

**American Library Association**  
**Emily Drabinski, President-Elect Report**  
**April 2023**

Since my January 2023 report, I have continued my efforts to connect with library workers from across the ecosystem as I prepare for my year as President. I have expanded my outreach efforts internationally, touring libraries in the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Belgium, and Germany. During these visits I have shared updates about work happening at the association and learned from our international colleagues about issues they are facing. Strikingly, the organized censorship attempts we are seeing in the U.S. are beginning to show up at school libraries across southeast Asia. Colleagues from Hungary shared with me that what we're facing echoes book ban campaigns in that country dating back a decade. I have had many important reminders that all library issues are global. Special thanks to Michael Dowling for his support of these visits.

I have also begun to concretize plans for my presidential library tour through meetings with ALA staff who will support this project as well as an engaged advisory committee. I expect to solidify plans by our June executive board meetings.

***Presidential initiatives***

My advisory committee continues to meet to plan for my presidential term. These meetings have included planning for the inaugural, led by Leah Richardson and drawing on the expertise and interests of division president-elects as we develop a celebratory event where everyone feels included.

Representatives from my labor subcommittee have been working actively on APA-related work, including developing the beginnings of a map of labor activity and participating on a working group intent on examining the future of that side of the association. Climate action group members are developing a list of action items for the next term including a potential convening at ALA Annual 2024 to discuss sustainable library initiatives and to plan for next steps. Presidential funds will support this work as carried out by the Sustainability Roundtable and Council Committee. Members of the engagement subcommittee have been clarifying plans around my presidential tour. Right now, plans include programming for library workers to support advocacy and media work for which there is a clear demand as well as public-facing programming that highlights censorship and book banning efforts that are impacting many communities.

Thank you to Sheryl Reyes and Cheryl Malden for their significant support of our efforts.

***CMO Search***

I have agreed to serve on the Communications and Marketing Office director search. The committee met March 27th to solidify the job ad and share priorities for the position. This work will continue through the end of July.

### ***Legislative Fly-in***

I was pleased to be included in this year's Fly-in and to have the opportunity to participate in a humorous role playing activity. Alongside a powerhouse New York contingent that included executive board member Sara Dallas, I visited with Chuck Schumer's staff. With representatives from the New York Public Library and Brooklyn Public Library, I visited with Hakeem Jeffries's staff. Both meetings were productive and gave me the opportunity to learn more about the crucial role the ALA Washington Office plays in securing stable federal funding for America's libraries. Thank you to Alan Inouye for joining me on my visits and to Chris Stewart for an excellent and engaging program.

### **Speaking Engagements**

- Progressive Librarians Guild, UIUC iSchool. **Remarks.** 2/5 [online]
- "Essential to the Public: Libraries in Urgent Times. Invited talk. 2/10. University of the Philippines Diliman.
- "Positioning Academic Libraries for the Future." **Invited talk.** 2/13. University Malaya Library.
- "The Role of Libraries as Community Connectors." **Panelist.** 2/14. National Library of Malaysia.
- USC MMLIS Leadership Series. **Remarks.** 2/22 [online]
- University of North Texas Student Chapter Meeting. **Remarks.** 3/3 [online]
- "Essential to the Public: Libraries at the End of the World. Barnard Center for Research On Women/Project Nia. **Invited talk.** 3/21 [online]
- MAC4EAP & SAAMUSC: Collective Bargaining for Archivists. **Remarks.** 3/27 [online]

### **Participation and Attendance at Conferences and Other Events**

- Oklahoma Library Association Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Committee. 2/23 [online]
- Rule No. 5 Exhibition Opening, NYU Libraries. 2/27 [New York, NY]
- NYC School Library Association. 2/28 [New York, NY]
- NYC DOE Library System Council Meeting. 3/3 [New York, NY]
- ALA Legislative Fly-In. 3/7-3/9. [Washington, D.C.]

### **Library Visits**

- National Library of the Philippines, Manila, 2/8
- De La Salle Univeristy, Manila, 2/8
- Quezon City Public Library, 2/9
- Bulacan State University eLibrary, 2/11
- National Library of Malyasia, Kuala Lumpur, 2/13
- Universiti Teknologi Mara, Shah Alam, 2/13
- American Youth Corner, Kuala Lumpur, 2/13
- Selangor State Library, Shah Alam, 2/13
- Universite Saint Louis, Brussels, 3/13
- Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, 3/13
- Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels, 3/14
- Public School 28, New York, NY, 3/24
- Los Angeles County Library, West Hollywood Branch, Los Angeles, CA, 3/30

### **Interviews and Media**

- Sunday Show with Philipp Malderi. [Live.] KPFA, 3/19
- Citations Needed, Episode 179, 3/29