



## **Conference Committee**

Executive Board Report

August 2021

*The MLA 2022 Conference: Turn the Tide: will be held at the Resort and Conference Center in Hyannis, May 23-25, 2022.*

With the MLA 2021 Conference virtual, the hope of the Conference Committee is to make this one special, we want to celebrate our Hall of Famers and plan to have 4 evening events (2 receptions, 2 dinners), including the Hall of Fame reception.

### **Meetings:**

The Conference Committee held our first meeting of the year on Friday, July 16. Our next meeting will be held on Friday, August 20, at 10 am on Zoom. We intend to meet in person in Hyannis at our September planning meeting and plan to meet at the Worcester Public Library for our October meeting.

**Program Proposals:** Starting at the end of August, the committee will send a call out for proposals. Proposals must be turned in by October 1, and the Conference Committee will go over the proposals at our October 15th meeting.

### **Sponsorship/Exhibitors:**

Our Conference Director, Kristen Collins will begin working on sponsorship in the Fall, please contact her directly if you have any new potential exhibitors or sponsors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Filleul, Conference Co-chair



## **Intellectual Freedom/Social Responsibility Committee**

Executive Board Report — August 2021

### Past Activities:

- New committee Co-Chair Stephanie Barnaby Librarian at Northeastern University and IF/SRC ALA OIF Liaison
- June 8th IF/SRC MLS Liaison Michelle Eberle and Co-Chair Andrea Fiorillo hosted a Networking and IdeaShare meeting. We were happy to welcome 6 new members as well as many longtime committee members. Discussed diversifying the library staff pipeline, voter registration and turnout efforts by committee members, and challenges and threats to Morrill Memorial Library's Pride events & staff.
- We followed up on the latter with a statement of support for MML pride themed events, staff and trustees which was shared at an all staff day
- We also had an exchange on organized efforts to challenge critical race theory in schools and what that may look like if it gains more momentum.

### Upcoming and Ongoing Work:

- Trying to recruit a new MLA Conference Liaison
- Our next meeting will be this Fall, unsure if in person or remote

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Fiorillo

Co-Chair, IF/SRC



## Leadership and Management Section (LAMS)

Executive Board Report

August 2021

- LAMS held one planning meeting June 21, 2021
- Sarah Sullivan, Maura Deedy, and Tracey Graham were in attendance (held over Zoom)
- A schedule of meetings was planned, with potential topics planned
  - Leadership (Virtual)
    - 8/19/2021
    - 10/21/2021
    - 12/16/2021
    - 2/17/2022
    - 4/21/2022
    - 6/16/2022
  - Membership
    - 9/16/2021 - Virtual
    - 11/18/2021 - MLS (Marlborough)
    - 1/20/2022 - Virtual - *MMA Info Panel - MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management*
    - 3/17/2022 - MLS (Marlborough)
    - 5/19/2022- no meeting due to MLA
    - 7/21/2022 - First meeting with new membership
- Friday, June 25 an email was sent to MLA members who expressed interest in participating in the section

Respectfully submitted,  
Tracey Graham, Secretary



## Legislative Committee Report

August 13, 2021

Legislative Committee closed out FY21 with its final meeting on 6/25/21. We set the FY22 meeting dates as follows and will post on the MLA calendar:

- 9/24
- 10/22
- 11/19
- 12/17
- 1/28/22
- 2/11
- 2/23 or 3/9 - possible Virtual Legislative Day
- 3/1, 3/3, or 3/8 - possible in person Legislative Day
- 4/22
- 6/24

Jennifer Harris and Will Adamczyk will continue as Co-Chairs. We have invited Eileen Dyer, Director of Swansea Free Public Library to join us as “Co-Chair in training.” We have a New Members meeting planned whereby we invite those people who attended the MLA Conference and showed an interest in finding out more about the committee work. Our work with members of MBLC, MLS, MSLA, WMLA and CMLA has benefitted us all. Note: Greg Pronevitz has stepped off the committee and we will be welcoming Debbie Fraggot, MSLA President in his place.

The Legislative Committee has four main areas of focus for the coming year:

- **Legislative Day** - We will try to bring it back to the statehouse, but will also provide some virtual component as our previous two years demonstrated a great success in further reaching our target audience.
- **MLA Annual Conference** - We believe that the Conference is an important opportunity to provide strong advocacy programming. New Library Directors are always coming on board and will need training.
- **FY22 & FY23 State budgets** - This could be a difficult year for budgets, so we want to stay on top of the process. We say this every year, however we have been increasing support by our Legislators through active advocacy.
- **EveryLibrary partnership** - We are working with a library advocacy non- profit to help improve our advocacy work as a committee and for all of MLA. This is just starting to grow. The background video on that topic is available at: <https://vimeo.com/564426154> The video is password protected, use "library1234". Specifically, we have developed an Orientation Packet for Legislators. It will be distributed through the Ranking Members in the Legislature and

members of the Library Caucus. An expanded element to Legislative Day to include the public will involve the public taking a pledge to support Massachusetts Libraries.

