

MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

**2020-21**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**



# WE ARE RESILIENT

It is amazing to process the fact that we have all been through an extraordinarily long, drawn out, shared experience that none of us could have predicted. A global pandemic hit us in March 2020, MLA used our collective voice to call on the Governor's office to close library buildings and then in subsequent months, with that same voice, asked her to put protocols in place for their safe reopening. Our libraries are the heart and soul of our communities, where patrons go to heal, connect and move forward. We must keep hope and optimism at the forefront of our work.

The pandemic is still with us, and this is something that we must grapple with every day. Yet we, as leaders of vital cultural institutions in our communities and on our campuses, have become more resilient. Instead of being defeated by the pandemic, we've used our capacity to pivot, recover quickly and overcome challenges, obstacles, hardship and adversity. With all the pandemic's ebbs and flows, its highs and its lows, we may be tired, but we have stood strong and have adapted.

There is no doubt, that we have all been changed, yet there is still hope... still optimism for our future and what lies ahead. Resilience takes time and strength, perseverance and patience; it takes personal commitment as well as collective energy. Eventually, we'll all look back at how far we've come. MLA is with you 100% of the way.

We are #StrongerTogether. We are #Resilient.

**Deborah E. Mikula**  
Executive Director

**Ryan Wieber**  
MLA President

# MLA OVERVIEW

Libraries throughout Michigan are centers for learning and self-discovery, providing free and open access to information to all residents. Libraries are simultaneously community centers, tourist destinations, places to read, places to gather and socialize, places to study, and places to learn – cultural institutions in the heart of every community, and on every campus, throughout Michigan.

The Michigan Library Association is a collaborative network of libraries, library professionals, and library supporters, who are all working together to protect and promote our libraries and advance the library profession in Michigan. MLA serves as a forum for collaboration, cooperation, and partnership, cultivating cutting-edge ideas and awareness of best practices in an open and supportive culture.

Since 1891, MLA has been a vibrant and dynamic service organization. Our membership of nearly 2000 libraries, library professionals and library trustees come from rural, suburban and urban areas in all 83 Michigan counties.

## MISSION

The Michigan Library Association leads the advancement of all Michigan libraries through advocacy, education and engagement.

## VISION

The Michigan Library Association is an indispensable resource and valued leader, partner and advocate for Michigan libraries.



