



## **MLA Executive Board Agenda**

Friday, February 11, 2022, 10 – 12

Virtual meeting via Zoom

*Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82832523996>*

*Meeting ID: 828 3252 3996*

1. Call to order and vote to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2021 meeting.
2. Treasurer's Report - Bernadette Rivard
3. Association Manager's Report - Rebecca Beckley
4. Bylaw Revision: Clarification of Article IV, Section 4: Treasurer/Asst.  
Treasurer - Nora Blake
5. Report of the Nominating Committee - Nora Blake
6. Conference Update
7. Updates
  - a. MBLC
  - b. MLS
  - c. NELA
  - d. MSLA
  - e. Others
8. New Business
9. Old Business
10. Adjournment

\*Next meeting: Friday, April 8, 2022 @10am

**Massachusetts Library Association**  
January 31, 2022

<b>Starting Balance</b>				<b>\$31,711.35</b>
<b>Income:</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Notes</b>		
400.1	Conference Attendee Registration			
400.2	Conference Exhibitor Income	2022 Conference	3664.00	
400.3	Conference Meals			
400.5	Conference Sponsor Income	2022 Conference	1400.00	
400.6	Conference Other Income			
410	Membership		3739.00	
410.1	NELA Joint Memberships		315.00	
420	Program Income			
400.6	Other Income	Comm MA PMFL Refund		
430	Committee Fundraising	Paralibrarians Memb & Cert	310.00	
440	Sponsorships/Donations/Other	EBSCO and other donation		
491	Transfer from Investments			
			<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$9,428.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
600	Program Expenses			
610	Scholarship			
630	Travel			
650	Dues & Subscriptions			
670	NELA Membership Expense			
700	Conference			
700.11	Conference AV Expenses			
700.12	Conference Awards			
700.13	Other Conference Expenses			
700.3	Speaker Fees			
700.6	Conference Printing & Copying			
700.8	Conference Payroll	Kristen	2063.94	
700.9	Conference Credit Card Fees		259.75	
750.1	Payroll	Rebecca	1215.24	
750.101	Payroll Tax	Both Employees	1143.50	
750.102	Payroll Workmen's Comp	Both Employees	15.24	
750.103	Payroll Vendor Fee	Both Employees	419.00	
750.11	Postage		62.00	
750.12	Taxes & Filing Fees			
750.13	Office Supplies			
750.2	Professional Services			
750.3	Credit Card Merchant Fees	Membership CC Fees	187.83	
750.4	Website Hosting			
750.5	Insurance			
750.6	Telecommunications	Cell Phone	75.62	
750.7	Travel			
750.8	Printing & Copying			
750.9	Equipment & Software	Quickbooks Online & Zoom	1057.09	
			<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,499.21</b>
<b>Balance as of</b>			<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$34,640.14</b>

Respectfully Submitted:

*Bernadette O'Grady*

Fidelity Investments Accounts	6/30/2021	10/31/2021	12/31/2021	1/31/2022
Cash Reserves	4827.84	29828.12	29828.62	29828.87
Investments	165375.38	145463.09	145909.59	141191.94
<b>Total Fidelity Accounts</b>	<b>170203.22</b>	<b>** \$175,291.21</b>	<b>175738.21</b>	<b>171020.81</b>

\*\* moved 25K from Investments to Cash Reserves  
recommended by Investment Comm, voted by Admin Board

Wild Apricot Receivables	6/30/2021	10/31/2021	12/31/2021	1/31/2022
<30 Days	1205	2140	645	2991
30-60 Days	195	100	40	40
60-90 days	2325	165	240	20
90 days +	1135	510	460	700
<b>Total Receivables</b>	<b>4860</b>	<b>2915</b>	<b>1385</b>	<b>3751</b>

