**TO:** PLA Board of Directors

**RE:** Structure and alignment of PLA committees

**FROM:** Melanie Huggins, PLA President

**DATE:** September 10, 2021

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:** Information/Discussion

The Public Library Association is home to 14 committees, two task forces, and two advisory groups. There are an additional 10 awards juries, which have been paused since 2019. Each body (referred hereafter as “committee” for simplicity) includes a PLA staff liaison. Committees serve various roles and functions. Some, like the conference and publication committees, have clear charges, with well-defined outputs. Others, like Advocacy and Leadership, are broader in scope and are intended to support the PLA strategic plan. With the introduction of the ALA pivot plan, the refreshed PLA strategic plan, and the move to more frequent, online meetings, there is an opportunity this fiscal year to better align committee work with overall organizational goals while increasing efficiency for staff liaisons.

Traditionally, committees have pursued outputs mapped to their charges. This leads to varying results, largely determined by the committee chair, that do not always support PLA activities. For FY22, I recommend that committees organize their work around the overarching goals of the pivot plan and high-level recommendations from the PLA strategic plan refresh, and be tasked with:

* Contributing to increased membership and/or revenue
* Recommending or developing new partnerships
* Embedding EDISJ principles and goals in work

The emphasis will move from outputs to outcomes. The work of committees may result in new policies, process, partnerships, or programs.

To accomplish this shift, Mary Davis Fournier will work with PLA staff on implementing new procedures and orienting committee chairs and committee members. Committees will be encouraged to meet at least quarterly, doubling the standard midwinter and annual meetings. Staff will also research tools to measure committee effectiveness, and committee leaders will more regularly be included on board agendas to provide updates on committee work. Over the course of the year, no committees will be sunset or added to the current roster.

List of Committees and PLA Staff Liaisons

**Committees**

* [Advocacy and Strategic Partnerships Committee](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-tflegadv), Larra Clark
* [Annual Conference 2021 Program Subcommittee](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-cfacprog), Angela Maycock
* [Board of Directors](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/PLA-BD), Mary Davis Fournier
* [Budget and Finance Committee](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-bf), Mary Davis Fournier
* [Digital Literacy Committee](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-digilit), Scott Allen
* [Committee on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-tfedi), Scott Allen
* [Committee on Family Engagement](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-tffameng), Scott Allen and Symone Villasenor
* [Leadership Development Committee](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-tfleader), Mary Hirsh
* [Measurement, Evaluation and Assessment Committee](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-meac), Sara Goek
* [2021 Nominating Committee](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-nm2021), Mary Davis Fournier
* [PLA 2022 Conference Committee](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-nc2022), Angela Maycock
  + [PLA 2022 Conference Program Subcommittee](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-ncprog2022), Angela Maycock
* [*Public Libraries* Advisory Committee](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-publibs), Kathleen Hughes
* [Technology Committee](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-tech), Steven Hofmann
* [Web Content Working Group](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-tfweb), Steven Hofmann

**Task Forces**

* [2020 Census Library Outreach and Education Task Force](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/govinfo/census), Larra Clark and Gavin Baker from PPA
* [Social Worker Task Force](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-tfsocwork), Kathleen Hughes

**Advisory Groups**

* [Continuing Education Advisory Group](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-tfceadv), Angela Maycock
* [Membership Advisory Group](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-tfmbradv), Samantha Lopez

**Awards Juries**

Juries have not been appointed since 2019 while PLA leadership revisits the number, purpose, and impact of the awards. Megan Stewart serves as the staff liaison to all Awards Juries.

* [Allie Beth Martin Award Jury](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-awmartinab)
* [Baker & Taylor Entertainment Audio Music/Video Product Award Jury](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-awbaker)
* [Charlie Robinson Award Jury](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-awrobinson)
* [EBSCO Excellence in Rural Library Service Award Jury](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-awexcell)
* [Gordon M. Conable Award Jury](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-awconable)
* [John Iliff Award Jury](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-awiliff)
* [New Leaders Travel Grant Jury](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-awdemcolead)
* [PLA Library Innovation Award Jury](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-awhighsmith)
* [Romance Writers of America Library Grant Jury](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-awrwa)
* [The Singer Group Helping Communities Come Together Award Jury](https://www.ala.org/pla/about/people/committees/pla-awhcct)