

**American Library Association
Fall 2018 Executive Board Meeting
President Report – Loida Garcia-Febo**

My service as President of the American Library Association began at the close of the 2018 Annual Conference in New Orleans. Over the past six months I visited libraries and had conversations with library workers across the USA and other countries. As I wrote in [Serving with Love](#), my recent column for American Libraries magazine (AL), the renewed love for the communities we serve, makes me feel hopeful about the future of libraries. My other columns for AL include [Libraries=Strong Communities](#), [From Local to Global](#), and [Immerse Yourself in Wellness](#).

These six months have been full of inspiring conversations about serving communities during my [National Library Tour](#) to advocate for libraries which so far has included [Pikes Peak Library District](#) in Colorado, [Cambridge Public Library](#), Harvard and MIT Libraries in Massachusetts, and [Cranston High School East](#) in Rhode Island. Seattle Public Library is my next tour stop during our 2019 Midwinter Meeting. As part of my Global Tour which includes ALA's long standing commitments in other countries, I gave keynotes at the Guadalajara and Sharjah book fairs. Being invited as the first ALA President to speak at the European Union Parliament to advocate for libraries was a very special honor.

It was fantastic to join library conferences/events in Ohio, Kentucky, Georgia, Missouri, Oregon, the New England Library Association Conference in Rhode Island, and the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color in New Mexico.

I am grateful to library workers and library advocates for their collaboration and support. Together, we faced a myriad of situations. It is my belief that we learn from everything to move forward stronger.

My appreciation to all the members of the ALA Executive Board for their support and collaborative approach in thinking and planning which strengthens our association leadership. I want to recognize ALA staff members for their excellent collaboration during these months.

Advocacy

- During Midwinter, ALA will roll out new resources to build on our many advocacy wins in 2018. As part of my advocacy efforts, the revamped Advocacy University website will be unveiled and we will launch the first video of our video series on using storytelling to effectively impact library advocacy. To see these new resources, go to the new advocacy website at ala.org/advocacy. My Advocacy Advisory Team and the ALA WO staff members are collaborating on these resources.
- The Museum and Library Services Act passed the Senate and the House and was signed by the president. This is the cornerstone legislation that reauthorizes the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The most recent authorization expired in 2016. The 2018

Museum and Library Services Act is an endorsement from Congress that IMLS is a federal priority. This reauthorization includes some improvements to previous legislation: It allows Tribal libraries to be eligible for more IMLS grants. It allows libraries to use IMLS funding to prepare or assist with disasters like Hurricane Harvey. The bill authorizes IMLS through 2025 and allows ALA to make a stronger case for federal funding for libraries each year. We've fought hard to maintain funding over the past two years: for the second year in a row, we've managed to increase funding, despite the president's proposals to close IMLS.

- ALA warded off the Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act. This bill would have transferred the authority to appoint the Register of Copyrights from the Librarian of Congress to the president. ALA sees this as a direct attempt by copyrights holders to undermine the authority of Carla Hayden. This legislation would have paved the way for moving the U.S. Copyright Office out of the Library of Congress. The bill passed the House, but ALA members were so vocal about opposing the bill that it stalled in the Senate. Metrics from our Legislative Action Center show that opposition to this Register of Copyrights legislation in December received some of ALA's highest advocacy engagement rates in 2018.
- ALA members were extremely active on other copyright issues in 2018, most notably with the passage of the Marrakesh Treaty.

Letters we have sent via the Office of Library Advocacy

From ALA and PLA, co-signed by me and Monique le Conge Ziesenhenné:

12/4/2018-Victoria (TX) City Council (councilors approved library's request for public fine amnesty and dropped suggestion that patrons should be required to have credit cards on file)

From ALA and AASL, co-signed by me and Kathryn Roots Lewis:

11/1/2018-Mahwah Township (NJ) Public Schools (the district is reviewing its unpopular and restrictive policy regarding book checkout; a decision is expected at the end of January)

11/13/2018-East Hampton (CT) Public Schools (no movement yet)

11/20/2018-Union Township (NJ) Public Schools (district has restored 2 out of 4 cut positions)

12/17/2018-Alaska Board of Education (state board is considering next steps to review and possibly adopt new standards; local advocates working with Ed Commissioner to advance)

1/7/2019-Springfield (NJ) Public Schools (no movement yet, but advocacy efforts continue)

National Library Tour

The second stop of my National Library Tour to advocate for libraries was Cambridge in Massachusetts on October 17-18, 2018. As part of this stop, I met with colleagues at Harvard Libraries and MIT Libraries to share my message Libraries=Strong Communities. We had inspiring conversations about academic libraries serving all in their communities. I also went to Cambridge Rindge and Latin School and met with Massachusetts school library leadership, and

with high school students and teachers. We held a celebration and rally for libraries at Cambridge Public Library on October 18 with the participation of the Massachusetts State Librarian, the President-Elect of the Massachusetts Library Association, a representative from the Governor of Massachusetts, the Mayor of Cambridge and the Director of Cambridge Public Library. Personally, it was very special to receive citations from the Governor and from the City of Cambridge. My deep appreciation to the library staff of all the libraries for their marvelous collaboration and the directors of these libraries including: Sarah Thomas, Vice President for the Harvard Library and University Librarian, Chris Bourg, Director of Libraries at MIT, Emily Houston, Teacher Library Media at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, and Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries at Cambridge Public Library and member of the ALA Executive Board. American Library magazine published about this Tour stop here:

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/a-call-to-access/>

The school library at Cranston High School East was added to my Tour to advocate for school libraries. I visited the school library and spoke with students, teachers, and regional administrators. The event was supported by the President of the Rhode Island Library Association and other library leaders from the New England Library Association. Ed Garcia, Director of Cranston Public Library and member of the ALA Executive Board was instrumental in the coordination of the event.

