

TO: PLA Board of Directors

FROM: PLA Staff

RE: Reports from PLA committees, advisory groups and task forces

DATE: October 12, 2021

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT: Report

ACTION REQUESTED BY:

DRAFT OF MOTION: N/A

OVERVIEW

PLA solicits status reports from its committee chairs twice yearly. This will ensure that the Board has an opportunity to review the work of PLA's committees.

We asked chairs to provide a report that is high level and provides a brief overview and indicated it does not need to be nor is it intended to be an exhaustive list of activities. Instructions and form are [here](#). Certain committees are excused from this process. These include the PLA Budget and Finance Committee and Nominating Committee.

The following represent the reports we have received as of today's date.



Advocacy and Strategic Partnerships Committee April-August 2021 Report

Committee/group name:

Advocacy and Strategic Partnerships Committee

Chair name:

Susan Hempstead

Chair email address:

shempstead@sno-isle.org

Staff liaison:

Mary Hirsh

This report represents work done:

April-August

How many times did your group meet during this reporting period?

2-3

Please summarize work accomplished, decisions made, and follow-up actions determined during this reporting period.

First Activity

We continued our conversations about best practices, communications, alignment with other PLA committees and next steps to reach some milestones in our committee work for the year.

Continued action items for us:

- Please share your examples of successful partnership and advocacy efforts for peer learning and help plan what and how to share more widely with PLA community. We are initially focusing on the following four areas of work: K-12 student and family support, digital equity and access, economic/workforce recovery, and community partnerships. Once we have your updated input and content, we'll format and share as a PLA/ALA e-news segment or with public libraries online.
- Continue a discussion on the priority areas listed above to position libraries with newly elected officials all with guiding principles of equity, diversity and inclusion.

We have offered to partner and be of assistance to the ALA Committee on Legislation and the ALA Committee on Library Advocacy (COLA) as they move forward policy information at the state and federal levels. We continue to investigate as to whether a joint committee meeting (or committee liaison) would be helpful to leverage everyone's work and move us forward.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)



Advocacy and Strategic Partnerships Committee April-August 2021 Report

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice

Second Activity

- Library sharing- what's top of mind
- BALA update, including op-eds and other outreach
- Other federal policy advocacy, including new broadband funding and advocacy for libraries in prospective American Jobs Plan (including workforce development and digital equity)
- ALA conference
- Committee appreciation and next steps

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice

What will your group be working on for the next six months?

Our committee is welcoming new members and a new staff liaison. We'll be reviewing our work for 2021, aligning with the legislative teams, and looking ahead to 2022.

Does the group have any policy recommendations, ideas with financial impact, or other items to bring to the PLA Board for discussion or action?

Not at this time.

Do you have any suggestions for future products or resources (excluding conference programs) to be developed based on your group's work?

We are working on this right now and will submit in our next report.

Are there other PLA/ALA committees your group might collaborate with to benefit the work of all?

The ALA Committee on Legislation and the ALA Committee on Library Advocacy (COLA). The Advocacy and Strategic Partnerships Committee (as we have seen during our current advocacy for BALA) is an important supporting partner to these other two committees.

Have there been any issues related to meeting participation/attendance for any of the group's members?

No

Is there anything PLA could have provided during this time that would have helped your group with its work?

Not at this time. Thank you!



Advocacy and Strategic Partnerships Committee April-August 2021 Report

Today's Date

10/07/2021



Continuing Education Advisory Group April-August 2021 Report

Committee/group name:

Continuing Education Advisory Group

Chair name:

Sarah Tansley

Chair email address:

sarahtansley@hotmail.com

Staff liaison:

Angela Maycock

This report represents work done:

April-August

Please summarize work accomplished, decisions made, and follow-up actions determined during this reporting period.

First Activity

Group promoted the online call for submissions for PLA webinars.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness

Second Activity

Group reviewed webinar submissions for recommendation based on quality and strategic areas of focus.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Organizational Excellence

What will your group be working on for the next six months?

We will continue to promote PLA webinars, promote webinar submissions and review the next round of submissions.



Continuing Education Advisory Group April-August 2021 Report

Does the group have any policy recommendations, ideas with financial impact, or other items to bring to the PLA Board for discussion or action?

