

ALA Council Committee Report Form

TO: ALA Council

DATE: January 5, 2024

RE: *(select one)*

- ACTION REQUESTED
- INFORMATION
- REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:

As chair of the Committee on Library Advocacy (COLA), I am pleased to report on the committee's activities since July 1, 2023.

Charge

To support the efforts of advocates for all types of libraries; to develop resources, networks and training materials for advocates at the local, state and national levels with particular emphasis on the grassroots level; to work closely with the office for library advocacy in collaboration with the public awareness committee, the chapter relations committee, the committee on legislation, and other ALA offices, divisions, and round tables as well as external groups to integrate advocacy efforts into the overall planning, priorities and policies of the association; and to cultivate future leadership in order to sustain and enhance the advocacy efforts of the association.

Activities

The committee formally announced the completion of its ongoing project of updating the ALA Advocacy Action Plan Workbook on September 18, 2023. The Workbook is a downloadable resource a part of ALA's advocacy tools on the web.

Staff Liaison Aimee Strittmatter introduced and provided an overview of the workbook during the Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee on November 16, 2023.

Committee Chair Eboni M. Henry introduced the workbook and made a call to action at the Chapter Advocacy Academy Workshop on December 10, 2023.

Committee chair Eboni M. Henry was invited to present at the Committee on Legislation meeting on January 11 to share the work of the committee and how state and local

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advocacy activities have closely aligned with federal advocacy topics in preparation for the next legislative session.

The Committee is continuing its work to develop a script to accompany a PPT template of an advocacy 101 presentation born from the Advocacy Action Plan Workbook. COLA members will use the script to present and share the ALA Advocacy Action Plan Workbook at state, regional, local conferences and professional development.

Library Ecosystem Subcommittee:

The subcommittee continues to seek out opportunities for new connections with state associations and other partners interested in learning about Library Ecosystem work. Thanks to the subcommittee members from across ALA that attend meetings, help plan programs, and travel to various conferences (in person and virtually) to help members learn advocacy skills through Ecosystem work.

- The subcommittee met in October 2023 as a group and began discussing our work.
- The group revised and approved a [Work Plan](#) for the upcoming year. The group will begin looking at opportunities to complete some of the items at our January 8th meeting.
- The group will monitor and submit program proposals as needed. We review calls for proposals to determine where we might expand our reach.
- The group is exploring revisiting the work we've done in the past to see if the states we've worked with need further assistance and training.
- Worked with COLA Chair and ALA staff to update the Ecosystem webpage and Ecosystem Continuum.
- Worked with COLA Chair and ALA staff to seat new members of the subcommittee along with a co-chair - new committee slate below.
- Work continues by members and former members of the Ecosystem Subcommittee with ALA Publishing for a book on ecosystems, tentatively titled "ONE VOICE." The draft has been submitted and is in the editing process.

Respectfully submitted,
2023-2024 Committee on Library Advocacy

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Eboni Henry, Chair, Susan P. Baier, Glen J. Benedict, Virginia Cononie, Brooke Corso, Maura Deedy, Nicanor Diaz, Kimberly A. Patton, Kevin Reynolds, and Cynthia Wolff

2023-2024 Library Ecosystem Subcommittee Members

Jen Alvino Wood, Co-Chair (jalvinowood@windhammaine.us), Bryan Duran, Co-Chair (bryan.duran@sfpl.org), Eboni Henry, COLA Chair 2023-2024, Sara Kelly Johns, Leslin Charles, Nanette Donohue, Rhonda Gould, Michelle Robertson, Dorcas Hand, Brianna Hoffman

ALA staff liaison: Jazzy Celindro (jcelindro@ala.org)

Action requested from Councilors is to cast their vote to: *(if applicable)*

ACTION REQUESTED BY: *(add committee name)*

CONTACT PERSON: Eboni M. Henry (ebonihenry@hotmail.com)

STAFF LIAISON CONTACT: Aimee Strittmatter (aimees@ala.org)

BACKGROUND: