struggle for OWS Archives" from *The Awl*).

Stacie-- The Boston Drag March [did I hear that right?] as an example.

Group discussion on controlling history, capitalizing history in the archives. Some other organization may try to do this. Curation makes biased decisions. What lens do we use to make the decisions, what assumptions do we have.

Heather-- I like Marcus's idea that we make guidelines, visit with the WGs and empower them to preserve their own items. Are we archiving Occupy Boston and its Working Groups, or just Occupy Boston? Where does the line get drawn?

Tom-- use our participation in other WGs as a link.

Kristin-- talk at GA about the threats/options of an institution archiving us, cherry picking.

Vered-- can we find a good article about the capitalizing of Occupy through documentation we can have to show people, to educate people.

Heather-- Ooh, the Smithsonian contacted us, distracted by the prestige and not knowing the dangers. [Kristin and Stacie, "yes!"]

Myrna-- we should have a vetting process for any organization or "outside" help to understand what their intentions are for our collections.

Stacie-- I want to see people doing the archiving who have the context, who know the history so they know what they're talking about. Dangers of people who now want to attach themselves to it because its a cultural movement. Anyone who starts now should be seeking the input of people who have been in there/on the ground in the early days.

Daniel-- Part of our archive should definitely be an oral history from the "core" people, or early people involved. Watch for others who will come

in and try with this.

Kristin-- there's interest, there's people/artists who have been filming or recording our occupiers already. Do we mine this, or do we do something completely separate? They might not ask the kind of questions we would ask.

Heather-- we need to decide, what do we want our role to be in the archives.

Kristin-- I want these resources to be available for everyone, not just squirrelled away. How can we help facilitate giving access to that?

Marcus-- yes, there's the problem of a working, living document that's still needed and growing.

Heather-- It stinks that we can't provide those documents on site at all times, like we did in the tent. As far as a scope goes, it sounds like we're thinking both archival for history's sake as well as the living documents.

Meghan-- are there WGs that have "more important" documents than others? Like facilitation, etc. We could triage the groups. Guidelines to some of the groups, we only have so many people.

Heather-- groups that are more active, that are producing a lot.

Terranova-- Ideas, they're recording a lot from individuals. Core subject matter, they have it. Where is that collected? Is that something we can even keep. [TERRANOVA offers to talk to Noah in Ideas to start the process.]

Kristin-- We have to prioritize. Pulling things from wiki, etc. We still need to reach out to the WGs who don't use that, make sure we're not missing anything.

Frances-- Should we start with emails?

Marcus-- a brief 4 or 5 questionnaire to hand out to groups to get us started. Do you have all your things in one location, do you have financial documents, what kind of stuff produced, has anyone approached you for your things.

Heather-- like a needs assessment. We'll get it started with this and chase down the groups that we don't hear back from.

Frances-- what's the risk of not collecting the WG documents? What do they do with their own documents? Are we stewards for it?

Stacie-- without WG documentation, we have a very specialized collection. If we didn't collect everything, maybe we could ask them for very specific things from all groups. Organizational materials alone are a lot. It would be government-level kind of collection on the OB movement. It might not be a bad thing to have a very specialized collection without full WG.

Frances-- should we set ourselves up as an archives of last resort? If Media is well-formed and managing their own stuff and we can give them a little guidance, cool. Maybe for other groups who really want us, we could step in.

Marcus-- we can't collect everything anyway. There's stuff out there

that's important, but we can't commit to collect. But we can give ideas, guidance to the groups.

Tom-- every WG is unique, reflects its people. Some are more essential to the movement than others. We can't expect the same results when we're archiving different WG.

Frances-- let's start with the needs survey. [KRISTIN, DANIEL, TOM, AND MYRNA will draft survey and send it out to the library list for further discussion.]

[MARCUS potential volunteer to work on the guidelines for groups?]

Tim-- we can create a People's History of Boston from a repository of documents through Creative Commons. For collective study in general.

Kristin-- Next week, we should discuss ways of providing information/documents online.

Heather-- I worry about the wiki, people hate it and have trouble finding things unless they put it there. I'm afraid it's going to be outmoded and won't be moved/stored beforehand. I trust PDFs more. I don't know how Internet Archive archives wikis but probably wiped/boxed out. Having something on the wiki does not mean we have it archived.

Tom-- store the pages in Word at least, PDF it.

Frances-- can we talk to tech about getting the wiki stuff systematically saved to PDF?

Heather-- talk to Nicole F first.

Kristin-- saved a lot of the GA meetings to her desk top.

Marcus-- If we can set up a systematic back-up, doing it manually will be easier.

Vered-- did we get a volunteer to get an article about coopting, or a list of talking points, so we can talk about it at GA? [STACIE takes it.]

Terranova-- what about a community forum?

General consensus: yes! We could bring a speaker. Talk about archiving and co-opting, etc. Shows we're thinking about it and putting it into context.

Heather-- I have access to add things to the OB.org Google Calendar if anyone needs that. That's where they get the events for the digests.

2. *Where the archive might be housed (part or all) in the future*
 - a. *Archives models from other social movements and their mission statement and policies*
 - b. *Id community organizations that could house part or all of the archive. Democracy Center and encuentro 5*
 - c. *Daniel LaVoie has "experience with collection policies and [is] willing to pay for the preservation and housing of the OB archives collection." further info?*

NOTE: Until we decide: Make very neutral responses to people/organizations who offer to

house the collection. If it's in email to the library list, copy the list on your reply so we know that someone has responded.

