



CHANGE, CONTINUITY, AND CONFIDENCE

Michigan Library Association
2025 Annual Report

www.milibraries.org



CHANGE, CONTINUITY, AND CONFIDENCE

At the Michigan Library Association (MLA), our mission is to lead the advancement of libraries through advocacy, professional development, and engagement. Since MLA's founding in 1891, we've delivered on those principles year after year in collaboration with our membership, our ambassadors, our board members, our staff, and all of our peers at partner organizations. While 2025 was another year of meaningful collective work in service to the Michigan library community, it was also a year marked by new challenges, change, and opportunities.

From shifting advocacy priorities to succession planning and leadership changes, MLA has maintained a strong and stable organization during a time of transition and in the face of new funding threats. Whether you're a new or longtime MLA member, an active ambassador, or a board member, your support this year has helped us stay the course and net important advocacy wins that keep Michigan libraries whole. A common mantra for us at MLA rang true again this year: we are stronger together.

In 2025, MLA saw the retirement of our longtime colleague and friend Debbie Mikula, former MLA Executive Director. Over the summer, we adopted a new three-year strategic plan that charts an ambitious course for our future. We received a substantial grant from the Mellon Foundation to build out our Mi Right to Read coalition and adjacent projects. MLA hired an Interim Executive Director, an Event Coordinator, and promoted from within for a brand-new role. And among all that change, the organization maintained continuity and confidence in our service to the Michigan library community.

The confidence we carry in our work is a testament to the strength of our membership. You've shown up time and time again during a year of continued uncertainty. You made your voices heard with Congress and with state legislators when funding for crucial statewide library programs was at risk. Your advocacy ensured increased funding for MeL and MeLCat here in Michigan and the inclusion of continued IMLS funding in Congress's most recent continuing resolution. Your commitment to our shared mission and your collaboration give all of us at MLA inspiration and motivation to continue our meaningful work together. As we look back on 2025, we can't wait to see where we'll go together next.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dillon Geshel'.

Dillon Geshel
MLA Interim Executive Director



ABOUT THE MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1891, the Michigan Library Association (MLA) is one of the oldest and most enduring professional associations in the state, dedicated to supporting and advancing libraries and library professionals across Michigan. For more than a century, MLA has provided advocacy, education, and leadership to strengthen library services, protect access to information, and champion the right to read for all. Today, the association continues this legacy by connecting members, developing future leaders, and serving as a strong voice for libraries.

MISSION: THE MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LEADS THE ADVANCEMENT OF MICHIGAN LIBRARIES THROUGH ADVOCACY, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND ENGAGEMENT.

VISION: STRONG LIBRARIES, STRONG COMMUNITIES, STRONGER MICHIGAN.



MLA'S NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

After a 9-month development and engagement process, MLA was thrilled to adopt a new, ambitious 3-year strategic plan in June 2025. By implementing a new strategic plan, MLA set priorities that task the organization with ongoing advocacy work, a commitment to strong professional development opportunities for Michigan libraries, continued organizational excellence, and more. Three new strategic directions and accompanying goals guide our work as we look beyond 2025:

ADVOCATE FOR LIBRARIES

Creating a two-way dialogue with policymakers, we will ensure that libraries are at the forefront of their communities. Libraries will have a seat at the table for decision-making, and library staff will feel informed and comfortable sharing MI Right to Read information. Advocacy goals include:

- Act as a unified, collective voice on issues affecting Michigan libraries.
- Influence legislation and policy regarding library funding, services, privacy, access, and intellectual freedom.
- Build and strengthen connections with elected and community leaders.

ELEVATE LIBRARY STAFF PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

MLA will be a go-to resource for members seeking training and continuing education. We will provide access to new opportunities that increase learning and engagement while staying up-to-date on trends in the library sector. Professional development goals include:

- Provide professional development opportunities and consulting that align with established and emerging practices.
- Expand and improve engagement opportunities.
- Cultivate and empower current and future library leaders.

OPTIMIZE COMMUNICATIONS

MLA will reach out to build relationships with members, demonstrating the benefits of membership and offering support. We will provide communication tools for libraries to use in their own communities, allowing for expanded understanding of what libraries offer. Goals for optimizing communications include:

- Enhance communication with libraries and stakeholders to highlight the value of MLA.
- Celebrate the value of libraries through shared strategic communication efforts.

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

We aim to support MLA staff through upcoming leadership transitions while providing the support needed for growth in membership. We will expand member engagement and increase fundraising and the pursuit of mission-aligned grants. Goals focused on organizational excellence include:

- Provide MLA staff with resources and support to maintain organizational excellence.
- Ensure a smooth transition to new leadership.
- Advance MLA's operations for long-term sustainability.
- Grow memberships and expand member engagement.



