

American Library Association
Emily Drabinski, President-Elect Report
January 2023

Since my Fall 2022 report in October I have continued my efforts to connect with library workers from across the ecosystem as I prepare for my year as President. I am grateful to librarians and library patrons across the country for sharing their experiences and perspectives in conversation with me. This is our association, and it needs all of us to meet the challenges we currently face. Please reach out to me if you have issues you'd like to see addressed in my 2023-24 presidential year.

You can book a time to speak with me at <https://calendly.com/edrabinski>.

Committee appointments

In consultation with the Committee on Appointments (composed of the Division President-Elects), I appointed volunteers to nineteen association committees. Thank you to the 337 association members who put their names forward for these positions. In consultation with the Committee on Committees, I appointed volunteers to sixteen Committees of Council. Thank you to the 328 association members who put their names forward for these positions. None of this work could be accomplished without the expertise and commitment of ALA governance staff, particularly Holly Robison. In addition to managing logistics seamlessly, she organized meetings between me and each staff liaison so that I could better understand the work of each committee and its volunteer needs. My selections were guided by a committee to racial and ethnic diversity, a balance between new energy and the expertise that comes with experience, and ensuring representation from different library types and geographic regions. Thank you to everyone who put their name forward for a limited number of opportunities. I look forward to working with you in other ways in the coming years.

Executive board nominations

In consultation with the Committee on Committees, we put forward a slate of six highly qualified candidates for executive board. Thanks especially to Madeline Pena for her work supporting the development of a diverse candidate pool. Gracias! It was wonderful to see a rich pool of potential candidates and my one regret is that we could not nominate them all. In addition to these nominations, I appointed four members of council to serve as election tellers, with one to be appointed as chair. Thank you to these individuals for their service to the association.

Executive board support

Working under the exceptional leadership of Lessa Kanani‘opua Pelayo-Lozada and my wonderful Executive Board colleagues, I supported work on a Board statement of support for human rights and free expression in Iran, helped to develop strategies for continuing work on the intersections of intellectual freedom and social justice work, and contributed to the reconstitution of the Joint ALA/AFL-CIO committee under the ALA Allied Professional Association. Thanks to immediate past president Patty Wong for her commitment to board effectiveness. I have learned much from your leadership.

Presidential initiatives

Working with a team of engaged and enthusiastic advisors, we have developed four areas of primary focus for my presidential term: climate action, the future of library work, member engagement, and youth librarianship. These thematic areas are urgent for the library field and the world, and I look forward to working with members across the association and its divisions to expand existing work in these areas.

In addition to the work listed below, my presidential year will include a bus tour that will bring ALA members and advocates to key sites across the United States. Programming related to each of the themes listed below will be offered at each stop on the tour.

Climate Action

- Continue work toward a carbon-neutral ALA
- Update ALA LibGuides related to disaster preparedness, climate justice, and related sustainability documentation
- Conduct outreach to tribal libraries and communities in order to integrate native perspectives on the environment into association work
- Develop relevant ALA Connect Live programming

Future of Library Work

- Extend the work of President Pelayo-Lozada’s library worker initiatives through continued support of the ALA-APA working group
- Develop and share resources for library managers new to working with organized labor
- Develop organizing training for online and in-person professional development
- Construct a “labor map” of union libraries and campaigns in the United States
- Develop relevant ALA Connect Live programming

Member engagement

- Support member engagement initiatives across the association including peer to peer support efforts, advocacy and organizing efforts, and media training
- Develop relevant ALA Connect Live programming

Youth librarianship

- Reserve specific fiscal support for youth librarian-led initiatives
- Develop relevant ALA Connect Live programming

Advisory Committee Meetings

November 17, 2022 Advisory Committee Meeting

December 16, 2022 Final Draft Meeting

Advisory Committee members

Mahasin Aleem, Contra Costa County Library

K.C. Boyd, Jefferson Middle School Academy

Elissa Cadillic, Boston Public Library

Jessica Dai, West Virginia University

Nicanor Diaz, Denver Public Library

Karen Downing, University of Michigan

Elisa Gall, University of Chicago Laboratory Schools

Ed Garcia, Cranston Public Library

George Gottschalk, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Aliqae Geraci, Wayne State University

Angela Jones, Skokie Public Library

Harvey Long, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Chulin Meng, Lehigh University

Morgan Ray, Flathead Valley Community College

Leah Richardson, George Washington University

Mimosa Shah, Harvard University

Phoebe Waldron, Austin Public Library

Max Wiggins, University of Maryland

Jamia Williams, Network of the National Library of Medicine(NNLM) Training Office

Courtney Young, Colgate University

Speaking Engagements

- Solo Librarian Happy Hour. **Remarks.** 11/2 [online]
- Idaho Commission for Libraries, Public Library Directors' Summit Library Director's Summit, Opening Speaker. **Remarks.** 11/3 [online]
- Black Caucus of the ALA, Maryland chapter. **Remarks.** 12/3 [online]
- CUNY Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. **Invited talk.** “Essential to the Public: Libraries at the End of the World.” 12/6 [online]
- Windham High School, Gender Spectrum Alliance Club. **Remarks.** 12/7 [Windham, Maine]

Participation and Attendance at Conferences and Other Events

- Young Adult Library Services Association, Young Adult Services Symposium. 11/9 [Baltimore, MD]
- Southern Adirondack Library System tour with Sara Dallas. 11/9 [Albany, NY]
- National Book Awards Dinner. 11/16 [New York, NY]
- Los Angeles Public Library 150th Anniversary kickoff event. 12/7 [Los Angeles, CA]
- AASL meetup with AASL President-elect Courtney Pentland. 12/14 [online]
- United Federation of Teachers school media specialist meetup. 12/14 [New York, NY]
- Pemberton [B.C.] Public Library tour. 12/27 [Pemberton, British Columbia, Canada]
- Whistler Public Library tour. 12/28 [Whistler, British Columbia, Canada]
- NYC DOE Office of Library Services (OLS) meeting. 1/5 [New York, NY]
- NYC DOE OLS meeting with NYC Councilmembers and Vice Chancellor. 1/13 [New York, NY]

Interviews and Media

- “Libraries Under Attack.” On the Media with Brooke Gladstone, WNYC. 11/11
- Kelly, L. “Librarians Are Meeting Younger Readers Where They Are: TikTok.” New York Times. 12/30