2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
CONNECTING THE DOTS
OCTOBER 18-20, 2023
KALAMAZOO, MI
### Schedule at a Glance

#### Tuesday, October 17, 2023
- 6:00 - 9:30 PM: Early Arrivals Bar Crawl

#### Wednesday, October 18, 2023
- 8:30 - 9:45 AM: New Attendee Welcome Breakfast
- 10:00 - 11:30 AM: Opening Keynote with Abra Berens
- 11:00 AM - 4:30 PM: Exhibit Hall Open
- 1:30 - 2:30 PM: Breakout Sessions
- 3:00 - 4:00 PM: Breakout Sessions
- 4:30 - 5:30 PM: Breakout Sessions
- 6:15 - 7:00 PM: Cocktail Reception
- 7:00 - 9:30 PM: Michigan Library Awards

#### Thursday, October 19, 2023
- 8:00 - 9:00 AM: Think Space Cohort Breakfast
- 8:00 - 9:00 AM: Breakfast Service
- 9:30 - 10:30 AM: Keynote Session with Ellen Hopkins
- 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM: Exhibit Hall Open
- 11:15 - 12:15 PM: Breakout Sessions
- 12:15 - 1:30 PM: Lunch — Featuring the A to Z Spelling Bee
- 1:45 - 2:45 PM: Breakout Sessions
- 3:15 - 4:00 PM: ALA Policy Corps Panel Conversation
- 4:00 - 5:00 PM: MLA Annual Meeting
- 5:15 - 6:15 PM: Breakout Sessions
- 6:30 - 9:30 PM: Reception at Kalamazoo Public Library

#### Friday, October 20, 2023
- 8:00 - 9:00 AM: Breakfast Service
- 9:00 - 10:00 AM: Breakout Sessions
- 10:15 - 11:15 AM: Breakout Sessions
- 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM: Closing Keynote with Stephen Jackson

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Special thanks to Metcom for printing this program.
Welcome Notes

Connect the Dots. Who doesn’t remember solving these puzzles as children? We got our pencils or crayons, and we drew a line from dot to dot to dot until the outline of the object was revealed. Now that we are older and more mature we still play this game, but we don’t call it connect the dots. We talk about it as building our networks. By connecting many differing points of view and ideas the big picture will emerge. We don’t typically go sequentially, and it is sometimes very chaotic, but it is well worth the time and effort.

I have always believed that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and when you’ve successfully connected all the dots and listened to everyone’s concerns – that is when the magic happens. Good ideas get tempered and improved while flawed ideas get challenged and rejected. The same is true in our communities when we collaborate to build our networks and convince those outside our walls that libraries are valuable assets and can be used to achieve a more vibrant and dynamic community. When we work with others, share resources, learn each other’s strengths and step into their shoes, we can have impact in solving much larger challenges in our communities. It is time to widen our circles.

Create the bridge, create the rapport, create the relationships, connect the dots.

Deborah E. Mikula
MLA Executive Director

Welcome to the Michigan Library Association’s 2023 Annual Conference! This year’s conference theme, Connecting the Dots, highlights what I value most about our state-wide conference. This is an opportunity for you and your peers to exchange ideas, build relationships, and discover new professional connections. Whether you are exploring a new career in libraries or looking to strengthen your skills as an experienced librarian, we want to help you connect the dots between ideas, opportunities, and people.

Last year’s annual conference saw a substantial increase in first-time attendees, and really got our conference workgroup thinking – How can we best ensure that new attendees feel welcome? How can we prioritize social engagement and peer-to-peer activities that help newcomers grow their networks? And what can we do to connect new attendees to potential future mentors, and facilitate growth for new library leaders? I’m happy to share that this conference offers engaging sessions and activities that answer those questions.

If this is your first time at an MLA annual conference, I hope to see you at Wednesday morning’s New Attendee Welcome Breakfast. This is an event designed to help you make the most of your week of learning here in Kalamazoo. You’ll hear from conference workgroup members and leaders from several partner organizations across Michigan. I can’t wait to see you soon!

