Schedule at a Glance

Wednesday, October 19, 2022
12:15 - 4:30 PM  Registration Open
1:00 - 2:30 PM  Opening Keynote with the Civility Project
2:30 - 6:45 PM  Exhibits, Bookstore, and Silent Auction Open
2:30 - 3:15 PM  Afternoon Break in Exhibit Hall
3:15 - 4:15 PM  Breakout Sessions
4:30 - 5:30 PM  Breakout Sessions
5:30 - 6:45 PM  Welcome Reception in the Exhibit Hall
7:00 - 9:30 PM  Michigan Library Awards Ceremony Dinner

Thursday, October 20, 2022
7:30 AM - 4:00 PM  Registration Open
7:30 - 8:30 AM  Morning Walk
8:00 - 9:00 AM  Breakfast
8:00 - 9:00 AM  Trustee Breakfast
8:30 - 9:30 AM  Morning Keynote with Angela Hursh
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM  Exhibits and Silent Auction Open
9:30 AM - 5:00 PM  Bookstore Open
9:30 - 10:00 AM  Morning Break in Exhibit Hall
9:45 - 10:45 AM  Breakout Sessions
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  Breakout Sessions
12:00 - 1:00 PM  Spelling Bee Lunch
1:15 - 2:15 PM  Breakout Sessions
2:15 - 3:00 PM  Exhibits Closing Reception
3:00 - 4:00 PM  Breakout Session
4:00 - 5:00 PM  MLA Annual Meeting
5:00 - 6:00 PM  Student Reception
6:00 - 8:00 PM  Dinner On Your Own
8:00 - 10:00 PM  Trivia Party

Friday, October 21, 2022
7:30 - 11:30 AM  Registration and Silent Auction Pickup Open
7:30 - 8:30 AM  Morning Walk
8:00 - 9:00 AM  Breakfast
9:00 - 10:00 AM  Breakout Sessions
10:15 - 11:15 AM  Breakout Sessions
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM  Closing Keynote with Kent Oliver
12:30 - 12:45 PM  Grab and Go Snacks
Welcome to MLA 2022 Annual Conference!

Well, it’s about time! Three years is a long time between in-person conferences. Welcome back to the Michigan Library Association Annual Conference, live and in person in beautiful Port Huron. “Bridging the Divide” is quite the appropriate theme for this year’s gathering, considering the divides we see every day in multiple ways, the divide in time and circumstance since we last met, and the obvious fact of Port Huron being home to the cool Blue Water Bridge.

The conference workgroup has crafted an outstanding lineup of topics that are relevant to things we are facing today. Sessions highlighting the experience and creativity of presenters will inspire us to bring ideas back home that could improve how we reach and serve others. I am looking forward to our keynotes: retired Nashville Public Librarian Kent Oliver on intellectual freedom; Nolan Finley and Stephen Henderson and the Great Lakes Civility Project (yes, please); and library marketing expert Angela Hursh – all designed to deliver perspective, advice, and inspiration to build us upward.

Take it easy and let this year’s conference work for you: take advantage of opportunities to meet or reconnect with colleagues from across the state, sharing and comparing what you know, or just plain ol’ checking in on long lost pre-COVID friends. Hallways and exhibit halls are perfect for that, and events like the Spelling Bee Lunch, Trivia Party, and the Michigan Library Awards are meant for getting to know fellow library professionals better. A big thank you to MLA staff, the conference workgroup, exhibitors and sponsors, volunteers, and all of YOU for making MLA 2022 Annual Conference happen!

Ryan Wieber
President, Michigan Library Association
Kalamazoo Public Library

Welcome to the 2022 Michigan Library Association Annual Conference. Along with seeing your fellow library workers from around Michigan, the Annual Conference Workgroup planned an exceptional lineup of keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and special events around the theme of “Bridging the Divide”. That bridging can mean many things when applied to library services. Speakers and sessions will address the divide among intellectual freedom, the digital divide, and even cultural divisions in our communities. At this conference, you’ll learn how to bridge those divisions along with learning practical skills that you can take back to your library and your community.

There’s also some fun to be had as well. Please join us for the Michigan Library Awards on Wednesday evening and the Spelling Bee Lunch on Thursday followed by a Trivia Party on Thursday evening. On behalf of the Michigan Library Association, we are delighted to see you again in person and hope that you have an informative, educational, and fun conference.

