



Memorandum

To: NJLA Board of Directors and Members
From: Eileen M. Palmer, ALA Chapter Councilor
Date: 9/20/2021
Re: Monthly Report

LibLearnX to be Virtual

The American Library Association's Executive Board announced today that [LibLearnX](#): The Library Learning Experience scheduled for January 21-24, 2022, in San Antonio, Texas, will take place virtually.

"Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and surge of its variants coupled with the size, scope and location of LibLearnX, it is necessary to cancel the in-person portion of the event," said ALA President Patricia "Patty" Wong. "As such, the Executive Board voted to transition the in-person portion of LLX in January 2022 to a virtual-only conference."

Registration for Virtual LibLearnX opens on Oct. 15, 2021.

The Social Responsibilities Roundtable issued a statement earlier this month calling on ALA to cancel plans to meet in Texas. The SRRT statement, endorsed by the ALA Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship, said:

...ALA leadership to take action in support of our shared values of social responsibilities, racial and social justice, and democracy, as well as safeguarding the health and safety of the ALA membership and LIS community by cancelling the in-person LibLearnX meeting in January 2022 in San Antonio, Texas.

The state of Texas has recently passed the historically most restrictive law concerning access to abortions, and the most restrictive voting rights law in the nation.

Transforming ALA Governance

The ALA Executive Board has announced the next phase of organizational reform. In my view it is not a very positive step but we need to allow this group the time to do their work to see what recommendations will come forth. Those of us who worked alternatives to reform Council while retaining its representative make up continue to try to move those recommendations forward.

Transforming ALA Governance (TAG) Task Force was created and approved by the ALA Executive Board with the following charge:

The charge of this task force is 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 larger governance change-management projects and tasks that need to be addressed and create a plan to address them.

The following members were selected by the President and President-Elect and approved by the ALA Executive Board:

Chair: Amy Lappin

Members:

Kathy Carroll

Meg Delaney

Eldon "Ray" James

Liana Juliano

Oscar Lanza-Galindo

Leroy LaFleur

The members represent Council and a number of other ALA arenas, geographic areas and types of libraries as well as diversity in a broad sense.

The team has just started working. A number of ALA staff will be supporting and partnering in this work. They include Marsha Burgess, Raymond Garcia and Sheryl Reyes. The Executive Board liaisons are Lessa Pelayo-Lozada and myself and Tracie Hall.

Second round of applications to the FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund opens September 28

The [American Rescue Plan Act](#) (ARPA) of 2021 includes \$7.17 billion for the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program. The ECF will provide funding for public and tribal libraries and K12 schools to purchase connected devices and broadband internet connections for use off of library and school grounds by library patrons, students, and teachers and staff who otherwise don't have internet access. The ECF presents an unprecedented funding opportunity for libraries to expand broadband equity to those who need it most beyond the confines of library walls. With 100 percent reimbursement of costs for eligible equipment and services and the ability to receive upfront reimbursement, now is the moment to think big about how your library can leverage new funding to boost current technology lending efforts to reach more people or launch new services to connect your community...or both! Your library may also take advantage of other ARPA funds to support related digital inclusion needs, such as programming, staffing, and staff training. It is anticipated that all ECF funds will be expended after round 2 and there will be no round 3.

MD Library Association eBook Legislation

Some of you may be following the attempts in Maryland, led by the MD Library Association, to force publishers to adopt fairer digital content pricing for libraries. Earlier this week the Register of Copyrights, in response to a question on the legality of such state laws (posed by a US Senator) provided an opinion that suggests such state laws violate federal copyright laws. This PW article is a good analysis of her arguments and also includes ALA's response -- they disagree.

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/digital/copyright/article/87252-copyright-office-weighs-in-on-maryland-library-e-book-law.html?fbclid=IwAR1O0HzjP39c12GAiQ2eLYFnSNPXiFx2DIh8CS9X6I6fCiEqBF5HzIHgWYM>

NASA @MyLibrary

Congratulations to Jersey City Free Public Library and New Brunswick Free Public Library for their selection as NASA @MyLibrary partners! NASA@ My Library is a STEM education initiative created to increase and enhance STEAM learning opportunities for library patrons throughout the nation, including geographic areas and populations currently underrepresented in STEAM education. NASA@ My Library Partners will receive training and resources to implement NASA events and programming, access to a university Subject Matter Expert (SME) to support patron engagement, and \$1,600 for programming expenses.

100th Anniversary of the Newbery

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the Newbery Award, ALA is sponsoring a variety of events. This upcoming webinar is free and might be of interest to you and/or your staff.

https://www.ala.org/alsc/problematic-award-winning-texts-daniel-boone-newbery-award-and-children%E2%80%99s-librarianship?fbclid=IwAR31vI_f7Fy049FJt-1HUS28Aen22EIZMKupNeoDu4rKa0MgnaadINUR6wM

Problematic Award-Winning Texts: Daniel Boone, the Newbery Award, and Children's Librarianship

In a panel discussion, Dr. Rob Bittner (LGBTQ Youth Literature Specialist), Megan Schliesman (Cooperative Children's Book Center at University of Wisconsin-Madison), Dr. Junko Yokota (Center for Teaching through Children's Books at National Louis University) and moderator Edith Campbell (Indiana State University) discuss the myriad issues at play with the Newbery and its (sometimes not too bright) legacy: the lasting impact of the medal on the dissemination of a text and its continued place in cultural conversation and on a publisher's backlist; the role of the medal as a contemporary signifier in children's literature; and the impact of the medal on the day-to-day issues for those serving children and families in libraries, including collection development and audits. The panel discussion will be followed by a Q&A.

Respectfully Submitted

Eileen M. Palmer, NJLA Chapter Councilor