Sheridan Libraries and Museums Diversity Committee

Best Practices:

- Hold at least one event or project per month
- Act as facilitators for new initiatives and policies that further diversity awareness
- Use multiple communication channels to reach a broad audience, such as wikis, discussions, demonstrations, etc.

Highlights from 2011-2012:

Cultural Brownbags: In order to help the library community explore different elements of diverse culture, we have solicited individuals to host a series of cultural brownbag discussions. This year’s topics included Islam and Unitarian Universalism. We have a brownbag on Kwanza scheduled for later this year and have a couple of other ideas in the works.

JHU Takes Time for Schools: The Diversity Committee has continued to coordinate library projects with Baltimore City Schools. We had approximately 30 employees volunteer at two half-day work sessions at Great Kids Farm; two more days are scheduled this summer. In addition we had four volunteers in the "Story Pals" program at Barclay School and plan to inventory their library this summer.

Black History Month Film: In recognition of Black History Month, the committee sponsored a showing of the film “Something the Lord Made” followed by a discussion. The enthusiastic response has led us to make this an annual event.

One Maryland, One Book: For the fourth consecutive year, the Committee has promoted this program within the library. This year’s book, The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie drew around 15 participants for our discussion group. This funny and touching account of a Native American boy’s journey inside and outside the reservation prompted our most lively discussion yet.