



MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ABOUT US

Libraries throughout Michigan are centers for learning and self-discovery, providing free and open access to information to all residents. Michigan 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. Michigan libraries provide free access to vital resources for all Michiganders, including our most vulnerable and disenfranchised citizens. It is without a doubt that Michigan residents love their local and school libraries.

The Michigan Library Association (MLA) is uniquely positioned to be a service and advocacy organization leading the advancement of all Michigan libraries through advocacy, education and engagement. As Michigan's oldest and largest library association, MLA has advocated for libraries on behalf of the state's residents since 1891. Our membership is comprised of 2500 libraries, library professionals and library supporters who come from urban, suburban and rural areas from all throughout Michigan. We support the growth and professional development of library personnel; provide consulting and technical assistance; advocate for the value of libraries; and ultimately, unite all libraries through a shared ecosystem, giving Michigan citizens, young and old alike, the ability to connect to our vast wealth of knowledge.

KEY MLA CONTACTS



Deborah E. Mikula
Executive Director, Michigan Library Association
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Since June 2019, Debbie has served as MLA's Executive Director. For over 35 years, she has been a passionate advocate of arts and culture in the state and on a national basis – leading the Arts Council of Greater Lansing, ArtServe Michigan, Michigan Association of Community Arts Agencies, and the League of Historic American Theatres. Debbie has a bachelor's degree in Theatre from Michigan State University and a Graduate Certificate in Arts Management from The American University in Washington, D.C.



Bob DeVries
Lobbyist, Governmental Consultant Services Inc.
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Before joining Governmental Consultant Services Inc., Bob served for 10 years on House and Senate staffs eventually rising to the position of Chief of Staff to the Senate Majority Leader. During his time in the legislature, Bob managed many difficult legislative issues and became one of Lansing's leading experts on the legislative process. Bob has his bachelor's degree in political science from Grand Valley State University and his law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. GCSI was founded in 1983 and has been repeatedly recognized as Lansing's most effective lobbying firm. The firm employs nine lobbyists from diverse political backgrounds. GCSI has represented the Michigan Library Association since 2007.



LIBRARIES ARE MORE THAN JUST BOOKS

Michigan libraries serve millions of patrons and continue to innovate, expand and evolve both in-person and virtual programs and services to serve Michigan communities. They are so much more than just lenders of books.

Libraries provide:

- High-speed internet access and digital literacy training
- Resources to facilitate in-person and remote learning for educators and students of all ages
- Employment assistance, from resume writing to job search and career skills training
- Support in applying for government services such as veterans benefits, unemployment assistance, and medical coverage
- Programs that foster early literacy, entrepreneurship, and lifelong learning

There are 397 public library systems in Michigan serving our close to 10 million residents (with more than 50% of Michigan residents holding a library card). State aid to libraries is currently at \$15,567,700 (about .50 cents/capita). The investment in public libraries helps them achieve these remarkable statistics across Michigan.

In 2022 Michigan public libraries had enormous increases over 2021:

- Loaned out more than 48.1 million books, movies, music and other items
- Loaned out close to 13.6 million digital materials like eBooks to patrons
- Had 20.3 million in-person library visits
- Had over 38.7 million virtual library visits during the pandemic
- Hosted more than 92,000 programs and events
 - 47,518 children's programs
 - 21,357 teen programs
 - 26,372 adult programs
 - 8,971 general programs
- Provided Wi-Fi that was used more than 9.6 million times
- Employed more than 7,770 people

FOR MORE INFO



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