Respectfully submitted,  
William L Adamczyk and Jennifer Harris, Co-Chairs



## Program Planners Section Report

Friday, August 13, 2021

1. We had our initial open meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup> with a great showing of planners across the region. Our EB was voted on:
  - a. Chair – Meena Jain
  - b. Vice Chair – Robert Hayey
  - c. Secretary – Quincy Knapp
  - d. Treasurer – Ona Ridenour
2. We also shared out our by-laws draft and will have them to you for review at this meeting
3. We had our first EB meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup> in which we invited:
  - a. Jenn Bruneau – liaison for LIS students
    - i. Is there an opportunity to give students scholarships to join MLA and be on the Program Planners committees?
  - b. Hilary Umbreit – DEI liaison
4. We decided on and have invited committee chairs. We're waiting to hear from them for next steps
5. Our next open meeting will be August 17<sup>th</sup> @ 10am.

Respectfully submitted:

Meena Jain, Chair



## **MBLC Report to MLA Executive Board August 2021**

Governor Baker signed the FY2022 budget on July 16. He didn't veto or reduce any of our budget lines, which were all funded at or above what we requested in our FY22 Legislative Agenda. Of particular note, our State Aid to Public Libraries line received a \$1 million increase—on top of the \$2 million increase it received for FY2021, and the State Aid to Regional Libraries line (7000-9401) received an increase of \$1 million over the FY 2021 budget, \$624,520 higher than the Agenda requested amount for that line. For further details our FY2022 funding, see:

<https://mblc.state.ma.us/about-us/budgets-and-funding.php>

On the capital side, our annual cap for the MPLCP will remain at \$20 million for FY2022.

We co-hosted a virtual conversation with Senator Markey and FCC representatives on Thursday, August 5 to discuss the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), the portion of the American Rescue Plan Act which addresses the homework gap and the connectivity gap by offering 100% discounts on laptops, Chromebooks, and tablets as well as related internet services that extend beyond the library's walls.

We are partnering with the Mass. Center for the Book to co-host a **watch party and conversation** on September 22 at 7:00 p.m. in collaboration with the Library of Congress and the **2021 National Book Festival**. We will be viewing a recorded video of Isabel Wilkerson discussing her book, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. Following the video, former Massachusetts Representative and civil rights advocate Byron Rushing and Professor Roopika Risam, associate professor at Salem State and a scholar in public humanities and African diaspora and indigenous studies will facilitate a conversation. Our Communications team is developing posters, social media, and bookmarks to help promote the event. Due to the rise in COVID-19 this is now an all-virtual event. More information to come soon.

The MBLC is joining with eight other Council of State Library Agencies in the Northeast (COSLINE) states to contract with QualityMetrics, LLC for the required independent evaluation of our IMLS Five-Year Plan 2018-2022, due March 30, 2022. This evaluation will also help inform our IMLS Five-Year Plan 2023-2027, due June 30, 2022. Our previous evaluation is available at:

<https://www.ims.gov/sites/default/files/state-profiles/evals/massachusetts5yearevaluation.pdf>

**ARPA Funding:** We are supporting two major American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)-funded initiatives; our Wi-Fi Hotspot lending program and direct grants to Communities Hardest Hit by Covid-19 (CHHBC).

We have distributed over 3,000 T-Mobile hotspots to over 200 libraries across the state. The hotspots were processed and shipped in mid-July. The MBLC is supporting this project using Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) ARPA funds through the end of September 2022. Providing digital inclusion/increased connectivity is one of the primary guiding directives for ARPA funding from IMLS.



Nearly all of the 20 libraries that are eligible for the CHHBC Open grants (ranging from \$25,000-\$50,000) have submitted their budget and program ideas. Lyndsay Forbes has been working with libraries to make sure their planned spending aligns with IMLS guidelines. Library proposals include plans to increase outreach efforts, improve accessibility through technology, enhance outdoor programming and service spaces, and to offer career assistance. Funds will be focused on increasing services to underserved populations. Another common theme is facilitating contactless services through pick-up lockers and self-checkout stations. Finally, several communities are putting funds towards outreach vans.

The 20 communities designated as being hard hit by COVID-19 are: Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Framingham, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, New Bedford, Randolph, Revere, Springfield, and Worcester.