3. Should we go through the entire proposal process, or limit to an announcement. We are experts in this field and if we give it to them, are we making a donation to make sure that it's processed soon. Does that repository have the resources.
 - a. If we donate the collection, will they continue to grow the collection or would we? In a way, us growing it is more relevant than them.
 - b. Would we give them books, ephemera and some records, or the whole thing? (They would weed however they want to.)
4. Potentially archiving email? – issues associated with this in terms of redacting names, limiting access. Research results?

Daniel-- redacting emails, we could get in huge problems with lawyers. Check with NLG first for guidance. If it gets subpoenaed, it's a criminal action!

5. Archiving tweets and email. What can we learn from LOC? Media is interested in archiving tweets. Kristen have you heard from Media?

Kristin-- they're storyfying their tweets.

6. Is anyone attending the NEA DIY event March 23-24 in Middleton CT?

Research for future of collection. [15 min]

1. Going Mobile: outline steps for action:
 - a. Twitter for A-Z library - discuss the Twitter account for the library again. If we're going mobile it might be good to tweet about where we are going to be or what events we are holding. It's much harder to keep up with us without a static location. New account separate from our emergency alert list. (to be discussed when Vered is present.) Advertise location of mobile library on Twitter?

Using it as a platform to raise any ideas we want to talk about, let people know when we have events or actions, engaging in conversations with other Occupy sites. Who's going to tweet, what kind of guidelines for our tweets? A few people draft some loose guidelines to help determine the kinds of things, like the original tweeter replies to any replies.

Frances-- can people sign their tweets (initials)?

Vered-- yes, maybe not the announcements on where we'll be.

Stacie-- everyone can make suggestions for tweets, but 2-3 people administer the account.

Kristin-- concern on the dialogue that come sometimes take over, the back and forth with one person, should you just try to move that convo to personal twitter account?

Stacie-- definitely part of the guidelines, how to stay aboveboard and constructive/productive in the library twitter.

Myrna-- one of the solutions was to direct them to us as a physical library, but now maybe to the email list.

Vered-- the back-and-forth conversations won't clutter people's feed unless they follow both of you. Could be interesting unless engaging with trolls...

Meghan-- what purpose? To engage with people with questions?

Vered-- also to talk about the actions/events where we'll be, also to engage with other Occupy communities.

Meghan-- maybe Facebook page for the library.

Vered-- can publish tweets to a facebook account.

Myrna-- not to fan pages or organizations, though. General consensus: let's do Twitter and Facebook both. Resource guides could be posted, too.

Vered-- to move forward, we should make the social media guidelines. [STACIE AND VERED step up to the plate! Champions.] [MEGHAN agrees to do the facebook when we're ready for it.]

- b. *People with books: tagging in LibraryThing, how are books stored: Progress? Updates? List of book holders and subjects are at google doc: "A-Z Offsite Locations". Set deadline for listing subjects people have? [Heather]*
 - c. *Refer to "BRRC @ the Library Tent" sheet, signing up with calendar of events that you would like to attend with books.*
 - d. *Models: Bring a selection for check out (or onsite use?) at: GA presence, OB branches, local libraries, [Kristin] Offices: Peter Andros constructed a "lunch-hour outreach" other events?*
 - e. *Van proposed on email list? [John F]*
 - f. *Small low-tech approach preferred. (Can propose to GA for \$ assistance as we progress)*
2. *Other models for public space libraries/ collections*
 3. *Home for Collection: Potential community spaces as hosts [Susie]*

Outreach strategies/engagement [15mins]

1. *Identify target audiences to share what we do, where do we find them?*
 - a. *Occupies around the city: Allston, Somerville...*
 - b. *Public Libraries via Reading lists:*
 - i. *BPL leaf-letting event feedback aka Guerrilla Librarians*
 - ii. *Progress with reading lists: Meghan: Somerville Main, Highland Kristin: Allston, Brookline Main Anna: Cambridge Main, Central Sq Heather: Watertown*
 - iii. *Revise A-Z Mission statement so that it is current.*
 - iv. *Contact public and academic libraries: offer lists, anonymous phone calls requesting reading material...*
 - c. *Non-location-specific reading recommendation list. Leave call letters off.*
 - i. *Make one specific to our collection and recommend they check out their local library/bookstore, include link to and explanation of worldcat.org. [point person]*
 - ii. *Make specific to one topic for focused audiences! Women's Caucus with gender books, Facilitation gets facilitation resources, etc. "Look, we made you this research resource list, working group!" Good way to start a relationship with these groups. Without location, we can pick "the best*

books on this topic". [point person]

4. Update on Badges - Also, were we approved for WG money? [Anna R]

Anna: badges coming, I reamed out the company for not sending them yet. Should have them by Tuesday. Financial Working Group paperwork was submitted; I emailed them again on a different FAWG email to check to make sure it wasn't lost, and I've heard nothing. Will ask them in person next week at a GA.

5. *Outreach to OWS Library (Betsy Fagin) and other Occupy libraries to strengthen ties and create strategies.*

Communication within Occupy Boston[10 mins]

Be conscious of us not disappearing without a fixed location.

2. *Continue to make presentations and announcements at GA's: rotate attendance, use "BRRC @ the Library Tent" sheet. (Heather & Anna working on this)*
3. *Occupy Boston Radio - Heather & John F expressed interest. others?*
4. *Make connections with working groups via need for library, identify working groups: FSU...*
 - a. *Email from Ben Janos: Occupy Boston Working Groups Communication Hub (ComHub) creating a database so information and resources are easily disseminated amongst working groups. Did anyone respond? Opportunity?*

Future meeting space [5min]

1. *Progress/suggestions with semi-permanent meeting space ie Community Church of Boston/Community Change.*

New Business: 10 minutes

Tiny Tent news?

Proposals or ideas for future agenda items:

Kristin-- Next week, we should discuss ways of providing information/ documents online.

Heather & Kristin will facilitate next week.