



PublicLibrary
ASSOCIATION

PLA Board of Directors
Annual Conference 2022 Meeting
Document no.: 2022.35b

Public Library Councilors

June 7, 2022

Today's Agenda

- Welcome: PLA President Melanie Huggins
- PLA Values: Melanie Huggins
- TAG Update: PLA Chapter Councilor Stephanie Chase
- Operating Agreement Update: PLA Fiscal Officer Clara Bohrer
- Recap: Stephanie Chase
- Discussion: Moderated by PLA Deputy Director Mary Hirsh

In These Change Processes, PLA Values:

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Inclusiveness
- Flexibility
- Communication
- Innovation
- Sustainability
- Evaluation

TAG: Transforming ALA Governance

- Stephanie Chase, PLA Councilor
- TAG discussion and action on **Council 1 Agenda: June 25, 2022**

SCOE—Forward Together—TAG

SCOE: *2018*

To gather data and input from members, which informed...

Forward Together: *2019-2021*

Recommendations and report, leading to resolutions brought to Council at Annual 2021, which was handed over to a smaller group...

TAG: *Current*

Synthesize work of SCOE and FT into models to transform governance

Put forth resolutions describing potential evolutions

Resolutions from Jan and March 2022

- ALA Governing Body
 - This is the Executive Board
 - The smaller governing body
- Body of Knowledge
 - This is Council
 - The larger body
 - Should be large enough for good conversation but small enough to "enable meaningful engagement"
- Organizational Structure
 - With the vote in March, TAG will bring the Body of Knowledge group forward for the Council I vote as an advisory body

TAG Concepts Approved by Council

- How Governance Should Function
 - The Governing Board must set governance priorities with input from members and affiliate units and regularly report back on its work and progress
 - This input should be collected through a structured process, which TAG calls TAP (“Taking ALA Pulse”)
 - The Governing Board must regularly consult the Body of Knowledge/Advisory group; the Body of Knowledge/Advisory group is responsible for ensuring a place for transparent discussion of complex issues
- The Culture of Governance
 - Recommendations from the Body of Knowledge/Advisory group are made by consensus and passed to the Governing Board
 - All groups should receive information and resources necessary for discussion well in advance of the discussion
 - The agenda for the Body of Knowledge/Advisory group are made by committee (as opposed to the prior practice of being made by the ALA President)
 - Members of these governance bodies “wear two hats” — that they may advocate for the groups who elected them, but are not representative. All members must listen with an open mind

TAG: Core Values and Position

PLA believes significant change is needed for ALA and PLA to grow and best serve the field together. In undertaking this work, we value:

- **Equity** and improving diverse member **engagement**, including virtual participation and maximizing **direct election** to ALA governance bodies
- **Streamlining and simplifying** processes to improve organizational agility
- **Fiscal responsibility**, specifically **understanding and communicating** financial impacts of all proposed changes
- **Accountability** for implementing changes and providing services

Next Steps: TAG

TAG discussion and action on **Council 1 Agenda: June 25, 2022**

The PLA Board seeks your support for:

- Direct elections to Board of Directors
- Council becomes a smaller body that advises, instead of setting policy
- Fosters two-way communication to tap broad expertise
- Has responsible fiscal impact

The PLA Board supports you:

- Talking points to use at upcoming meetings

Operating Agreement Work Group

- Clara Bohrer, PLA Fiscal Officer and OAWG member
- OAWG Report at Council III, June 27 (not anticipating Action)

Operating Agreement

Defines the Relationship Between ALA and its Divisions

- PLA Board has actively engaged in monitoring the Operating Agreement Work Group: Supports concept of ONE ALA, while valuing autonomy and authority to best meet needs of public libraries
- Related set of values articulated in Operating Agreement
 - Unity
 - Diversity
 - Authority
 - Autonomy
 - Collaboration and Cooperation

OAWG Goals

- The PLA Board supports the overall OAWG goals of:
 - One ALA to support financial stability
 - Simplified financial reporting
 - Align financial, budget and strategic planning to Pivot Plan
 - ALA resourced to cover shared infrastructure costs, support mission work
 - Preserve Division and RT autonomy
 - Encourage innovation

PLA Board Action and Response

- Supports proposal to remove application of indirect costs
- Asks for a well-defined and documented budget process
 - Transparent, iterative, inclusive, accountable
 - 2-year cycle
 - Continued ownership of budgeting process for divisions
 - Process to request funds for new programs/innovations
 - Process to ensure sustainability for all divisions and responsibly address unsustainability
 - Ability to transfer revenue over expenses to endowment
 - Open and consistent communication

Ensuring Innovation through the OA

- Ability to maintain PLA funds within the ALA endowment
 - Fundraise for endowment
 - Transfer revenue over expenses
 - Utilize interest as determined by PLA Board, with advisement of PLA B&F committee
- Ability to seek external funding to support projects
 - Seek grant funds to support new projects
- Internal accountability
 - Inter-ALA service level accountability to reduce duplication and improve efficiencies

To Recap: Change Process Values

- Streamline and simplify
 - Enable engagement opportunities
 - Clarify processes and procedures
- Transparency
 - Financial impacts and decisions
- Equity
 - Participation
 - Authority and autonomy
- Accountability

The PLA Board Encourages You To:

- Use your voice at Council meetings
- Consider articulated values when discussing and voting
- Ask questions, share ideas, express concerns

Open Discussion

- Please ask your questions in the chat
- Raise your hand to come off mute



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THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR
ALA!