

American Library Association President-Elect Report Lessa Kanani‘opua Pelayo-Lozada Annual Conference 2022

Spring sprung full force for the American Library Association, with in person conferences, meetings, and more ramping up and bringing the library field together again after two years apart. Meeting and listening to the stories of our brave communities and all that they did to survive and even thrive during the continued course of the pandemic has been uplifting as well as heartbreaking. We lost so much during the last two years that as we move forward into the next stage of life with COVID-19, I hope we can take a moment and relish in the times that we have with one another, especially at our first Annual Conference since 2019 in Washington, D.C.

As my year as President-elect comes to a close and I take the helm of the presidency from 2021-2022 ALA President Patty Wong, the goals of 2022-2023 for ALA and the library profession have become clearer as I re-articulate our needs and how I can be most effective over the course of my one year presidency. Taking an iterative approach to this process, my year will still focus on membership revival, partnerships, library workers, all labor having dignity, and the intersectionalities of our identities, in addition to strong ALA governance effectiveness and work towards inclusion throughout the association's silos.

As always, I am thankful to the ALA members, staff, and in particular my advisory committee who have worked through barriers to create open doors of opportunity over the next year with targeted programs, evaluations of committee work and relationships, and supporting our members through very tangible ways such as exploring gifted memberships.

Activities from my time as ALA President-Elect since my April 2022 report include:

Committee on Committees

The Committee on Committees which includes myself, Oscar Baeza, Regina Beard, and KC Boyd, met in May to discuss the election slates for the Committee on Committees and the Planning and Budget Assembly. We were tasked to identify slates of:

- Eight (8) Councilors, 4 to be elected for 1-year terms (2022-2023) to the COC
- Six (6) Councilors-at-large, 3 to be elected for 2-year terms (2022-2024) on the ALA Planning and Budget Assembly (PBA)
- Four (4) Chapter Councilors, 2 to be elected for 2-year terms (2022-2024) on the ALA Planning and Budget Assembly (PBA)

The candidates for these slates can be found in CD #12-12.1 and will be elected during the ALA Annual Conference. Many thanks to Holly Robinson for keeping us on track and helping to identify eligible councilors.

2022-2023 Presidential Planning Work: Our Brave Communities

Work continues with my Presidential Advisory Committee to focus on labor and workers' rights, partnerships, membership growth, and the ALA-Allied Professional Association. The team has been in conversation with the Membership Office and CMO to discuss opportunities around membership and we hope to launch a fun way to help members find

their path in ALA in the fall. We also submitted a program proposal to the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color to be held in St. Peter's Beach, FL on what a racially just library looks like today. We hope this will be the first instance of the panel and with feedback and input from participants hope to grow it and bring it to ALA Annual in 2023. In Spring 2023 we also plan to host a series of conversations with potential partners aligned with ALA's values but outside the traditional library realm.

ALA-Allied Professional Association

Many thanks to ALA-APA staff members Lorelle Swader, Beatrice Calvin, and Kimberly Redd for their assistance appointing ALA-APA standing committees including: Salaries and Status of Library Workers, Certification Program Committee, Certification Review Committee for the Certified Public Library Administrator (CPLA) Program, and the Certification Review Committee for the Library Support Staff Certification Program.

Branding Working Group

Work continued on the ALA Branding Working Group under the leadership of my co-chair ALA Past President Julius C. Jefferson Jr. to explore his vision of expanding ALA's brand to include public library supporters and lovers as well as to explore a replacement to the Libraries Transform Campaign. Our consultants, Mission Partners, led us through the discovery and feasibility phase of our work which included a feedback session with the full working group and one on one conversations with stakeholders and general members of the public. Mission Partners will be presenting their findings to the ALA Executive Board at the ALA Annual Conference meeting where next steps in the project will be established. This exciting and important work gives us the opportunity to explore a realm few associations have entered and could be a model for others.

Public Policy & Advocacy In Action

As a result of the March virtual congressional meetings, in April I was excited to attend a visit for Congresswoman Nanette Barragan at the Los Angeles Public Library's San Pedro Regional Branch, my home library. City Librarian John Szabo, Branch Manager David Ellis, and Children's Librarian Ednita Kelley made everyone feel very welcome as we learned more about the resources they provide to the community such as the New Americans Center and Read Baby Read.

In April, I attended one day of the PPA coordinated Workshop on Broadband and Digital Inclusion bringing together advocates, speakers, and practitioners to discuss best practices and future advocacy for these issues. I had the honor of introducing fierce advocate and former Commissioner of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission Mignon Clyburn.

Board Effectiveness & Development / ASAE CEO Symposium

As we move into a continued hybrid environment and recognize the adjustments to the ways we've coped in meeting environments during the pandemic, a special emphasis on board effectiveness, strategy, and what it means to be a mission based board will become essential over the next year. To that end I have been working closely with governance staff to identify key areas to support our board, committees, and members, and had the opportunity to attend the ASAE (American Society of Association Executives) CEO (Chief Elected Officer) Symposium with ALA Executive Director Tracie D. Hall. We gleaned many

great practices to apply to our work at ALA to make our association stronger, more communicative, and more transparent in fulfilling our shared mission.

Rhode Island Library Association Conference

I had the pleasure of visiting Rhode Island for the Rhode Island Library Association Conference. Past ALA Executive Board Member Ed Garcia and ALA Rhode Island Chapter Councilor created a wonderful two day experience where I was able to visit Park View Middle School, Cranston Public Library, and Providence Public Library in addition to the conference. Each library was so welcoming and the students and staff of Park View Middle School were especially wonderful. The students showed a deep appreciation for their school library and their school librarian, demonstrating the impact librarian staffed school libraries can have on the entire school community and individual students. The support of district and administration was a model for many and the environment school librarian Stephanie Mills set up was one I cannot wait to visit again.

Media & Speaking Engagements

- [My Leadership Journey](#), an interview with Martín Gomez as part of the California Library Association leadership development program (April 14)
- Virtual participation in the International Conference on Design and Development of Public Library Services; Patterns, Experiences, and Ideas in Shiraz, Iran
 - Panelist on the future of Public Library Services post-COVID-19 with President of Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) Dr. Naresh Agarwal, IFLA President Ms. Barbara Lison, and PLA President-elect Dr. Maria McCauley (May 16)
 - Keynote speaker with PLA President-elect Dr. Maria McCauley on “Trends in American Public Libraries & the Importance of Associations and Networks in Professional Development” (May 18)
- Joint interview with Patty Wong by Andrew Albanese as part of Publisher’s Weekly’s US Book Show Libraries Are Essential program highlighting the upcoming ALA Annual Conference, Book Challenges in the US, and more. (May)
- Rhode Island Library Association conference Keynote Speaker (May 25)