Dillon Geshel
MLA President and 2023 Conference Chair

MLA 2023 Board of Directors

Dillon Geshel | President
Superiorland Library Cooperative

Lisa Waskin | Secretary/Treasurer
Superior District Library

Tasha Miller | ALA Councilor
University of Michigan

Jenny Marr | Executive Committee
Fernande Area Library

Christine Peele | Executive Committee
Detroit Public Library

Angela Badke
Michigan Technological University

Anne Heidemann
Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Library

Mary Higginbottom-Johnson
Muskegon Area District Library

Michele Howard
Traverse Area District Library

Shauna Martz
Kent District Library

Cathleen Russ
West Bloomfield Township Public Library

Sophia Ward-Brewer
Grand Rapids Community College Library

Deborah E. Mikula | Ex-Officio
Michigan Library Association

Randy Riley | Ex-Officio
Library of Michigan

MLA 2023 Annual Conference Workgroup

Dillon Geshel | Chair
Superiorland Library Cooperative

Wesleyann Johnson | Vice-Chair
Centerline Public Library

Katherine Bryant
Bloomfield Township Public Library

Lisa Burns
Dearborn Public Library

Rebekah Craft
Baldwin Public Library

Andrea Ingmire
Peter White Public Library

Amber Johnson
Chesterfield Township Library

Mary Higginbottom-Johnson
Muskegon Area District Library

Kevin King
Kalamazoo Public Library

Cindy Mack
Brighton District Library

Sara Magnuson
Kent District Library

James Pugh
Orion Township Public Library

Holly Teasle
Lyon Township Public Library

Sophia Ward-Brewer
Grand Rapids Community College Library

Lisa Waskin
Superior District Library

Tim Wiggins
Niles District Library

Elissa Zimmer
Van Buren District Library
Venue Map

Lower Level

Prairies Rooms

3 2 1

Glens Rooms

Stone Theatre

MLA 2023 Registration

MLA Office

Flats

Fields

Oaks

Meadows

Kalamazoo Room

Lobby Level

Arcadia Ballroom

Hotel Lobby

Conference Information

Conference Hours

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<th>Day</th>
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WiFi Information

Network: MiLibraries
Password: connectingthedots

Mobile App

We have reduced the size of our printed program book and encourage attendees to download the mobile app to view session handouts, see exhibitor information, play interactive games, and connect with fellow attendees.

Download the ConferenceBeat App from the App Store or Google Play and find MLA 2023 Annual Conference, or use the QR code to view the app on your phone’s web browser.

Get Social

Use the hashtags #mla23ac and #connectingthedots to follow along and add to the conversation. Don’t forget to tag MLA!
General Information

Headshot Portrait Studio

Oaks Room
Stop into the Oaks Room during the conference to get a complimentary head shot courtesy of Fast Forward Libraries and Sarah Hill Photography.

Bookstore

Fields Room
The 2023 onsite bookstore is provided courtesy of this is a bookstore and Bookbug. Visit them in Kalamazoo or online at bookbugkalamazoo.com

Silent Auction

Lower Level
Bid on a wide selection of items donated by our vendors and members and help support the MLA scholarship and advocacy funds. Item pickup and payment due at registration desk on Friday morning. Open during exhibit hall hours.

Calm Room

Flats Room
Need a break? Large gatherings can feel overwhelming and sometimes we just need a quiet place to rest for a moment between sessions. Stop into the Flats Room if you want a respite from the bustle. Open during registration hours.

Restrooms and Nursing Room

Restrooms are located near the Stone Theatre on the lower level or Arcadia Ballroom and Old Burdicks Restaurant on the lobby level.

Additional gender-neutral restrooms and a nursing room are located on the second floor near the Gilmore Boardroom.

COVID-19 Test Kits

Feeling meh? COVID-19 test kits are available at the registration desk courtesy of MDHHS. Please do your part to keep yourself and colleagues safe and healthy!

For over 50 years MCD Architects has been providing excellence in design and planning for our many public library clients. Our experienced design team works with dedication, commitment, and enthusiasm to advance public libraries in communities large and small across Michigan. 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...

MCD Architects
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ssi@mcdarchitects.com
(248) 374 0001
3610 Grand River
Farmington, MI 48335
Special Events

Early Arrivals Bar Crawl
6:00 - 9:30 PM (Meet in Lobby by 5:45 PM), Tuesday, October 17
Check out a few of Kalamazoo’s most exciting nightlife spots with stops at Dabney and Company and LFG before concluding with a trivia competition at Crawlspace Comedy Theatre with trivia host Matt Eickhoff.

New Attendee Welcome Breakfast
Meadows Room | 8:30 - 9:45 AM, Wednesday, October 18
Make connections and learn some tips and tricks for getting the most out of your conference experience. Representatives from MLA, The Library of Michigan, Michigan Cooperative Directors Association, and MCLS will also be on hand to help you make the most of resources available in the state. In need of a conference buddy? This is the perfect place to start!

A to Z Spelling Bee — Sponsored by A to Z Databases
Arcadia Ballroom | 12:30 - 1:30 PM, Thursday, October 19
Join us for the A to Z Spelling Bee, where library staff from across the state will compete to spell their way to victory! Put your spelling skills to the test, challenge your fellow bookworms, and seize the chance to be named MLA Spelling Bee CHAMPION. Whether you’re a spelling whiz or just want to have some wordy fun, this is your moment to shine.