American Library magazine published about this Tour stop here:

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/setting-21st-century-standards/>

Next tour stop: January 26 at 11:00 a.m. during the ALA Midwinter Meeting at Seattle Public Library.

Photos and updates are posted on my Facebook Page: ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo Facebook and on ALA's social media including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Link to the Libraries=Strong Communities page including media coverage:

<http://www.ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/libraries-strong-communities>

Wellness

- In addition to revamping the [ALA-APA Wellness Website](#) with new information on eight wellness areas, my Wellness Advisory Team and I worked on a program for Midwinter entitled: [A Native Perspective on Trauma: Bridging Past, Present, and Possibilities](#).
- As part of ALA's response to the tragic loss of Amber Clark, a librarian at Sacramento Public Library, I asked our amazing ALA staff members and they put together a document on [Resources for Coping with Grief](#).
- Next, webinars on microaggressions and a wellness pre-conference at the annual conference.

Diversity

- ALA and I are committed to providing library professionals with resources that support equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). Last November, on the heels of two incidents that

involved library staff and patrons of color, I sent a news release entitled [ALA president reminds members of professional EDI tools to address microaggressions, quash racial profiling](#).

- My President's Program speaker, Dr. Robin DiAngelo, will discuss themes that should help us to understand what people can do to engage more constructively in conversations about racism.
- Plans for our video series to help library workers understand how to incorporate the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion throughout their library services are underway. My Diversity Advisory Team, ALA staff members and I expect to launch the first video in March.

International Relations

- Our 'I am ALA' spotlight continues highlighting international members: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/i-am-ala-international-spotlight>
- The second session of a webinar series highlighting international issues such as the Library World Map developed by IFLA was presented on January 16 with the title "The Library Map of the World and the Art of Storytelling." The recording is available here: <http://www.ala.org/rt/irrt/initiatives>
- My International Relations Advisory Team and I are super happy to present a Library Map of the World space at the International Relations area near the Exhibits at the Midwinter Meeting where those interested in international exchanges/partnerships can obtain information about libraries from different countries and leave their contact information for further communications with those libraries.

Media

- Interviewed by *Charleston City Paper* about libraries as community centers, October 2018.
- Interviewed by the *American Libraries* magazine about the [National Library Tour in the City of Cambridge](#), October 2018.
- Interviewed by [The Horn Books](#) about the National Library Tour at Cambridge Public Library.
- Interviewed by *American Libraries* magazine about the [importance of school librarians and the Tour stop at Cranston High School East](#), October 2018.
- Interviewed by the *Cranston Herald* about my visit to the Cranston High School East library school, October 2018.
- MLSA Quote requested for an article in *THE Journal* (Transforming Education Through Technology), November 2019.
- Quote for [press release](#) announcing Grow with Google initiative, November 2019.
- Interviewed for [Libraries Leadership Podcast](#) about Libraries=Strong Communities, December 2018.

- Quote upon passage of MLSA, offered upon request of *Publisher's Weekly* and *Library Journal*, December 2018.
- Interviewed by Entre Dos Podcast about library services to immigrants and multicultural populations, December 2018.
- Information about ALA President and presidential efforts sent to the *Library and Book Trade Almanac*, December 2018.
- Interviewed by [Circulating Ideas](#) about various themes, December 2019.
- Interviewed by Long Island University Headlines about my [Hutton House Lecture at LIU Post on the vital role libraries play in our country today](#).

Travel and Speaking Engagements:

- October 17-18, 2018 -- National Library Tour at Harvard Libraries, MIT Libraries, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, and Cambridge Public Library.
- October 20, 2018 – Invited to the Book Fest @ Bank Street by the Bank Street College of Education in NYC.
- October 21-23, 2018 -- recognizing library advocates and keynote at the New England Library Association Annual Conference: “Libraries=Strong Communities and Highlights from ALA.”
- October 24-25, 2018 –Keynote at the ACRL OR/WA Joint Conference: “Librarians Leading: Empowering ourselves to advocate in challenging times.”
- October 26-29, 2018 – ALA Executive Board Fall Meeting.
- November 4-9, 2018 – Keynote at the Sharjah Book Fair: “Libraries=Strong Communities.”
- November 14, 2018 – Hosted a free webinar part of my Presidential efforts entitled ‘The Heart of Librarianship’ with Dr. Michael Stephens, Associate professor in the School of Information at San Jose State University.
- November 25-28, 2018 – Keynote at the Guadalajara Boo Fair: “Las bibliotecas: acceso a la información, privacidad y el signo de los tiempos” translation: Libraries: access to information, privacy and the signs of the times.
- December 3-5, 2018 – Meeting with Publishers in New York.
- December 4, 2018 – Host I Love My Librarian Award.
- December 6, 2018 – Visit PS. 452 School Library in New York City with NYLA President, Executive Director and the Director of Library Services, NYC Department of Education.
- January 14, 2019 – Delivered the Hutton Lecture at Long Island University Post Campus: “Libraries=Strong Communities.”
- January 17, 2019 – Hosted a free webinar part of my Presidential efforts entitled: “The Library Map of the World and the Art of Storytelling” with Kristine Paberza, IFLA Member Engagement Officer; Nicole Cooke, Associate Professor and MS/LIS Program Director at the Graduate School of Library/Information Science at UIUC.

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- January 18, 2019 – attended the Black Comic Book Fest NYC at the Schomburg Center in NYC.