

**MLA 2026
Annual
Conference**

BEYOND BUZZWORDS: AN EDURING PUBLIC GOOD



**Program Guide
& Event Details**



**Vibe Credit
Union Showplace**

46100 Grand River Ave, Novi, MI 48374

Vibe Credit Union Showplace INFORMATION

LOCATION

46100 Grand River Ave, Novi, MI 48372
<https://www.vibeshowplace.com/>

Conveniently located between Novi and Beck roads in Novi, Michigan. Grand River is easily accessible by I-96 exiting at Novi or Beck Roads.



PARKING

- Parking is complimentary.
- We suggest day attendees park near the Diamond Conference Center doors and overnight guests park near the Hyatt Hotel.

PRINT & DIGITAL MATERIALS

- The conference schedule is available through the Results@Hand Conference Beat event app.
- All session materials, slides, and handouts available electronically can be found through the conference app and website.
- Please visit the Agenda section of the app or the Breakout Sessions page of the website to download these files.



Vibe Credit Union Showplace

INFORMATION

REGISTRATION DESK HOURS

Wednesday | 9:30 am - 4:45 PM

Thursday | 8:00 am - 4:30 PM

Friday | 8:00 - 11:30 AM

EXHIBIT HALL HOURS

Wednesday | 12:30 - 6:00 PM

Thursday | 10:00 am - 4:00 PM

WIFI

Network ID: TBA

Password: TBA

GET SOCIAL

Use the hastags #mla26ac and #beyondbuzzwords to follow along and add to the conversation. Don't forget to tag MLA!

RESTROOMS

Gendered and all-gender restrooms available at either end of the conference center.

ACCESSIBLE PARKING

Accessible parking spaces are available outside the Diamond Conference Center and Hyatt Hotel entrances.

LACTATION ROOM

Amber Room

MEALS

Most meals are served buffet style. Potential allergens will be labeled by venue staff.

QUIET ROOM

Ivory Room

REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS

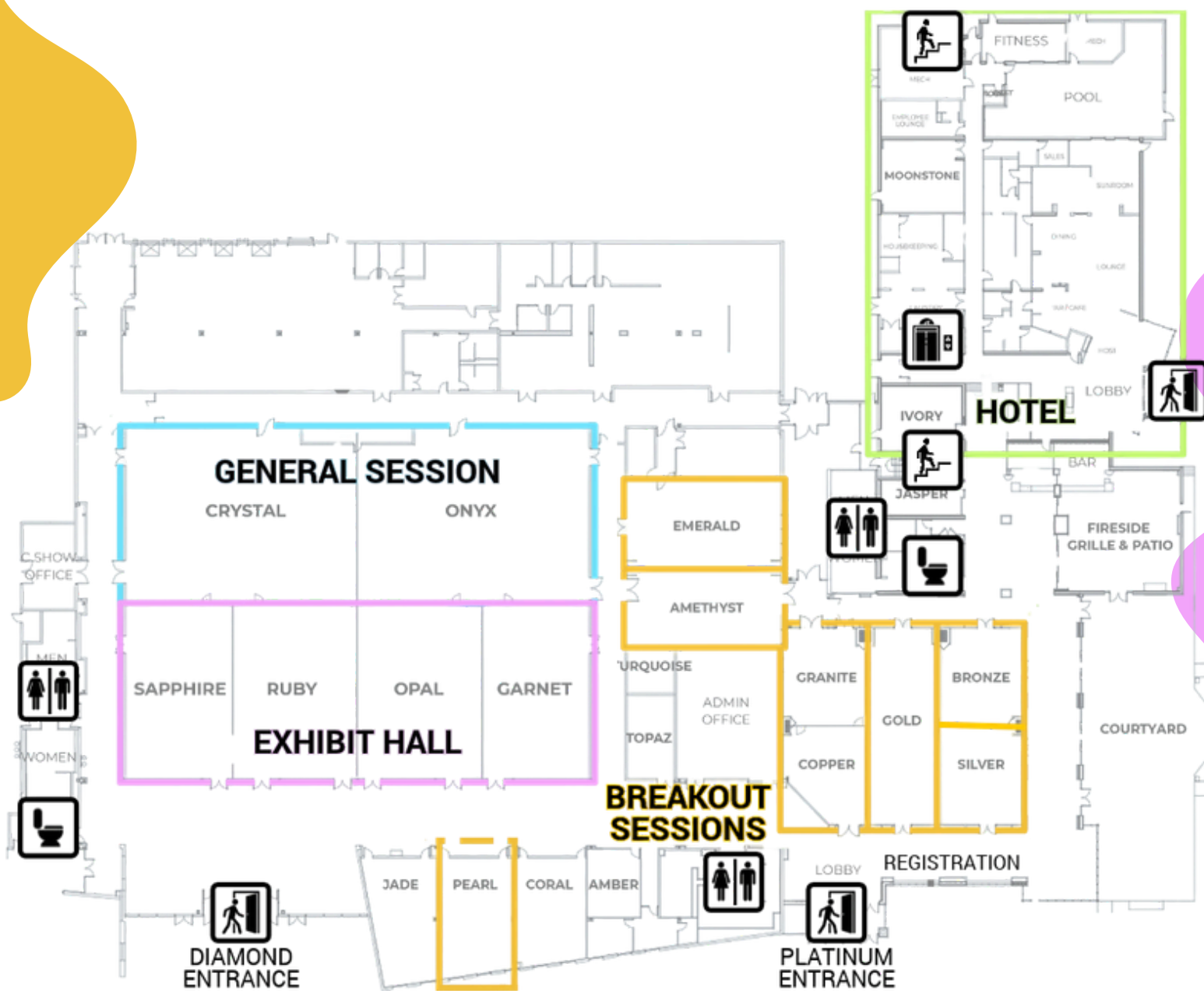
Please notify MLA staff as soon as possible if you need accommodations to make your conference experience more comfortable and successful.
mla@milibraries.org.