No

Do you have any suggestions for future products or resources (excluding conference programs) to be developed based on your group's work?

No

Are there other PLA/ALA committees your group might collaborate with to benefit the work of all?

No

Have there been any issues related to meeting participation/attendance for any of the group's members?

No

Is there anything PLA could have provided during this time that would have helped your group with its work?

We loved the new system related to scoring the webinars. It was so easy to use for the committee members to submit and great for tabulation.

Today's Date

08/21/2021



Digital Literacy Committee April-August 2021 Report

Committee/group name:

Digital Literacy Committee

Chair name:

Brandy McNeil

Chair email address:

brandymcneil@nypl.org

Staff liaison:

Scott Allen

This report represents work done:

April-August

How many times did your group meet during this reporting period?

2-3

Please summarize work accomplished, decisions made, and follow-up actions determined during this reporting period.

First Activity

Advised on and launched PLA's new partnership with AT&T, which is a \$690,000 grant that will update 10 DigitalLearn courses and develop 2 new courses, create a AT&T DigitalLearn site, and fund libraries to do technology training programs.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Transformation

Second Activity

Continued to promote DigitalLearn and work with individual libraries to purchase and brand their own DigitalLearn sites. During the period, one new site was launched (Miami-Dade County Public Library) and two new library systems started the process with PLA.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness



Digital Literacy Committee April-August 2021 Report

- Organizational Excellence
- Transformation

Third Activity

Advised on PLA's partnerships with Microsoft, which include providing Wi-Fi access points to rural libraries to extend their signals and working with four urban libraries to promote skilling and certification and provide free computers to learners impacted negatively by COVID-19.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Transformation

Fourth Activity

Submitted a program, New Challenges – and Solutions! – for Your Technology Skilling and Workforce Programming, for LibLearnX, which will cover upskilling older adults, engaging Black and Latinx populations who suffered from longstanding inequities, moving beyond computer basics, and teaching technology skills virtually.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Transformation

Fifth Activity

Brainstormed on how the committee and PLA can address services to the formerly incarcerated, increase library focus on certifications and other training that leads to employment, ensure staff competency in terms of technology, and other issues.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Transformation

What will your group be working on for the next six months?

Completing the Microsoft and AT&T projects, orienting new committee members, reviewing potential updates and new content for DigitalLearn, and planning educational initiatives for libraries that help them do skilling programs for communities and for staff

Does the group have any policy recommendations, ideas with financial impact, or other items to bring to



Digital Literacy Committee April-August 2021 Report

the PLA Board for discussion or action?

No

Do you have any suggestions for future products or resources (excluding conference programs) to be developed based on your group's work?

Over the past few years, the committee has brainstormed many topics and potential agendas for educational programming in various formats (day-long regional trainings, "micro-lessons" delivered via YouTube or Tik Tok, etc.)

Are there other PLA/ALA committees your group might collaborate with to benefit the work of all?

Given its increasing focus on digital equity, the committee is interested in strengthening relationships with the Black Caucus American Library Association, REFORMA, and others

Have there been any issues related to meeting participation/attendance for any of the group's members?

No

Is there anything PLA could have provided during this time that would have helped your group with its work?

No

Today's Date

09/03/2021



Committee on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice April-August 2021 Report

Committee/group name:

Committee on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice

Chair name:

Christina Fuller-Gregory

Chair email address:

christinarfuller@gmail.com

Staff liaison:

Scott Allen

This report represents work done:

April-August

How many times did your group meet during this reporting period?

4-6

Please summarize work accomplished, decisions made, and follow-up actions determined during this reporting period.

First Activity

EDISJ Matters Column for PLA Magazine: We continued to write our EDISJ Matters column. This platform has enabled us to broaden our reach and more collectively engage PLA members. We've used the column to introduce people, concepts, ideas, and information with an EDISJ focus. Having the standing 'real estate' in the magazine has allowed us and this important work to remain front of mind for PLA members.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice

Second Activity

PLA Leadership Lab: Embedding EDI in Library Leaders: This workshop—consisting of six live virtual classroom sessions—explored transformational leadership through the lens of the current social crises, emphasizing equity, diversity, inclusion, and social justice (EDISJ) principles and approaches, supplemented by leadership development and asset-based community development tools. Members of the EDISJ Committee acted as both small group moderators, and large group facilitators.