To see more information on why these communities have been prioritized, please visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-equity-initiative#20-prioritized-communities->

MBLC and MLS are embarking on a new partnership with **Brazelton Touchpoints Center**, part of Boston Children's Hospital, with the goal of becoming an official Touchpoints training site for Massachusetts libraries. This partnership, supported with LSTA funding, will allow Lyndsay Forbes, Shelley Quezada and staff from MLS to offer the Touchpoints in Libraries training, the aim of which is to build capacity in Massachusetts libraries to support more effective family and caregiver engagement in libraries.

While we anticipate MBLC and MLS staff being able to start offering Touchpoints in Libraries training by the fall of 2023, Massachusetts public libraries will be able to participate in the training this fall, starting on October 19. Libraries can apply in teams of three to participate in this training. Teams must consist of a staff member of youth services, a staff member from a non-youth services department, and a member of administration (director or assistant director). All team members will commit to attending 8 weekly virtual sessions and complete related coursework. Team members will also commit to attending at least 4 of 6 monthly reflection sessions that follow.

Paul Kissman was named Chair of the **American Library Association's E-rate Task Force**. ALA's E-rate Task Force is charged with working with the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to improve and streamline the current operation and future development of the E-rate program of discounted telecommunication rates for schools and libraries. The Task Force gathers input from the library community and other interested library organizations including the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) about issues and concerns with the E-rate program and conveys those concerns to the SLD and to the FCC on the telecommunications discount program. Congratulations, Paul!

Evan Knight attended 3 recent webinars on models of library lending for digital objects, mostly focused types of Controlled Digital Lending (“CDL”) – recordings are available at <https://blog.archive.org/2021/07/20/recordings-now-available-from-recent-controlled-digital-lending-webinars/>. This is an emerging space that is already being used for academic library course reserves. Internet Archive makes a compelling, low-risk proposition for public libraries to get involved, but litigation on their model is scheduled to be heard in April 2022.

Shelley Quezada and Rob have been working with Jonathan O’Dell from the **Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH)** and MLS Delivery to distribute the latest edition of *The Modern Guide to Hearing Loss for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing*. This updated guide is intended to assist in addressing issues of health and well-being, accessibility, communications, and technology, as well as the impact of hearing loss, where to turn for help, information on emerging technologies, and understanding and coping with trauma and hearing loss.

Included in the delivery will be MCDHH’s Visor Card, a communication aid that features icons that can be used in various roadside situations for self-identification and to expediting communication with responders by deaf or hard of hearing individuals. Deliveries will take place in August.

Maura Deedy held Interviews with municipal officials in Andover, Southborough, and Bridgewater for the **New Director Search Packet**. These conversations were helpful for offering a new perspective on the hiring of a library director, from municipal employees and experts in HR. In addition to gaining valuable insights, she has set the stage to invite these municipal leaders to speak to future events.

Lauren Stara has been invited to become a member of the **American Institute of Architects/American Library Association (AIA/ALA) Library Building Awards Committee**. The award recognizes library structures for excellence in architectural design. Recipients must demonstrate design achievement, including a sense of place, purpose, ecology, environmental sustainability, and of history. Congratulations, Lauren!

The Communications Team has been busy with the **summer library program**. Along with MBLC staff members Andrea Bunker, Lyndsay Forbes, and Mary Rose Quinn, the team has held Bruins visits at East Forest Park in Springfield, South Hadley, Lynn, North Reading, Tewksbury, and Norwell. The First Lady of the Commonwealth has participated in 3 of the visits. Senators Tarr, Lesser, and Representative Capano have also participated in the events as have mayors from Springfield and Lynn. The team thanks Commissioners Cluggish, Resnick, and Kronholm for their support and participation in the visits. The team has two more visits planned in Weymouth and New Bedford. The First Lady will attend in New Bedford. Given the rise in COVID cases, the team has been reaching out to the libraries and the Bruins to ensure that these events occur safely.

The summer challenge with Mrs. Baker and Blades which launched on July 1 with 60 libraries participating will end on August 16. We’ll draw prize winners soon after and get the Bruins signed gear to the libraries. Libraries can use the gear in any way that supports the library. We’ll also tally up reading goals. Last year participants read 1.7 million minutes.



## MLS Update August 2021

### Strategic Initiative 1

MLS ensures its services are sustainable, prioritize member needs, and equitably serve all member types.