Nominating Committee Board of Directors Q&A Session
Stone Theatre | 5:15 - 5:45 PM, Thursday, October 19
Interested in serving on the board of directors for the Michigan Library Association? Join the members of the MLA Nominating Committee for an informal discussion on the roles/responsibilities of serving on the board.

Kalamazoo Public Library Reception — Sponsored by Daniels and Zermack
Kalamazoo Public Library | 6:30 - 9:00 PM, Thursday, October 19
You are invited to the Kalamazoo Public Library for an evening of food, drink, and fun! Activities will include crafts, video games, scavenger hunt, local history collections, the Idea Lab, green screen studio, and more. The event will also feature the Food for Thought Idea Exchange, so you can go home with recipes to replicate successful programs and services in your library.

Michigan Library Awards 2023

Library Libations Cocktail Reception
Arcadia Ballroom, Pre-Function | 6:15 - 7:00 PM, Wednesday, October 18
Connect with your statewide colleagues and exhibitors ahead of the 2023 Michigan Library Awards. Library themed drinks and hors d’oeuvres provided.

Awards Ceremony and Dinner
Arcadia Ballroom | 7:00 - 9:30 PM, Wednesday, October 18
The Michigan Library Awards are awarded annually and are considered the state’s highest honors within the library community. The awards celebrate the excellence, accomplishments, dedication and service of library staff, trustees, and supporters in Michigan libraries.

Entertainment
The KalHaven Strings were founded in 2014 as graduate students at Western Michigan University. Members Megan Healy, Timothy Cuffman, James Saunders, and Lydia Raymond are are skilled in performing a variety of styles, from Vivaldi to Roddy Ricch, Metallica to Taylor Swift, Post Malone to Bach, and more. Members can also be found performing with the Kalamazoo, Lansing, Fort Wayne, South Bend, and West Michigan symphony orchestras and teaching local youth.

2023 Michigan Library Awards
Heart of a Champion Award
Support Staff of the Year Award
Rising Star Award
Library of Michigan Citation of Excellence Awards
Lifetime Legislative Leader Award
Frances H. Pletz Award for Excellence in Service to Youth
Intellectual Freedom Award
Public Librarian of the Year Award
Lifetime Achievement Award
State Librarian Excellence Award
Exhibit Hall Map

Exhibitors

1. Michigan Library Association
2. Public Library Association
3. Midwest Collaborative for Library Services
4. Library of Michigan
5. OverDrive
6. Bound to Stay Bound Books
7. Daniels and Zermack Architects
8. National Insurance Services
9. MCD Architects
10. Midwest Tape | Hoopla
11. First Impression Print and Marketing
12. Amazon Business
13. Quinn Evans Architects
15. Risk Program Administrators – Gallagher
16. LocalHop
17. Decker Agency/"Par Plan"
18. Capstone Publishing
19. Playaway Pre-Loaded Products
20. Brodart Co.
21. Prism Specialties
22. C2AE
23. Craft & Hobby
24. AWE Learning
25. Oakland Community College
26. Smith Imaging Solutions
27. Gale
29. Michigan CLASS
30. McCarthy & Smith, Inc.
31. AtoZ Databases
32. The Michigan Learning Channel
33. Mulder’s Moving & Storage, Inc.
34. Michigan After School Partnership
35. The Skillman Corporation
36. The Library Corporation
37. Penworthy Company
38. ELM USA
39. Luminaut
40. Municipal Employee’s Retirement System
41. Baker & Taylor
42. EnvisionWare
43. Michigan Activity Pass
44. Michigan Cooperative Directors Assoc.
45. Library Design Associates, Inc.
46. State of MI Labor & Economic Opportunity
47. Wayne State Information Sciences
48. Kingscott Architects
49. Metcom, Inc.
50. EBSCO Information Services

More Info In The App

Download the ConferenceBeat App and find MLA 2023 Annual Conference to learn more about our exhibitors and connect with representatives.

Exhibitors I Want To Connect With
Keynote Sessions

How Libraries Help Foster Authorship with Abra Berens
Arcadia Ballroom | 10:30 - 11:30 AM, Wednesday, October 18
Book Signing: 11:40 AM - 12:15 PM

Chef and author, Abra Berens, will lead a conversation about how rural Michigan libraries helped further her career and made it possible to write her three, critically acclaimed cookbooks. This discussion will also delve into the process of cookbook writing. After the talk, Abra will be on hand to answer questions and sign copies of all three of her books: “Ruffage,” “Grist,” and “Pulp.”

Abra Berens is a chef, former farmer, and writer. She started cooking at the storied Zingerman’s Deli in Ann Arbor, MI. She then went on to train in the garden-focused kitchen at Ballymaloe Cookery School in Cork, Ireland, co-founded Bare Knuckle Farm in Northport, MI, and helmed the café at Local Foods in Chicago, IL before finally returning to Granor Farm in Three Oaks, MI where she combines her love of farms and restaurants to create one-of-a-kind dinners celebrating the best of Southwest Michigan’s diverse agriculture.

