

Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Commission
Public Events Working Group
Meeting Minutes
10.18.2021

INTRODUCTION

- Welcome and introductions
- Attendance: Co-chairs Sarah Cushman and Charlotte Masters, Danny Cohen, Jessica Gall, Jack Goodman, Michael Niedzinski

ACTION ITEMS

- Review working group responsibilities:
Charlotte Masters reviewed the tasks assigned to this group. They are to:

Research and create accessible lists of community commemoration events that already exist within Illinois; Research and create accessible lists of existing adult, public, and parent education programs; Identify gaps in public memorialization and education, and then work with community partners (from the Advisory Council) to create and promote public education events, parent education, ceremonies and commemorations, and public conversations about memory, memorials, and memorialization.

- Review OMA and FOIA rules:

- Define smaller working groups (“partnerships”)
 - 3 groups of 2
 - Are there lists that already exist? A working list of commemorations? A place where we could start or do we need to start from scratch?
 - We could look at ILHMEC to see if they have a list; HEFNU
 - What is the deliverable? What is our target audience?
 - One goal is to identify gaps – communities that are not being reached. Identify places that do not have access and how Commission might approach. Use list of gaps to connect to resources.
 - Eventually, we can make that list available. Accessible, others may realize what else is going on; others may let us know about what they are doing. A list so educators, community leaders, and individuals can take advantage – go to a site, take a class, take an event. Awareness.
 - There may be local events that need support and this might be able to help them. Who do we help and how? Outreach resources, including institutions that can partner with smaller/struggling events that would benefit from greater attendance.
 - Sharing google docs
 - Memorialization (Jack Goodman) – broad discussion of goals – what is out there and what is not and what IS a memorial?
 - Look at County Seat of each county. Is there a way to prioritize?
 - We will connect with other working group
 - We will share ideas that seem to work well
 - It may be that someone finds something that moves us forward quickly.

- Do we want to focus on larger communities/smaller communities? How do we find those that are overlooked?
- Danny Cohen will check into sharing google docs – View Only for most with two people being able to edit the document OR many can add to the google doc as long as not using the chat or having conversations.
- Short-term working group – advisory council that can outreach or who already know. This can serve as contact for finding out more about on the ground activities that may not be available online.
- Our work may become more efficient and far reaching once the Advisory Council is in place.
- Identify goals for and date of next meeting
 - Group I: Jack and Jessica (Cook County)
 - Group II: Charlotte and Michael (Northern Illinois)
 - Group III: Sarah (Southern Illinois)

NEXT STEPS

- Coordinate with your partner and begin work of creating list of events
- Next Meeting: 15 November, 7-8:30pm