2025 ADVOCACY FOCUS AND WINS

Advocacy is a defining element of MLA's identity and work on behalf of Michigan libraries. In 2025, the advocacy work done by the MLA Advocacy and Legislative Committee, our lobbyist, and scores of engaged librarians has resulted in powerful initiatives that maintained state and federal dollars for libraries during a period of uncertainty and funding threats. With newly elected leaders joining the legislature in January, MLA coordinated meetings for librarians in districts with new Representatives and Senators.

MLA Also:

- Helped secure stable State Aid funding in the FY26 Michigan budget – An appropriation win in a budget environment that saw funding cuts for many other departments and agencies.
- Was instrumental in securing an additional \$900,000 in one-time funding in the FY26 State of Michigan budget to support MeL and MeLCat.
- Held our annual, in-person Michigan Library Advocacy Day, which convened 150 library advocates at the State Capitol. Attendees met and built relationships with their House and Senate members.
- Conducted a state-wide public opinion poll of over 800 Michiganders and found growing support for public libraries and increased opposition to book bans.
- Gathered over 4,000 petition signatures and delivered them to every elected leader in Michigan's legislature, urging them to stand with libraries to uphold First Amendment freedoms and to provide further funding support for public libraries and statewide library programs.
- Launched a 5-month statewide campaign to raise awareness of the freedom to read, with a focus on engaging and activating Michiganders, especially youth, to stand up for their First Amendment rights in public libraries.

MI RIGHT TO READ AWARDED \$600,000 GRANT BY MELLON FOUNDATION

Intellectual Freedom is a core value of the library profession and a basic right in our democratic society. At MLA, our focus on defending the freedom to read created new and exciting opportunities to build out our capacity to support libraries in 2025. In April, MLA was thrilled to announce that the Mellon Foundation had awarded the organization a \$600,000 grant to support the MI Right to Read initiative.

After a year-long engagement and application process, MLA secured this pivotal funding to strengthen and expand MI Right to Read and its work promoting intellectual freedom and championing the free flow of information. The recognition from the Mellon Foundation underscored the initiative's significant impact on libraries, library professionals, and communities across the state.

To lead the next phase of MI Right to Read, Amber Sheerin, who served as MLA's Event Director for the six years prior, was promoted to Program Director. Since April, Amber has led the initiative's programs and services, including consulting and direct support to libraries working through difficult, politically motivated challenges to the freedom to read.

Since its launch in 2021, MI Right to Read has become a national model for addressing book banning and censorship. Through the initiative, MLA has created a dedicated website, forged strategic partnerships, and conducted statewide polling and messaging campaigns in recent years. With the additional grant funds, MLA commissioned a new statewide poll that revealed increased opposition to book bans and stronger support for local public libraries among Michiganders. Support from the grant also allowed MLA to launch a 6-month statewide campaign that centered on youth voices on the right to read, educating young people, and empowering them to take action to support First Amendment rights in public libraries.

In 2025, MI Right to Read also strengthened ties to several partner organizations, including the ACLU of Michigan. During MI Right to Read week and Michigan Library Appreciation month in October, MLA and the ACLU of Michigan published video interviews with Michigan high school students, highlighting their passion for libraries and the freedom to read. Our organizations are also working together on updating the ACLU of Michigan's Hostile Territory Map, which documents censorship threats across the state using an interactive online map.

Among other initiatives supported by the Mellon Foundation in 2025, the new year will bring additional right to read related education opportunities for youth advocates, local grassroots coalitions, and librarians. As we look ahead to 2026, our Mellon-sponsored MI Right to Read work includes many new in-person events, such as a Youth Summit, an Intellectual Freedom Summit for librarians, and grassroots coalition-building workshops in different regions of the state.

In 2025, MLA intensified efforts to counter book bans at libraries in Michigan. With the generosity of the Mellon Foundation, MLA will continue to strategize and shape a statewide response to upholding the freedom to read and speak, ensuring Michigan's libraries remain spaces of free inquiry for all.





79%

A 79% solid majority of all respondents gave public libraries in Michigan a positive rating for their work providing programs, services, and a diverse, quality collection.

Up from 71% in 2023!



Statistics (±3.5%) collected from 847 randomly selected Michigan voters by EPIC-MRA. June 2025.