Scott Duimstra
Chair, MLA 2022 Annual Conference Workgroup
Capital Area District Libraries

#MLA22AC    #BRIDGINGTHEDIVDE
To be more sustainable, we have reduced the size of our paper program book and are encouraging attendees to use the MLA 2022 mobile app instead. The mobile app offers all essential conference details, including session descriptions, exhibitor information, speaker profiles, chats, program evaluations, and more.

Download the ConferenceBeat Event App or use the QR code to visit the app on your web browser!

Sleepy Dog Books is a high-quality boutique bookstore offering new general interest titles and merchandise. Visit them at Sleepydogbooks.com
COVID-19 Vaccination/Testing Requirements

All attendees, exhibitors, partners and staff will be required to show either proof of full vaccination or a negative COVID-19 PCR or Rapid test result within 72 hours of the first day of an event. You will be asked to provide a vaccine card or proof of negative test result at the registration desk. Rapid tests will be available at the registration desk. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will be onsite to provide testing to anyone who arrives without proof of vaccination, and rapid tests will be available at the registration desk throughout the conference. **We recommend that all attendees wear a mask indoors regardless of vaccination status.**

Lactation Room

For convenience and privacy, a lactation room is available in the Wheelhouse room near the DoubleTree lobby during the conference hours.

Calm Room

Need a break? Group events can feel overwhelming after such a long break from gathering, so with that in mind MLA has a quiet and calm room, located in the Lighthouse Room near the DoubleTree lobby, set aside for any attendees who may need to take a moment before getting back to the action.

Session Handouts

Download session handouts and resources on the MLA website and conference app. Session handouts for each breakout session are linked below the session description.

Breakout Session Tracks

Breakout Sessions are organized into four tracks with different focuses. You can attend sessions in one track or mix-and-match!

**Create Sessions** focus on concepts, programs, or services new to libraries and/or what’s trending for the future.

**Connect Sessions** focus on services and programs that engage staff, patrons, and/or the community with the goal of improving library services.

**Reimagine Sessions** focus on how libraries are re-thinking and adapting services and programs to the changing needs of staff, patrons, and/or the community.

**Lead Sessions** focus on how library staff, patrons, and/or community can lead others towards inspiring solutions.
Digital Resources

Follow Along With the Mobile App

For the most up to date conference info and session descriptions, download the R@H ConferenceBeat Event App

To access the MLA 2022 Annual Conference, tap the Current Events tab. Locate the MLA 2022 Annual Conference and tap to open the event details. To open the event, tap the Go to Event button.

You can also access a browser-based version of the app by scanning this QR code with your phone’s camera.

Get Social

Use the #MLA22AC and #Bridgingthedivide hashtags to follow along and add to the conversation! Don’t forget to tag MLA!

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**Exhibit Hall Opening Reception**  
**Wednesday, 5:30 - 6:45 PM | Great Lakes Hall and Lake Huron B**  
Hors d’oeuvres are included and a cash bar will be available. This event is free to attend for all Wednesday conference attendees and is the perfect preamble to the Michigan Library Awards Gala.

**Michigan Library Awards**  
**Wednesday, 7:00 - 9:00 PM | Lake Huron A**  
The Michigan Library Awards is the can’t-miss event for recognizing Michigan’s amazing library professionals and libraries. It’s the Michigan library community’s own version of the Academy Awards, the Emmys, the Grammys, and the Tonys!

Join us for an evening of celebration, including dinner and an awards show featuring entertainment and special guests. Don your best business dressy attire (ball gowns and tuxedos are NOT required), strut the red carpet for a photo op, and join us for dinner and a show as we celebrate the accomplishments, dedication and service of outstanding libraries, library staff, trustees and supporters.

**Morning Wellness**  
**Thursday & Friday, 7:30 - 8:30 PM | Meet in Great Lakes Hall**  
One benefit of our beautiful location is the opportunity to start the day with a relaxing and refreshing walk to the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse. This event will be held weather permitting.

**Trustee Roundtable Breakfast**  
**Thursday, 8:00 - 9:15 AM | Ballroom II**  
Are you a library trustee who wants to connect with fellow trustees or a library leader who want to learn more about resources available for your trustees? Join us for a round table chat on Thursday morning to learn more.