Deborah E. Mikula | Executive Director



Rachel Ash | Membership & Comms Director



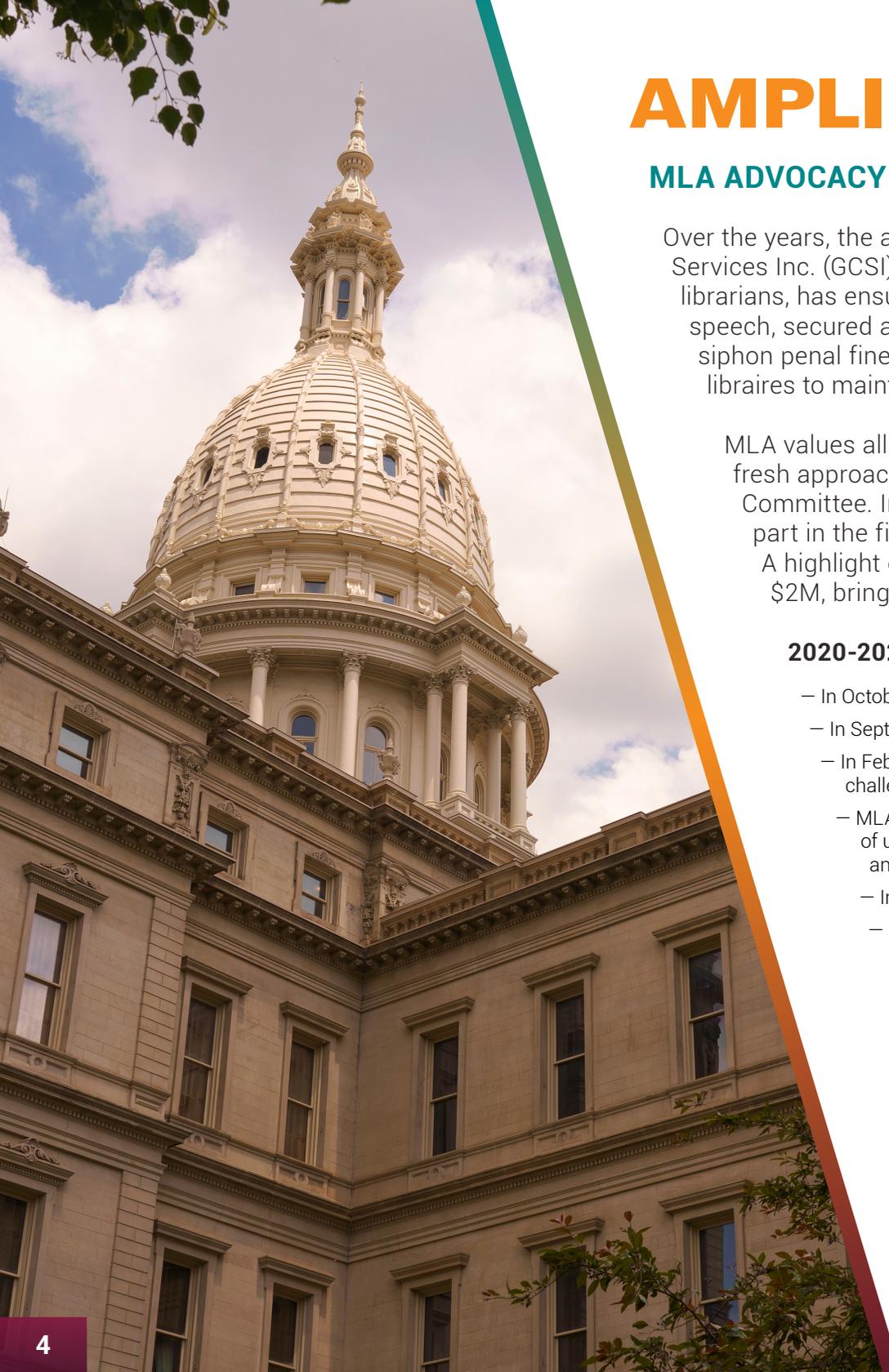
Amber Sheerin | Program & Event Director



Lisa Buttigieg | Administrative Assistant



Ryan Logan | Graphic Designer

A photograph of the Michigan State Capitol building, featuring a prominent golden dome and classical architectural details. The building is set against a blue sky with light clouds. A diagonal graphic element in shades of green and orange runs across the page, separating the image from the text.

# AMPLIFYING OUR VOICES

## MLA ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Over the years, the advocacy work done by MLA, our lobby firm Governmental Consultant Services Inc. (GCSI), the MLA Advocacy and Legislative Committee and numerous engaged librarians, has ensured personal property tax reimbursement for libraries, safeguarded free speech, secured annual increases in state aid to libraries, defeated multiple attempts to siphon penal fines, eliminated tax capture for our libraries and secured the ability of librarians to maintain the privacy of library patrons.

MLA values all voices being heard and all possible solutions being vetted. Each year, a fresh approach and a proactive agenda is created by the MLA Advocacy and Legislative Committee. In April 2021, even at the height of the pandemic, over 185 individuals took part in the first virtual Library Advocacy Day with our partners MAME and MiALA. A highlight of our advocacy efforts: state aid to libraries was increased by \$2M, bringing the per capita funding to .50 cents (as of Oct 1, 2021.)

### 2020-2021 Activities and Achievements:

- In October 2020, MLA was instrumental in advocating for an additional \$1M in State Aid.
- In September 2020, MLA saw the long-awaited updates to the Michigan Privacy Act signed into law.
- In February 2021, 36 new house members were educated about library successes and challenges through Zoom meetings with MLA and their constituents.
- MLA continues to use its voice and communication platforms in these unprecedented times of uncertainty, helping to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and protect our citizens and library staff from exposure.
- In January 2021, MLA issued a statement condemning the insurrection at our nation's Capitol.
- In March 2021, MLA spoke out against the inhumane treatment of Jurnee Hoffmeyer, an 8-year-old Black child at a Mt. Pleasant school, whose hair was cut without parental permission by a school employee who worked in the library.
- MLA advocated for COVID-19 relief and economic stimulus legislation and resources.
- MLA supported and advocated for the Build America's Libraries Act introduced by Michigan Congressman Andy Levin through our ALA affiliation.
- MLA continued to support a package of newly introduced bills aimed at addressing the state's ongoing literacy crisis by requiring all public schools to have a library and requiring that they employ certified librarians/media specialists.

