

Denver Immigrant & Refugee Commission  
Wednesday, May 31, 2017  
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning  
1373 Grant Street, Denver CO

Present: Victoria, Diana, Lizz Mueller, J Torres Yusef Ali, Jennifer Gueddiche, Jamie Torres, Temi, Karima O, Nermina,

Guest- ED For Mayor's Office of HOPE Erik Solivan, Adriana

Guest Presentation

HOPE- Connecting housing, homeless svcs, health and mental health and workforce.  
\$100million

Work in Elyria Swansea

268 homes will be rehabbed. 146 are owner occupied. 122 are renter occupied. Renovations, "sealing housing", will be paid for. \$4M. Plus wrap around services including health/mental health. Major undertaking and innovative on part of Mayor's Office.

Update on Commission Partnership Day

Great mixed group, facilitated conversation about our community, post-election. Question posed about the outreach done by our commission: we need a discussion about this as part of my strategy. What does this mean for us? Cross-pollination of city commissions—how do Latino, Native American, African American. LGBTQ, Aging, Women. DIRC, etc share and how can we work together? There is a huge amount of brain waste—so many layers of expertise at commission level- we need to reach out more to commissions to learn and partner. We hope to incorporate these thoughts into future meetings.

Suggestions: Commissioners could do public speaking at community events about the commissions works. Speak to youth groups. Perhaps we hold meetings outside the office-in the community- and invite community members in. Suggestions- Meetings to be held at Hidden Brook apts (13<sup>th</sup> and Xenia), CO Muslim Association, other locations. Jennifer and Youssef will follow up.

Diversity Awards Committee updates

We need to step up fundraising efforts!!!! We are very behind.

Potential Sponsors

\$17,000 budget ( \$3K raised)

Queen Auto (Yusef)

TIAA ( Karima)

Western Union (Jamie)

CO Bar Association/AILA (Diana)

Abuja Law Firm ( Diana)

The Denver Foundation (Jennifer)

Fitzsimons Credit Union (Jennifer)  
Wells Fargo (Jennifer will send link to Jamie)  
TCF Bank  
African Bar and Grill (Florian)  
Shish Kebab Grill or Damascus (Jennifer or Nadeen)

Goal: \$1,000 per commissioner.

Stories of Integration will be displayed at the event (small representation). Picture Me Here is also an option.

Entertainment- West African Drumming group, Persian group (minigrant awardees), others??  
Please send suggested groups to Victoria.

Mini Grant events

Invite CRO and Commander. To Wed May 28th meeting for a conversation.