Vibe Credit Union Showplace FLOOR PLAN



DIAMOND
CENTER



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MLA 2026 Annual Conference CONFERENCE APP

Get ready for MLA 2026 with the Results at Hand ConferenceBeat app!

Download it and search MLA 2026 Annual Conference (or go straight to: app.resultsathand.com/mla2026) to get the full experience.

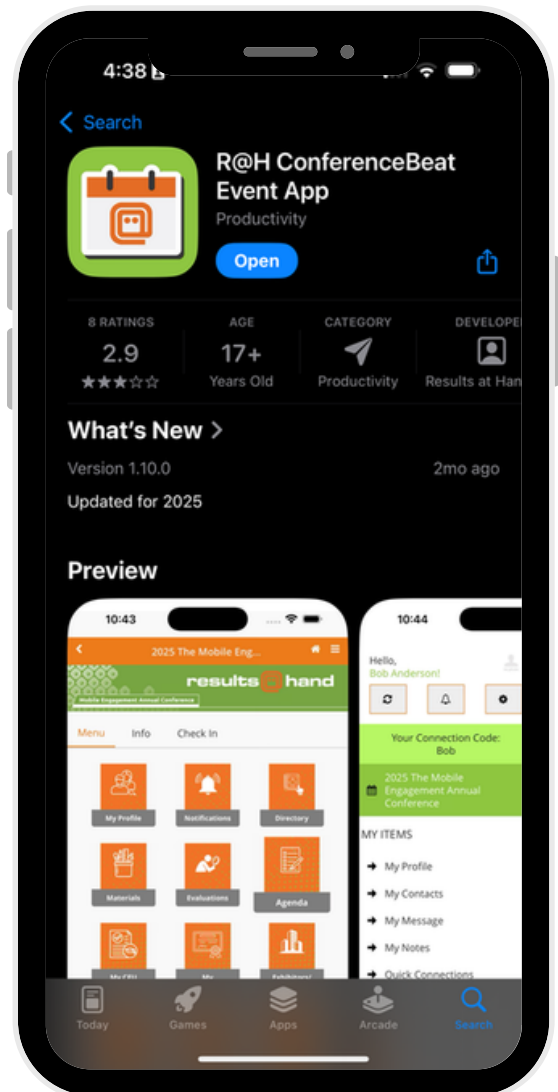
Here's what you can do:

- View the full schedule & sessions
- Bookmark sessions, speakers, & exhibitors you don't want to miss
- Build your custom agenda
- Receive real-time announcements & updates
- Connect with other attendees

Whether you're planning ahead or tweaking on the fly, the Results at Hand app keeps everything at your fingertips.