**Massachusetts Library Association**  
July - January 2021

Income:	Category	Income	Budget	Difference	Notes
400.1	Conference Attendee Registration	1975.00	85500.00	-83525.00	\$1975 is funds received this year from last years conference
400.2	Conference Exhibitor Income	5897.00	31500.00	-25603.00	
400.3	Conference Meals	-66.00	450.00	-516.00	\$66 refund for meals for last years conference
	Conference Basket Raffle	0.00	1800.00	-1800.00	
400.5	Conference Sponsor Income	2100.00	9000.00	-6900.00	
400.6	Conference Other Income	0.00	450.00	-450.00	
410	Membership	23729.00	42500.00	-18771.00	
410.1	NELA Joint Memberships	2350.00	1200.00	1150.00	
420	Program Income	0.00	9950.00	-9950.00	
400.6	Other Income	33.11	50.00	-16.89	refund from Comm MA PFML acct
430	Committee Fundraising	0.00	0.00	0.00	
440	Sponsorships/Donations/Other	50.00	800.00	-800.00	
491	Transfer from Investments	0.00	\$5,900.00	-5900.00	Has not been necessary to transfer
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 36,018.11</b>	<b>\$189,100.00</b>	<b>-\$153,081.89</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>					
600	Program Expenses	500.00	\$5,450.00	-4950.00	Only expense Jordan Miller
610	Scholarship	0.00	\$1,000.00	-1000.00	
	Site Costss	0.00	\$1,700.00	-1700.00	
630	Travel	0.00	\$3,530.00	-3530.00	
	Meals	0.00	\$7,090.00	-7090.00	LLD at Statehouse
650	Dues & Subscriptions	0.00	\$250.00	-250.00	
	Miscellaneous	0.00	\$125.00	-125.00	
670	NELA Membership Expense	2320.00	\$4,000.00	-1680.00	
700	Conference Meals	0.00	\$45,000.00	-45000.00	
700.11	Conference AV Expenses	0.00	\$18,000.00	-18000.00	
700.12	Conference Awards	0.00	\$0.00	0.00	
700.13	Other Conference Expenses	0.00	\$270.00	-270.00	
	Site Costss	0.00	\$4,995.00	-4995.00	
700.3	Speaker Fees	0.00	\$7,200.00	-7200.00	
	Conference Hotel Expenses	0.00	\$4,050.00	-4050.00	
700.6	Conference Printing & Copying	500.00	\$4,000.00	-3500.00	
	Conference Supplies	0.00	\$1,440.00	-1440.00	
700.8	Conference Payroll	12829.51	\$28,000.00	-15170.49	
700.9	Conference Credit Card Fees	534.08	\$3,600.00	-3065.92	
750.1	Payroll	8593.57	\$16,000.00	-7406.43	
750.101	Payroll Tax	8020.34	\$12,205.00	-4184.66	
750.102	Payroll Workmen's Comp	137.54	\$250.00	-112.46	
750.103	Payroll Vendor Fee	1539.30	\$2,700.00	-1160.70	
750.11	Postage	166.96	\$200.00	-33.04	
750.12	Taxes & Filing Fees	-29.47	\$125.00	-154.47	
750.13	Office Supplies	11.15	\$150.00	-138.85	
750.2	Professional Services	4300.00	\$5,000.00	-700.00	Pay accountant
750.3	Credit Card Merchant Fees	1458.69	\$4,000.00	-2541.31	
750.4	Website Hosting	2122.99	\$2,000.00	122.99	already expended full cost, need to investigate
750.5	Insurance	1048.00	\$1,500.00	-452.00	
750.6	Telecommunications	529.39	\$900.00	-370.61	
750.7	Travel	0.00	\$1,300.00	-1300.00	
750.8	Printing & Copying	48.27	\$50.00	-1.73	
750.9	Equipment & Software	2462.13	\$2,720.00	-257.87	
				0.00	
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>47092.45</b>	<b>\$188,800.00</b>	<b>-\$141,707.55</b>	
	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$11,074.34</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>-\$11,374.34</b>	



## **Conference Committee Report**

### **February 2022**

*The MLA 2022 Conference: Turn the Tide: will be held at the Resort and Conference Center in Hyannis, May 23-24, 2022.*

**Evening events:** We are working on plans for a Sunday event that we hope will draw attendees early, and are planning a birding outing followed by dinner. Monday night will have the Hall of Fame awards at dinner, but we are still working out the after dinner details.

