



**Stephanie Chase** (she/her/hers)

Executive Director, Libraries of Eastern Oregon  
Baker City, OR 97814  
Founding Principal, Constructive Disruption  
Portland, OR 97212

**Type of Library:** Public

**Statement of Professional Concerns:**

To me, libraries of all types are essential to creating and sustaining healthy, connected, vibrant communities. In our libraries we connect with friends and neighbors, serve those in need, inspire children to a lifelong love of reading and learning, and help users find what they didn't even know they needed. Our libraries, big and small, and in as many different ways as there are libraries, are active, engaging spaces, and often provide the heartbeat to an organization, or school, or community. And yet, library service is facing unprecedented challenges in divided communities, and in a divided profession. Remaining true to our core values of librarianship in an ever-changing society, recognizing the ways library service and librarianship has contributed to and still supports oppressive systems that marginalize and exclude, and staying united in the face of challenges and loss of positions and funding requires us to be active and curious learners and contributors. I would like to part of supporting one of the best ways we have to do that work — this Association — as part of the Executive Board. I truly believe we can do this better together.

It has been a pleasure — and at times, let's be honest, a challenge — to serve this Association as part of the Council and the Forward Together Working Group. I have been inspired by my colleagues, both those I have known for a long time and those I have met through this work. I have so enjoyed being able to support my community of practice in public libraries deeply, through more than a decade of service through committee work and Board service. As this phase of our governance work comes to a close and my service to the Association through my position on Council and the PLA Board of Directors, it became clear to me that I didn't feel *done*, that I might hope my willingness to speak up, to ask hard questions, to push against doing things the way they have always been done, and to do so keeping equitable access front of mind could be of service as ALA continues to transform.

**Previous Positions:**

Director, Hillsboro (OR) Public Library  
Library Strategies, BiblioCommons  
Director of Library Programs and Services, The Seattle Public Library (WA)  
Central Library Administrator and Reference, Adult Services, and Programming Coordinator, Multnomah County Library (OR)  
Director, Stowe (VT) Free Library  
Director, Frost Free Library (NH)  
School Librarian, Fletcher (VT) Elementary School  
Director, Westford (VT) Public Library  
Librarian, New York Public Library

**Education:**

Pratt Institute, School of Information Sciences, Masters in Library and Information Sciences, 2000

University of New Hampshire, Bachelor's Degree in English, 1998

**Affiliation(s):**

FTRF (Freedom to Read Foundation), PLA (Public Library Association)

**ALA and/or ALA-APA activities:**

2020-2012 Forward Together Working Group  
2019-2020 *Public Libraries* magazine columnist  
2017-present ALA Council  
2017-present PLA Board of Directors  
2016-2018 Romance Writers of America Library Grant Jury  
2014-2016 PLA *Public Libraries* Advisory Committee  
2014-2015 PLA Nominating 2015 Committee  
2013-2015 PLA Technology Committee  
2012-2014 RUSA CODES The Reading List  
2011-2014 RUSA CODES Readers Advisory Committee/ Readers' Advisory Research and Trends  
2010-2012 PLA Leadership Development Task Force

**Officers held in state/regional library associations and other associations:**

2022-present Oregon Library Association, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Antiracism Committee  
2020-2021 Edelweiss Bookfest Planning Committee  
2019-present Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL) "Morning Buzz" contributing writer  
2019-2020 Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL) Conference Committee  
2019-2022 Co-chair, BiblioCommons BiblioCon user conference  
2017-2019 League of Oregon Cities League of Oregon Cities Conference Committee  
2017-2019 Oregon Library Association, Leadership Development Committee  
2013-2015 Book Expo America Speaker Selection Committee  
2012-2014 Random House Library Advisory Board

**Honors and/or Awards:**

2020 ELGL Top Influences in Local Government Award  
2019 ELGL Top Influences in Local Government Award  
2010 *Library Journal* Movers & Shakers Award (award returned)  
2010 Public Library Association Leadership Fellow  
2008 Green Mountain Award (for distinguished service or unusual contributions to Vermont libraries)

**Major Accomplishments:**

2012-2018 LibraryReads, founding member and inaugural Steering Committee Chair  
2008-2012 Green Mountain Library Consortium, founding President

**Publications:**

A selection includes:

2022 "Discarding Bureaucracy: A new definition of flexibility," CIVICA's "One Thing" Series;  
<https://www.civica.com/en-au/thought-leadership-library/discarding-bureaucracy-a-new-definition-of-flexibility/>

- 2019 "Evolving Public Libraries," *Public Libraries* magazine;  
<https://publiclibrariesonline.org/2019/09/evolving-public-libraries/>
- 2017 "Around the world in not-quite-80 libraries: what library trends around the world show us about future library spaces." Co-authored with Justine Hyde. Australian Library and Information Association.

**Number of Years as an ALA Member: 16**