

**DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM HIGHLIGHTS**

Libraries and Museums: Impact beyond Books and Knowledge

Zoom Webinar-May 21, 2020

A virtual meeting of DVRPC's Regional Community and Economic Development Forum (RCEDF) was held on May 21, 2020, beginning 10:00a.m. Ms. Cilurso provided an overview of the webinar and provided introduction slides about DVRPC and the Greater Philadelphia region and then introduced the first speaker, Ms. Emily Dowdall, the Reinvestment Fund.

Emily Dowdall started her presentation with background information from a Pew report she completed earlier in her career. The presentation highlighted how important libraries are to community members. She moved on to discuss a paper that she co-authored with the IMLS illustrating how libraries are not obsolete. Her presentation concluded with information about the next phase of the study that will be conducted with the University of Pennsylvania.

The next speaker was Joyce S. Lee, FAIA, WELL AP, LEED Fellow, IndigoJLD. Joyce provided an overview of how museums are working to become more sustainable and adopting green practices. She illustrated how during this pandemic is an opportunity for libraries and museums to implement these practices to continue the trend of less carbon emissions. Joyce provided community engagement examples from Philadelphia museums and spoke about how they can be centers of activity and charity.

The final speaker was Pamela Bridgeforth, PA CDC. Pam spoke about how CDCs utilize libraries and other cultural institutions for community engagement and how this pandemic illustrates the importance of these places as centers for communication, learning, and safe places.

Questions and discussion were entertained by participants for approximately 15 minutes. Attendees were concerned about how libraries are funded, if they will receive money from the CARES Act to help in the recovery phase, and what will happen to museums given revenue has declined rapidly. A recording of the webinar is available at www.dvrpc.org/rcedf.