**Meetings:** The Conference Committee met via Zoom on Friday, January 21. Our next meeting will be held on Friday, February 18 at 10 am via Zoom.

**Programs:** the committee finalized the schedule and is working on finalizing the program proposal forms, due on Feb 18. Shepherds have been assigned. We will be sending out contracts via DocuSign as soon as all the programs are finalized.

**Sponsorship/Exhibitors:** Our Conference Director, Kristen Collins has begun working on sponsorship. Please contact her directly if you have any new potential exhibitors or sponsors. So far, we have 11 exhibitors, 5 sponsors/ad purchases. **All are encouraged to support MLA by contributing a gift basket.**

**Publicity:** Save the date 1-page flyer in motion with our graphic designer and an email will be deployed soon. We are working on developing an app.

**Key dates:** The conference website is scheduled to launch on March 1. Registration opens March 25.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Esme Green, Conference Co-chair



## **IF/SRC Committee Report**

### **February 2022**

- We've been responding to a challenge to the children's book *Amazing Women of the Middle East* by Wafa' Tarnowska. The title has been challenged at six NOBLE libraries by a single patron.
- Our next meeting is March 3rd @ 10:00 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Fiorillo, Chair



## **Jordan Miller Committee Report**

February 2, 2022

The Jordan Miller committee is currently recruiting one additional member.

Interested persons should email [pmccuen@minlib.net](mailto:pmccuen@minlib.net) or [adorsheimer@nevinslibrary.org](mailto:adorsheimer@nevinslibrary.org) for a link to the committee questionnaire.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam McCuen & Amy Dorsheimer  
Jordan Miller Committee Co-Chairs



## **Leadership and Management Section Report**

### **January 2022**

The membership of LAMS met Thursday, Thursday January 20, 2022 with ten people in attendance. The guest speaker was Katie McCue from Massachusetts Municipal Association who discussed the MMA Suffolk graduate-level academic program that is open to public library employees. MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management focuses on skill development and leadership development, looking at developing a pipeline of municipal leaders. The certificate program links contemporary public management theory with “real world” practice, covering topics such as budgeting and financial management, challenges in human resources management, and strategic leadership.

Suffolk manages the recruitment and instructors. MMA works with local town managers about the content. Credits can be used towards an MPA and other colleges may waive an additional level. Several graduates of the program were in attendance and spoke highly of the program advancing their career as well as helping them understand the role of the library within a municipal context. There is also a Municipal Finance Management Seminar, developed in response to a shortage of financial professionals. LAMS members are encouraged to apply for the program, and many municipalities have covered the tuition for attendees.

Several MLA leaders were present and discussed the conference and encouraged LAMS members to consider running for an office, or taking on a leadership role.

The next meeting will be on Thursday March 17, 2022 via zoom with Doug Nathan, Coach and Consultant and Terry McQuown, Consulting & Training Services Director at Massachusetts Library Systems.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maura Deedy  
LAMS co-chair



## Legislative Committee Report February 2022

Legislative Committee held its most recent meeting on January 27, 2022. We had many members in attendance, representing most parts of the state, as well as several different key partner organizations. The group has been meeting at least monthly, with some subcommittee meetings working in between.

The Legislative Committee has remained focused on the following issues:

- **House 4120 (ebook Bill)** – Several members of LegCom have been involved in the discussion of H.4120. Jennifer Harris led several meetings of the Stakeholders group, and worked with a smaller group within this to create a memo and recommended amendment language to share with Rep. Balser. The Stakeholders group had productive conversations, and determined that shifting from a copyright bill to a consumer protection bill was the best way forward. Kyle Courtney (Library Futures/Harvard) and David Leonard (BPL) authored the memo and amendment language. This was submitted to Rep. Balser and her committee. She has granted an extension and will be working with LegCom to prepare next steps.
  - Related Bills
    - Maryland – Passed by the legislature; currently facing litigation
    - New York – vetoed by the governor
    - Rhode Island – in committee
    - Illinois – just introduced
- **FY23 State Budget** – The Governor’s budget was just released. It was is a disappointing budget for libraries. We will be working with MBLC and others as we begin to reach out to the House and Senate about increasing funding for a number of MBLC lines. MBLC has listed priorities for State Aid to Libraries, (7000-9501) AND State Aid to Regional Libraries – MLS (7000-9401).
- **Legislative Breakfasts** – The committee is working with libraries and networks that will be hosting events this year. Several libraries have started working on events, including CMLA, WMLA and Worcester. Many of us took a year off from this process. We are trying to provide support and to prevent scheduling conflicts.
- **Legislative Day** – This will most definitely be virtual again this year. We are working on the details for the event(s), including how many, who to invite, etc. This is a work in progress. Confirmed - Save the dates for the events:
  - April 5<sup>th</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup> & April 7<sup>th</sup>
- **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. John Chrastka from EveryLibrary will be keynoting one of the days with an 'Advocacy: Part Two' session.

- **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. We are currently working on a way to keep abreast of bills in the State House that are related to libraries, or our partners. There may be opportunities to reach out to legislators to offer support or insight.

Also, LegComm continues to benefit from working with members of MBLC, MLS, MSLA, WMLA, and CMLA, who regularly attend our meetings.

Next meeting: February 10, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Co-Chair, Jennifer Harris, Plymouth Public Library, retired & Co-Chair, William Adamczyk, Milton Public Library



## **Nominating Committee Report**

**February 1, 2022**

Through a combination of begging via email and personal arm-twisting, we have achieved a slate of candidates for the upcoming election! Our slate is:

**Vice-President/President-Elect:**

Michelle Filleul  
Assistant Director  
Reading Public Library

**Assistant Treasurer/Treasurer-Elect:**

Sarah Breen  
Reference Supervisor  
Needham Public Library

**Secretary:**

Tina McAndrew  
Director  
Randall Library (Stow)

We are very grateful that these folks have stepped forward to donate their time and energy to MLA!

Respectfully,

Nora Blake  
Chair, Nominating Committee



## **Paralibrarian Section Report February 2022**

Our last meeting was virtual via Zoom on November 16, 2021. We discussed and continue to work on the following:

### MLA Conference:

- We will be holding our Annual meeting, presenting Awards and Certifications at conference.
- We have created a raffle basket with items representing different regions of Massachusetts

### PARA Certification:

- 8 PARA portfolios were received and accepted. We approved, 4 level ones, 3 level twos and 1 level four. We received \$310.00 for these applications.
- Our new address to send PARA portfolios will be: c/o Gerry Deyermond Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main Street, Andover, MA 01810
- Continuing work on placing the PARA portfolio process on line with an established committee.
  - We are recruiting new member for our PARA review board

### Social Media;

- Desiree, who has been working with PR section, has joined the PR committee and will attend meetings.

### Membership:

- Working on recruiting members for the section.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna McGrath, Chair Paralibrarian Section



## **Program Planners Section Report**

**Friday, February 11, 2022**

- We met with Kristen Collins regarding the option of piggybacking a Statewide Program Planning Database onto the existing conference website.
  - After discussing the functionality we would like, Kristen offered to speak with Board members to talk about options that MLA might be able to provide.
  - We'll meet again in a couple of weeks to continue the conversation.
- Mentoring
  - Joanne agreed that the Program Planners Section could create a mentoring program within our group. To that end, we've developed a Mentorship form to match mentors to mentees and will put it out to group members at our next meeting.
- Our Adult programming sub-group and our Program Planners Warriors group have had several meetings and have made much progress!
  - The adult committee spends about 30 minutes talking about programs they've had and another 30 minutes on various topics that affect program planners.
  - Ellen Meyers has taken on the task of creating a "best practices" manual for adult programming, the group has named itself the PP Warriors. We're excited to see the work coming out of this group!
  - As this work progresses, we will continue to work on children's and teen programming groups.
- Our Student Liaison initiative is on hold as we are looking for a new Chair for that work.
- We are considering a standalone conference in 2023 - maybe a performer's showcase of some sort.
- Our webpage is mostly updated; we might add some images to it.
- Our next open meeting will be Tuesday Feb 15, 2022 at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meena Jain

Chair



## **Public Relations Committee Report**

February 2022

### **PR Committee Administrative Highlights**

#### *Outreach*

Members of MLA who indicated interest in the PR Committee were invited to attend a regrouping meeting on February 3, 2022.

