

# MLA AWARDS

## 2018 LITERARY AWARDS

**Michigan Author Award**  
Beverly Jenkins

**Mitten Award**  
*The Wolf, the Duck & the Mouse* by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Jon Klassen, published 2017 by Candlewick Press

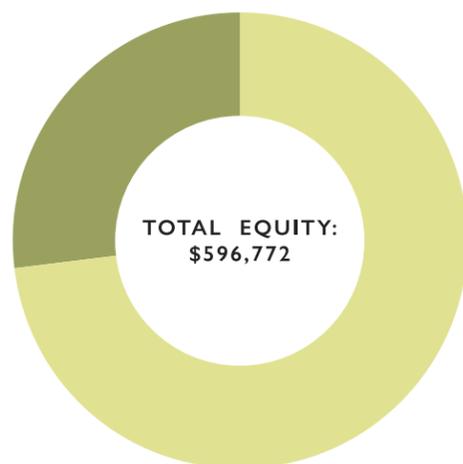
**Thumbs Up! Award**  
*The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, Published 2017 by HarperCollins Publisher

**YouPer Award**  
*Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow* by Jessica Townsend, Published 2017 by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

## FINANCIALS

At \$722,000 total revenue was \$34,500 higher than in 2018, an increase of 5%. The increase was in part due to the success of MLA 2019 with 680 librarians and library staff in attendance. The New Directors Academy was also highly successful. MLA increased individual, public, special and academic organizational members bringing in an additional 6% in membership dues. Investment income was \$7,700 higher than in 2018, propelled by higher short-term rates and a new investment strategy designed to help sustain MLA.

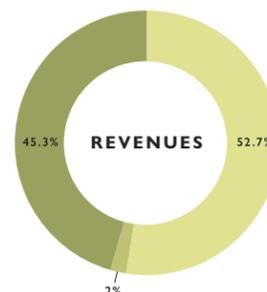
MLA yet again received another clean Audit in 2018, with no recommendations. The 2019 Audit will be presented to the Board at the December meeting. 2019 was the second year in the black after a 6-year period of re-aligning costs and membership dues.



■ TOTAL ASSETS (\$940,836)  
■ TOTAL LIABILITIES (\$344,060)



■ MEMBERSHIP / COMMUNICATIONS  
■ ADMINISTRATIVE / FACILITIES  
■ STATEWIDE SUPPORT OF LIBRARIES & LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS  
■ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



■ MEMBERSHIP DUES  
■ NONDUES REVENUES  
■ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



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## 2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

### Dear MLA Members,

A leadership transition was in the works for most of 2018-2019. With the retirement of Gail Madizar, who served MLA for the past six years, the board began a national search for its next Executive Director with a formal announcement in January 2019. In May, I was honored to have been chosen to lead the Michigan Library Association.

My life's work has been dedicated to supporting the cultural environment here in Lansing, throughout Michigan and in our nation. My belief is that by empowering our cultural leaders, increasing the capacity of our institutions to plan and envision their future, our collective impact will make a profound difference in all of the communities where we live, work and visit. While libraries may have their challenges, they have the unique ability to act as cultural hubs and transform our communities into the vibrant, thriving, and dynamic places that our residents want and deserve.

I am excited to continue the work of those that came before me and hope that the goals outlined for the past 127 years will continue to be prominently showcased and delivered during my tenure: advocacy, professional development and leadership; funding; free access to information; serving and anchoring thriving and dynamic communities; embracing digital and technological innovations; literacy; and building diverse collaborations and partnerships.

I am excited and deeply committed to working and "moving the needle" here in Michigan, for the value and importance of libraries.

**Deborah E. Mikula**  
Executive Director | Michigan Library Association



### MLA STAFF

**Deborah E. Mikula**  
Executive Director

**Rachel Ash**  
Director of Membership,  
Communications & Marketing

**Lisa Buttigieg**  
Administrative Assistant

**Romy Fitschen**  
Associate Executive Director

**Ryan Logan**  
Graphic Designer

**Amber Sheerin**  
Professional Development  
and Meeting Manager

# MLA OVERVIEW

The Michigan Library Association (MLA) is Michigan's oldest and largest library association. Guided by the belief that free access to information is the cornerstone of a free society, MLA has advocated for libraries on behalf of the state's residents for 127 years. MLA defends the right to read, advocates for adequate library funding, clarifies library governance issues, promotes librarian education and works for free access of information to all residents.

**OUR MISSION:** helping libraries and library professionals succeed.

# PROGRAMS & SERVICES

## ADVOCACY

Over the years, the lobbying done by MLA, lobby firm Governmental Consultant Services Inc. (GCSI), MLA Legislative Committee and numerous engaged librarians has resulted in increased state aid to libraries (this year with a \$1M boost), relief from tax captures, continuing availability of the May, August or November ballot for library millage questions and the ability to communicate freely with your community.