**Silent Auction**  
**Wednesday, 2:30 - 6:45 PM | Great Lakes Hall**  
**Thursday, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM | Great Lakes Hall**  
Bid on a wide assortment of library-adjacent items donated by members and vendors! All proceeds will benefit the MLA Equity Fund and MLA Professional Development Scholarship Fund.

**Spelling Bee**  
**Thursday, 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Lake Huron A**  
Test out your spelling prowess during Thursday lunch and raise money for the MLA Intellectual Freedom Fund!
Student Reception
Thursday, 5:00 - 6:00 PM | Great Lakes Hall
Open to all attendees regardless of whether you are a student. Stop by if you’re thinking about going back to school, or interested in meeting emerging professionals in the library field. Drinks and hors d’oeuvres will be available.

MLA Annual Meeting
Thursday, 4:45 - 5:30 PM | Lake Huron A
Join us for your association’s Annual Membership Meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Trivia Party
Thursday, 8:00 - 10:00 PM | Freighters Eatery and Taproom
Librarians know all the right stuff, and this is your chance to prove it. As the day winds down join us in Freighters Eatery and Taproom for an evening of trivia.
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Opening Keynote with The Civility Project — Bridging the Divide: Civility in a Time of Unrest

1:00 - 2:30 PM | Lake Huron A

Celebrated journalists Nolan Finley and Stephen Henderson have been longtime friends, despite their different perspectives on pretty much everything. The one thing they agree on is the importance of their friendship — which includes a healthy dose of disagreement and mutual respect.

“It never occurred to us that we couldn’t be friends because we disagree,” says Nolan. “We’ve never avoided conversation, we never pulled punches, we sort of enjoyed the mix-up.” Americans used to engage in civil conversation with people of opposing viewpoints — enjoying the banter and debate. Today, many Americans believe they can’t be friends with people whose politics are different. The Civility Project seeks to bring people of opposing viewpoints together for healthy disagreement, personal interactions and constructive conversations. “If we reach the point where we dehumanize the people we disagree with, anything is possible,” Stephen says. “We must step back and learn to talk to people as people, rather than political adversaries.”

Breakout Sessions | 3:15 - 4:15 PM

Digital Collection Developments in the Mitten

Connect Session | Abbey I

Speakers
Joan Beaudoin, Wayne State University
Meg Bruce, Wayne State University
Cameron Socha, Wayne State University
Building a Culture of Wellbeing at Your Library

Lead Session | Abbey II

Speakers
Jenny Kobiela-Mondor, Midwest Collaborative for Library Services
Lissa Krull, Midwest Collaborative for Library Services

Outreach On Wheels: Book Bikes for Beginners

Create Session | Ballroom I

Speakers
Maggie McKeithan, Spring Lake District Library
Alison Taylor, Spring Lake District Library

Yo Quiero Leer: Impacting Migrant Families Through Literacy

Reimagine Session | Ballroom II

Speaker
Teresa Kline, Fennville District Library

Personalizing Your Presence: Social Media That’s FUNctional

Reimagine Session | Riverview

Speakers
Jessica Keeler, Plymouth District Library
Sarah Vargas, Plymouth District Library

Breakout Sessions | 4:30 - 5:30 PM

Michigan Humanities’ Programs and Grants for Your Library

Connect Session | Abbey I

Speakers
Estee Schlenner, Michigan Humanities
Ashley Ross, Michigan Humanities
Making Tough Topics as Easy as 1-2-3

*Connect Session | Abbey II*

**Speakers**
Amy Young, Clinton-Macomb Public Library  
Celia Mulder, Clinton-Macomb Public Library  
Lisa Mulvenna, Clinton-Macomb Public Library

It Takes a Village: Anchor Institutions and Public Health

*Lead Session | Ballroom I*

**Speaker**
Zachary Benedict, MKM Architecture + Design

So You’re Thinking About Forming a Union?

*Lead Session | Ballroom II*

**Speakers**
Angelo Moreno, UAW Local 2256  
Meredith Kahn, University of Michigan  
Jon Curtiss, AFT Michigan, AFL-CIO  
Katie Dover-Taylor, Willam P. Faust Public Library of Westland

Charting the Path to a Digital Local History Room

*Create Session | Riverview*

**Speakers**
Biz Gallo, Library of Michigan  
Chelsea Denault, Midwest Collaborative for Library Services  
Richard Adler, Michigan Service Hub
### Thursday Schedule

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
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**Morning Keynote with Angela Hursh — How Will They Know? Make Sure Your Library’s Efforts to Bridge the Divide Get Noticed!**

The work that your library does to make information, services, and technology accessible to everyone is extraordinary. But all that work is for naught if your community doesn’t know they can take advantage of it! This talk is packed with practical tips to successfully promote your library’s collection, services, and programs, even when you face staff and budget shortfalls. You’ll learn how to maximize digital platforms and reach community members who don’t have (or don’t want) internet access. And you’ll leave with a plan to work smarter by putting your time and available resources to the best use.