Jocelyn Tavares attended January's conference committee meeting.

### **PR Committee Highlights**

MLA PR Committee convened via Zoom on Thursday, February 3 at 3:00 PM to discuss Conference, Social Media, and Executive Board opportunities.

#### *Conference Updates*

The Hall of Fame inductees from 2022 will be celebrated at conference on Monday, May 23 during dinner.

#### *Social Media*

Attendees were given a recap of the social media policy and how it would be implemented on the section and committee level. A lot of discussion focused around the policy and mechanics of the Facebook platform. President Joanne Lamothe agreed to bring the matter up to the Executive Board meeting for further discussion. Desiree Zicko offered to be in attendance at the meeting. Andrea Puglisi offered assistance with preparing a "how to" guide for implementing social media policy to roll out to sections and committees.

#### *Executive Board Opportunities*

The PR Committee is looking for a co-chair, as well as expanding the committee.

Additional meetings will be held in two weeks for the committee.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jocelyn Tavares  
Public Relations Chair



## **Youth Services Section Report**

**February 9, 2021**

The Youth Services section held its latest meeting on Zoom on January 20, 2022.

We will be voting on the YSS bylaws at our February meeting. These changes include wording and adding a Vice-Chair position back into the Executive Board.

YSS has gotten nominations for each of the three Executive Board offices that will be empty as of May 2022: Vice Chair, Committee Liaison and Secretary. Voting will take place at the YSS Annual Meeting at the MLA conference in May.

We sent out our YSS newsletter at the end of the month in January. This included information about YSS, book reviews, and articles about cool youth services related things! We are talking more about Lunch and Learn virtual events. We have started to get some interest from people with ideas they want to present.

YSS will also start the process of deleting their YSS specific pages on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook to follow the PR Policy put in place in 2021 by the MLA Executive Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Felicia O'Keefe  
Chair

## MBLC Director’s Report to MLA Executive Board February 2022

The **Governor’s House 2 budget proposal** was released on January 26 and is now up on the Legislature’s website: <https://malegislature.gov/Budget/GovernorsBudget>. Five of the seven MBLC budget lines were level funded; two received slight increases. The Governor added \$29,314 to the Agency line and increased the Technology and Resource Sharing line by \$5,964. He left the remaining budgets at current levels. The chart below indicates the current and proposed funding.

	FY22 Estimated Spending	FY22 GAA	H.2 Preliminary Rec.	H.2 vs. FY22 GAA	%
<b>BLC - Board of Library Commissioners</b>	<b>36,672,021</b>	<b>36,361,524</b>	<b>36,396,784</b>	<b>35,260</b>	<b>0%</b>
7000-9101 - Board of Library Commissioners(1CS)	2,002,283	1,702,272	1,731,586	29,314	2%
7000-9401 - Regional Libraries Local Aid (1CS)	13,516,000	13,516,000	13,516,000	-	0%
7000-9402 - Talking Book Program Worcester(1CS)	496,732	496,732	496,732	-	0%
7000-9406 - Talking Book Program Watertown(1CS)	2,828,147	2,828,147	2,828,147	-	0%
7000-9501 - Public Libraries Local Aid (1CS)	13,000,000	13,000,000	13,000,000	-	0%
7000-9506 - Library Technology and Automated Resource-Sharing Networks(1CS)	4,528,859	4,518,373	4,524,319	5,946	0%
7000-9508 - Center for the Book (1CS)	300,000	300,000	300,000	-	0%