STATEWIDE SURVEY ON PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND BOOK BANNING

Over the summer, MLA was thrilled to share the results of a new statewide poll that revealed Michigan voters increasingly oppose book bans and strongly support their public libraries. The new poll follows a similar statewide survey on library issues conducted in March 2023, both commissioned by the Michigan Library Association (MLA) and conducted by the public opinion survey and research firm EPIC-MRA. Results confirm a growing statewide resistance to censorship efforts targeting library collections and a significant increase in strong support for public libraries since 2023. The survey also produced 11 regional summaries based on the Michigan Cooperative Library regions.

Key statewide findings revealed:

- 79% approve of Michigan libraries' work (up from 71%)
- 75% trust librarians' collection decisions
- 50% now say books should never be banned (flipped from 42% in 2023)
- 84% support current library policies on age-appropriate shelving
- Only 4% blame libraries for children accessing objectionable content

Every question posed in the 2023 survey and again in 2025 saw improved support, meaning increased support for libraries and increased opposition to censorship. For communities facing politically motivated book challenges, the poll results serve as a powerful reminder that voices loudly opposing the freedom to read do not represent most Michiganders.

Likewise, the polling results sent a strong message to lawmakers, stakeholders, and library boards – Michiganders want their libraries to remain a gateway to knowledge for all, free of censorship.

STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN PROMOTING THE PROTECT MI RIGHT TO READ PETITION

At MLA's Annual Conference in October, we hosted a press event to share exciting news – More than 4,300 Michiganders from every region of the state signed the Protect MI Right to Read petition. Part of MLA's five-month statewide campaign, the petition called on Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Legislature to defend the freedom to read, and support library workers and critical statewide library programs like MeL and MeLCat. Following the event, the petition was hand-delivered to every legislative office at the Capitol.

The press conference generated strong attention statewide, reaching millions of individuals through news coverage. The event and petition results were covered by more than two dozen news agencies, including major outlets across Michigan, amplifying MLA's message that libraries are cornerstones of democracy, education, and community. Speakers at the press conference emphasized that the freedom to read is fundamental to the library's mission and must be protected from censorship and book bans.

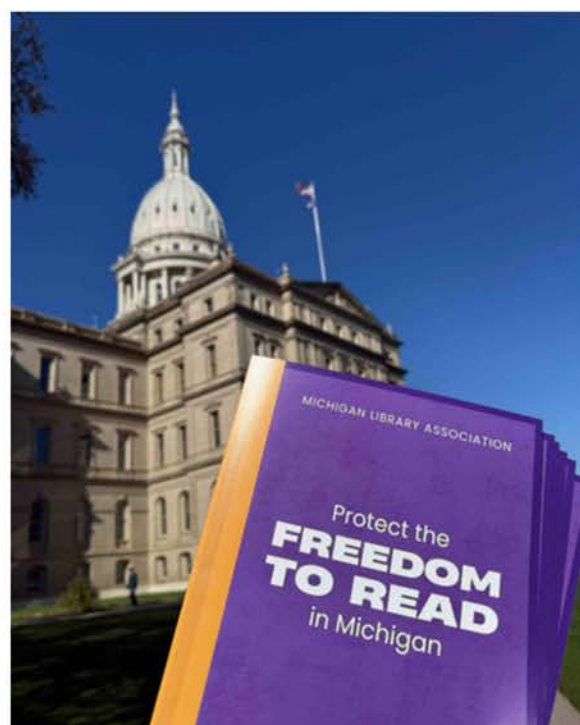
Speakers included MLA Interim Executive Director Dillon Geshel, State Representative Veronica Paiz (D-Harper Woods), MLA President and Executive Director of Capital Area District Libraries, Jenny Marr, and Inaya Qureshi, a student at West Bloomfield High School. Each offered a message underscoring the essential role of libraries in protecting intellectual freedom and ensuring equitable access to information.

Public libraries are where opportunity begins and where anyone can learn, grow, and find their voice," said State Representative Veronica Paiz. "Standing up for libraries means standing up for democracy, education, and Michigan's future."

"The MI Right to Read campaign highlighted youth voices and the next generation of leaders in Michigan, including Inaya Qureshi, a student at West Bloomfield High School.

"When we can choose what we read in a public library, we learn who we are and who we can be," said Inaya. "Books help us understand each other, and that's something worth protecting."

With the delivery of our petition and signatures to Michigan's elected leaders, MLA marked the conclusion of a five-month campaign to raise awareness around the right to read and to demonstrate that Michiganders deeply value public libraries and their vital connection to First Amendment freedoms. This strong show of support opens the door for further conversations with legislators, and MLA will continue its advocacy and engagement to protect the freedom to read, promote access to information, and secure funding for libraries across the state.