**Breakout Sessions | 9:45 - 10:45 AM**

**Creating Inclusive and Diverse Youth Toy Kits**

*Reimage Session | Abbey I*

**Speakers**
Liz Pitcher, Ypsilanti District Library  
Psyche Jetton, Ypsilanti District Library
Owning Our Roles: Bridging the Humility Gap Pt. 1

Lead Session | Abbey II

Speakers
Elissa Zimmer, Van Buren District Library
Liz Breed, Jackson District Library

Library Staff Onboarding & Development with MeL

Connect Session | Ballroom I

Speaker
Heather Wood-Gramza, Library of Michigan

Financing Library Construction and Improvement Projects

Create Session | Ballroom II

Speaker
R.J. Naughton, PFM Financial Advisors LLC

Library Marketing Plans: How to Write One

Create Session | Riverview

Speaker
Katie Rothley, Northville District Library

Breakout Sessions | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

From the Inside Out: Transforming the Flint Public Library

Reimagine Session | Abbey I

Speakers
Toby Olsen, OPN Architects
Kay Schwartz, Flint Public Library

Owning Our Roles: Bridging the Humility Gap Pt. 2

Lead Session | Abbey II

Speakers
Elissa Zimmer, Van Buren District Library
Liz Breed, Jackson District Library
Thursday Schedule Cont.

I Can Do That With MeL?!
Create Session | Ballroom I
Speaker
Laura Warren-Gross, Midwest Collaborative For Library Services

Resources for Veterans and Becoming a MI Veteran Connector
Connect Session | Ballroom II
Speakers
Julie Cortright, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency
Andrea Norton, Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Care Facility

Inclusive Communication Tools for Non-Verbal Library Users
Create Session | Riverview
Speakers
Cathrine Trautman, Northville District Library
Lia Gargaro, Northville Public Schools
Susan Oleson, Northville Public Schools

Breakout Sessions | 1:15 - 2:15 PM

Leadership in Difficult Times: Directors Helping Directors
Lead Session | Abbey I
Speakers
Chase McMunn, Orion Township Public Library
James Pugh, Orion Township Public Library
Cathy Russ, West Bloomfield Township Public Library
Alyson Lobert, Commerce Township Community Library
Wesleyann Johnson, Center Line Public Library

But What About the Children? Law & Children in the Library
Reimagine Session | Abbey II
Speaker
Clare Membiela, Library of Michigan
Michigan Arts and Culture Council Grants for Libraries
Connect Session | Ballroom I
Speaker
Jeff Garrett, Michigan Arts and Culture Council

Students’ Positions on Library Boards
Reimagine Session | Ballroom II
Speaker
Liam Dreyer, Government for Tomorrow

The Post-Pandemic Library According to Directors & Designers
Create Session | Riverview
Speakers
Dennis Jensen, C2AE
Hannah Snyder, C2AE
Ryan Wieber, Kalamazoo Public Library
Kristin Shelley, East Lansing Public Library

Breakout Sessions | 3:00 - 4:00 PM

SEL Using Makerspaces and Passion Projects in Libraries
Lead Session | Abbey I
Speaker
Julie Darling, Ann Arbor Public Schools

Beyond Books: Bringing Innovative Items to Your Library
Create Session | Abbey II
Speaker
Tierney Czartoski, Rochester Hills Public Library

Want to Host a Social Work Field Student? Here’s How!
Reimagine Session | Ballroom I
Speaker
Mark Giesler, Saginaw Valley State University
Thursday Schedule Cont.