**Administration & Finance Meeting:** Tracey Dimant, Mary Rose Quinn, Lauren Stara, Andrea Bono-Bunker and I met virtually with Timur Yontar, Assistant Budget Director for Capital, Executive Office of Administration and Finance (A&F) on January 11 to discuss our request to have our annual cap raised for the MPLCP from \$20 to \$25 million. Many thanks to Tracey for her persistence in arranging the meeting, particularly given multiple recent staff changes on the capital side of A&F, and to Lauren and Andrea for preparing both narrative and spreadsheets that documented the importance of having our cap raised for FY2023. Mr. Yontar had reviewed the documents we had submitted in advance and asked detailed questions. He indicated he had discussed our request with Secretary Heffernan and told us he thought there was a “good chance” that we will have our cap raised for FY2023, although he also clearly stated that this was not a promise. He will let us know if he and/or Secretary Heffernan have follow-up questions and/or would like to arrange an additional meeting. We should hear A&F’s decision by the end of February, or possibly sooner (this may be promising in and of itself, in that we have been told we would hear the decision about our cap in May or June over the last few fiscal years.)

As a follow-up to our A&F meeting and given the short timeline before a decision will be made, I contacted some of the waitlist libraries regarding possible outreach efforts they might make to assist the MBLC in securing an increase in the annual spending cap. I provided each library with updated versions of the talking points that we shared with the waitlist libraries in 2019.

MLA and MSLA will be holding virtual **Library Legislative Day** events for different regions of the Commonwealth on **April 5-7** (during National Library Week). Members of the legislature’s Library Caucus will be invited to speak at each session. I will give the legislative agenda briefings and Commissioner Cluggish will issue a call to action at the end of each session.

ALA will not be having a Fly-in or **National Library Legislative Day** again this year. However, the Public Policy and Advocacy office will be doing some targeted outreach with select Members of Congress during the first week of March. I have been invited to participate again this year. Last year Maria

McCauley, the director of the Cambridge Public Library and I met with staff from the offices of Senator Markey and Representative Auchincloss.

**FY23 LSTA Direct Grant Update:** Grant writing workshops were held on January 5 and 11. The sessions, delivered by Lyndsay Forbes and Shelley Quezada, gave an overview of the application and SACL review process, how to best structure a grant, and how to successfully design grant-funded programs with outcomes in mind. The next deadline facing grant applicants is February 17 when draft applications are due. Final applications are due on April 5. Leading up to the February draft application deadline LSTA consultants Shelley Quezada, Lyndsay Forbes, Kate Butler and Evan Knight are busy meeting with applicants to discuss and improve their grant ideas and applications.

**Perkins Access Library Accessibility Training:** Planning is underway to create an ARPA-funded training series on how to make library services more accessible. A survey is currently being developed by Shelley and Lyndsay with Perkins Access staff to help identify areas of training need. The training series will consist of five to seven sessions and will run from April through May 2022.

**LSTA Five-Year Evaluation and Five-Year Plan Update:** Quality Metrics is wrapping up work on the MBLC's Five-year evaluation. We are close to the review stage and will be delivering it to the Institute of Museum and Library Services in March. Quality Metrics has simultaneously begun working on the MBLC's Five-year strategic plan that is due later this year. In the coming months they will be seeking additional feedback from MBLC stakeholders and staff.

**Database Procurement Update:** The statewide database procurement process continues with database demonstrations by vendors running through early February. This will be followed by evaluations by the MBLC/MLS procurement team and our nine-member advisory group. This year 9 vendors responded with proposals for 91 products to consider. The evaluation process will run through February. Many thanks to Kate Butler who is managing this complex and very important project.

**FY20 Network Annual Report:** Paul Kissman and Kate Butler have been working with the state's Automated Library Networks to produce the FY20 Network Annual Report. The report is significant for two reasons: we used an online survey tool for the first time, and, for the first time the results were published in the data visualization tool Tableau instead of in a PDF. The data presentation is continually being refined, but you can see the report here:

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/mblc/viz/FY20NetworkAnnualReport/LandingPage>

The FY21 Network reporting survey is now open.

