

American Library Association President-Elect Report Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada October 2021

As we continue leading our association through uncertain times, I am heartened by the stories from library workers and library lovers I've met thanks to my new role. Their dedication to libraries and our association are an inspiration and provide hope through the chaos, shining a light towards our bright future – leading together for change.

Although my term officially started at the close of Annual Conference in June 2021, the work of President-elect began shortly after my election and I was eager to lend a hand where I was needed. I was thankful for an onboarding by then President Julius C. Jefferson Jr. and then President-elect Patty Wong preceding my official duties to update and orient me to their own work and initiatives, looking for areas where we might work together over the coming years and create continuity among our presidencies. I look forward to what the rest of this year brings in preparation for my presidential year and once again thank all those who provide support, advice, and guidance during this endeavor.

Orientations & Onboarding

- Executive Board Orientation with ALA Governance Staff & new Executive Board members (May 2021)
- Media Training with ALA Communications and Marketing Office Staff (June 2021)
- Freedom to Read Foundation Board Orientation (August 2021)
- BARC/Finance & Audit Committee Orientation & Fall Meeting (October 2021)
- Parliamentary Training with ALA Parliamentarian Eli Mina (October 2021)

Speaking Engagements & Interviews

- Daily Breeze/Peninsula News Profile (Interview, April 2021)
- UC Berkeley AAPI Heritage Month Celebration: Kuleana: Our responsibility to one another (Keynote, May 2021)
- Association of Southeastern Research Libraries: An afternoon with Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada (Speaker, May 2021)
- American Libraries Magazine: Countering Anti-Asian Hate (Interview, May 2021)
- New Councilors Orientation (Welcoming Remarks, June 2021)
- United for Libraries Gala Author Tea at Annual Conference (Moderator, June 2021)
- National Conference of African American Librarians (Welcoming Remarks, July 2021)
- Los Angeles Public Library Librarians' Guild (Keynote, August 2021)
- UCLA School of Education & Information Studies Alumni Profile (Interview, September 2021)
- Allen County Public Library Staff Day (Speaker, October 2021)
- American Association of School Librarians National Conference (Welcoming Remarks, October 2021)

Meetings

- Center for the Future of Libraries Meetings as Executive Board Liaison

- Constitution & Bylaws Committee Meetings as a second year member and Executive Board Liaison
- ALA President Patty Wong Advisory Committee Meetings
- Joint Conference of Librarians of Color Board of Directors Meeting as their Executive Board Liaison (September 2021)
- Transforming ALA Governance (TAG) Working Group Meetings
- Branding Working Group Meeting (October 2021)

Committee Appointments

I worked with President Wong and Past President Jefferson to make committee appointments for:

- Transforming ALA Governance (TAG) Working Group
- Committee on Sustainability
- Core Values Working Group
- Branding Working Group

It was an honor to provide remarks and a welcome at the first ever ALA Virtual Volunteer Fair. It was a well attended event and I got to visit almost all of the breakout rooms, meeting new members and connecting with leaders across the association.

In September I also chaired a joint meeting of the Committee on Committees & Committee on Appointments to share my vision of the committee appointments process to be diverse and representative. We were thankful to have Holly Robinson take us through the very well organized process and timeline to ensure our appointments for Association Committees and Council Committees are completed by January 2022, our Nominations Committee appointments are completed by October 2022, and our Executive Board nominations are completed by the end of Fall 2022.

2022-2023 Presidential Planning Work

During my presidential year, current planned priorities include:

- equity, diversity, and inclusion trainings and resources of library workers
- support and advocacy for library workers through ALA's Allied Professional Association
- modeling organizational excellence and sustainability through change management for potential structural changes to ALA's governance and supporting our members through the continuing culture shift of the association

Some of this work has already begun thanks to the work of President Wong and Past President Jefferson where we were able to create continuity and partner:

- *Transforming ALA Governance Working Group*: Under the leadership of Chair Amy Lappin, I am excited to continue the work I began as chair of the Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness (SCOE) as an Executive Board liaison to this group. The group is working to: a) indicate and operationalize the culture changing principles of the Avenue M report, SCOE recommendations, the Forward Together work, and a new governance landscape, b) establish a regular governance review process, and c) assess the large projects that need to be addressed and create a plan to address them.

- *Branding Working Group*: Begun under the vision of Past President Jefferson, he and I have teamed up to Co-Chair the ALA Branding Working Group which will develop, review and recommend a replacement to the Libraries Transform public awareness campaign, including investigation of a potential membership level geared toward the general public. This work ties in closely with focus on promoting and celebrating libraries and the work of ALA with library workers and library lovers across the nation, helping increase our reach beyond library workers.

Much of this work is still to be determined and will occur under the guidance of my Presidential Advisory Committee who will be meeting early in November 2021.