As part of our advocacy prior to the November 2018 elections, MLA distributed an email survey to all house and senate candidates throughout Michigan and their responses were gathered and distributed to all members. The November 2018 elections were something MLA watched very closely. We watched for assaults on penal fines, millage elections, and free speech like SB571 which would have prevented libraries and others from communicating with their patrons for 60 days prior to an election.

MLA also provided support for a package of bills aimed at addressing the state's ongoing literacy crisis by requiring credentialed libraries in every public school in the state. The three-bill package would ensure every student access not only to a school library, but to a certified librarian or media specialist trained to improve literacy, foster a love of learning, and help identify and correct problems before they become significant obstacles to reading. We will continue to monitor into the next fiscal year and report out any movement.

MLA monitored changes to the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. Effective December 28, 2018, the Legislature approved two important amendments to the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. Public Act 523 added a new requirement to Section 3 regarding the information that must be included in a FOIA request. In addition, Act 523 amended Section 4 to address what happens when a requester does not pay a deposit in a timely manner.

MLA staff, board and other statewide partners have worked for the past two years with our legislators to make sure that libraries were provided liability protection when providing the life-saving opioid antidote naloxone, common brand name Narcan, to an overdosing patron. We are still celebrating the huge victory for our libraries and librarians with the passage of the Narcan bill package this past June and signed into law by Governor Whitmer.

MLA will continue to work on behalf of libraries to advocate daily. Local and state elected officials and community leaders need to be educated and reminded of the importance and value of libraries and MLA stands ready to help tell that story.

## EDUCATION

MLA educational programs contributed to the professional development of 954 library professionals at our conferences and workshops. By striving to minimize expenses while maximizing impact we were able to meet all budget goals as well as receive feedback from more than 90% of attendees that confirmed the events met their educational needs and expectations.

The MLA October 2018 Annual Conference, "Check Out and Renew," was one of the highlights. Close to 600 individuals were in attendance as we showcased keynote speakers Brenda Viola, Dr. Lee Meadows, Patty Buccellato and Maxine Bleiweis and incorporated more than 60 educational sessions for all library types.

MLA launched the pilot New Library Directors Academy in February 2019 for a cohort group of directors in order to help them bridge the gap between theory and practice and thrive in their new roles. Facilitator Maxine Bleiweis met with the group in-person and continued the conversation virtually.

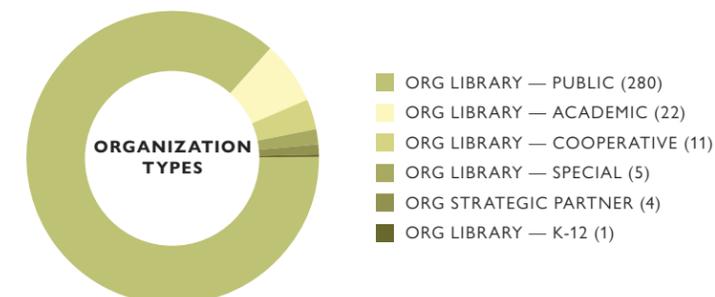
In addition to the MLA Annual Conference and Spring Institute for Youth Services, MLA workshops held throughout the state saw great attendance and covered important topics such as human resources, library hospitality, marketing, succession planning, and the important impact librarians can make within refugee communities.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MLA members continue to volunteer time to serve the statewide library community with 130 members actively involved in work groups, standing committees, and the MLA Board of Directors. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, members dedicated 6,500 hours serving on award and recognition programs, conference work groups, standing committees, and the MLA Board.

# MEMBERSHIP

MLA's mission is to serve all library professionals, staff and their supporters. Our membership is comprised of nearly 1700 individual and organizational members from public, academic, school, cooperative and special libraries. In 2018-2019, MLA's membership increased in all membership categories.



## MLA LEADERSHIP

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

**Kristin Shelley, President**  
East Lansing Public Library

**Julia Eisenstein, President-Elect**  
University of Detroit Mercy Libraries

**Stephen Bowers, Past-President**  
Wayne State University Libraries

**Richard Schneider, Secretary/Treasurer**  
Consultant

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT-LARGE MEMBERS

**Jessica Ann Bratt**  
Grand Rapids Public Library

**Pamela Christensen**  
West End Health Foundation

**Jennifer Dean, ALA Councilor**  
University of Detroit Mercy Libraries

**Scott Duimstra**  
Capital Area District Libraries

**Mollie Freier**  
Lydia M. Olson Library,  
Northern Michigan University

**Karen Knox**  
Orion Township Public Library

**Deborah E. Mikula**  
Michigan Library Association

**Kelly Richards**  
Muskegon Area District Library

**Randy Riley**  
Library of Michigan

**Cathleen Russ**  
Troy Public Library

**Ryan Wieber**  
Kalamazoo Public Library