Local and state elected officials and community leaders need to be reminded and educated about the importance and value of libraries. MLA stands ready to help tell that story and continue our robust advocacy efforts.

# CONVENING IN THE TIME OF COVID

## MLA EDUCATIONAL/MENTORSHIP OFFERINGS

Even in the midst of the pandemic, MLA stayed on top of trends and challenges faced in the library community. As we moved to a fully virtual platform, our irrepressible spirit of innovation allowed us to continue to deliver high-quality education and training opportunities for library personnel.

The 2020 Annual Conference: “Charting A New Course” was held virtually October 28-29, 2020, and was our highest attended event in recent memory with 664 attendees logging in. Participants spent an average of 10 hours 31 minutes each engaging in the over 40 sessions, 8,791 chat messages, and 454 unique visits to the exhibit hall. The event received over 97% attendee satisfaction.

When Spring Institute 2020 was postponed in March 2020 due to the pandemic shutdown, we turned around and hosted it as the Fall Institute Pre-Conference to the 2020 Annual Conference. The workgroups were up to the task and produced two exceptional virtual events, the 2020 Fall Institute: “People First,” that hosted 165 attendees and the 2021 Spring Institute for Youth Services: “Sparking Connections and Possibilities,” that hosted 287 attendees.

MLA has hosted all professional development opportunities online since March 2020 – greatly expanding the MLA Connect brand of coffee hours, webinars, and workshops. Over 100 people attended the 2021 Spring workshops: Executive Summit; Community Collaborations: Healthy Community Initiatives; The Business of Libraries; Library Human Resources; and Implicit Bias Affects Everyone. And close to 100 attended our biennial Surviving and Thriving as a Library Director course and a new event: So You Want to be a Library Director.

The MLA Mentorship Program matched five pairs of mentors/mentees this year. Participants reported feeling resilient by talking to others at this stage of their professional journey. Partners supported each other through meetings and check-ins and some even registered for online classes together and participated in events at each other’s libraries.



# DIVERSITY & INCLUSION



ANGELA MADDOX-BONNER | Willard Public Library

## RENEWED COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, DIVERSITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND BELONGING

The Michigan Library Association Board of Directors, staff, and ambassadors pledge to engage in a sustained effort to create a culture that recognizes, enhances and promotes equity, diversity and accessibility for Michigan's library community. At the same time, MLA is steadfast in modeling an organization where our board, staff, ambassadors and members feel a strong sense of belonging and acceptance, where voices are heard, acknowledged and acted upon.

In 2021, the MLA Board of Directors reaffirmed MLA's commitment with an official statement outlining the steps the organization would take.



TYNISHA DUNGEY | Willard Public Library

## TAKING ACTION – MLA EQUITY FUND GRANTS

In 2020, MLA took action to increase our work in Equity, Diversity, Accessibility and Belonging. We are proud to state that the first MLA Equity Fund Grants were awarded to three outstanding applicants: Jade Woodridge, Tynisha Dungey, and Angela Maddox-Bonner, all from the Willard Public Library

These grants are designed to be given to individuals currently underrepresented in the library profession and are meant to reduce financial barriers and uplift the professional development for Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, North African, and Middle Eastern individuals.



JADE WOODRIDGE | Willard Public Library

# CELEBRATING MICHIGAN LIBRARIES

In October 2020, MLA coordinated an awareness campaign to highlight the value and importance of libraries. We asked our members to step forward and help us highlight the amazing work our libraries continue to do to support our communities and promote all the amazing virtual and in-person programs, services and collections available and waiting for Michigan library patrons.

The celebration began with resolutions presented on the floor of the Michigan House and Senate extolling the value of libraries and continued each day with coordinated social media postings of fun facts, stats and inspirational quotes, proclamations by local elected officials, and ideas to celebrate for libraries to institute locally.