In January Evan Knight submitted a letter of support for Lawrence History Center's grant proposal to the Mass Cultural Facilities Fund, a collaborative program from Mass Cultural Council and MassDevelopment (<https://massculturalcouncil.org/organizations/cultural-facilities-fund/>). The fund provides major improvement grants to nonprofit cultural organizations, in recognition of their profound economic impact on communities across Massachusetts. Evan's support letter is a great example of the collaborative work with cultural institutions across the state that is a hallmark of MBLC's efforts in the preservation and special collections community.

**Environmental Monitoring Program Update:** In January Evan led two environmental monitoring kick-off sessions attended by 39 librarians representing 30 libraries participating in the first cohort of the new environmental monitoring program. The sessions featured Melissa King, Senior Conservation Liaison at Conserv, our environmental monitoring vendor. The sessions discussed the 'whys' of environmental monitoring, and the goals of the MBLC's newly designed environmental monitoring program that



centers on real time monitoring of targeted collections. Monitoring equipment has been shipped out and the installation process has begun.

**Social Work Graduate Interns:** Shelley Quezada has been working with Michelle Eberle from MLS to support Boston University graduate student interns at the Waltham and Cambridge public libraries. In addition to meeting with the students Shelly and Michelle will be meeting with BU School of Social Work and library directors hosting social work students. Shelley's work may lead to a larger program involving more placements from additional colleges and universities in public libraries across the state. This effort seeks to help library staff better address the social services needs in their communities by connecting library users with trained professionals.

**Family Engagement Work with DESE:** Shelly has been participating in an ongoing bimonthly meeting with representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on the topic of Family Engagement. Through this statewide group she regularly connects the library community with DESE and other state agencies serving families. In January she worked with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to help connect 20 Gateway City libraries to DPH-funded Safe Injection Site information and activities.

The MBLC communications team released the [summary of results](#) from the resident survey. During the month of June 2021, the [MBLC Statewide Public Relations Advisory Committee](#) distributed a survey aimed at collecting information from both library users and non-users that could guide us in our promotional efforts . Because of COVID, we focused on distributing the survey via social media (MBLC channels and asked libraries to help get the survey out via social media). We also created bookmarks with info/link that could be placed in curbside pickups. The survey and all materials were available in five languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese, French Creole and Chinese. We also ran paid digital ads in an effort to hear from people with diverse voices and backgrounds.

The team is also conducting quick polls to get information that may be helpful when talking with reporters and legislators. The results of the first poll are attached below.

The team created an [MBLC webpage](#) for the **Massachusetts Municipal Association** Conference. While the in-person part of the event was cancelled due to COVID, the information contained on the webpage is useful for local and state officials. We distributed it through email and asked librarians to share with local officials. We'll keep the page up on the agency site through February.

The **#LibraryLovers** social media campaign is underway. Libraries can use [the toolkit](#) with ready-made social media and valentines to encourage their patrons to upload a valentine to our website <https://www.lovemasslibraries.com/>. The site can be sorted by library. We'll share the valentines with state legislators.

The **PJ Drive** also kicks off in February. The communications team coordinates with libraries, the Boston Bruins, DCF/Wonderfund, and Cradles to Crayons to collect PJs for kids in need. Since our involvement in 2014, libraries have collected over 50,000 pairs of pajamas. Libraries can use materials in [the toolkit](#) created by the MBLC to promote the drive locally. A kickoff event with First Lady Lauren Baker and Blades will take place at Tufts Library in Weymouth on February 23 at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Cluggish will start the event and welcome everyone.



MASSACHUSETTS  
CENTER *for the* BOOK

## February 2022 Report to MLA Executive Committee

**Mass Center for the Book** is now located at 17 New South St, Sullivan Ste 302, Northampton, MA 01060. Our phone number remains 617-872-3718. We will eventually announce a 413 office phone number but will also maintain this mobile number.

We are nearing the interview stage for a new full-time program coordinator. We had a very good pool of applicants and hope we can have someone in place during March.

We are also hiring three project-based interns/grad students from UMass and Simmons West. They will be assigned to our cultural heritage and new traveling exhibits projects (more on the latter soon) and a third will be an office asst.