MICHIGAN LIBRARY APPRECIATION MONTH (OCTOBER 2025)

Throughout October, MLA led a statewide celebration of Michigan Library Appreciation Month and MI Right to Read Week (October 5–11) under the theme “Find Out,” highlighting libraries as welcoming spaces for curiosity, discovery, and the freedom to read. MLA encouraged libraries and community members to participate through coordinated social media engagement, including interactive questions, photo prompts, and shout-outs to library staff, using the hashtags #LoveMILibraries and #MILibraryMonth. Libraries were also urged to seek local proclamations from elected officials to demonstrate public support. The month connected today’s advocacy to the profession’s long-standing commitment to intellectual freedom, honoring library workers while reinforcing libraries’ essential role in ensuring access to information and protecting every Michigander’s right to find out.

The celebration was further elevated by an official Michigan Library Appreciation Month proclamation from the Governor, recognizing the vital role of public, school, academic, tribal, cooperative, and special libraries across the state. The proclamation affirmed libraries as essential civic and cultural hubs that foster literacy, lifelong learning, and First Amendment rights, while highlighting statewide resources such as MeL (the Michigan eLibrary). It also honored the dedication of library professionals, trustees, volunteers, and supporters, and encouraged all residents to visit their local library—online or in person—to explore services and discover something new.



MICHIGAN LIBRARY AWARDS 2025

Presented annually, the Michigan Library Awards honor excellence, dedication, and outstanding service in the Michigan library community. The awards recognize library professionals, advocates, and institutions that support the highest quality library services, ensure access to information, and safeguard the right to read for all Michiganders. The 2025 honorees were unveiled on Wednesday, October 29, during the Michigan Library Awards gala in Lansing. Each recipient was selected through a peer-review process for their exceptional achievements. The 2025 Michigan Library Awards gala celebrated the outstanding people and libraries that make Michigan's library community one of the most dynamic and dedicated in the nation.

MEET THE 2025 MLA AWARD HONOREES



Heart of a Champion Award
Erin Carlson
Elk Township Library and
Sandusky District Library



Library Support Staff of the Year
Heather Harris Brady
Traverse Area District Library



Rising Star Award
Rae Stoloff
Madison Heights Public Library



Francis H. Pletz Award for Excellence in Service to Youth
Traci Scarbrough
Comstock Township Library



Public Librarian of the Year
Rebekah Craft
Baldwin Public Library



Lifetime Achievement Award
Trisha A. Burns
Bay County Library System
(Retired)



2026 Legislators of the Year
Representative Carol Glanville
84th House District



2026 Legislators of the Year
Representative Veronica Paiz
10th House District



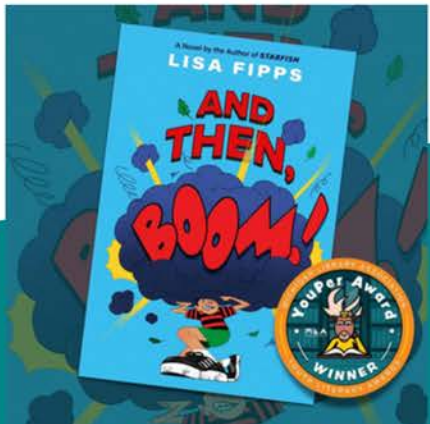
Intellectual Freedom Award
Hart Area Public Library



2025 MLA YOUTH LITERARY AWARDS

MLA's Youth Literary Awards recognize outstanding contributions to youth literature and celebrate the best titles for children and teens. For the past year, MLA Youth Literary Award workgroups have spent thousands of hours reading, reviewing, and discussing hundreds of books to choose the very best titles published in 2024 for Michigan kids. It's our pleasure to share the winners of the 2025 Mitten, YouPer, and Thumbs Up! Awards.

The winner of the 2025 Mitten Award is *We Are Definitely Human*, written and illustrated by X. Fang, published by Tundra Books. The winner of the 2025 YouPer Award is *And Then, Boom!* by Lisa Fipps, published by Nancy Paulsen Books. The winner of the 2025 Thumbs Up! Award is *Compound Fracture* by Andrew Joseph White, published by Peachtree Teen.



EDUCATION AND EVENTS

MLA 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MLA's flagship event was hosted in Lansing and saw record-breaking attendance for another year. The theme of 'Library Kaleidoscope: Shifting Perspectives' invited attendees to think outside the box regarding their programs and services and dared them to imagine what else might be possible. With over 55 educational sessions, 4 keynote speakers, and an exhibit hall full of energy (and puppies!), this event was the highlight of MLA's in-person event offerings and had over a 90% satisfaction rating from the post-event survey, with 98% of attendees reporting they learned something new they could bring back and implement in their library.