# UNITING THE MICHIGAN LIBRARY COMMUNITY

MLA is proud to partner with organizations serving the library community.



Supported in part by a grant through the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs

## MICHIGAN LIBRARY APPRECIATION MONTH

• OCTOBER 2020 •

# AWARDS

## MICHIGAN LIBRARY AWARDS 2020

Held in partnership with the Michigan Library Association, Michigan Academic Library Association (MiALA) and the Michigan Association for Media in Education (MAME), the Michigan Library Awards celebrate the excellence, accomplishments, dedication and service of library staff, trustees and supporters in the Michigan library community. Considered the state's highest honors within the library community, the Michigan Library Awards were broadcast through 16 Facebook pages at a virtual evening ceremony in October 2020.

### 2020 Winners

**Kevin King** – *Lifetime Achievement Award*

**Jessica Trotter** – *Public Librarian of the Year*

**Senator Wayne Schmidt (R-37)** – *State Legislator of the Year*

**Congressman Andy Levin (D-9)** – *Federal Legislator of the Year*

**Susan Matthews** – *Heart of A Champion*

**Betty Adams** – *Rising Star*

**Stephanie Reinhardt** – *Frances H. Pletz Award for Excellence in Service to Youth*

**Jermaine Jackson** – *Library Support Staff of the Year*

**Clare D. Membiela** – *Above and Beyond*

**Sandra C. McCarthy** – *Academic Librarian of the Year*

**Kathy Lester** – *Citation of Excellence*

## MICHIGAN AUTHOR AWARD



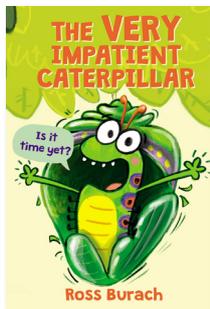
Mitch Albom was selected to receive the 2020 Michigan Author Award. This year marked the last year for MLA to recognize a Michigan Author. The award has now been transitioned to the Library of Michigan's Center for the Book.

## YOUTH LITERARY AWARDS

The MLA Youth Literary Awards promote excellence in literature for youth. Each year workgroups spend thousands of hours reading, reviewing and discussing hundreds of books to come up with the top titles, honor books and winners.

### 2020 Winners (announced at the 2020 Fall Institute for Youth Services):

#### Mitten Award Winner



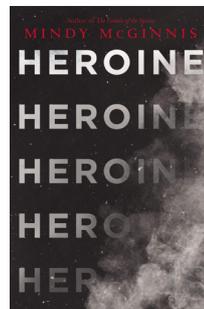
**The VERY Impatient Caterpillar**  
Written and Illustrated by Ross Burach