Committee on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice April-August 2021 Report

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice

What will your group be working on for the next six months?

In the coming months the EDISJ Committee will continue to meet regularly, continue the EDISJ Matters column, develop and present EDISJ-centered trainings and work together to ensure that they continue to address and amplify the need for having difficult, but meaningful conversations around race, racial equity, diversity, inclusion and social justice.

Does the group have any policy recommendations, ideas with financial impact, or other items to bring to the PLA Board for discussion or action?

We would very much like to find a way to begin our Equity starts with us trainings. While we understand that this may look different than the in-person trainings that we've offered in the past, we know that we have the audience and interest for these training opportunities.

Do you have any suggestions for future products or resources (excluding conference programs) to be developed based on your group's work?

N/A

Are there other PLA/ALA committees your group might collaborate with to benefit the work of all?

As the PLA/ARL/ALA-led Building Competencies for Racial Equity Task Force wraps the development of its Framework for libraries, it would be wonderful if the EDISJ Committee could in some way work collaboratively with them in sharing out this work, perhaps developing a community conversations model that can include public, academic, special, and school libraries.

Have there been any issues related to meeting participation/attendance for any of the group's members?

No

Is there anything PLA could have provided during this time that would have helped your group with its work?

As always, it was a pleasure working with Scott and Leighann! They were supportive, helpful, and were dynamic allies in our work.

Today's Date

08/24/2021



Committee on Family Engagement April-August 2021 Report

Committee/group name:

Committee on Family Engagement

Chair name:

Jo Giudice, Ashley Brown

Chair email address:

maryjo.giudice@dallascityhall.com

Staff liaison:

Scott Allen

This report represents work done:

April-August

How many times did your group meet during this reporting period?

4-6

Please summarize work accomplished, decisions made, and follow-up actions determined during this reporting period.

First Activity

Completed second cohort of the Advancing Family Engagement virtual classroom series of 8 sessions; to date the program has registered and taught about 120 library staff. Planned third cohort to launch in September 2021, with nearly 100 new registrants.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Leadership
- Organizational Excellence
- Transformation

Second Activity

Oversaw PLA's IMLS grant, "Exploring a program co-design approach to better serve and engage low-income, Latinx communities" which conducted a literature review, national survey, and planned focus groups at three pilot libraries.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness



Committee on Family Engagement April-August 2021 Report

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice

Third Activity

Requested board approval to move from task force to standing committee, and in doing so revised our charge and added liaisons to ALSC, YALSA, and AASL.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Organizational Excellence

Fourth Activity

Initiated a new grant partnership with WGBH Boston to develop tools on computational thinking to be used in libraries and other education settings ("Fostering Joint Parent/Child Engagement in Preschool Computational Thinking by Leveraging Digital Media, Mobile Technology, and Library Settings in Rural Communities (WAISL)")

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Transformation

Fifth Activity

Continued to liaison to multiple groups: helped PBS Kids write blog posts for Public Libraries Online; designated a reviewer for the National Association of Family, School and Community Engagement's new family engagement body of knowledge guidelines; worked with the National Center for Families Learning on its fall 2021 library-focused webcast; and collaborated with PLA's Project Outcome to write an informational brief on measuring family engagement programs.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Leadership
- Organizational Excellence
- Transformation

What will your group be working on for the next six months?

Launching the third cohort of the Advancing Family Engagement series; planning the fourth cohort to launch in early 2022; strengthening relationships with ALSC, YALSA and AASL

Does the group have any policy recommendations, ideas with financial impact, or other items to bring to the PLA Board for discussion or action?



Committee on Family Engagement April-August 2021 Report

No

Do you have any suggestions for future products or resources (excluding conference programs) to be developed based on your group's work?

The Advancing Family Engagement series has yielded many new examples of family engagement programs and strategies, both via presenters and also from "final projects" that the second cohort of learners developed. These could contribute to a new PLA publication, such as an "Ideabook 2."

Are there other PLA/ALA committees your group might collaborate with to benefit the work of all?