Bridge and Conquer: Promotion Change in LIS Education
*Lead Session | Ballroom II*

**Speakers**
Tom Walker, Wayne State University, School of Information Sciences
Hermina Anghelescu, Wayne State University, School of Information Sciences
Timothy Bowman, Wayne State University, School of Information Sciences
Bin Li, Wayne State University, School of Information Sciences

**Strategic Planning for Community Impact**
*Connect Session | Riverview*

**Speaker**
Amanda Standerfer, Fast Forward Libraries

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Friday Schedule

7:30 - 11:30 AM  Registration and Silent Auction Pickup Open
7:30 - 8:30 AM  Morning Walk
8:00 - 9:00 AM  Breakfast
9:00 - 10:00 AM  Breakout Sessions
10:15 - 11:15 AM  Breakout Sessions
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM  Closing Keynote with Kent Oliver
12:30 - 12:45 PM  Grab and Go Snacks

Breakout Sessions | 9:00 - 10:00 AM

Taking on Literacy...Literally!
Create Session | Abbey I
Speaker
Cindi Place, Bellaire Public Library

The First Amendment: A Library Puzzle
Reimagine Session | Abbey II
Speaker
Clare Membiela, Library of Michigan

Staff Challenge: Interactive Onboarding Using Beanstack
Lead Session | Ballroom I
Speaker
Keegan Sulecki, Troy Public Library

Two-Part Mini Breakout Sessions: Winter Reading — Flamingos in the Snow! and Dramatic Play in Your Library
Connect Session | Ballroom II
Speaker
Sarah Rehborg, Peter White Public Library

#LibraryTikTok: Use TikTok to Create Magical Connections
Connect Session | Riverview
Speakers
Storm Kopitsch, Fowlerville District Library
Zoe Guettler, Fowlerville District Library
Friday Schedule Cont.

Breakout Sessions | 10:15 - 11:15 AM

Intellectual Freedom Panel
Create Session | Abbey I

Speakers
Dillon Geshel, MLA Intellectual Freedom Task Force Chair, Superiorland Library Cooperative
Juliane Morian, Rochester Hills Public Library
Megan Buck, Dickinson County Library
Tashia Miller, Washtenaw Community College

Sensory Accessibility and Inclusion: Kulturecity
Connect Session | Abbey II

Speakers
Stacia Serafin, Clarkston Independence District Library
Chris Nadeau, Clarkston Independence District Library

The National Labor Relations Board: Protecting Employee Rights
Reimagine Session | Ballroom I

Speaker
Elizabeth Kerwin, National Labor Relations Board

Library Law Q & A with Anne and Clare
Lead Session | Riverview

Speakers
Clare Membiela, Library of Michigan
Anne Seurynck, Foster, Swift, Collins and Smith

Closing Keynote with Kent Oliver — Intellectual Freedom in a Time of Partisanship
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM | Lake Huron A

Kent Oliver will close the conference and share some of his experiences defending intellectual freedom, what Michigan libraries can do to be proactive in the fight against censorship, and how to manage in a time of hyper-partisan conflict and burnout. Kent recently retired as Director of Nashville Public Library (NPL) where he served from 2012 – 2022. Kent is a three-time President of the Freedom to Read Foundation and has chaired the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the American Library Association (ALA).
For over 50 years libraries across Michigan have turned to Merritt Cieslak Design [MCD] for design guidance and vision for their facilities. As a leader in this space, our firm has continued to stay at the cutting edge of library design, technology, and social evolution, and we have brought our clients alongside on the journey. So it is only natural that, as our library design practice has evolved, so too should our identity.

**Introducing MCD Architects.** MCD continues to provide the same excellence in design and planning for our many library clients with enthusiasm, commitment, and professionalism in our dedication to the advancement of public libraries. Together, our leadership and staff have over 75 years of library design experience, and we feel like we are just getting started. Thank you for trusting us over the years with your library’s design needs, and thank you for continuing to trust us for what’s next...
MLA wishes to thank the members of the MLA 2022 Annual Conference workgroup for their direction, support, and leadership.

Scott Duimstra  
Capital Area District Libraries

Dillon Geshel  
Superiorland Library Cooperative

Amber Sheerin  
Michigan Library Association

Chelsey Boss  
Adrian District Library

Sarah Burchart  
ICPSR

Andrea Ingmire  
Peter White Public Library

Amber Johnson  
Chesterfield Township Library

Brian R. Johnston  
Lincoln Township Public Library

Elizabeth Kish  
Genesee District Library

Breck McCrory  
Chesterfield Township Library

Eric Palmer  
Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative

Cindi L. Place  
Bellaire Public Library

Shane Stewart  
Chesterfield Township Library

Lisa Waskin  
Superior District Library
Beauty Meets Brawn

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