#### YouPer Award Winner

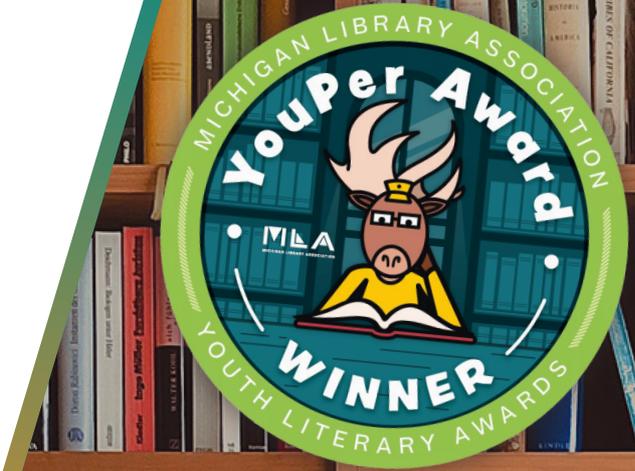


**Planet Earth Is Blue**  
by Nicole Panteleakos

#### Thumbs Up! Award Winner

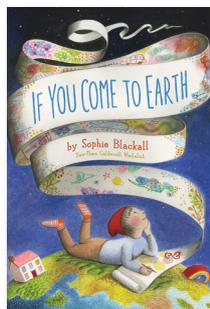


**Heroine**  
by Mindy McGinnis



### 2021 Winners (announced at the 2021 Spring Institute for Youth Services):

#### Mitten Award Winner



**If You Come to Earth**  
by Sophie Blackall

#### YouPer Award Winner



**Fighting Words**  
by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

#### Thumbs Up! Award Winner



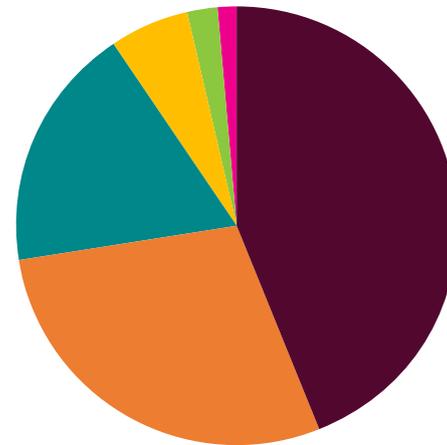
**Punching the Air**  
by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam



# MEMBERSHIP

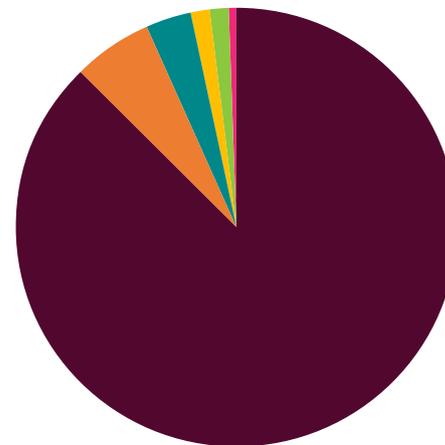
MLA's mission is to serve all library professionals, trustees, and staff members. Our membership is comprised of nearly 2000 individual, organizational and trustee members from public, academic, school, cooperative, tribal and special libraries.

## TOTAL MEMBERSHIP



- Affiliated Individuals – 767
- Trustees – 502
- Organizations – 311
- Student – 102
- Unaffiliated – 38
- Retiree – 24

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS



- Public – 289
- Academic – 19
- Cooperative – 11
- Special – 5
- Strategic Partner – 5
- K-12 – 1

# FINANCIALS

On June 30, 2020, MLA had increased our net assets by \$110,244 – due largely to a PPP loan that was forgiven. These additional assets were viewed by the MLA board as a way to secure our future as the pandemic continued with some financial stability. From July 1, 2020 – June 20, 2021, MLA brought in \$568,841 in revenues and spent \$573,825, reducing our net assets by \$4,984. Our budget (both revenue and expenses) was significantly less than our “normal” years due in large part to our professional development activities taking place virtually. MLA closed out the year with \$1,096,844 in Total Liabilities and Net Assets, up from \$994,644 the year prior.

The stable financial position for MLA is due in part to the strength of the work done by the MLA Treasurer, financial committee, and staff who recognized and took immediate action to revise and reduce the expenses of the organization and explore and secure additional revenue sources throughout the pandemic.

## BALANCE SHEET (AS OF 06/30/21)

CURRENT ASSETS	YEAR ENDING 06/30/21	YEAR ENDING 06/30/20
Cash	\$545,415	\$625,779
Investments	\$540,020	\$350,298
Accounts Receivable	\$130	\$6,704
Prepaid Expenses	\$11,279	\$11,863
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,096,844</b>	<b>\$994,644</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>YEAR ENDING 06/30/21</b>	<b>YEAR ENDING 06/30/20</b>
Accounts Payable	\$7,391	\$21,472
Accrued Payroll	\$3,529	\$4,117
Accrued Vacation	\$10,143	\$9,001
Deferred Revenue	\$305,988	\$253,034
SBA Loan	\$67,757	\$0
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$394,808</b>	<b>\$287,624</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>YEAR ENDING 06/30/21</b>	<b>YEAR ENDING 06/30/20</b>
Without Donor Restrictions	\$693,352	\$697,336
With Donor Restrictions	\$8,684	\$9,684
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$702,036</b>	<b>\$707,020</b>