As noted above, ALSC, YALSA and AASL

Have there been any issues related to meeting participation/attendance for any of the group's members?

No

Is there anything PLA could have provided during this time that would have helped your group with its work?

No

Today's Date

09/03/2021



Leadership Development Committee September-March 2021 Report

Committee/group name:

Leadership Development Committee

Chair name:

Elizabeth Joseph

Chair email address:

ejoseph@fergusonlibrary.org

Staff liaison:

Mary Hirsh

This report represents work done:

September-March

How many times did your group meet during this reporting period?

7-10

Please summarize work accomplished, decisions made, and follow-up actions determined during this reporting period.

First Activity

Our group meet monthly on zoom. We had an active and very engaged group. Each month, we discussed the various challenges we face in our leadership. We also discussed at length subject areas that leaders will need further /expanded learning. Given that we met during Covid and quarantine - we discussed at length the situations in our individual libraries and communities. We also shared how we coped.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Leadership
- Transformation

Second Activity

A core topic of many of our discussions was EDISJ. Mary encouraged us to volunteer for the EDISJ leadership lab. Many of us served as dialog facilitators. This was an enriching experience for all of to meet and work with colleagues across the county.



Leadership Development Committee September-March 2021 Report

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Leadership

Third Activity

The group held several brainstorming sessions about webinars that members could present and facilitate. We narrowed down subject areas and leaders who would be responsible for content and delivery. We focused on contemporary issues which impressed and resonated with all of us.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Leadership
- Transformation

Fourth Activity

Several committee members presented three distinct webinars which were offered with out cost or membership status. These included managing from the middle, BIPOC leaders - aspirations and challenges, leadership from various public library perspectives. These were extremely successful, wildly popular and exceeded attendance expectations.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Leadership
- Organizational Excellence
- Transformation

Fifth Activity

Our group worked on and submitted a pre-conference proposal for PLA 2022.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Leadership
- Organizational Excellence
- Transformation



Leadership Development Committee September-March 2021 Report

What will your group be working on for the next six months?

We have yet to meet - our goals can be determined then.

Does the group have any policy recommendations, ideas with financial impact, or other items to bring to the PLA Board for discussion or action?

none at this time

Do you have any suggestions for future products or resources (excluding conference programs) to be developed based on your group's work?

not at this time

Are there other PLA/ALA committees your group might collaborate with to benefit the work of all?

I think that it would make sense to work with other committees who are interested in the role of leaders in achieving the goals for the mandates. For example, how can this group work with Digital Literacy/Inclusion group to brainstorm on ways to tackle the national issue. We might also make content recommendations to Public Libraries Advisory Committee. There are others as well where goals align.

Have there been any issues related to meeting participation/attendance for any of the group's members?

No

Is there anything PLA could have provided during this time that would have helped your group with its work?

n/a

Today's Date

08/19/2021



Measurement, Evaluation and Assessment Committee April-August 2021 Report

Committee/group name:

Measurement, Evaluation and Assessment Committee

Chair name:

Linda Hofschire

Chair email address:

linda@ljh-consulting.net

Staff liaison:

Sara Goek

This report represents work done:

April-August

How many times did your group meet during this reporting period?

1

Please summarize work accomplished, decisions made, and follow-up actions determined during this reporting period.

First Activity

Worked with our staff liaison to develop a topical survey on staffing and diversity that will be administered to public libraries in Fall 2021.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Organizational Excellence

Second Activity

Provided input on the development of the new Benchmark tool that is replacing the PLDS/PLAMetrics and will launch in Fall 2021.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Organizational Excellence
- Transformation



Measurement, Evaluation and Assessment Committee April-August 2021 Report

Third Activity

Worked on a new Project Outcome (PO) case study - examining the use of PO to evaluate take and make kits.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Organizational Excellence

Fourth Activity

Offered a News You Can Use session at ALA Annual to raise awareness about recently added and upcoming data tools available to public libraries.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Organizational Excellence

What will your group be working on for the next six months?

- 1 - Participating in the launch and promotion of the Benchmark tool
- 2 - Completing the Take and Make Kits Project Outcome case study
- 3 - Launching a new Project Outcome survey on technology use
- 4 - Developing a topical survey that will be administered to public libraries in Fall 2022

Does the group have any policy recommendations, ideas with financial impact, or other items to bring to the PLA Board for discussion or action?