✓ PRO TIP:

After downloading, explore the "My Agenda" tab and favorite the must-attend sessions first – helps you avoid decision overload!



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MLA 2026 Annual Conference

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

* Pre-registration
required

TUESDAY OCTOBER 27, 2026

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Welcome Reception at the HUB *

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28, 2026

9:30 AM - 4:45 PM

Registration Open

9:30 - 10:30 AM

New Attendee Welcome

11:00 AM -12:30 PM

Opening Keynote: StoryMythos: A Movie Guide to Better Business Stories with Shane Meeker

12:30 - 2:00 PM

Exhibit Hall Opening Reception

12:30 - 6:00 PM

Exhibit Hall Open

12:30 - 2:00 PM

Lunch on your own

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Breakout Sessions

3:00 - 3:30 PM

Afternoon Refreshment Break

3:30 - 4:30 PM

Breakout Sessions

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Michigan Library Awards Cocktail Hour & Dinner *

8:00 - 9:00 PM

Michigan Library Awards Ceremony *

THURSDAY OCTOBER 29, 2026

8:00 AM - 4:45 PM

Registration Open

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Breakfast

9:00 - 10:00 AM

Morning Keynote with John U. Bacon

10:00 - 10:45 AM

Exhibit Hall Break

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Exhibit Hall Open

10:45 - 11:45 AM

Breakout Sessions

11:45 AM - 1:30 PM

Lunch

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Breakout Sessions

2:30 - 3:00 PM

Afternoon Refreshment Break

3:00 - 4:00 PM

MLA Annual Meeting

4:15 - 5:15 PM

Afternoon Keynote with Ghassan Zeineddine

6:30 - 8:30 PM

All-Conference Reception at the Novi Public Library

FRIDAY OCTOBER 30, 2026

8:00 - 11:30 AM

Registration Open

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Breakfast

9:00 - 10:00 AM

Breakout Sessions

10:15 - 11:15 AM

Breakout Session

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Closing Keynote: Close the Listening Gap with Maegan Stephens, PhD



MLA 2026 Annual Conference FEATURED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



WEDNESDAY – SHANE MEEKER

Learn how to use the power of storytelling to create marketing that connects, inspires, and leaves a lasting impression with internationally recognized keynote speaker **Shane Meeker**.

Drawing on nearly 30 years at Procter & Gamble and storytelling techniques inspired by film—including Star Wars—Shane will share practical strategies you can use to strengthen your brand and engage your audience.



THURSDAY MORNING – JOHN U. BACON

John U. Bacon is the bestselling author of 14 books, including *The Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald*, which spent 15 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list.

A frequent contributor to *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and other national outlets, he is an award-winning journalist and sought-after speaker known for bringing history and leadership to life.



THURSDAY AFTERNOON – GHASSAN ZELNEDDINE

Ghassan Zeineddine is the award-winning author of the story collection *Dearborn* and co-editor of *Hadha Baladuna: Arab American Narratives of Boundary and Belonging*.

A professor of creative writing at Oberlin College, he draws on his experiences growing up in the Middle East and living in Michigan to explore identity, community, and belonging.



FRIDAY – MAEGAN STEPHENS

In this keynote, TED speaker and Adaptive Listening co-author **Maegan Stephens** shares a practical framework for recognizing what people need in the moment and responding in ways that build trust, strengthen relationships, and improve communication. Drawing on years of coaching leaders and organizations, she'll provide actionable strategies attendees can immediately apply with patrons, colleagues, and their communities.



