

Annual Report Sustainability Round Table 2016-2017

Chair's Report:

The Executive Board met each month throughout the year with few exceptions. The following accomplishments were notable:

- Two virtual business meetings, one for Midwinter Meeting and one for Annual 2017, were held to give the membership an inside view and update on the SustainRT's work.
- In-person business meetings was held for Midwinter Meeting and ALA Annual 2017.
- The board prepared a Post-Inauguration Message to the Library Community to frame a vision forward.
- SustainRT joined the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT), American Indian Library Association (AILA) and the Asian Pacific American Library Association (APALA) to invite Bill McKibben to speak at the Annual Conference.
- Quarterly updates were prepared by the chair for inclusion in the SRRT newsletter.
- Two SustainRT members were appointed to ALA's Executive Board Task Force on Sustainability. A draft report is slated for the ALA Midwinter Meeting in 2018. The final report is slated for the ALA Annual Conference 2018.
- The Coordinator, Rene Tanner, and Secretary, Lindsay Marlow, represented SustainRT at the Spectrum Leadership Institute Opening Reception at ALA Annual.

Submitted by: René Tanner, SustainRT Coordinator

Governance Committee Report:

The 2016-2017 goal of the committee was to continue to the work to bring the [ALA Resolution on the Importance of Sustainable Libraries](#) to life. Through partnership building with Council, Executive Board, the Executive Director and Senior Associate Executive Director, Conference Committee Chair and Conference Services Staff we are building a coalition to start the work to systemically address the topic of sustainability in our profession across the association. Three notable accomplishments over the past year include:

- Submission of the ALA Sustainability Round Table (SustainRT) Statement on the importance of the inclusion of "sustainability" within the Context of Future Accreditation;
- Opening the door for a featured web series in *American Libraries*, "the voice of the profession and the flagship magazine of the *American Library Association*"; and ultimately
- The formation of an ALA Special Task Force on Sustainability, slated to kick off later this year. The task force, formed by the Executive Board of ALA, is charged to develop a white paper that describes areas of focus and recommendations for the ALA Executive

Board to increase the adoption and implementation of sustainable practices by the Association, the profession, libraries and the communities they serve.

The future is bright for the work that needs to be done in our communities through our profession and SustainRT is leading the way.

Submitted by: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Sustain RT Governance Committee Board Liaison and Member-at-Large

Online Education Committee Report:

Members: Jeanne Pfander, Chair, Beth Filar-Williams, Tracey Urbick Board

Liaison: Madeleine Charney

SustainRT's Online Education webinars are 30-minute sessions offered on a quarterly "seasonal" basis (spring, summer, fall, winter) on Thursdays from 12:15-12:45 p.m. EST. All webinars are recorded, with the recording and supplementary materials (Q&A, presenter slides, etc.) posted on the SustainRT Events web page - <http://www.ala.org/sustainrt/events-0>.

Webinars:

From July 2016 through June 2017, the Online Education Committee planned and hosted the following webinars:

- [Bob Doppelt](#), author of *Transformational Resilience: How Building Human Resilience to Climate Disruption Can Safeguard Society and Increase Well-being*. 06/08/2017
- STARS and Beyond: Adventures of an Embedded Librarian in the Campus Sustainability Office. Presented by Amy Brunvand, University of Utah. 03/09/2017
- David Selden, National Indian Law Library, spoke about the founding of the [Committee on Environmental Sustainability](#) under the American Association of Law Libraries. Their activities include a Conference Travel Offset Project and a Resolution on Sustainability in Law Libraries. 12/01/2016
- Planting the Seeds: Libraries and Librarians as Change Agents for Sustainability within Their Communities - a recap from ALA 2016 Conference. Speakers included Jodi Shaw, children's librarian, Brooklyn Public Library; Madeleine Charney, sustainability studies librarian, University of Massachusetts Amherst; Mary Beth Lock, director of Access Services, Wake Forest University; and Ray Pun, first year student success librarian, California State University, Fresno. 09/15/2016

Learnings / Challenges/Questions:

- Which webinar platform to use in the future: we have used Blackboard, and sometimes ALA's Connect (which needs coordinating with John Amundsen, our staff liaison)
- Whether to request RSVPs

- Fine tune our workflow
- For planning, working with differing levels of tech abilities in speakers, promoting and following up on webinars.

