**TO:** PLA Board of Directors

**RE:** 2020 Census Library Outreach and Education Task Force update

**DATE:** June 3, 2019

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:**

Report

**ACTION REQUESTED BY:**

Larra Clark, PLA Deputy Director

**DRAFT OF MOTION:**

N/A

**BACKGROUND:**

The PLA board voted in Spring 2018 to jointly establish with the ALA Office for Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee a 2020 Census Library Outreach and Education Task Force. Subsequently PLA and ALA Washington Office staff sought recommendations and reached out to PLA and OITP leaders, as well as state library associations, state chapters and others to create a diverse roster for review, amendment and approval by PLA and OITP leadership.

**STATUS:**

A task force with diverse representation across the profession was developed and approved. PLA Board Member Tracy Strobel chairs the task force, and PLA President-Elect Ramiro Salazar and PLA Board member Kelvin Watson also serve. The task force meets at the ALA conferences and also intermittently by conference call. The task force has informed and guided a broad range of activities to support the library field and position libraries as partners in this civic effort. Updates and resources are collected online at [www.ala.org/census](http://www.ala.org/census), but a few highlights from the past six months include:

* Development and dissemination of the [Libraries’ Guide to the 2020 Census](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/sites/ala.org.advocacy/files/content/govinfo/LibrariesGuide2020Census.pdf), with the Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality;
* Programming at the Midwinter Meeting and [Annual Conference](https://www.eventscribe.com/2019/ALA-Annual/fsPopup.asp?Mode=presInfo&PresentationID=496249), including Sunday, June 23, at 9 a.m. with ALA President Elect Ramiro Salazar and representatives from the Census Bureau, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the National Association of Counties, and the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies;
* Many public library task force members leading or joining state or local [Complete Count Committees](https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/getting-ready-2020-census/), raising the profiles of library roles and needs;
* ALA joining an [amicus brief](https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/ala-joins-groups-opposing-2020-census-citizenship-question/) to the U.S. Supreme Court opposing the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census survey; and
* ALA advocating for Census Bureau [funding and planning to support outreach](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/sites/ala.org.advocacy/files/content/libfunding/fed/Am%20Library%20Assn%20-%20Census%20Bureau%20FY20%20-%20Sen%20CJS%20OWT.pdf) through libraries and other trusted community-based institutions

The Supreme Court is expected to issue a decision related to the citizenship question in June 2019, and ALA/PLA staff and members are drafting brief statements in preparation for release at that time. ALA/PLA will continue to work in close collaboration with the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and other census advocates to provide updates and guidance on any planned next steps after reviewing the ruling. Any immediate questions or concerns may be addressed to Task Force Chair Tracy Strobel or PLA Deputy Director Larra Clark.

The task force will [meet](https://www.eventscribe.com/2019/ALA-Annual/fsPopup.asp?Mode=presInfo&PresentationID=519322) Sunday afternoon, June 23. A consultant continues to work on development of additional tip sheets and training that will be reviewed by the task force and disseminated over the coming nine months.