Goal	Actions	Measurement of Success	Monthly work toward Goal
MLS ensures service value to all member types.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MLS will develop a guide to its levels of services, clarifying what benefits are available to each member type; the guide will be shared broadly and in several formats</li> </ul>	<i>Member library staff at a broad level will have a greater understanding of MLS services and resources.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff has been selected to work on developing a guide to consulting and training services</li> </ul>
MLS will continue to strengthen its partnerships and collaborations to allow MLS to focus on what it does uniquely well.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MLS will establish a partnership process, including a rubric, liaisons, expectations, policy and evaluations of current and new partnerships for opportunities and overlap.</li> </ul>	<i>MLS will report annually on the value of their partnerships.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff has been selected to work on this action over the coming year, with a pilot collaboration with a new partnership.</li> <li>New opportunities are being planned with partners, in an effort to leverage strengths of participating organizations to provide a valuable opportunity for member libraries.</li> </ul>
New Services will be designed to deliver the greatest statewide impact, able to expand and contract due to available funding and need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MLS will create guidelines and criteria for new and established services for value and impact.</li> </ul>	<i>As an element of service review or introduction, MLS will be able to detail the impact of the service.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have contracted with a consultant for a Learning Management System to manage learning opportunities</li> </ul>

## **Strategic Initiative 2**

MLS empowers leaders to emerge at every level of library service, connecting staff throughout the stages of their careers.

Goal	Actions	Measurement of Success	Monthly work toward Goal
MLS promotes excellence and continuity by providing professional development, conversation and community around leadership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MLS develops a process for reaching out to members/training participants, asking them to report on how MLS programs have helped them.</li></ul>	<i>Member library staff recognize the transformative value of building and maintaining a professional network.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offering Leadership Development workshops</li></ul>
Leadership, professional development, and networking opportunities will have flexible offerings in order to include participants from various library types, library sizes, and resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Linked to S.I.1, G.1: MLS will develop a guide to its levels of service, clarifying what benefits are available to each member type; the guide will be shared broadly and in several formats.</li></ul>	<i>MLS will report to member libraries on an annual basis the number of professional development opportunities via type of opportunity, intended audience, training modality and type of library.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engagement with the staff and board on Case for Support work is nearing completion; selected member outreach is forthcoming.</li></ul>



**Strategic Initiative 3**

MLS will take the lead in facilitating important conversations, and support member-facing initiatives focused on DEI: diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and social justice work.

Goal	Actions	Measurement of Success	Monthly work toward Goal
<p>MLS will integrate the core values of diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and social justice into its policies, practices, procedures, and programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In collaboration with partner organizations, MLS will explore hiring a coordinator/consultant to support the membership in this work.</li> <li>• MLS will work to align internal policies and procedures to the tenets of DEI.</li> </ul>	<p><i>MLS will demonstrate both increased resource allocation as well as substantive, visible progress in representation throughout MLS services.</i></p>	
<p>Following the lead of trusted experts, MLS will build awareness in using the DEI tenets with member library staff to identify and eliminate barriers to inclusive library services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In partnership with member libraries, research and tailor a DEI evaluation framework for member libraries.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Member library staff are confident in using the core values of DEI with their communities.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offering DEI workshops</li> <li>• Exploring the possibility of offering another round of DEI workshops after the Fall CE season</li> </ul>

**Additional monthly notes:**

- July begins a new fiscal year for MLS staff, and we've worked with each member of our team to ensure that specific tasks in this plan will be addressed. We will provide details as they occur. Projects include creating and piloting a partnership evaluation process, an in person leadership learning opportunity, and work toward providing members with the resources they need to create a DEI evaluation framework.
- Both MLS offices are open (only to staff and deliveries) and minimally staffed. Starting the week of Sept 6, all staff have been directed to plan their work schedules to mirror pre-pandemic schedules and should include in office, at home, and in library days (as appropriate).



Member Updates:



## Massachusetts School Library Association

MLA Report 8-13-2021

1. Every Library Meeting, 6/23/31: Designated DESE Library Media Support Person:
  - John Chrastka of Every Library (EL) “partner with another unrepresented area to get a .5 or .3 person at DESE”. Debbie is exploring with BPS Central Office Colleagues to see if school libraries and school counselors could join together.
  - Gathering at School Librarian Job Descriptions in AASL Listserv
  
2. School Library Census & Advocacy:
  - Senator Lesser and 35 other MA State Legislators signed the letter to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s Commissioner Riley asking for a census of all school library resources and employees.
  - MSLA thank you campaign
  - Letters to MBLC, BPL & BPS Leadership about school library support and ESSER Funds; Debbie,
  - BPS ESSER Update - (non ESSER Funds for...) Possible 16 FTE certified; 3 FTE Para; 1 Central Office Program Manager
  
3. MSLA Annual Meeting, 7/2/21: Advocacy Breakout Priorities
  - Legislative Breakfasts
  - Advocacy Toolkit for schools, librarians, public library communities (to support school libraries)
  - Commonwealth eBooks into more districts
  - Mentoring new librarians and paraprofessionals