## REVENUES AND EXPENSES (AS OF 06/30/21)

REVENUES	YEAR ENDING 06/30/21	YEAR ENDING 06/30/20
Membership Dues	\$387,896	\$387,265
Professional Development	\$125,726	\$272,976
Other Revenues	\$55,219	\$119,373
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$568,841</b>	<b>\$779,614</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>YEAR ENDING 06/30/21</b>	<b>YEAR ENDING 06/30/20</b>
Program Services	\$442,406	\$549,551
Management	\$128,248	\$116,346
Fundraising	\$3,171	\$3,473
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$573,825</b>	<b>\$669,370</b>
<b>INCOME OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$4,984)</b>	<b>\$110,244</b>



# CELEBRATING 130 YEARS

## 1891 - 1899

MLA is founded. On September 1, 1891, 40 people representing 22 libraries meet, a constitution is adopted, and Henry Utley is elected as the first president of the Michigan Library Association. In 1899, a State Board of Library Commissioners is established, marking the association's first legislative victory

1891

## 1910s

In 1917, MLA gains its second legislative victory: the passage of a county library bill authorized the creation of county libraries and the taxes to support them

## 1930s

The first issue of *Michigan Librarian* was published. MLA dues were raised to \$1.50 per year

## 1950s

The Michigan State Board for Libraries and MLA's Executive Board agreed upon a grand total state budget of \$1,570,079

## 1900s

The mission of MLA was stated as "The object of the association is to advance library interests in the state" Initial dues were 50 cents per year

## 1920s

*Michigan Libraries* is published through 1927

## 1940s

SB125 for State Aid was favorably reported out and adopted. MLA's planning committee initiated a plan for acquiring and preserving files of 39 Michigan newspapers



### 1970s

Maya Angelou is the keynote speaker at the MLA Annual Conference in 1976

### 1990s

MLA celebrates its 100th anniversary

### 2010s

MLA's advocacy efforts safeguard free speech by opposing the "library gag order," secured annual increases in state aid to libraries, defeated multiple attempts to siphon penal fines and successfully eliminated tax capture for our libraries

### 1960s

MLA is formally incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization. The passage of the State Aid Act in 1965 strongly supported by the Michigan Library Association is a landmark in the development of Michigan libraries

### 1980s

Governor William G. Milliken made an Executive Declaration in observance of October as Michigan Library Month. MLA is instrumental in extending the state's shoplifting statute to libraries

### 2000s

MLA begins a strategic planning initiative with a LSTA grant. MLA urges libraries to make the most of their collections by sharing via MeLCat

### 2020s

MLA pivots to all virtual programming for all workshops and educational events during the pandemic, creating the new MLA Connect Brand for virtual engagement

2021



# WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

MLA would not be able to do all that we envision without the expertise and wisdom of our committee and workgroup members. Over 125 MLA ambassadors stepped up to help guide the work of MLA through legislative challenges, planning educational events, selecting award winners, and planning statewide marketing outreach. Through their participation they also increased their own individual leadership skills and grew their professional networks.

On the next page, we have credited each of the ambassadors who served on the following committees and supported our work at MLA:

**Advocacy and Legislation Committee**

**Professional Development and Leadership Committee**

**Nominating and Leadership Development Committee**

**Finance Committee**

**Academic Libraries Workgroup**

**Trustee Workgroup**

**MLA 2020 Virtual Annual Conference Workgroup**

**MLA 2021 Virtual Annual Conference Workgroup**

**Fall Institute For Youth Services 2020 Workgroup**

**Spring Institute For Youth Services 2021 Workgroup**

**2021 Michigan Library Awards Workgroup**

**Mitten Award Workgroup**

**Youper (Young Person) Award Workgroup**

**Thumbs Up! Award Workgroup**



## **ADVOCACY AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Chair: Jenny Marr, Ferndale Area District Library  
Vice-Chair: Dale Parus, Ionia Community Library  
Shirley Bruursema, Kent District Library  
Bryan Cloutier, Oxford Public Library  
Riti Grover, Farmington Community Library  
Jessica Keyser, Grosse Pointe Public Library  
Katherine Lester, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools  
Cindy Mack, Brighton District Library  
Michael McCullough, Willard Library  
Clare Membiela, Library of Michigan  
Larry Neal, Clinton-Macomb Public Library  
Jasmine Parker, Ferndale Area District Library  
Kelly Richards, Muskegon Area District Library  
Mary Rzepczynski, Delta Township District Library  
Erin Schmandt, Caro Area District Library  
Kristin Shelley, East Lansing Public Library  
Vanessa Verdun-Morris, Taylor Community Library  
Ryan Wieber, Kalamazoo Public Library