SPRING INSTITUTE 2025

265 library workers with a passion for youth and teen services descended upon Frankenmuth in March to 'Celebrate Our Stories' at a storybook-inspired event in Michigan's little Bavaria. For the first time, MLA had to close registration early because we reached the venue's capacity. Highlights included an opening keynote with author Gary Schmidt, a fireside chat with author Aisha Saeed, and the conference reception hosted by the Frankenmuth James E. Wickson District Library.

THINK SPACE 2024-2025

Each December and May, Michigan library directors gather for an in-depth exploration of topics that impact their shared purpose and goals. The power of this event lies in its "By Directors, For Directors" approach that gives participants the chance to share insights, experiences, and practical applications of theoretical ideas. 43 directors convened on Mackinac Island in May 2025, and 42 directors met in Midland in December at sessions led by facilitator John McCann of Partners in Performance to grow their leadership skills and sustain well-being across library teams.

SURVIVING AND THRIVING AS A NEW LIBRARY DIRECTOR

MLA was proud to welcome back facilitator Maxine Bleiweis for the fifth iteration of our Surviving and Thriving as a New Library Director. This small cohort of 8 attendees met with Maxine at the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library in March and continued to meet via Zoom for group conversations held bi-weekly, along with one-on-one leadership coaching. Alumni of this program give rave reviews about Maxine's long-term impact on their careers. MLA plans to offer this bi-annual program again in 2027.

ADVOCACY DAY 2025

Advocacy Day is a sell-out event year after year, and 2025 was no exception. Over 175 library workers met at the Capitol building in Lansing in April and had 105 meetings with legislators from all corners of the state to share with them the value and importance of libraries to Michigan's citizens. The parade of Bookmobiles parked along Capitol Ave was a highlight again this year, and shone like a beacon to the Capitol building, reflecting the theme that 'Libraries Light the Way'.

MLA CONNECT

MLA's collection of educational session recordings, webinars, and online discussions grew by dozens of hours. MLA members have live and on-demand access to dozens of virtual programs and sessions on a wide variety of topics, giving access to valuable information and resources. The 2025 sessions included topics ranging from graphic design to website accessibility, service animals, and concerns about unhoused patrons.



MLA HOSTS ROUNDTABLE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL DANA NESSEL

On November 13, MLA convened library leaders from across Michigan for a roundtable with Attorney General Dana Nessel at the Kent District Library Service Center in Grand Rapids, highlighting a shared commitment to protecting access to information and opportunity for all Michiganders. The discussion focused on federal threats to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and Attorney General Nessel's multistate lawsuit to stop efforts to dismantle the agency. IMLS provides \$4.8 million annually to Michigan libraries, supporting essential statewide services like MeL and MeLCat, which circulated more than 1 million items in 2024 alone.

Library leaders shared the real-world impact of these programs, while the Attorney General outlined her office's efforts to safeguard continued funding. A tour of KDL's service center showcased the scale of coordination behind resource sharing and the critical role IMLS funding plays. Roundtable participants included Carol Dawe, Dillon Geshel, Jenny Marr, Randy Riley, and Lance Werner. MLA is grateful for Attorney General Nessel's partnership and leadership in taking bold legal action to defend IMLS, and supporting Michigan libraries.

2025 BY THE NUMBERS



1202 In-person attendees



944 Virtual attendees



68 Event and professional development Ambassadors



6 In-person events



23 MLA Connect virtual events



10 Partnerships in the Mentorship Program

FINANCIALS

The stable financial position of MLA is due in part to the strength of the work done by the MLA Treasurer, Finance Committee and staff. Below are audited figures as accepted by the MLA Board from Lewis & Knopf at the December 2025 board meeting.

FINANCIAL POSITION YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	323,257
Investments - Certificates of Deposit	1,150,215
Accounts Receivable	48,292
Other Receivables	13,082
Prepaid Expenses	51,549
Total Current Assets	\$1,586,395

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	5,865
Accrued Payroll	21,304
Accrued Vacation	2,310
Deferred Revenue	384,476
Total Current Liabilities	\$413,955

NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions	
Undesignated	590,469
Designated by the Board	39,315
Total Without Donor Restrictions	\$629,784
With Donor Restrictions	
Purpose Restrictions	542,656
Total Net Assets	\$1,172,440

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$1,586,395

ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

SUPPORT AND REVENUES

Membership Dues	440,853
Professional Development	453,154
Contributions	10,192
Grants	608,250
Net Investment Income	36,328
Miscellaneous	16,736
Total Revenues	\$1,565,513