MLA 2026 Annual Conference

SPECIAL EVENTS

* Pre-registration
required

TUESDAY OCTOBER 27

Welcome Reception *

6:00 – 9:00 PM

The HUB Stadium & Restaurant

44325 W 12 Mile Rd Ste H-160, Novi, MI

Arriving Tuesday before the official start of the conference?

Join us for an early arrival welcome event!

Thank you to the Wayne State University School of
Information Sciences for sponsoring this event!

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28

New Attendee Welcome *

9:30 – 10:30 AM

Emerald Room

First-time conference attendees are invited to a special
breakfast with representatives from Michigan library
organizations.

Exhibit Hall Opening Reception

12:30 – 2:00 PM

Exhibit Hall

Keep the energy and excitement of opening day going by
meeting up with colleagues and friends on the trade show
floor! Exchange notes on what you've seen and heard during
the first day of the conference while visiting with vendors.

Michigan Library Awards Ceremony & Dinner *

6:30 – 9 PM

Crystal/Onyx Room

The Michigan Library Awards are awarded annually and are
considered the state's highest honors within the library
community. The awards celebrate the excellence,
accomplishments, dedication and service of library staff,
trustees and supporters in Michigan libraries.



MLA 2026 Annual Conference

SPECIAL EVENTS

* Pre-registration
required

THURSDAY OCTOBER 29

Reception at the Novi Public Library *

6:30 – 8:30 PM

45255 Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375

Get ready for a lively and festive night at the Novi Public Library! This year's all-conference reception is packed with music, refreshments, and plenty of fun. Shuttle transportation will be provided from the conference hotel. Don't miss this magical, memorable night with colleagues and friends.



ONGOING EVENTS

HEADSHOT PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

Location TBA

Are you in need of a new (or first!) professional headshot? MLA has partnered with a local photographer offer complimentary headshots to conference attendees.

Thank you to Fast Forward Libraries for sponsoring this program!

SILENT AUCTION

Emerald Room

Vendors and attendees are asked for donations of any kind to this auction: library bling, vendor give-a-ways, new books, posters, a weekend stay in a fabulous location, anything which could either stand alone as an auction item or could be combined with other items to make a great gift basket! Proceeds from the auction will benefit MLA's Educational Scholarship Fund.



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MLA 2026 Annual Conference BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Wednesday, October 28

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Beyond Burnout: Operationalizing Trauma-Informed Well-Being in Library Practice

Speaker: Marian Tripplett, LMSW-C, M.Ed., IHHW
Gold Room

Community First Response Workforce Initiative

Speakers: Carlton D. Jones and Davina J. Jones
Bronze Room

From Access to Belonging: How Inclusive Programming Transformed Library Services

Speakers: Lisa Boyd & Deborah Sobczak
Amethyst Room

Libraries + Extension: Preserving MI Harvest to Build Healthier Communities

Speakers: Laurie Messing, Kara Lynch & Sophia Zollner
Pearl Room

Reading Readiness Book Club: Early Literacy in Action!

Speaker: Stephanie Pocsi-Morrison
Copper Room

The Enduring Good of Internships: Creating Opportunity for New Professionals

Speakers: Jennifer L. Dean, Tyra Briscoe, Mickey Doyle & Paul Streby
Emerald Room

When Values Align: Community Writing Centers and Libraries

Speakers: Amanda Hawks, Rachael Whitehouse, Beth Sabo & Eric Berling
Silver Room



MLA 2026 Annual Conference BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Wednesday, October 28

3:30 – 4:30 PM

Embolden and Connect Your Community with a Joiner Fair

Speakers: Jessica Keyser, Annie Spence, Mary Short & Lexi Smith
Pearl Room

Law of AI for Libraries: Navigating the Buzz Without Getting Stung

Speaker: Clare Donnelly Membiela
Gold Room

Libraries Advancing through Partnerships, Innovation, and Shared Services

Speakers: Sheila Bissonnette, Nick Loomis, John Clexton & Amy Comber Gross
Amethyst Room

