

Minutes Religious Inclusion Working Group

October 29, 2024

In attendance: Elizabeth Yeo, Sara Parks, Donna Tremblinski, Caspian Thohidian

Regrets: Jamie Levin

1. Elizabeth opened the meeting and welcomed our guests from Facilities Management, Blair Maltby, Jeff De Leebeeck and Doug Campbell who would be a resource to the committee on options for Holiday Decorations and Inclusivity. Areas discussed included:
 - Use inclusive, universally appealing decorations such as "Peace" (potentially add multiple languages in future years) for a welcoming and inclusive holiday message.
 - The nativity scene, traditionally displayed at Morrison Hall, could be moved adjacent to the chapel to respect inclusivity while maintaining religious representation.
 - Where December holiday events are hosted for the community involving symbols that have a specific religious tradition, such as a Christmas tree lighting, it's recommended that lighting of other symbols are included such as a lighted menorah, and lighted Kwanzaa candles. Music would include carols selected from a variety of traditions or secular.
2. **Projection System for Inclusive Messaging and Decor:**
 - The committee discussed the option of a permanent projector setup to allow flexible displays of various symbols and messages on one or more prominent building exterior wall locations throughout the year. This could be associated with holiday displays but could also be used to support other communications.
 - The committee discussed a [laser light 3 D light display](#) on Memorial Field area.
3. **Annual Lighting Calendar:**
 - StFX previously purchased colored skins for the lights that project on Morrison Hall and the StFX sign at the main entrance. Members recommend creating a color-coded annual calendar to coordinate lighting displays for various celebrations and events, that would be assigned to a specific department to be responsible for the updates.

Key steps:

1. **"Peace" Sign Installation:**
 - Coordinate with Communications for the pricing of the design and Admiral for pricing for fabrication. Mock up a potential design for consideration.
2. **Confusion Square Setup:**
 - Consider/consult re Kwanzaa decorations. We could position the Menorah near the Christmas tree in Confusion Square, ensuring logistical support for power and elevation

to enhance visibility. Discussion with Alumni needed re proposal to annual tree lighting “Holiday Lights” potentially incorporating symbols of various traditions.

3. Projection Research for future years:

- Conduct a walk-through to identify potential projection walls, considering high-visibility areas like Memorial Field. **Action:** RIWG members.
- Work with FM to explore affordable outdoor projection solutions.

Elizabeth will prepare a summary for the Executive Team. Next steps to be coordinated with key stakeholders, including the Chaplaincy, Communications team, Alumni Association, and Facilities Management.