EXPENSES

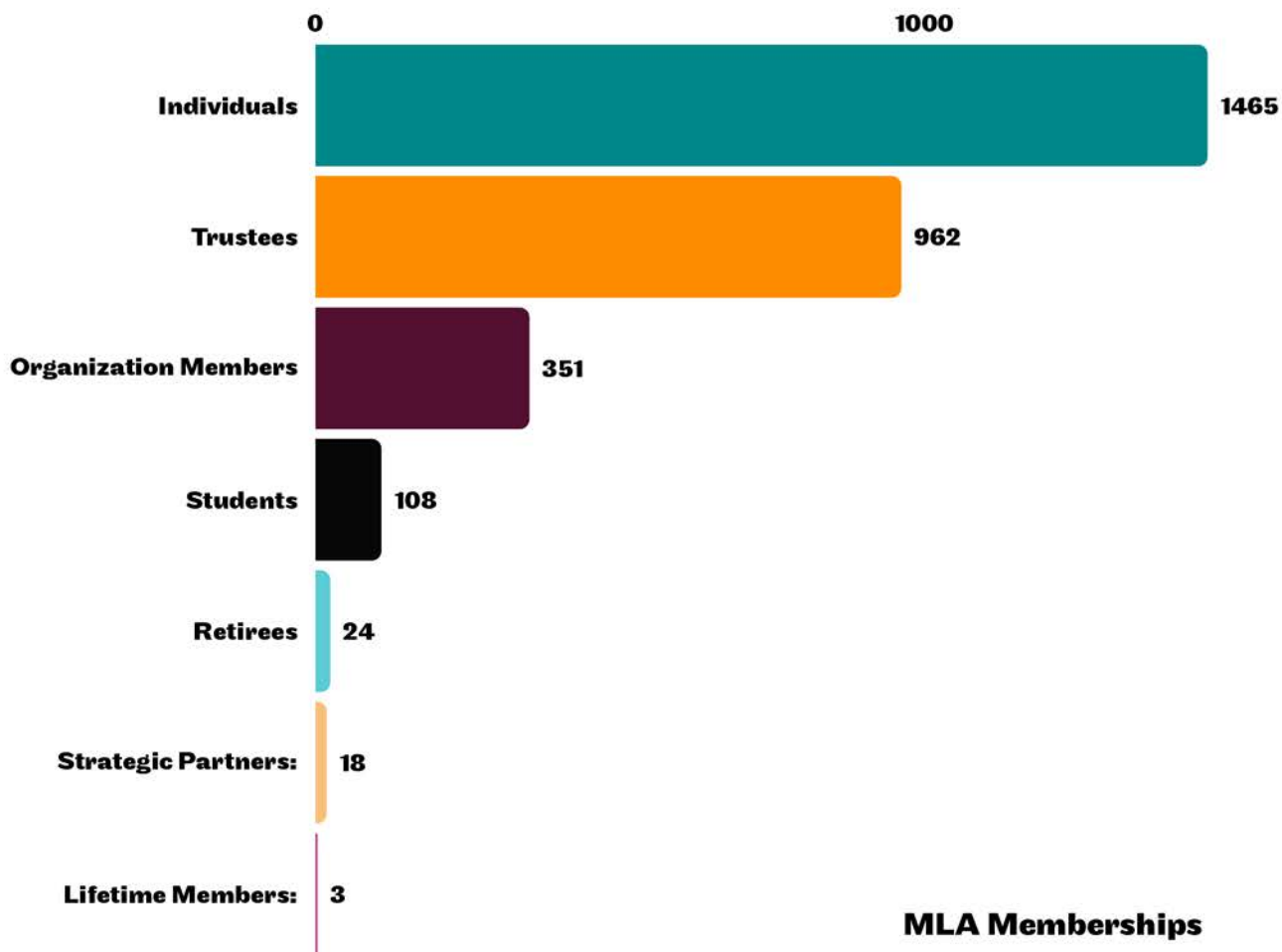
Program Services	988,124
Support Services	
Management and General	169,954
Fundraising	4,468
Total Support Services	\$174,422
Total Expenses	\$1,162,546

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$402,967
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING	\$769,473
NET ASSETS - ENDING	\$1,172,440



MLA MEMBERSHIPS

The Michigan Library Association is a collaborative network of libraries and library professionals working together to advance the library profession in Michigan. Our network consists of more than 3000 organizations and individuals, all dedicated to advocating for libraries, growing professionally as leaders in the library community, and advancing the profession through the sharing of best practices, innovative ideas, and new programs and services that benefit library personnel, library patrons, and the communities we serve.