Maslow Before Bloom: Developmentally Informed Youth Library Programs

Speaker: Jennifer McArdle
Emerald Room

Roots, Shoots, Fruits: ELPL's and MSU-Libraries' Sustainable Library Certification Experiences

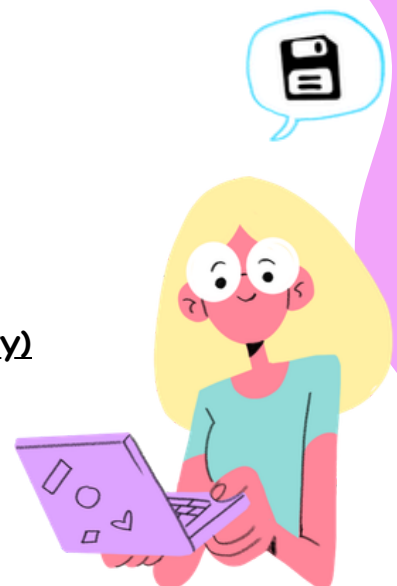
Speakers: Mindy Rietkerk, Eric Berling, Liz Kish & Eric Tans
Bronze Room

The Right Words to Defend the Right to Know

Speaker: Azita Frattarelli
Copper Room

Your Neighborhood Video Store Is Back (at Your Local Library)

Speaker: Lisabeth Posthuma-Conger
Silver Room



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MLA 2026 Annual Conference BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Thursday, October 29

10:45 – 11:45 AM



"Too Many Decisions!" Choosing Well, Reducing Fatigue, and Increasing Impact

Speaker: Jan Davidson
Gold Room

Adopt-a-Book, Forgive-a-Fine: Public Library Programs That Invite Giving

Speaker: Allison Boyer
Bronze Room

An Examination of Library Social Work Partnerships in Michigan

Speakers: Margaret Ann Paauw, Thomas Anderson, Paige Bourbina & London Harfoot
Silver Room

Resilience Infrastructure: Aggressive Advocacy Strategy for Rural Libraries

Speaker: Vaughn Haynes
Pearl Room

Serving Up Success: A Menu of Public Library Services for Schools

Speaker: Julie Ralston
Copper Room

Teen Issues at Your Library? Don't Get Cooked, We Can Help!

Speaker: Liz Kish
Emerald Room

Understanding Community Needs to Deliver on the Public Good

Speakers: Kristin Fontichiaro, Georgina Broyles & Rion Berger
Amethyst Room



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MLA 2026 Annual Conference BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Thursday, October 29

1:30 – 2:30 PM

3D Printing in the Wild: Bringing Maker Space Technology to Seniors

Speaker: Meghan Mott
Bronze Room

Adding American Sign Language to Children's Storytime Programs

Speaker: Jennifer Stewart
Emerald Room

Courageous Conversations: Handling Interpersonal Conflict at Work

Speakers: Elnian Gilbert
Gold Room

From Community Libraries to Critical Literacy: Supporting LGBTQ+ Students

Speaker: Lee Holden Parker
Silver Room

Get Your Alt Together: Practical Tips for Accessible Library Websites

Speaker: Shauna Quick
Copper Room

Rooting for eBook Reform: A Multi-State Approach

Speaker: Monica Harris, Sherry Wichitchu, Ryan Livergood, Aaron Skog
Amethyst Room

Skip the Jargon, What It Really Means to Serve as a Library Trustee

Speakers: Lori Scharich
Pearl Room



MLA 2026 Annual Conference BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Friday, October 30

