



ED GARCIA FOR ALA PRESIDENT

Library Director at Cranston (RI) Public Library

Leadership

ALA is facing internal and external challenges that need strong leadership and a collaborative effort to overcome. I will bring proven leadership and experience to help navigate these challenges. Under my leadership, the Cranston Public Library was awarded the 2020 Jerry Kline Community Impact Prize and the 2016 LibraryAware Community Award. On the ALA Executive Board, I helped guide our Association through important and difficult decisions including hiring a new Executive Director, the sale of the ALA Office building, and moving the 2020 Annual Conference & 2021 Midwinter meeting from in-person to virtual. As ALA President, I will continue our work of transforming ALA into a more responsive, sustainable, and modern association

Advocacy

I have significant experience in legislative advocacy and have worked extensively with members of Congress. As Legislative Advocacy Chair for the Rhode Island Library Association, I have fought for increased state funding for libraries and for statewide adoption of the AASL standards for school librarians. With the continued threats to federal funding for libraries and increased strain on local budgets due to the pandemic, our advocacy efforts need to be foremost in our work. As libraries reopen, the safety, job security, and mental wellness of library workers should be at the top of our advocacy efforts.

Diversity

We need to continue promoting diversity not only in our profession but in all levels of leadership in ALA.

I have had a strong commitment to diversity throughout my career. I served on the Committee on Diversity & served two terms on the Spectrum Scholar selection jury. In Cranston, I serve on the city's Diversity Commission & helped create a partnership of community groups & residents to work on EDI and anti-racism in our city.

Sustainability

ALA can be a model for our profession around sustainability. On the Executive Board, I moved to add a carbon offset to the registration for all ALA events and I have worked to create a new Sustainability Committee

I believe in bringing people together. I have a proven track record in ALA and in my community of working with varied groups to bring about positive change. I have a passion for public service that my work within the association has nurtured. I will bring that passion and commitment as your ALA President.

Vote for me, Ed Garcia, for ALA President