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NETWORKING COMMITTEE**

Amber Alexander, Presque Isle District Library  
Scott Duimstra, Capital Area District Libraries  
Loretta Hunter, Wayne County Community College District  
Katharyn Jones, Portage District Library  
Dennis Kreps, Bridgman Public Library  
Maria McCarville, Public Libraries of Saginaw  
Ann Neff-Rohs, Jackson District Library  
Michael Postula, Ann Arbor District Library  
Karren Reish, Library of Michigan  
Sarah Rick, Michigan Department of Corrections  
Katherine Rothley, Lyon Township Public Library  
Lisa Valerio-Nowc, Farmington Community Library  
Lisa Waskin, Superior District Library

## **NOMINATING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Chair: Kristin Shelley, East Lansing Public Library  
Meghan Brody, Michigan State University Libraries  
Pamela Christensen, West End Health Foundation  
Mollie Freier, Northern Michigan University  
Valerie L. Meyerson, Petoskey District Library  
Eric Stanton, Capital Area District Libraries  
Kate Van Auken, White Pine Library Cooperative  
Finance Committee  
Chair: Scott Duimstra, Capital Area District Library  
Tim Gleisner, Library of Michigan  
Karen Knox, Orion Township Public Library

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Chair: Scott Duimstra, Capital Area District Libraries  
Tim Gleisner, Library of Michigan  
Karen Knox, Orion Township Public Library

## **ACADEMIC LIBRARIES WORK GROUP**

Marc Boucher, Lake Superior State University  
Jennifer L. Dean, University of Detroit Mercy Libraries

Kristin Fontichiaro, University of Michigan  
Mollie Freier, Northern Michigan University  
Kathy Irwin, Central Michigan University  
Tashia Munson, Washtenaw Community College  
Stacy Nowicki, Kalamazoo College Upjohn Library  
Monique Oldfield, Wayne State University Libraries  
Monica Porter, University of Michigan  
Michele Pratt, Delta College Library  
Jill Sodt, Mott Comity College  
Allie VanDoren, Lake Superior State University  
Leslie Warren, Northern Michigan University  
Jacqueline Wrosch, Eastern Michigan University

## **TRUSTEE WORKGROUP**

Burton Brooks, Loutit District Library  
Jeff Croff, Capital Area District Libraries  
Jeffrey Hopp, Presque Isle District Library  
Jennifer Moore, Kalamazoo Public Library  
Staff Liaison: Amber Sheerin, Michigan Library Association  
MaryAnne Thorndycraft, Orion Township Library  
Amy Zaagman, East Lansing Public Library

## **MLA 2020 VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Chair: Kevin King, Kalamazoo Public Library  
Vice-Chair: Claire Lopiccio, Romeo District Library  
Amber Alexander, Presque Isle District Library  
Mattie Cook, Flat River Community Library  
Tim Gleisner, Library of Michigan  
Jill Lansky, Kalamazoo Public Library  
Bethany Maley, Kalamazoo Public Library  
Sherri McConnell, Capital Area District Libraries  
Terri New, Kalamazoo Public Library  
James Pugh, Orion Township Public Library  
Jill Spreitzer, University of Detroit Mercy Libraries  
Andrea Vernola, Kalamazoo Public Library  
Jacqueline Wrosch, Eastern Michigan University

## **MLA 2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Chair: Claire Lopiccio, Romeo District Library  
Mollie Barkovich, Gobles Elementary School Library  
Lynn Bieszka, Warren Public Library  
Mattie Cook, Flat River Community Library  
Betsy Hull, Capital Area District Libraries  
Sean Lyons, Capital Area District Libraries  
Eric Palmer, Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative  
Jill Spreitzer, University of Detroit Mercy Libraries

## **FALL INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH SERVICES 2020**

Chair: Beth Lowe  
Vice-Chair: Sara Magnuson, Kent District Library  
Karen Blackledge, Muskegon Area District Library  
Amanda Heidema, Herrick District Library  
Jocelyn Levin, Lyon Township Public Library  
Emily Marsh, Bay County Library System  
Dena Moscheck, Bay County Library System - Wirt Public Library  
Jessica Parij, Canton Public Library  
Monica Porter, University of Michigan  
Elissa Zimmer, Ferndale Area District Library