No

Do you have any suggestions for future products or resources (excluding conference programs) to be developed based on your group's work?

No

Are there other PLA/ALA committees your group might collaborate with to benefit the work of all?

No

Have there been any issues related to meeting participation/attendance for any of the group's members?

Yes (if yes, PLA will contact you for more information)

Is there anything PLA could have provided during this time that would have helped your group with its work?



Measurement, Evaluation and Assessment Committee April-August 2021 Report

No - thank you for your support!

Today's Date

09/22/2021



Membership Advisory Group September-March 2021 Report

Committee/group name:

Membership Advisory Group

Chair name:

Amiya Hutson & Kim DeNero-Ackroyd

Chair email address:

kackroyd@heightslibrary.org

Staff liaison:

Samantha Lopez

This report represents work done:

September-March

How many times did your group meet during this reporting period?

4-6

Please summarize work accomplished, decisions made, and follow-up actions determined during this reporting period.

First Activity

Monthly emails to new members. Initially these emails were sent bi-monthly or quarterly. We decided as a group to send monthly emails to a smaller list. We also separated the list to match the committee members to people who lived in or near their state. The thought was that new members would be more likely to contact those who live in their region.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Leadership
- Organizational Excellence

Second Activity

Planned a virtual Happy Hour during ALA Annual. We used the new member survey to determine what break out sessions to coordinate for the new members, what types of PLA trivia we should ask and professional development discussions.



Membership Advisory Group September-March 2021 Report

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Leadership
- Organizational Excellence

Third Activity

Advised PLA staff on the drip campaign for new members. We used the new member survey to determine if a campaign giving small amounts of information over a period of time would build excitement in new members and garner more participation/volunteerism.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Organizational Excellence

Fourth Activity

Advised PLA staff on the New Members' Survey. The survey helped the committee decide to have the virtual happy hour and assisted with drip campaign ideas.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Organizational Excellence

Fifth Activity

Committee member represented PLA at the Small Oklahoma Libraries Round Table. She marketed the benefits of joining PLA and being a member.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice

What will your group be working on for the next six months?

Continued monthly emails to new members.
In person events for PLA in March 2022 and ALA in June 2022.

Does the group have any policy recommendations, ideas with financial impact, or other items to bring to the PLA Board for discussion or action?



Membership Advisory Group September-March 2021 Report

Commit to regular new member events at conferences such as breakfasts, happy hours, gatherings at entertainment venues. New and old members should be invited in order to facilitate networking.

Do you have any suggestions for future products or resources (excluding conference programs) to be developed based on your group's work?

PLA logoed pens, pencils, bags, note pads to be used as giveaways or prizes.

Are there other PLA/ALA committees your group might collaborate with to benefit the work of all?

ALA New Members' Round Table

ALA New Member Committee

Have there been any issues related to meeting participation/attendance for any of the group's members?

No

Is there anything PLA could have provided during this time that would have helped your group with its work?

We suggested being able to give out prizes, but were told that there wasn't a budget for that. It would be helpful if we had a budget to do this.

Today's Date

09/14/2021



PLA 2022 Conference Program Subcommittee April-August 2021 Report

Committee/group name:

PLA 2022 Conference Program Subcommittee

Chair name:

Laura McGrath

Chair email address:

LMcGrath@skokielibrary.info

Staff liaison:

Angela Maycock

This report represents work done:

April-August

How many times did your group meet during this reporting period?

4-6

Please summarize work accomplished, decisions made, and follow-up actions determined during this reporting period.

First Activity

Individual subcommittee members reviewed 439 program proposals for the 2022 PLA Annual Conference. Each proposal was reviewed by three committee members which meant that each committee member was responsible for reviewing approximately 100 proposals.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Leadership
- Organizational Excellence
- Transformation

Second Activity

Due to the pandemic the committee was unable to meet at ALA Annual as usual. So the committee met via Zoom 5 times (a total of 6 hours) during August and September to select the 97 programs to be offered during the PLA Annual Conference in 2022. An additional 5 programs will come from PLA staff.



