



WESTCHESTER COUNTY (NY) CHAPTER  
OF  
THE LINKS, INCORPORATED  
COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

**COMMITTEE/FACET NAME:** Arts Facet

**MEETING DATE AND TIME/ATTENDEES:**

Meeting was held via teleconference on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 9:00 – 10:15 pm EST

Attendees: Link Ginger McKnight-Chavers, Link Lisa Stenson Desamours, Link Priscilla Dixon

Arts Facet Meeting Dates (as needed & subject to reschedule): September 10, 2019; October 8, 2019; November 12, 2019; December 10, 2019; January 14, 2020; February 11, 2020; March 10, 2020; April 14, 2020.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

1. November 2 "Harriet" Screening

1. Arts Facet members discussed the successful fundraiser screening of "Harriet" in Port Chester on November 2 in conjunction with the Westchester chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta. It was a powerful film and very well-attended, necessitating moving the event to a larger theater to accommodate attendees. Fundraiser benefitted the Harriet Tubman Foundation. Amount raised not known at the time of the conference call.

2. College Tour

1. Link Priscilla investigated potential cultural tours and experiences for students participating in proposed spring college tour of Philadelphia. She proposed and confirmed the suitability and desirability of the Philadelphia African American museum, which is small but very well done. Once we have further details from the planning committee/facet, we will contact and coordinate the museum tour and assess budgetary resources available to sponsor the tour and contribute to the overall college trip (likely more limited because of significant decrease in budget this year).

2. Link Priscilla suggested, as a further cultural component, that it would be a great treat and uniquely "Philly" cultural experience for the students to visit and dine at the Reading Terminal. As food is a great way to experience a city's distinct culture and personality, the atmosphere and variety of (reasonable) offerings at Reading Terminal would provide the students with a distinct flavor of the City of Philadelphia. Link Ginger will offer this suggestion to the trip coordinators.

3. In an Arts State of Mind in collaboration with the Wartburg & the Clay Arts Center.

1. Link Priscilla attended the November In an Arts State of Mind session and reported that approximately eight residents participated. This was a new group of residents, who seemed to enjoy the event, though they painted the cups that belonged to a previous group of residents.

2. We will inquire as to whether the prior group will be returning or if this new group will be returning on a going forward basis, or whether the Wartburg intends for there to be a different group every week. As part of the focus of the program is to facilitate and track impact upon the residents through consistent interaction and involvement through the art projects, this information will be important for us to assess and discuss with the Wartburg. We also need to know if the former group of residents will need to be prepared for the changes in their projects if they return.

#### 4. Literary Links Salon

1. Link Ginger updated the Facet regarding the information shared during the November 10 Eastern Area arts program call regarding The Literary Links Salon, a virtual book club (a pdf of the email summary of this new Eastern Area initiative was shared by Link Ginger with the Facet and is attached). The Links have entered into a partnership with Simon & Schuster publishing company, their 37 INK imprint (headed by African-American publishing executive, Dawn Davis), and Barnes & Noble in which Link Sisters will receive a discount on purchases of a selected 37 INK manuscript, with chapters potentially, at their choice, organizing discussions or other events relating to the books. The first book selection is "She Came to Stay" by Erica Armstrong Dunbar, a leading African-American history professor at the University of Pennsylvania who happens to be a Link Sister.
2. The mechanics of how each chapter should implement the Literary Links Salon are not specific, and each chapter is invited to create its own mechanism for purchasing and spreading awareness for the selected books. The number of books to be promoted each program year has not been determined, but this year they anticipate two or three, with the next book being Ambassador Susan Rice's new book, "Tough Love."
3. Link Ginger conveyed that the Area Arts Facet chairs emphasized a desire to show corporate and literary entities the influence of African-American women and women's groups through our purchasing power. The Area chairs asked each chapter arts facet chair to provide an estimate of how many books their chapter might commit to purchasing. Link Ginger declined to provide an estimate to the Area Chairs until first speaking with our Facet during our monthly call and then to the Executive Committee, both as matter of protocol. Link Ginger raised a number of questions regarding the purposes and execution of the program, and the Area chair suggested a one-on-one call to discuss questions on how Westchester NY might best mesh the program's goals with our own goals of promoting literacy, spreading awareness of African-American authors, and community service. At the present time, Link Ginger is waiting to hear back from the Area Chair regarding her preferred call time.
4. The Facet discussed needing more clarity on the purposes of the initiative beyond proving our purchasing power to corporations. We discussed ideas for community book events, chapter friendship events in the form of a book club, or educational/student book discussions, etc, in order to use the program to fulfill our chapter objectives. Facet members felt strongly that we should find ways to make this program fulfill a broader purpose.
5. Regarding the mechanics of purchasing books, Link Ginger indicated that the Area provided a web link to purchase books at a discount, with a code that tracks and attributes purchases to The Links. Link Ginger has asked the Area Chair to clarify whether they prefer chapters to buy a set number of books and then handle the logistics of taking orders, re-selling and distributing them, or whether they are encouraging us to just share the web link and encourage our chapter members and contacts to purchase books directly. Link Ginger indicated to the Area Chair that for logistics, budgetary and sales enhancement purposes, the program would likely be implemented most effectively for our chapter if we just share the web link to as many chapter members and individuals as possible and have individuals purchase their own books, rather than have the chapter order a conservative number of books. The facet concurred, and Link Lisa suggested that we could consider coordinating a facet or chapter purchase of books to give to the Young Achievers, if the content is appropriate.

