Post-Event Summary Report

Name of Event: *Strength in Community: An Unconference for BIPOC Library Workers*

Date of Event: May 20 2025

Location of Event: Madison, Wi

Sponsoring Organization(s): free event Wisconsin Department of Instruction (DPI) Public Library Development Team, with funding support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. It was organized by The IDEA Project: Wisconsin Libraries In Action, with input from an advisory group of public and public-tribal library workers.

Conference Summary and Highlights-

Inclusion vs. Belonging: Identity and Cultural Humility Work in the Library

Cassy Leeport UW Madison TLAM-

The speaker defined culture as the combination of relationship and meaning. While cultures within our communities may differ, they often share overlapping values and practices. She emphasized the importance of cultural humility, which involves maintaining a critically self-reflective attitude. It means being open, humble, recognizing the value in others, and acknowledging when you do not have all the answers. She also discussed classification initiatives such as the Brian Deer Classification and Maawn Doobiegeng. These classification systems reflect Indigenous worldviews in organizing knowledge, which does not always reflect accurately in Dewey. Additionally, she spoke about the concept of the Seven Generations—the idea that we carry the legacy of our ancestors with us, and that our actions today will affect the next seven generations to come.

Belonging and Mental Health Well-being through and Equity Lens: Tony Chambers Director for Community Well-being at the Center for Healthy Minds

Belonging is not diversity equity and inclusion and not consistent across all human experiences at any given moment. Belonging is not always good, if you change yourself to fit in. In order for you to want to belong, they want to want you. He talked about our epidemic of loneliness especially children and seniors and how lack of belong is a factor. The system around inclusion and equity contributes to the feeling of belonging. He talked about the work that goes into making space for belong and how it has to be reciprocal. Social network connections that have frequency of contact, quality of contact, and alignment of contacts are needed to produce healthy belonging. To create belonging everyone must have a voice in the systems, if this does not happen you create spaces that others are a guest but you do not belong.