

## POCinLIS AMERICA

America I am the product of your legacy.  
America I'm making that librarian money now, July 13, 2018.  
My mind is made up, I'm going to organize librarians of color.  
I won't ever celebrate Thanksgiving again.  
I'll be fasting for the National Day of Mourning instead.  
Gloria Anzaldúa taught me about hybridity and I get all hyped up to Cihuatl-Ce's Dreamer.  
America why do yellow, indigenous, black, brown, and queer bodies not matter to you?  
Chingate ya!  
America don't you know there are three Americas y las islas?  
I need to get my mind right from your Eurocentric education models, it's controlling my life yo!  
America, cuando?  
When will you learn how to practice humanity?  
When will you be worthy of your immigrant families?  
America when will you see borders are obsolete.  
America why are your libraries still predominantly white?  
The first time I trusted a white women was in 2013. She drove us to Plymouth, Massachusetts. On the way she told me she wanted to work to end racism.  
America we need more Myrna Moraleses, Angela Boyds, the Bautista sisters, and the Sal Güereñas in LIS.  
Your info-structures are built on oppressions. No more diversity talk. Name them now!  
Why is academic banging acceptable, but gang banging frowned on?  
America you made me want to be a revolutionary.  
I start with love epistemologically in any setting.  
I will never stop organizing even if I get static.  
America when I was a kid I knew I was *different*.  
America my mom taught me never depend on a man.  
America my abuelita loving warned me to marry a white man.  
America Naomi Wolf said it so well, [that you], "America is a state of mind"<sup>1</sup> but in my eyes you are the great American lie.  
I was born to be the led and not expected, wanted, or considered the leader.  
America when I was in college I realized I had always been a feminist.  
In the book, *The Will to Change: Masculinity, and Love* bell hooks explicitly shares how those who call out systems of oppression in academia are often not taken seriously. She discovered this when delivering speeches. Audience members would laugh when she called you white-supremacist capitalist patriarchy.<sup>2</sup>  
It's risky business to the POC.  
America how will we the POCinLIS lead?

Echo Park, July 2018

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<sup>1</sup> Naomi Wolf, *Give Me Liberty: A Handbook for American Revolutionaries* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2008), 6.

<sup>2</sup> bell hooks, *The Will to Change: Men, Masculinity, and Love* (New York: Washington Square Press, 2004), 29.



Verse

# Holding the Center: The Evolution of Librarians of Color in Los Angeles (LOC-LA)

POCinLIS Summit - July 13, 2018 - IG @librariansofcolor

Loyola Marymount University

- POC-led in LIS space
- Grassroots organizing
- Early-career leadership
- Peer-to-peer mentorship



**VISION  
&  
PURPOSE**

**Librarians of Color, Los Angeles** (2013-Present) is a grassroots POC collective comprised of information workers. We seek to connect alternative rhetorics and living theories to support one another in our areas of specialty or explorational interest. We are called to action to work toward the eradication of anti-Blackness and other forms of racism and oppressive discrimination. - *LOC-LA Manifesto*

**WHAT IS LOC-LA?**

# LOC-LA Framework



- Space free of dominant culture discrimination
- Action to work toward eradication of anti-blackness & other forms of racism and oppressive discrimination
- Empower / invoke challenging narrative within LIS, greater society, to reframe who we are as individuals & the populations we work with
- Support local communities through: activism, volunteerism, lifestyle “practice what you preach in daily-life”

# LOC-LA



#locLA



# SO FAR...

- Job Search (Mock Interviews/ Presentations /Help with Resumes / Cover Letters / CVs)
- Network: Sharing Information and Resources
- POC only safer-space and support
- Social outings (arting, real-talk, dinners, board gaming)
- Intellectual exploration (POC-centered author book club, zine workshop, critical discussions)
- Activism

# EYES TO THE FUTURE...

- Capacity-building - personal level & Growing community - group level
- Focus on R & R, with a commitment to self-care practices
- Create and lead transformative professional development
- Organize community lectures to engage in critical discussions and call to action
- Grow leaders within our community
- Create grassroots community partnerships



# ACTIVITY

What does it mean to be brave as POC in a predominantly white space?

How & why do you sit in your power?

What vital words or phrases would you send to empower POC in LIS?

## Name This Project

<https://bit.ly/2NdbAF8>

# Contact Info



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#librarianOfColor #locLA  
#Decolonize



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