

**QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**The City University of New York**  
**COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AND ARCHIVAL RESOURCES**  
**of the ACADEMIC SENATE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT for 2010 – 2011**

**To:** Emily Tai, Chairperson, Steering Committee, Academic Senate

**From:** Isabella Lizzul, Chairperson of the Committee on Cultural and Archival Resources

**Date:** July 2011

**Subject:** Annual Report of The Committee on Cultural and Archival Resources 2010/2011.

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**Committee Members:**

Susan Agin (Managing and Artistic Director The Queensborough Performing Arts Center)

Julia Carroll (Department of Basic Educational Skills)

Lorraine M. Cupelli (Department of Nursing)

Arthur Flug (Director, Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives)

John Gilleadeau (Department of Social Sciences)

Isabella Lizzul (Department of Health, Physical Education and Dance)

Zivah Perrel (English Department)

Faustino Quintanilla (Director of QCC Art Gallery)

Mike Ritchie (Department of Art and Design)

Jeffrey L. Schwartz (Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Technology)

Rosemary Zins (Vice President for Institutional Advancement)

**Committee Officers:** Isabella Lizzul, Chairperson (Jeffrey L. Schwartz, Secretary)

**Committee Meetings:**

Oct. 12, 2010

Nov. 19, 2010

Feb. 25, 2011

Apr. 8, 2011

May 16, 2011

May 23, 2011

**See attachments for agendas, minutes and assessment report of the Committee on Cultural and Archival Resources 2010/2011.**

## **Narrative Summary of Committee Work**

The Committee on Cultural and Archival Resources (CAR) began the academic year with the election of chairperson, Isabella Lizzul and secretary, Jeffrey L. Schwartz. Members were given previous reports and minutes of the Committee on Cultural and Archival Resources to apprise them of the prior work, accomplishments and actions of the CAR committee. Members were asked to reflect on the previous committee progress and begin to think of innovative ways in which to carry out the mission of the cultural and archival resources as a pedagogy resource within the curriculum and in the classroom and to identify strategies by which to communicate with other faculty members to encourage utilization of the cultural resources. One of the committee's action plans was to have our three directors Ms. Agin, Dr. Flug, and Mr. Quintanilla reach out to faculty members with whom they had successfully worked in the past, but this strategy yielded little response. Director Agin reached out through email and telephone and received no responses. Despite this fact, the three directors continued to promote integration of cultural and archival resources to the faculty with whom they have already worked.

Some indications of improved utilization of cultural and archival resources are as follows:

- Prof. Lorraine M. Cupelli and Prof. Mark Van Ells have brought classes to the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center.
- Director Flug reported an influx of students who have been told by instructors that they need to “go to a museum.”
- Director Agin reported that a student came to the box office saying that he or she “needed to see a show and write about it.”
- Director Agin also reported that twenty-two students in the Theater Department worked for pay backstage at a recent performance to convert the theater from an empty box to a Broadway-caliber performance space and back again.
- Director Quintanilla reported that classes come to the QCC Art Gallery pretty often to write papers about what they see there.

Director Quintanilla also reported that the QCC Art Gallery is a depository of Pre-Columbian art and Broadway paraphernalia, among other things.

Director Flug and Prof. Cupelli described a successful visit by a Fundamentals of Nursing class to the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives. They, along with Prof. Ritchie, realized that in the future this could also become an opportunity for a film class to make a film of their visit in future semesters. Prof. Ritchie stated that he would speak with the film class professor about this opportunity

All directors and other committee members were excited about the upcoming events at the Queensborough Performing Arts Center (QPAC), the QCC Art Gallery, and the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center.

The QCC Art Gallery:

**Through the Eyes of Our Ancestors: African Art from the James and Marjorie L. Wilson Collection**— fully adorned costumes that demonstrate the essence of African masquerade representing Western and Central African countries.

**I Amazon** — artist Jennifer Pastecchi, a resident of Bayside, Queens, makes use of existing materials to depict various Amazonian themes.

**Annual Juried Student Art Exhibit** — in one of the largest mounted student shows in recent years, approximately fifty students in the Art and Design Department presented their selected works including paintings, drawings, photography, digital design and ceramics. All were invited to come and support the chair and faculty members from the Department of Art and Design.

**Transitional Services for New York, Inc. (TSI)** — in collaboration with Queensborough's Service Learning Program and the Nursing Department, TSI — which works with persons with mental illness — displayed various projects completed in art therapy classes.

Prof. Carroll brought up the fact that more professors were likely to work with us if they saw it as an official high-impact strategy that would help them to obtain tenure, as Service Learning is. All agreed that a short, memorable name would be useful in this effort, with **“Cultural Connection”** getting the most positive response from the group. Faculty can then be urged to **“Make the ‘Cultural Connection.’”**

The committee discussed the possibility of a showcase to have the faculty talk about their positive experiences integrating the cultural and archival resources into their curricula. Vice President Zins suggested that Directors Agin, Flug, and Quintanilla send a list of faculty members they have worked with to Prof. Lizzul, who would then send them to Dr. Meg Tarafdar, Associate Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) to organize a panel session encouraging faculty to Make the Cultural Connection.

Vice President Zins reported that she attended the Advisory Planning Committee, which met on Nov. 18. At that meeting, Vice President Zins reported that she made sure to have them insert objectives into their formal plan that would expand and increase usage of cultural and archival resources by faculty and to have it added into curricula campus-wide.

