

## **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access**

### The WECAN IDEA Committee

Thank you to all of you who have reached out over the last few years to express an interest in working with WECAN on issues of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (IDEA). We are heartened by the work happening in our WECAN member programs all over the continent.

This fall, the WECAN IDEA committee put out a call for letters of interest from individuals inspired to support the IDEA work through committee membership. We were fortunate and delighted to receive letters of interest from a rich array of colleagues, all of whom had much to offer by way of personal and professional experience in this realm.

Much thought was given to the overall make-up of the group and to fulfilling the intention to expand the circle of colleagues to include more diverse experiences, perspectives and skills that are critical to our work. We are pleased to share that we are now a committee of 13, coming from both the US and Canada from a variety of backgrounds and with many collective years of experience in IDEA work of all kinds. Our common thread is a deep commitment to Waldorf early childhood education and our wish to support its advancement in the realm of IDEA.

Our initial meetings have focused on creating a vessel for healthy collaboration, identifying our hopes and developing a set of goals to work toward ensuring that Waldorf early childhood education is truly inclusive.

Our current IDEA committee members are:

Nancy Blanning - Denver, CO

Adrienne Doucette - Bellingham, WA

Otsistohkwí:yo Melissa Elliot - Brantford, ON

Meggan Gill - Minneapolis, MN

Laura Mason - Issaquah, WA

Kate May-Price - Brooklyn, NY

Anjum Mir – Los Angeles, CA

Gina Passano-Burger - Seattle, WA

Juliana Pinto McKeen - Brooklyn, NY

Magdalena Toran - Hadley, MA

Lynn Turner – Silver Spring, MD

Leslie Wetzonis Woolverton - Silver Spring, MD

Meagan Wilson - Bolton, ON

Several members of the IDEA Committee were members of the WECAN 2021 February Conference Planning Group or presenters at the conference. Please see the article on the conference for further information on how this work will continue.