RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABILITY AS A CORE VALUE OF LIBRARIANSHIP

Whereas the Council of the American Library Association (ALA) adopted the Resolution on the Importance of Sustainable Libraries¹ at the 2015 ALA Annual Conference which stated that libraries are uniquely positioned and essential to build the capacity of the communities they serve to become sustainable, resilient and regenerative;

Whereas the Executive Board of ALA accepted the final report of the Special Task Force on Sustainability (EBD # 5.4 -- 2017-2019)² at the 2018 ALA Annual Conference in which the Triple Bottom Line framework of sustainability was adopted: “To be truly sustainable, an organization or community must embody practices that are environmentally sound AND economically feasible AND socially equitable,”;

Whereas the first recommendation of the final report of the Special Task Force on Sustainability is to adopt sustainability as a core value of librarianship;

Whereas the results of a 2018 membership survey indicated that two-thirds of ALA members currently feel ALA neither serves as a model nor provides leadership in the area of sustainability;

Whereas the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s latest report,³ written and edited by 91 scientists from 40 countries who analyzed more than 6,000 scientific studies in October of 2018, finds that the immediate consequences of climate change are far more dire than originally predicted, calling for a transformation of the world economy at a speed and scale that has “no documented historic precedent” using the fundamental connections embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals;

Whereas the Fourth National Climate Assessment⁴, issued in November 2018, finds that societal efforts to respond to climate change have not expanded at the scale needed to avoid substantial damages to the economy, environment, and human health over the coming decades; and

Whereas the association, library profession and libraries of all types - academic, public, school and special - have the stature, energy, determination and will to build the coalitions, convene the conversations and act as the catalysts the world needs, not only today, but to inspire future generations, to take control of their future by working together to find the necessary adaptations and solutions to thrive as communities, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. Shall define sustainability using the “triple bottom line” conceptual framework: “To be truly sustainable, an organization or community must embody practices that are environmentally sound AND economically feasible AND socially equitable.”

2. Adopt “Sustainability,” as defined above, as a core value of librarianship.

3. Evolve accreditation standards to ensure the topic of sustainability is an inherent element in library school curriculum.

¹ https://bit.ly/1SpItcY
³ https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/
⁴ https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/
4. Provide ALA members with the necessary knowledge and resources to inspire, cultivate and encourage active leadership in the application of the triple bottom line framework to guide decisions for the future of our society.

Mover: Sara Dallas, ALA Councilor-at-Large [518.859.0742]

Seconder: Peter Hepburn, ALA Councilor-at-Large [773.426.8082]

Seconders:

- Jim Neal, Immediate Past-President, American Library Association
- Jennifer Ferriss, ALA Chapter Councilor New York
- Sara Kelly Johns, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Emily Elizabeth Clasper, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Keturah Cappadonia, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Louis Munoz Jr, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Ray Pun, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Mel Gooch, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Jules Shore, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Matthew Ciszek, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Nick Buron, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Roberto C. Delgadillo, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Erica Findley, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Patty Wong, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Alexandra Rivera, ALA Councilor-at-Large
- Lessa Kanani’opua Pelayo-Lozada, ALA Councilor-at-Large

Endorsers:

- Sustainability Round Table (1,021 members)
- Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, ALA Member - Special Task Force on Sustainability Implementation Team
- Rene Tanner, ALA Member - Special Task Force on Sustainability Implementation Team
- Monika Antonelli, ALA Member - Special Task Force on Sustainability Implementation Team
- Adrian Ho, ALA Member - Special Task Force on Sustainability Implementation Team
- Traci Lesneski, ALA Member - Special Task Force on Sustainability Implementation Team
- Margaret Woodruff - ALA Member - Special Task Force on Sustainability Implementation Team
- New York Library Association (6,579 members)
- Virginia Library Association (900 members)
- Carol Witt, ALA Member
- Mandi Goodsett, ALA Member
- Matthew Bollerman, ALA Member
- Ellen Rubin, ALA Member
Lisa Kropp, ALA Member
Janie Hermann, ALA Member
Lisa Raff Varga, ALA Member
Barbara J. Ford, ALA Member & Past ALA President
Beth Filar-Williams, ALA Member
Mary Beth Wilhelm Lock, ALA Member
Claudia Depkin, ALA Member
Richard Naylor, ALA Member
Tim Furgal, ALA Member
Sue Rokos, ALA Member
Tessa Killian, ALA Member
Jen Cannell, ALA Member
Sarah Potwin, ALA Member
Susan Polos, ALA Member
Central NY Library Resources Council (CLRC)
Jen McCreery, ALA Member
Deanna DiCarlo, ALA Member
Phyllis Keaton, ALA Member
Michele Capozzella, ALA Member
Michele Young, ALA Member & President of the New York Library Association
Jenny Rocky, ALA Member
Marc Wildman, ALA Member
Chuck Thomas, ALA Member
Jose Hernandez, ALA Member
Karen LaRocca-Fels, ALA Member
Casey Conlin, ALA Member
Ellen Mollins Firer, ALA Member
AnnaLee Giraldo, ALA Member
Gina Loprinzo, ALA Member
Sue LeBlanc, ALA Member
Carol Desch, ALA Member
Patricia Kaufman, ALA Member
Kevin Verbesey, ALA Member
Suffolk Cooperative Library System
Elena Falcone, ALA Member
Margo Gustina, ALA Member
Grace Riario, ALA Member
Samantha Jane Alberts, ALA Member
Erica Freudenberger, ALA Member
Joyce L. Rambo, ALA Member
Jerry Nichols, ALA Member
Scott Kushner, ALA Member
J’aime Pfeiffer, ALA Member
Jill Davis, ALA Member
Louise S. Sherby, ALA Member
Roger Reyes, ALA Member
Robert Hubsher, ALA Member
Lisa Richland, ALA Member
Mike Firestone, ALA Member
Katie Bertrand, ALA Member
Janet Scherer, ALA Member
Joanne M. Adam, ALA Member
Lauren Comito, ALA Member
Betsy, Evans, ALA Member
Marc David Horowitz, ALA Member
Dani Scott, ALA Member
Rebecca Miller, ALA Member
Chris Brewster, ALA Member
Derek Ivie, ALA Member
Kate Hutchens, ALA Member
Yvonne Kester, ALA Member
Jill Leinung, ALA Member
Nicole Turzillo, ALA Member
Madeleine Charney, ALA Member
Jamie Papandrea, ALA Member
Shannon K. Supple, ALA Member
Anne Jobin-Picard, ALA Member
Danielle DeMicco Paisley, ALA Member
Tracey Urbick, ALA Member
Catherine Benson, ALA Member
Ginger Tebo, ALA Member
Uta Hussong-Christian, ALA Member
Terry Z. Lucas, ALA Member
Elissa Johnson, ALA Member
Carol Albano, ALA Member
Jamie Conklin, ALA Member
Eric Tans, ALA Member