



MARIA F. ESTRELLA

(she/her/hers/ella)

Public Services Manager III,
Cleveland Public Library
325 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Type of Library: Public



Statement of Concern

From the first free modern public library opening in 1833 and the founding of the American Library Association in 1876, the library profession has traditionally been and continues to be driven by a singular group. All significant contributors to the invisible standardization of how social identities and the social and political forces of the 19th century played a fundamental role in the profession. Library institutions have historically failed historically marginalized communities through omission, neglect, and implicit approval of general norms. The lack of diversity within the American library field as well as egregious behaviors cemented in indifference and unwelcoming notions, have left inappropriate measures for diverse library personnel to have meaningful inclusion and witness institutional change.

I am excited to provide assistance in the continuous efforts of creating and implementing diverse, equitable, and inclusive endeavors. It will empower the library system to continue its vision of becoming a safe environment where the voices of Librarians, paraprofessionals, library patrons and non-users are included, heard, valued, and respected.



Previous Positions

Assistant Branch Manager
Cleveland Public Library – South Brooklyn Branch | Cleveland, Ohio | 2016 – 2017

Subject Department Librarian
Cleveland Public Library – Youth Services Department | Cleveland, Ohio | 2013 – 2016

Children's/Teen Librarian
Cleveland Public Library – Memorial-Nottingham Branch | Cleveland, Ohio | 2008 – 2013

Library Assistant
Cleveland Botanical Garden – Eleanor Squire Library | Cleveland, Ohio | 2006 – 2012

Library Assistant – Computer Emphasis
Cleveland Public Library – Fulton Branch | Cleveland, Ohio | 2004 – 2008

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Cleveland Public Library – Youth Services Department | Cleveland, Ohio | 2000 – 2004



Education

Certification in Diversity and Inclusion
Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Master of Communication and Information in Library and Information Science
Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Social Work
Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio

Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Spanish
Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio



Affiliations

American Library Association

REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to
Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking

Association for Library Service to Children

Coretta Scott King Book Awards Round Table



ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:

2022-2025 American Library Association Councilor-at-Large

2022-2025 Association for Library Service to Children Board of Directors Member

2020-2022 Coretta Scott King Book Award Juror

2018-2022 REFORMA Chair of the Children and Young Adults Services Committee

2018 – 2022 REFORMA Executive Board Member

2019 ALSC Excellence in Early Literacy Digital Media Committee Member

2016 Pura Belpré Award Selection Committee Member

2013 REFORMA Children in Crisis Task Force Member



Officers held in state/regional library associations and other associations:

Cleveland Public Library Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Member | 2019

Cleveland Public Library Fighting Community Deficit Sub-Committee | 2014

Cleveland Public Library New Americans Committee | 2004-2006



Honors and/or Awards:

100+ Latinos Cleveland Must Know, 2021 Edition

2022 Champion of Central Award



Major Accomplishments

2021 Dr. Arnulfo D. Trejo Librarian of the Year by REFORMA

2016 American Library Association Leadership Institute

2016 OhioNET Library Leadership Ohio



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Accomplishments

2022: Founding of Young Diverse Readers Consulting

January 2022 – March 2022: Authentic Discussion Initiative | Southern Adirondack Library System

May 2022: Juntos: Latinx Family Engagement Webinar | Idaho Commission for Libraries

October 2022: Keynote Speaker | Flourishing Institutions: Best Practices for Inclusive and Equitable Library Spaces | Mid-Hudson Library System Mini-Conference on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

November 2022: Service Anchors: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Youth Library Services and Programming | Northeast Ohio Regional Library System



Publications:

Estrella, M. F. (2015, November 13). *Cleveland Public Library's First Bike-Based Library Service Initiative*. Public Libraries Online Cleveland Public Library's First BikeBased Library Service Initiative.

<https://publiclibrariesonline.org/2015/11/cleveland-public-librarys-first-bike-based-library-service-initiative/>

Mitra, C. E., Rodarte, E., Estrella, M. F., & Terrones, L. (2020). *Welcoming to all: Latinx Culture and Programming: Notes from Latinx Librarians*. Children and Libraries. <https://journals.ala.org/index.php/cal/article/view/7368/10137>



Interviews:

REFORMA. (2020, November 26). *Meet Our Members: Maria F. Estrella*. REFORMA.

https://www.reforma.org/article_content.asp?edition=2§ion=19&article=402

Latinxs in Kid Lit. (2018, February 15). *Latinxs in Kid Lit at the Library: Interviews with Fellow Librarians: Maria F. Estrella*. Latinxs in Kid Lit.

<https://latinosinkidlit.com/2017/10/19/latinxs-in-kid-lit-at-the-library-interviews-with-fellow-librarians-maria-f-estrella/>



Number of Years as an ALA Member: 9