

**Committee on Library Advocacy (COLA)**  
**Report to Council**  
**June 2023**

Below is a brief summary of COLA's work since January 1, 2023.

- Presented at LibLearnX - January 28, 2023
  - Participated in a Public Policy & Advocacy session, co-sponsored with the Chapter Relations Committee: "Hammer, Vise, Lever: Better Tools, Stronger Advocacy" focused on tools for advocacy and a nuanced approach to that work.
- Presented at Oklahoma Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association Annual Conference – March 10, 2023
  - ["National and State Advocacy Updates: What's Happening and How You Can Help"](#)
- Presented "Hammer, Vise, Lever: Better Tools, Stronger Advocacy" as a webinar along with the Chapter Relations Committee for United for Libraries on April 5.
- Updated the Advocacy Action Plan Workbook that will be available as part of ALA's advocacy resources on the website.
- The Committee is working on a script for a template advocacy presentation born from the Advocacy Action Plan Workbook.
  - Enables COLA members to share at state, regional, local conferences and professional development.
- Committee Chair Steven Yates met with the chairs of the Chapter Relations Committee, the Committee on Legislation, and the Intellectual Freedom Committee.
- Members of **COLA's Ecosystem Subcommittee** presented in a variety of places, both virtual and in person, on how to use the Ecosystem Toolkit, including:
  - Webinar, March 23: "The Library Ecosystem: ONE VOICE for Emerging Leaders"
  - Webinar, May 10: "Library Ecosystem Tools in Action."
  - Maine Library Association Pre-Conference, May 2023
  - Upcoming Chapter Leaders Forum Presentation, ALA Annual Conference, June 2023
  - Upcoming Webinar for United for Libraries, July 7, 2023
  - Upcoming Texas Library Association Leadership Workshop, July 2023
- The subcommittee finalized their 2023-2024 work plan which aligns with their charge to develop additional tools to support strong implementation of the Initiative; produce and publish programs, webinars, and articles about ecosystem implementation and success; facilitating a community of ecosystem practitioners to support the exchange of ideas, successes, and challenges; and identify policy recommendations that will codify ALA's ongoing commitment to strengthening library ecosystems both within ALA and beyond, including equal recognition of all affiliated state associations.
- The Subcommittee is finalizing a Public, School and Academic Libraries Fact Sheet to share as a resource.

Be sure to join us during Annual 2023 in the following places:

- Saturday, June 24
  - COLA Meeting, 8:30-10:00 am in McCormick Place, W475b
  - Ecosystem Tools for Your State Leadership, A Working Session, 4:00-5:00 pm in McCormick Place, W184bc
- Monday, June 26
  - COLA Ecosystem Sub-Committee Meeting, 4-5:30 pm in Hyatt Regency McCormick, Clark C

Contact COLA chair Steven Yates ([steven.d.yates@ua.edu](mailto:steven.d.yates@ua.edu)) or COLA staff liaison Aimee Strittmatter ([aimees@ala.org](mailto:aimees@ala.org)) for more information on the work mentioned here.  
Respectfully submitted:

2022-2023 COLA membership: Susan Philip Baier, Glen J. Benedict, Nicanor Diaz, Eboni Henry, Katherine M. Lester, Megan Palmer, Kimberly Anne Patton, Kevin Reynolds, Rocco A. Staino, Julie W. Walker, Lisa L. Wells, Steven D. Yates (chair)

2022-2023 Ecosystem Subcommittee membership: Leslin Charles (ACRL), Nanette Donohue (Chapter Relations Committee), Eryn Duffee (AASL and founding subcommittee member), Bryan Duran (United for Libraries), Rhonda Gould (Office of Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services), Dorcas Hand (founding subcommittee member), Sara Kelly Johns (co-chair and founding subcommittee member), Michelle Robertson founding subcommittee member), Jen Alvino Wood (co-chair and founding subcommittee member)