We have nearly 40 full boxes of books (adult and middle-grade/young adult) we want to get out into the field. I'm going to ask advice of librarians/library organizations about ways to distribute within the community before I ask More Than Words to pick them up. Any ideas welcome at [shaloo@massbook.org](mailto:shaloo@massbook.org).

We received nearly 400 terrific submissions to the annual Massachusetts Book Awards across all categories. We are forming judging panels at present. It's our expectation that access to the State House will continue to be limited throughout the Spring and so we anticipate a Fall 2022 State House round-up of three years of awardees. The last time we held the event we were similarly pressed, and we welcomed an SRO crowd in the Great Hall. Here's hoping when we re-embrace the public sphere, the next awards event will be equally successful.

We received nearly 1500 submissions to the annual Letters About Literature student reading/writing program. This is a slight increase over last year though still down considerably since the pandemic overwhelmed schools. (At our high, we received 4500 to 5000 letters annually.) We are moving ahead with a virtual celebration again this year. It worked very well last Spring, albeit with only one legislator in attendance. We'll see how best to accommodate more legislators this time around.

Our collaborative national programs:

Route 1 Reads is featuring literary fiction this year. Our selection is Jabari Asim's *YONDER*. This year, we will distribute book-group resources to Rt 1 libraries. Budget allowing, other libraries can register interest in participating. Announcement will come via All Regions.

Great Reads from Great Places, the annual national children's reading list from the affiliated centers for the book, selection will be made in the coming two months. We expect we shall choose the current year's PB award winner, Mary Wagley Copp's *WHEREVER I GO* (<https://marywagleycopp.com/books/wherever-i-go/>). But we have not yet sent in this selection and so lobbying from the field is welcome ( [shaloo@massbook.org](mailto:shaloo@massbook.org) ).

*Shalom Shaloo*



## MLS Update January 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 towards 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>Case for Support was presented to the Executive Board and staff. This document will help us streamline our marketing and communication materials.</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 out annually on the value of their partnerships.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MLS is working with our cooperative purchasing partner MHEC on Procurement/Contract Trainings for members.</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/impact of the service.</i>	



**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	<b>Monthly work towards goal</b>
<p>MLS promotes excellence and continuity by providing professional development, conversation, and community around leadership.</p>	<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>	<p><i>Member library staff recognize the transformative value of building and maintaining a professional network.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● MLS partnered with MBLC to host a New Director Community Chat in December with 28 registrants. The next session will be held in February.</li> <li>● MLS is working with Eric Poulin (Simmons University SLIS) to coordinate stakeholder meetings in January to discuss leadership and/or management training opportunities for the summer.</li> </ul>
<p>Leadership, professional development, and networking opportunities will have flexible offerings in order to include participants from various library types, library sizes, and resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Linked to Initiative 1, Goal 1: 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>	<p><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></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● MLS has contracted with external trainers to offer workshops on Leadership and Management topics during January and February.</li> <li>● MLS is contracting with external trainers to offer Management workshops on Human Relations topics during March-June.</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.

Goal	Actions	Measurement of Success	Monthly work towards 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● MLS has continued to have conversations with library leaders across the state to ensure our work on this action meets their needs.</li> </ul>
<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>● MLS has contracted with external trainers to offer workshops on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion topics during January and February.</li> </ul>



## **Massachusetts School Library Association**

### **MLA Report 2/10/22**

#### MSLA Advocacy

- The MSLA Board and Advocacy Committee convene next week.
- Elementary Librarians were going to be cut in Lunenburg and replaced by STEM teachers. Reinstated before MSLA action.
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges
- MA Association of School Committees - Introduction/MSLA

#### MBLC Legislative Event 2/11 at 9 - Northampton PL

- Debbie will attend, but Claudia Palframan, Chicopee - Dupont Middle School Library Teacher, will be representing MSLA

#### MBLC Legislative Sessions

- [MSLA Talking Points](#) - feel free to comment

#### Strategic Planning Summer 2022