**TO:** PLA Board of Directors

**FROM:** Melissa Faubel Johnson, CMP

 Conference Manager

**RE:** PLA 2022 Conference Update

**DATE:** June 9, 2021

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:** Report

**OVERVIEW**

Plans for the PLA 2022 Conference in Portland, Oregon - March 23-25, 2022, are in progress. PLA staff are moving forward with a live, in-person event, along with an expanded virtual conference. The conference (teaser) website is live at [www.placonference.org](http://www.placonference.org) and includes general information on the conference schedule, program proposals, registration and exhibits. The official conference website will launch in September.

**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

*Tuesday, March 22*

7:30am – 5:00pm Registration Open

9:00am – 5:00pm Preconferences

*Wednesday, March 23*

7:30am – 6:00pm Registration Open

8:30am – 10:00am Opening Session

10:15am – 11:15am Programs

11:30am – 12:30pm Programs

12:30pm – 1:45pm Lunch Break

2:00pm – 3:00pm Programs

3:00pm – 6:00pm Exhibits Opening Reception

*Thursday, March 24*

7:30am – 5:30pm Registration Open

8:00am – 9:00am BIG IDEAS

9:00am – 5:00pm Exhibits Open

9:00am – 10am Exhibits Coffee Break

10:15am – 11:15am Programs

11:30am – 12:30pm Programs

12:30 – 1:45pm Author Lunches

2:00pm – 3:00pm Programs

3:00pm – 4:00pm Exhibits Coffee Break

4:00pm – 5:00pm Programs

5:30pm – 6:30pm Audio Publisher’s Association Panel

6:00pm – 7:30pm All Conference Reception

*Friday, March 25*

7:30am – 4:00pm Registration Open

8:00am – 9:00am BIG IDEAS

9:00am – 2:00pm Exhibits Open

9:00am – 10:00am Exhibits Coffee Break

10:15am – 11:15am Programs

11:30am – 12:30pm Programs

12:30pm – 1:45pm Author Lunches

1:30pm – 2:00pm Exhibit Closing Reception

2:15pm – 3:15pm Programs

3:30pm – 4:30pm Programs

5:00pm – 6:00pm Closing Session

**CONFERENCE PROGRAMMING**

The PLA 2022 Conference [call for proposals](https://www.placonference.org/proposals.cfm) opened on May 13, with a deadline of June 21, 2021. This window, which will be open for 6 weeks, is shorter than recent conference years; the call for proposals was open for 8 weeks for PLA 2020 and 10 weeks for PLA 2018. Roughly 60-70% of PLA Conference proposals are submitted in the final week before the deadline.

While some aspects of the conference may be different due to safety and health protocols, providing high-quality programming remains our top priority. We are seeking proposals for educational sessions that reflect the innovation, creativity, adaptability, and diversity we have seen emerge from the public library field this past year.

The PLA 2022 Conference Program Subcommittee will review proposals in July and make selection decisions in August, with notifications expected to be sent in early September. PLA intends to offer a robust slate of programming, with over 100 programs and preconferences available to attendees in Portland and via the Virtual Conference.

PLA offered submitters the option to select whether they prefer to present in person in Portland, prefer to present virtually, or are open to either option. Of the 60 PLA 2022 proposals submitted or in progress at the time of this writing (June 7), 37 prefer to present in person; 22 are open to presenting in person or virtually; and only 1 prefers to present virtually.

**REGISTRATION & HOUSING**

Registration and housing for the PLA 2022 Conference will open in mid-September.

**EXHIBITS**

During the PLA 2020 Conference in Nashville, 164 exhibitors reserved a total of 505 booths for the 2022 Conference in Portland. Under normal circumstances, vendors would have been required to secure their booth space with a deposit payment in 2020. The PLA exhibit management team at Corcoran Expositions is working to secure booth deposits with a deadline of June 30. At that time, we will have a better understanding of how many exhibitors plan to exhibit at the conference.

**FUNDRAISING/SCHOLARSHIPS**

The PLA Fiscal Officer, along with other member-leaders, are interested in raising scholarship funds. Research and outreach will occur over the summer, with the goal of launching the fundraising campaign in September. All funds raised will be restricted to this use and spent within FY22.