Directors Agin, Flug, and Quintanilla all described ways in which they had successfully worked with members of the faculty to have lessons that involved our cultural and archival resources. Vice President Zins emphasized that it was important to have faculty members be the ones who are telling other faculty members about how the cultural and archival resources could enhance their curricula. Everyone agreed that this would be the most effective and efficient way to get information to the faculty.

All present agreed that the following two motivators must be emphasized to faculty in order for our committee work to have an effect:

1. Faculty should know that working with the cultural and archival resources would actually save them time because some of the lessons would come directly from our resources.
2. Using our resources will help faculty with tenure and promotion.

In order for the second motivator above to be true, we need to be “on the radar” of the tenure committee. Professors Lizzul and Schwartz are both involved in Service Learning and they and Vice President Zins suggested that some of the faculty/cultural and archival resource activities could be Service Learning projects. One of our meetings (May 16, 2011) included, Dr. Meg Tarafdar – Associate Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), Ms. Jo Pantaleo – QCC ExCEL Service-Learning Project Director and Director of the Basic Skills Learning Center, and Ms. Cristina DiMeo – Project Coordinator of the Office of Service Learning.

The attendees discussed some successful examples of cultural connections. Some had arisen from discussions during previous meetings. Examples were as follows:

- Massage students working on dancers from the Russian National Ballet
- Students taking art classes go to the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center

Attendees were encouraged and will work to inspire more cultural connections. It was suggested that more professors might be encouraged to make a cultural connection if they could be reminded at the Convocation of the College.

- **Former Committee Recommendations/Actions of the Academic Senate/Strategic Plan items/Middle States Items/Steering Committee Charges**
- The Committee revised the by-laws for the Committee, which were approved by the By-laws Committee in May 2010. These changes included changing the Committee name from the Committee on the Gallery for Performing Arts to the Committee on Cultural and Archival Resources so as to reflect the addition of the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives to the Committee’s charges.
- In the fall 2009 semester, the committee wrote and distributed a letter to the chairs of all academic departments of the college that explained the importance of using the Gallery, QPAC, and HRC in courses. The letter included sample assignments written by committee members as well as ideas about how each supplemental educational resource could be utilized by the different departments on campus. The letter asked the chairs to distribute the letter to their faculty.
- In the Spring of the 2010 semester, the committee wrote and distributed a letter to the faculty of all the academic departments of the College to follow up on the letter to the Chairs. The letter was distributed before faculty left for summer break so that they could use resources when they planned their syllabi for the Fall 2011 semester.

- The Committee worked Vice President Zins to complete marketing strategy for the Gallery, QPAC and HRC. The plan includes updating the websites for each entity, creating accessible exhibit and performance schedules one semester in advance to encourage faculty planning, linking to the schedules of these entities through each Academy's website, and soliciting faculty's feedback on using these entities.

Dr. Susan Jacobowitz created a bibliography of text ready to be used to incorporate the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center into EN101 (English Composition I) or EN102 (English Composition II: Introduction to Literature.) This was a successful addition to the QCC Cultural Resources and the Curriculum Wiki, specifically the "Faculty Assignments" section on the Wiki (September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010).

**Current Disposition of all items acted on by the Committee, by the College, or by the Academic Senate**

**Action items: Our committee will inquire about the possibility of including a reminder to faculty at the Convocation of the College to utilize the Art Gallery, QPAC and the Kupferberg Resource Center. We will contact President Call to explore the feasibility of this.**

Dr. Tarafdar suggested that there be a series of workshops for those professors who wish to make the Cultural Connection in their classes. This suggestion led to these two action items:

- 1. The CAR committee will further explore the possibility of creating a workshop series with Dr. Meg Tarafdar – Associate Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL).**
- 2. Each cultural and archival resource will look into the possibility of having a ten-minute open house at some point during the fall semester.**

It was discussed and agreed that promotion of the cultural and archival resources by way of websites, commercials, and student skits would be our current focus. Prof. Gilleaudeau discussed the possibility of producing several short promotional videos with video archivist Mr. Phil Roncoroni. Prof. Gilleaudeau has been meeting and working with our three directors Agin, Flug, and Quintanilla along with video archivist Phil Roncoroni.

Currently, the Committee, more specifically, Prof. Gilleaudeau, is producing, in concert with our Video Archivist, short, introductory videos to our various QCC Cultural Institutions. It is hoped that these videos can be distributed or made available via link during faculty orientation, so as to encourage new instructors, with the aid of the directors, to incorporate the cultural centers into their curricula.

Ultimately these introductory videos may also be used as the header on individual testimonial pages for each of our QCC cultural centers, with short testimonial videos of

teachers who have successfully utilized the centers making up the bulk of page content. Such pages will require additional time to produce, and at present, we have only solicited the Directors for names of "satisfied customers" who may be willing to dedicate a little time to being interviewed on video.

If this second stage proves viable, we would have a constantly updateable page(s) with brief videos by colleagues who have used the resources, encouraging those who have not, to consider the possibilities for educational enrichment via such a strategy.

- **New Committee Members**

Julia Carroll, Lorraine M. Cupelli, Isabella Lizzul, Zivah Perrel, Jeffrey L. Schwartz

- **New Chairperson and Secretary**

The current chairperson, Isabella Lizzul and current secretary, Jeffrey L. Schwartz were unanimously voted for and will continue within their positions.

**Appreciation:** Thank you to the committee members for all their hard work and a productive year. We would also like to thank, Dr. Meg Tarafdar – Associate Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), Ms. Jo Pantaleo – QCC ExCEL Service-Learning Project Director and Director of the Basic Skills Learning Center, and Ms. Cristina DiMeo – Project Coordinator of the Office of Service Learning and video archivist Mr. Phil Roncoroni.