Submitted by: Madeleine Charney, SustainRT Immediate Past-Coordinator and Online Education Board Liaison

Outreach Committee Report:

American Libraries Column

During the summer of 2016, the Outreach Committee initiated discussions with American Libraries (AL) Magazine about a potential regular column in AL magazine. In winter of 2017, AL Magazine offered SustainRT an online “trial” column. The Outreach Committee performed solicited authors from the SustainRT general membership, and secured 13 authors/topics. The committee created an editorial calendar, which was submitted to AL Magazine. The (trial) column “Libraries and Sustainable Thinking” was launched in April 2017.

Travel Award

In fall of 2016, the SustainRT board approved \$500 in funding for a SustainRT ALA Conference Travel Award. The Outreach Committee decided that a video contest, in which the finalists must solicit “likes” from their friends, and in which the video receiving the most “likes” wins, would be an excellent form of Outreach and PR for SustainRT. The committee attempted to solicit entrants via FB, the SustainRT Blog, SustainRT list-serv, various other ALA list-servs, and other channels. The committee created a Google form for entrant registration. Unfortunately, the committee received only one entrant. The committee believes that the addition for free student memberships this summer (see “Student Memberships”) will increase membership of young people who may be more inclined to enter a contest for a travel award. The committee will reevaluate the travel award in fall 2017.

Promotional Video

In January 2017, the Outreach Committee created a video featuring SustainRT members discussing sustainability endeavors that reflect the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The video was played for an international audience of librarians entitled “Encounter for Sustainable Development in Libraries,” held in Portugal on February 10, 2017. The video featured SustainRT members discussing various library initiatives they have participated in that support the UN Sustainable Development goals. *SustainRT Blog*

- The Outreach Committee has posted 17 blog posts during the 2016-17 year (July 2016-June 2017)
- In March 2017, the Outreach Committee solicited and posted candidate statements from all candidates for SustainRT Board (Member-at-Large and Coordinator-Elect), as well as all candidates for ALA President.

Student Memberships

During the fall of 2016 and early winter of 2017 year, the Outreach Committee explored the possibility of providing free memberships to students. In spring 2017, the SustainRT board agreed to approve free Student Memberships for ALA members. Free Student Memberships will begin in September 2017.

ALA Annual

- The Outreach Committee hosted a Table at the ODLOS Diversity Fair at ALA Annual 2017. Kate Hutchens, SustainRT Secretary, designed and printed the poster. She also represented SustainRT at the event.
- The Outreach Committee planned to design and print bookmarks to be handed out after the acclaimed activist and ALA keynote speaker Bill McKibben's address at ALA Annual 2017, SustainRT brochures and ribbons were made available in exchange.

Submitted by: Jodi Shaw, SustainRT Incoming Coordinator and Outreach Committee Board Liaison and Christina Ganswisch, SustainRT Outreach Committee Chair

Programming Committee Report:

Programming committee members: Meg King-Sloan, Eleanor Johnson, and Mary Beth Lock, Programming Committee Board Liaison

- Met virtually through a series of phone calls and identified topics to pursue for our ALA Annual meeting.
- Settled on a panel "[Taking the LEED: Sustainable building projects @ your library](#)"
- Identified and contacted a library contact and architect from two projects completed 4-5 years ago, one academic and one from a public library. The four panelists included: Patrick Deaton, Shann Rushing, Hunt Library, North Carolina State University Mark Benno, Traci Lesneski, Madison Public Library
- Conducted two planning phone calls with all participants to ensure supportive, but not overlapping content.
- Also contacted Arlene Hopkins and Stephen Maack who had done a LLAMA webinar on sustainable project planning and they jointly developed: "[Next Gen Library Planning: Strategic Library Planning for Sustainability & Resilience in Community](#)"
- When Stephen had a scheduling conflict and had to drop out, Arlene agreed to continue to do the presentation on her own.
- The sessions were held on Sunday, June 25 at ALA Annual in Chicago.
- Lindsay Marlow, SustainRT Treasurer, was the master of ceremonies for both programs.

Submitted by: Mary Beth Lock, SustainRT Member-at-Large and Programming Committee Board Liaison