As the first book is about Harriet Tubman, it would likely be a suitable book for high school students.

6. Link Priscilla queried whether there might be ethical considerations, particularly considering that the first author is a Link. Link Ginger mentioned that the agreement was with the publisher instead of the author, and that it was likely coincidental that Link Erica is a Link – she is a former National Book Award finalist and African-American history professor at U Penn, and the release of her book on Harriet Tubman was likely timed to the release of the film. Also the next author, to our knowledge, is not a Link. But all Facet members agreed that the ethical consequences of the Literary Link Salon should be discussed.
5. CTA: Classics Through the Ages (National)
  1. Link Ginger updated the Facet regarding her outreach to Dance Theatre of Harlem as our potential Classics Through the Ages partner. She made initial outreach to her personal contacts (the head of the DTH school and the head of development), who connected her with the Executive Director. The Executive Director of DTH immediately and enthusiastically responded regarding their interest in working with us, and Link Ginger is Scheduled to meet with the Executive Director, Anna Glass, on November 21. Link Ginger will update the Facet via email following the meeting.
  2. Link Lisa provided information regarding the prior DTH/Westchester Links event at New Rochelle High School and suggested coordinating a similar event in the spring.
  3. The Chapter Participation Form notifying National regarding our continued participation in CTY and any changes/updates in our program is due December 31
  4. Link Ginger has attached a copy of the 2019 program guidelines.
6. Dance Theatre of Harlem April performance tickets – Friendship Activity
  1. Link Lisa provided information regarding Dance Theatre of Harlem's April 15-18, 2020 performance run at City Center as a potential chapter friendship activity. Link Ginger will reach out to Roberto at DTH regarding a bloc of tickets for the chapter and extending payment date to December 13, so that we can obtain approval from the chapter and circulate ticket information to members.
7. Young Masters/Young Master Writers Competition
  1. During the Area Arts Chairs' call, the Area chairs provided an overview of the expanded Young Master Writers Competition, which now includes original, student-created dance, music and dramatic performances, in addition to writing.
  2. The deadline for the chapter to submit our notification of intent to participate in the competition is December 15. Each chapter can submit up to four entries, and the competition submission deadline is March 31.
  3. The Area chairs suggested that April – which has been designated as "Arts Awareness Month" – may provide a good opportunity for chapters to celebrate their student participants.
8. MoMA re-opening/Bettye Saar Tour
  1. MoMA re-opening in October, including an exhibition of African-American artist Bettye Saar through January 2020. Link Ginger obtained information through her MoMA contacts regarding potential interest in a student tour, and reached out regarding Young Achievers interest in a tour, but had not heard back from the facet at time of call.
  2. If timing of Young Achievers availability doesn't work for the Saar exhibition, Link Ginger will explore possibility of a student tour of African-American art on display in the museum from MoMA's permanent collection. Link Ginger will discuss during upcoming

Executive Committee meeting if coordination with other facets does not occur before then.

9. Broadway theater event

1. Depending upon budget after taking into account college tour, Facet discussed exploring tickets to "To Kill a Mockingbird" as a Broadway theater event for students during 2020. Ed Harris recently replaced Jeff Daniels in the lead role, and Link Ginger received an email from the group ticket service we used to obtain "Be More Chill" tickets, which suggests that there is more availability and more affordable options at the present time.

**ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION AT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: No**

**MOTIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER:** (Please fill out the Motion form and provide a copy to the Recording Secretary) None

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15pm; Next meeting will be December 10, 2019, 9:00pm.

**Submitted by: Ginger McKnight-Chavers**

**Date: November 16, 2019**

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