PLA 2022 Conference Program Subcommittee April-August 2021 Report

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Leadership
- Organizational Excellence
- Transformation

What will your group be working on for the next six months?

The committee will attend PLA 2022 and will assist PLA staff with various conference activities (at the 2020 conference committee members helped staff the info desk and assisted in making sure programs were running smoothly).

Does the group have any policy recommendations, ideas with financial impact, or other items to bring to the PLA Board for discussion or action?

Not at this time.

Do you have any suggestions for future products or resources (excluding conference programs) to be developed based on your group's work?

During the program selection process we identified some topics/speakers that may be best suited to future PLA webinars and shared those ideas with our PLA liaison, Angela Maycock.

Are there other PLA/ALA committees your group might collaborate with to benefit the work of all?

Not at this time.

Have there been any issues related to meeting participation/attendance for any of the group's members?

No

Is there anything PLA could have provided during this time that would have helped your group with its work?

No, Angela was extremely helpful as we tackled this year's program selection under pandemic conditions!

Today's Date

09/15/2021



Public Libraries Advisory Committee April-August 2021 Report

Committee/group name:

Public Libraries Advisory Committee

Chair name:

Kimberly B. Knight

Chair email address:

kknight@alexlibraryva.org

Staff liaison:

Kathleen Hughes

This report represents work done:

April-August

How many times did your group meet during this reporting period?

4-6

Please summarize work accomplished, decisions made, and follow-up actions determined during this reporting period.

First Activity

Reviewed Public Libraries Magazine themes and suggested articles and writers to fulfill the themes. Committee members reached out to potential contributors through direct contacts, our listservs and networks. Reviewed and edited received materials for the issue.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Leadership
- Organizational Excellence
- Transformation

Second Activity

Selected the 2020 Featured Article of the Year. Read featured articles from previous year, scored them and recommended winners.



Public Libraries Advisory Committee April-August 2021 Report

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Leadership
- Organizational Excellence

Third Activity

Selected new columnists for "The Big Idea" and "The Wired Library" columns for ongoing issues follow the departure of the last columnists. We reviewed resumes and writing samples. Using rubric and discussion, selected new columnists for both regular columns.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Leadership
- Organizational Excellence

Fourth Activity

A subcommittee wrote an article for the former Insights column on mask wearing, compliance, and suggestions for compliance responding from a former question. It was published in the sister online journal, Public Libraries Online.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Leadership
- Organizational Excellence

Fifth Activity

Served as Guest Editor to the July/August 2021 online issue on the anti-racism/social justice issue. In addition to helping with soliciting writers and giving editing suggestions, Kathleen allowed committee members to guest edit specific issues. I was thrilled to help with this one and bring together thoughts from all over public libraries how we can amplify voices from across public libraries and learn from each other's experiences.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Leadership
- Organizational Excellence
- Transformation



Public Libraries Advisory Committee April-August 2021 Report

What will your group be working on for the next six months?

While this was my first tenure as chair, I've rolled off of the committee after my second year. During my tenure, we selected and confirmed issue topics, writers, and contributors. We voted on the top featured articles from the previous year. Some committee members assisted with writing.

Does the group have any policy recommendations, ideas with financial impact, or other items to bring to the PLA Board for discussion or action?

We selected to publish at least one issue as an online versions. I've received more feedback on that issue since it was easily shared online. It saved on printing and mailing costs.

Do you have any suggestions for future products or resources (excluding conference programs) to be developed based on your group's work?

A webinar on what Public Libraries looks for in writers and how to submit good articles from solicitations.

Are there other PLA/ALA committees your group might collaborate with to benefit the work of all?

The committee might benefit from a report from the PLA Council Member.

Have there been any issues related to meeting participation/attendance for any of the group's members?

No

Is there anything PLA could have provided during this time that would have helped your group with its work?

No. Thank you for the opportunity.

Today's Date

09/15/2021



Social Worker Task Force April-August 2021 Report

Committee/group name:

Social Worker Task Force

Chair name:

Debra Keane (co-chairs Patrick Lloyd, Tiffany Russel)

Chair email address:

debra.keane@jeffcolibrary.org

Staff liaison:

Kathleen Hughes

This report represents work done:

April-August

How many times did your group meet during this reporting period?