## **SPRING INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH SERVICES 2021**

Chair: Sara Magnuson, Kent District Library  
Vice-chair: Elissa Zimmer, Ferndale Area District Library  
Jill Anderson, Kent District Library  
Anne Heidemann, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries  
Jocelyn Levin, Lyon Township Public Library  
Sue McGonegal, Teach My Kid to Read  
Dena Moscheck, Bay County Library System - Wirt Public Library  
Ariel Wiborn, Veteran's Memorial Library

## **2021 MICHIGAN LIBRARY AWARDS**

Chair: Cathleen Russ, Troy Public Library  
Lauren Arnsman, Kalamazoo Public Library and Kellogg Community College  
Jolee Hamlin, Capital Area District Libraries  
Karen Knox, Orion Township Public Library  
Sonya Schryer Norris, Library of Michigan

## **MITTEN AWARD**

Chair: Kimberlee Gardner, Rochester Hills Public Library  
Chair: Angela Warsinske, Rochester Hills Public Library  
Adrienne Baker, Herrick District Library  
Ashley Lehman, Orion Township Public Library  
Kirsten Malzahn, Novi Public Library  
Ashlee McClaughry, Bloomfield Township Library  
Kathleen Merucci, Salem-South Lyon District Library  
Everett Pine, Ferndale Area District Library  
Lisa Rodkey, Kent District Library  
Keegan Sulecki, Troy Public Library

## **YOUPER (YOUNG PERSON) AWARD**

Chair: Brittany Wesner, Clinton-Macomb Public Library  
Vice-Chair: Lisa Boyd, Canton Public Library  
Robert Chartrand, Capital Area District Libraries  
Maeve Devlin, Cromaine District Library  
Heather Draft, Cromaine District Library  
Jessica Keeler, Plymouth District Library  
Jamie Klos, Clarkston Independence District Library  
Nakenya Lewis-Yarbrough, Belleville Area District Library  
Cassie Veselovsky, Capital Area District Libraries  
Diana Wenger, Muskegon Area District Library  
Elizabeth Wierenga, Kent District Library

## **THUMBS UP! AWARD**

Chair: Tracy Bedford, Clarkston Independence District Library  
Vice-Chair: Kristen Jayska, Livonia Public Library  
Kayla Dies, Paw Paw District Library  
Shanni Kerr, Ionia Community Library  
Becky Mangini, Chesterfield Public Library  
Amanda Shepard, Herrick District Library  
Sarah Swiderski, Salem-South Lyon District Library  
Sarah Welch, Big Rapids Community Library



# THANK YOU

The Board of Directors of the Michigan Library Association offers its most sincere thanks to MLA members and MLA ambassadors, who continue to join, participate, engage and share their expertise with us. Thanks also to the MLA staff who implement our mission of leading all libraries through advocacy, education and engagement. Our ecosystem is strong, and we thank our collaborating partners for uniting with us in common cause. And last but not least, thank you to our legislators for valuing libraries in their deliberations and actions. MLA is resilient and a credible authority for libraries because of the passion and dedication of each of these groups.

*"The health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries."*

*~Carl Sagan*

## MLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Ryan Wieber, Kalamazoo Public Library

### Past President

Jennifer Dean, University of Detroit Mercy Libraries

### Secretary/Treasurer

Scott Duimstra, Capital Area District Libraries

Mollie Freier, Lydia Olson Library, Northern Michigan University

Dillon Geshel, Superiorland Library Cooperative

Tim Gleisner, Library of Michigan

Anne Heidemann, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Library

Loretta Hunter, Wayne County Community College Library

Cat Kerns, Michigan Association for Media in Education

Jessica Keyser, Grosse Pointe Public Library

Deborah E. Mikula, Michigan Library Association

Jasmine Parker, Ferndale Area District Library

Randy Riley, Library of Michigan

Cathy Russ, West Bloomfield Township Library

Kristin Shelley, East Lansing Public Library

Kate Van Auken, White Pine Library Cooperative



MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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[milibraries.org](http://milibraries.org)