STRONGER TOGETHER

MLA's work is powered by the leadership and dedication of its Ambassadors—122 library professionals and advocates this year who generously volunteer their time and expertise to advance the association's mission. Serving on committees and workgroups, Ambassadors help plan educational programs, select award recipients, shape strategy, and navigate legislative and policy challenges that impact libraries across Michigan. Their contributions strengthen MLA's impact statewide while also building their own leadership skills, expanding professional networks, and supporting the growth of the entire library community.

ADVOCACY AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Michele Howard, Traverse Area District Library
Vice-Chair: Juliane Morian, Rochester Hills Public Library
John Clexton, Gladwin County District Library
Bryan Cloutier, Oxford Public Library
Jaci Cooper, Kent District Library
Bob DeVries, GCSI
Jim Flury, The Library Network (TLN)
Anne Heidemann, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries
Lindsay Hiltunen, Michigan Technological University
Paris Kelvakis, Canton Public Library
Jessica Keyser, Grosse Pointe Public Library
Kevin King, East Lansing Public Library
Cindy Mack, Brighton District Library
Jenny Marr, Capital Area District Libraries
Claire Meeker, Romeo District Library
Jamie Morris, Clinton-Macomb Public Library
Ann Neff-Rohs, Grand Rapids Public Library
Dale Parus, Ionia Community Library
Christine Peele, Detroit Public Library
Erin Schmandt, Caro Area District Library
Lisa Waskin, Superior District Library
Samantha Zandee, GCSI

LEGISLATION READERS SUBCOMMITTEE

Bob DeVries, GCSI
Jessica Keyser, Grosse Pointe Public Library
Jenny Marr, Capital Area District Libraries
Larry Neal, Clinton-Macomb Public Library
Dale Parus, Ionia Community Library
Samantha Zandee, GCSI

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Mary Higginbottom Johnson, Muskegon Area Dist. Library
John Clexton, Gladwin County District Library
Anne Heidemann, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries
Michele Howard, Traverse Area District Library
Lisa Waskin, Superior District Library

NOMINATING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Erin Schmadt, Caro Area District Library
Kate Andrade, Woodlands Library Cooperative
Mallorie DeVilbiss, Suburban Library Cooperative
Valerie Meyerson, Petoskey District Library
Christine Peele, Detroit Public Library
Eric Stanton, Capital Area District Libraries
Sophia Ward Brewer, Grand Rapids Community College

ADVOCACY DAY WORKGROUP

Chair: John Clexton, Gladwin County District Library
Abby Black, Allendale Township Library
Steven Bowers, The Library Network (TLN)
Katherine Bryant, Bloomfield Township Public Library
Christiane Evaskis-Garrett, East Lansing Public Library
Anne Harrison, Loutit District Library
Gary Munce, Chelsea District Library
Ann Neff-Rohs, Grand Rapids Public Library

ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORKGROUP

Chair: James Pugh, Cedar Springs Public Library
Vice-Chair: Elissa Zimmer, Van Buren District Library
Betty Adams, Dearborn Public Library
Bryonna Barton, Eaton Rapids Area District Library
Rion Berger, Clinton-Macomb Public Library
Andy Bourgeois, Capital Area District Libraries
Jack Buck, Richland Community Library
Ryan Deery, Charlevoix Library
Mallorie DeVilbiss, Suburban Library Cooperative
Brigette Felix, The Library Network (TLN)
Azita Frattarelli, Riverview Veterans Memorial Library
Liz Kish, East Lansing Public Library
Lynne Lesky, Alanson Area Public Library
Maria McCarville, Public Libraries of Saginaw
Sara Morrison, Briggs District Library
Andrew Puente, Brighton District Library
EmmaLee Ridenour, White Lake Township Library
Katie Rothley, Northville District Library
Kristin Skinner, Flat River Community Library
Ryan Tackabury, Ruth Hughes Memorial District Library
Tim Wiggins, Niles District Library
Amy Young, Clinton-Macomb Public Library

ONLINE COMMUNITY MODERATORS

Chelsey Boss, Adrian District Library
Shelby Fox-Purrier-Rivera, Commerce Two Community Library
James Pugh, Cedar Springs Public Library
Katie Rothley, Northville District Library
Ryan Tackabury, Ruth Hughes Memorial District Library