2-3

Please summarize work accomplished, decisions made, and follow-up actions determined during this reporting period.

First Activity

Completed "Guidance for Social Work Positions at the Library" handout outlining best practices for incorporating professional social work in a library system.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice
- Organizational Excellence

Second Activity

Continuing work on manuscript for Trauma-Informed Lens Workbook (as yet un-titled) that outlines the pervasive impacts of trauma on library communities and offers a toolkit approach for how library staff can engage with the public to mitigate re-traumatization. We are hoping to have the workbook finalized and published in the Fall of 2021.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice



Social Worker Task Force April-August 2021 Report

Third Activity

Provide guidance to ALA/PLA members on questions that are delivered to the committee through direct communication and the Social Work Interest Group. Examples include information on peer programs, security programs, intern supervision, and developing social work programs in libraries.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Advocacy and Awareness

What will your group be working on for the next six months?

Our main focus will be to promote the forthcoming Trauma-Informed Lens Workbook. We are planning a pre-conference session on the content of the book. Additionally, we will look into other ways to share the content of the workbook (webinar series, etc).

Does the group have any policy recommendations, ideas with financial impact, or other items to bring to the PLA Board for discussion or action?

Not at this time

Do you have any suggestions for future products or resources (excluding conference programs) to be developed based on your group's work?

Not at this time

Are there other PLA/ALA committees your group might collaborate with to benefit the work of all?

The Social Work Task Force could be a consultant for the Advocacy and Strategic Partnerships Committee and the Committee on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice.

Have there been any issues related to meeting participation/attendance for any of the group's members?

Yes (if yes, PLA will contact you for more information)

Is there anything PLA could have provided during this time that would have helped your group with its work?

Related to the attendance question, we have lost several members this year due to their library systems no longer funding their PLA memberships. Our task force is unique in that none of our members are librarians, and we are required to join a library professional organization to participate. This has resulted in the task force's group work being focused on an increasingly smaller number of social service professionals who, by the nature of their work in social services, are always taxed, and especially so during the pandemic response.

Today's Date

08/19/2021



Technology Committee April-August 2021 Report

Committee/group name:

Technology Committee

Chair name:

Anastasia Diamond-Ortiz

Chair email address:

adiamond-ortiz@lpls.info

Staff liaison:

Steven Hofmann

This report represents work done:

April-August

How many times did your group meet during this reporting period?

0

Please summarize work accomplished, decisions made, and follow-up actions determined during this reporting period.

First Activity

Members of the committee presented at ALA Annual on patron digital privacy practices. This is a critical topic for public libraries to address as more patron data are shared with vendors and used by libraries to enhance services.

Aligns with these Strategic Areas of Focus (select one or more)

- Transformation

What will your group be working on for the next six months?

We will put together proposals to present at conferences and discuss topics relevant to technology in public libraries, including broadband, recruiting, and funding.

Does the group have any policy recommendations, ideas with financial impact, or other items to bring to the PLA Board for discussion or action?

Developing a relationship between the PLA Board, PLA Technology Committee and SHLB (Schools, Health, and Libraries Broadband Coalition) could benefit libraries all across the country as everyone seeks funding for broadband. I'm not sure if it fits in this category but it is something that might cause smaller libraries to consider applying for the Emergency Connectivity Funds and other federal funding in the future.



Technology Committee April-August 2021 Report

Do you have any suggestions for future products or resources (excluding conference programs) to be developed based on your group's work?

It would be worth investing in helping libraries recruit and retain technology professionals in public libraries. I am not sure what form that could take but recruiting talent is incredibly difficult for all technology areas of focus in public libraries.

Are there other PLA/ALA committees your group might collaborate with to benefit the work of all?

CORE is a natural partner and many committees would be a good fit. As an example, facilitating a relationship between the PLA Board, PLA Technology Committee and the CORE/OCLC Spectrum Scholars in Library and Information Technology could benefit all. Perhaps PLA Technology Committee members could serve as mentors?

Have there been any issues related to meeting participation/attendance for any of the group's members?

No

Is there anything PLA could have provided during this time that would have helped your group with its work?

It would help to better understand how the committee can support the PLA Board and its strategic direction.

Today's Date

09/13/2021