9:00 – 10:00 AM

AI as a Tool: Local Models & Real Library Workflows

Speaker: Derek Brown

Gold Room

Boundary Building with Patrons

Speaker: Kait Matesich

Amethyst Room

Education for the Public Good: Growing Libraries and Library Careers

Speakers: Ellen Robinette, Kristin Fontichiaro, Shannon M. Oltmann

Pearl Room

Mix, Mingle, and Make: Multigenerational Programming Made Fun

Speaker: Heather Thompson, Amanda Shepard, Jake Ryan

Copper Room

Our Library Started a Newspaper and Good Things Happened

Speaker: Shauna Anderson, Joe White, Ray Stanczack, Lily Wiest

Emerald Room

Stronger Together: Cross-District Book Battles That Maximize Impact

Speaker: Jill Lansky, Yasmeen Shah

Bronze Room

The Psychology of Library Marketing: Encouraging Action, Not Just Awareness

Speakers: Katie Rothley

Silver Room



MLA 2026 Annual Conference BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Friday October 30
10:15 – 11:15 AM

Ask a Lawyer

Speaker: Clare Donnelly Membiela
Copper Room

Better Futures: Highlighting Impactful Library Partnerships with MiLEAP

Speaker: Cathy Lancaster
Bronze Room

Escape Velocity: How One Rural Library System Became a National Leader in Digital Access

Speakers: Dan Hutchins
Pearl Room

Michigan Library Leaders: Case Studies in Conversations Worth Having

Speaker: Michelle Bradley, Andrea Vernola
Amethyst Room

Senior Living: Creating Inter- and Intragenerational Community for Seniors

Speaker: Kathryn Bergeron, Brad Bachelor, Heather Pacheco
Emerald Room

So You Have a Strategic Plan - Now What?

Speaker: Amanda Standerfer, Kathleen Kwiatkowski
Silver Room

The Elusive Patrons: Using Community Data to Engage Younger Adults

Speakers: C Mulder, Julie Kwon
Gold Room



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EXHIBITORS

- 1 & 2 Library Design Associates, Inc.
- 3 krM Architecture
- 4 Mind Body Align, LLC
- 5 McCarthy & Smith, Inc.
- 6 Penworthy Company
- 7 Bibliotheca
- 8 Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS)
- 9 & 10 EBSCO Information Services
- 11 The Library Network
- 12 Library Cooperatives of Michigan
- 13 AtoZdatabases
- 14 The Guild of Library Makers
- 15 BAE Networks
- 16 Daniels and Zermack Architects & Interior Design
- 17 Mulder's Moving & Storage
- 18 Better World Books
- 19 Wayne State University School of Information Sciences
- 20 Brodart Co.
- 21 Comprise Technologies Inc
- 22 The Roy Company
- 23 Lyrasis
- 24 TRAVELING TOMES
- 25 Quinn Evans Architects
- 26 Playaway Products LLC
- 27 Read & Walk
- 28 TLC - The Library Corporation
- 29 Midwest Tape/Hoopla Digital
- 30 Metcom, Inc.
- 31 Sehi Computer Products
- 32 Craft & Hobby
- 33 Graphic Sciences
- 34 Book Farm LLC
- 35 ASLdeafined
- 36 Insignia Software
- 37 First Impression Print and Marketing
- 38 SirsiDynix
- 39 Ingram Content Group
- 40 International Library Services
- 41 Capstone
- 42 Flutterbee
- 43 Millonex LLC
- 44 Libby/Kanopy
- 45 Michigan State University Extension
- 46 Book Systems, Inc.
- 47 Organizational Architecture, Inc.
- 48 Sustainable Libraries Initiative
- 49 LocalHop
- 50 Corrigan Library Moving
- 51 Blackstone Publishing
- 52 Clarivate - Innovative - ProQuest
- 53 DEP Books, LLC.
- 54 RDW Creations
- 55 MCD Architects
- 56 Municipal Employees' Retirement System
- 57 Colibri System
- 58 Oakland Community College ONLINE Library Services & Technology Program
- 59 LibraryIQ
- 60 Bound to Stay Bound Books
- 61 Detection Systems & Engineering Company (DSE)
- 62 National Insurance Services
- 63 Gale, part of Cengage
- 64 Pillar Booth
- 65 Michigan State University Press
- 66 Kingscott Architects
- 67 Decker Agency
- 68 Clark Construction Company
- 69 Library of Michigan
- 70 Michigan Library Association



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Funding is provided in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library of Michigan.