MICHIGAN LIBRARY AWARDS WORKGROUP

Chair: Lauren Arnsman, Troy Public Library
Vice-Chair: Christopher Potts, Capital Area District Libraries
Jan Davidson, Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS)
Grace Galvan, Shelby Township Library
Shaunna Martz, Kent District Library
Meghan Mott, Clinton-Macomb Public Library
Holly Teasdale, Lyon Township Public Library

SPRING INSTITUTE WORKGROUP

Chair: Courtnei Moyses, Grand Rapids Public Library
Vice-Chair: Lydia Schmidt, Hackley Public Library
Marissa Boisclair, Commerce Twp Community Library
Melissa Connolly, Oak Park Public Library
Tammy Fath, Ashley District Library
Shelby Fox-Purrier-Rivera, Commerce Twp Community Library
Kristen Getzin, Fraser Public Library
Storm Hawthorn, East Lansing Public Library
Ashley Lehman, Orion Township Public Library
Wendy Lehman, Rochester Hills Public Library
Jocelyn Levin, Lyon Township Public Library
Megan Meservy, Warren Public Library
Elisha Miranda, Capital Area District Libraries
Dena Moscheck, Bay County Library System
Holly Osentoski, Troy Public Library
Amanda Pfister, Roseville Public Library
Jennifer Sunderhaus, Shelby Township Library

MITTEN AWARD WORKGROUP

Chair: Leigh Verburg, Kent District Library
Vice-Chair: Mike Golczynski, Kent District Library
Selena Aguilera, Taylor Community Library
Yasmeen Anis, Grand Haven Area Public Schools
Adrienne Baker, Herrick District Library
Manda Carr, Troy Public Library
Amanda Carroll, Bloomfield Township Public Library
Kimberlee Gardner, Rochester Hills Public Library
Kristen Jayska, Livonia Public Library
Wesleyann Johnson, Center Line Public Library
Jessica Keeler, Detroit Public Library
Julie Moore, Clinton Macomb Public Library
Everett Pine, Ferndale Area District Library
Michael Spaeth, Rochester Hills Public Library
Loni Wetherell, Cromaine District Library
Lily Wiest, Northville District Library

THUMBS UP! AWARD WORKGROUP

Chair: Kayla Koning, Paw Paw District Library
Vice-Chair: Austin Webberly, Novi Public Library
Colleen Kingsbury, Plymouth District Library
Toni Lea Isom, Adrian District Library
Sarah McCarthy, Farmington Community Library
Julianne Novetsky, Warren Public Library
Shannon O'Leary, Novi Public Library
Amanda Shepard, Herrick District Library

YOUPEER AWARD WORKGROUP

Chair: Catherine Ash, Clinton Macomb Public Library
Vice-Chair: Elizabeth Wierenga, Kent District Library
Taryn Allan, Clinton-Macomb Public Library
Lauren Aquilina, Commerce Township Community Library
Jacquelyn Boss, Kent District Library
Heather Draft, Cromaine District Library
Suseela Eyal, Capital Area District Libraries
Filippa Genovese, Clinton-Macomb Public Library
Lydia Jacobsen, Orion Township Public Library
Lindsey Kult, Dearborn Public Library
Carol Robinson, Grand Ledge Area District Library
Kerry Roman, Orion Township Public Library
Carolyn Sherrill, Rochester Hills Public Library
Samantha Stachowiak, Plymouth District Library
Brandi Swinehart, Allen Park Public Library
Samantha Tomlinson, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library
Monica Walen, Kent District Library

UNITING THE MICHIGAN LIBRARY COMMUNITY

We proudly partner with organizations serving the Michigan Library Community.





MLA 2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Jenny Marr, Director, Capital Area District Library

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Lisa Waskin, Director, Superior District Library

PAST PRESIDENT

(n/a)

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Mary Higginbottom-Johnson, Associate Director, Muskegon Area District Library

BOARD MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

DJ Bond, Member Engagement, The Library Network

John Clextan, Director, Gladwin County District Library

Anne Heidemann, Tribal Librarian, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries

Michele Howard, Director, Traverse Area District Library

Shaunna Martz, Regional Manager II, Kent District Library

Claire Meeker, Director, Romeo District Library

Val Meyerson, Director, Petoskey District Library

Juliane Morian, Director, Rochester Hills Public Library

Vanessa Verdun-Morris, Director, Madison Heights Public Library

Christine Peele, Asst. Director of Public Services, Detroit Public Library

James Pugh, Director, Cedar Springs Public Library

Erin Schmandt, Director, Caro Area District Library

BOARD MEMBERS EX-OFFICIO

Dillon Geshel, Interim Executive Director, Michigan Library Association

State Librarian, Library of Michigan

