

TO: ALA Executive Board

RE: Site Recommendation for the PLA 2024 Conference

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval of site and dates recommended for the PLA 2024 Conference

ACTION REQUESTED BY:

PLA Board of Directors

CONTACT PERSON:

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PLA Executive Director
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DRAFT OF MOTION:

Approve Columbus, OH, as the site for the PLA 2024 Conference, Wednesday, April 3 – Saturday, April 6, 2024. *Contingent upon approval from local state chapters.

DATE: June 5, 2019

BACKGROUND:

PLA will hold the 2020 Conference in Nashville, TN, and the 2022 Conference in Portland, OR. According to our rotation schedule and policies, an eastern site is desired for the 2024 conference. See attached for more detailed background and site review.

Background

Columbus conforms to all PLA conference site selection policies (see Attachment 1 for policies). Additionally, Columbus meets or surpasses all of PLA's hotel and exhibit space requirements, (see attachment 2). Columbus provides geographic diversity.

PLA conference sites, past and future include:

1983	Baltimore	March 23-26
1986	St. Louis	April 2-5
1988	Pittsburgh	April 27-30
1991	San Diego	March 20-23
1994	Atlanta	March 23-26
1996	Portland (OR)	March 26-30
1998	Kansas City	March 11-14
2000	Charlotte	March 29-31
2002	Phoenix	March 13-16
2004	Seattle	February 25-28
2006	Boston	March 20-25
2008	Minneapolis	March 25-29
2010	Portland (OR)	March 23-27
2012	Philadelphia	March 13-17
2014	Indianapolis	March 11-15
2016	Denver	April 5-9
2018	Philadelphia	March 20-24
2020	Nashville	February 25-29
2022	Portland (OR)	March 22-26

Additionally, the proposed dates do not conflict with major religious holidays or other major library conferences, including the Texas Library Association.

Site Review

In addition to viable dates and excellent meeting and housing facilities, Columbus is recommended for a number of reasons:

- The Greater Columbus Convention Center (GCCC) is located centrally to the downtown hotels. All hotels in the proposed PLA block are within walking distance.
- After negotiations by PLA staff, the Greater Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau has eliminated nearly all convention center rental fees.
- The GCCC just completed a \$140 million renovation and expansion project in June 2017. The project is highlighted by 373,000 square feet of contiguous exhibit space, 10,000 square feet of two-level meeting space, second-level show offices overlooking the exhibit halls and nine new meeting rooms, bringing the total to 75.
- The hotel package includes a range of hotel types and pricing.

- Columbus is within a 1-day drive or 1-hour flight of more than half of the U.S. population.
- The Columbus culinary scene features top-ranked chefs and one-of-a-kind restaurants.
- Neighborhoods on all sides of downtown are bursting with new places to eat and shop, and artisans are shaping new areas of the city into dynamic spaces to explore.
- Columbus is a smart and open-minded city where people are free to be themselves and follow their passions.

Conclusion

PLA conferences provide public librarians with the opportunity for high-quality, professional development and networking opportunities. Columbus has the facilities and attractions to host a very successful PLA 2024 Conference.

ATTACHMENT 1

Policy on National Conference Site Selection

In reviewing possible sites for PLA National Conferences or other major events, PLA will consider the following factors:

- * Whether the site meets the technical requirements for the event such as adequate meeting rooms, number of sleeping rooms, etc., as determined by the PLA staff and ratified by the PLA Executive Committee.
- * Whether the site conforms to the PLA Board's directive to have National Conference sites provide for geographic diversity.
- * Whether the potential host library(ies) is(are) supportive of the PLA event being held there.
- * Whether there is a regional welcome for the PLA event being held there.
- * Whether the city is an accessible destination.
- * Whether there are any state laws requiring public libraries in the city to conduct business in any manner that violates approved policies of the American Library Association at the time the site selection is made.

Final selection of a National Conference site shall be made in conformity with Section 6.4, Item VIII of the ALA Policy Manual, "Division National Conferences, Preconferences, and Related Activities."

Adopted by the PLA Board of Directors, June 1991; Revised February 1995.

ATTACHMENT 2

<i>Dates Offered</i>	Wednesday, April 3 – Saturday, April 6, 2024
<i>Convention Center Rental</i>	\$0
<i>Convention Center Meeting Rooms</i>	More than adequate number of ballrooms, meeting rooms and breakouts to support current programs, factoring potential growth
<i>Convention Center Exhibit Space</i>	373,000 square feet of contiguous exhibit space
<i>Hotels</i>	3600+ hotel rooms with a wide range of rates. Rates are negotiable.
<i>Hotel Tax</i>	10%
<i>Airport Info</i>	The John Glenn Columbus International Airport provides more than 150 daily nonstop flights departing to 47 destinations
<i>Average cost of Flight</i>	Approximately \$250 round trip
<i>Distance from airport to downtown</i>	The John Glenn Columbus International Airport is just eight miles, or 10 minutes, from downtown.
<i>Cost of cab from airport</i>	\$25 one way
<i>Shuttle service to/from airport</i>	\$15 one way
<i>Mass Transit</i>	The Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) provides direct bus service between the airport and downtown for only \$2.75. AirConnect is an affordable and easy way to reach downtown hotels and the Greater Columbus Convention Center.
<i>Accessibility</i>	Acceptable
<i>Attractions</i>	Shopping, restaurants and many attractions within walking distance