Connecting the Dots Between Restorative Practices and Public Libraries with Stephen Jackson
Arcadia Ballroom | 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM, Friday, October 20

Restorative Practices are a set of values, beliefs and guidelines that lay the framework for engaging with individuals both within and outside of the organization. They promote community and help to build trusting relationships that ultimately lessen the likelihood of causing harm to others. This discussion will share the importance and impact of utilizing restorative practices in public libraries to promote organizational well-being and shift the landscape of how we engage and learn with one another to create a shared experience that elevates individuals as well as the libraries they serve.

Stephen Jackson is a motivational speaker, published author, restorative justice practitioner, licensed mental health counselor and champion for equity and inclusion. He is the founder of Global CommUnity Associates and serves as the Director of Equity and Anti-Racism at Oak Park Public Library (IL). He values public service and contributing to people’s lives through utilizing both Restorative Justice and Restorative Practices to create positive and safe cultures for organizations and communities.

Writing the Righteous Fight: Why “Controversial” Books Must Remain on Library Shelves with Ellen Hopkins
Arcadia Ballroom | 9:30 - 10:30 AM, Thursday, October 19
Book Signing: 10:40 - 11:15 AM

As one of the “most banned authors in the US,” Ellen Hopkins has been fighting book removals at an exhausting pace. Her first YA novel, CRANK, sits near the top of book banning hit lists. The book was inspired by the personal story of her daughter’s addiction and how quickly a teen can lose her dreams to substance abuse. Hopkins’ subsequent novels tackle issues young adults face every day. Hopkins's motives are often questioned, but she wants to arm kids with knowledge to help them make better choices and develop understanding and empathy. You’ll hear how she has accomplished those goals and why she’s determined to help keep controversial books on library bookshelves.

Ellen Hopkins is a poet, freelance writer, and the award-winning author of twenty nonfiction titles, three novels for adults, and 13 New York Times Bestselling novels-in-verse. She has published hundreds of articles on subjects ranging from aviation to child abuse to winegrowing. Ellen is a regular speaker at schools, book festivals, and writers conferences across the US, and now throughout the world.
All-Conference Sessions

**ALA Policy Corps Panel on Intellectual Freedom**

Arcadia Ballroom | 3:15 - 4:00 PM, Thursday, October 19

Through the national campaign, Unite Against Book Bans, the American Library Association’s Policy Corps is actively spreading a unified message in collaboration with ALA’s Office of Intellectual Freedom, supporting librarians in their efforts to oppose book bans. Policy Corp members are working to change the narrative around book banning as part of the UABB campaign. Find out what that impactful messaging entails and hear actionable, experienced intelligence to assist you in your community before and after the censor is at the door.

**Kent Oliver**, Senior Fellow for ALA’s Public Policy and Advocacy Office, will facilitate a discussion with **Larry Neal**, Policy Corps member and Michigan librarian, **Joyce McIntosh** from the Office for Intellectual Freedom and the Freedom to Read Foundation (and a Michigan native!), and **Amy Churchill**, a Michigan library director on the front lines of book banning.

**2023 Annual Membership Meeting**

Arcadia Ballroom | 4:00 - 5:00 PM, Thursday, October 19

Join us for your association’s annual meeting where we will present MLA’s 2022 – 2023 year-end review, strategic planning committee report, treasurer’s report, legislative report, Intellectual Freedom taskforce information, and announce the 2024 Annual Conference. Michigan Humanities will also be in attendance to award MLA the 2023 Outstanding Humanities Organization Award.

Annual Conference registration is not required, and all members are encouraged to attend and participate in the annual meeting.
Michigan’s Online Career Exploration Tool

Welcome to Pathfinder, a free online career exploration tool designed for student’s parents and job seekers!

The goal of Pathfinder is to increase the number of Michigan residents with high-quality, in-demand degrees and credentials. The online tool provides real-time current Michigan labor market information, as well as data on education and training programs, to help you make informed choices about your educational path and career options. You also get the guidance you need with a personalized educational development plan, or roadmap!

With Pathfinder, you can:
- Search for exciting and interesting careers
- Discover schools in Michigan that offer programs of interest
- See detailed job projections, annual openings, growth potential, salaries for Michigan
- View Michigan’s top careers

Get an Educational Roadmap In 3 Easy Steps

Start by visiting Pathfinder.MiTalent.org, then complete the following steps:

1. Choose an Occupation
2. Choose a Field of Study
3. Choose a School

Completing this process will generate a customized roadmap that can help guide you to your chosen career destination! Completed paths can also be emailed and printed for later viewing.
Breakout Sessions

1:30 - 2:30 PM, Wednesday, October 18

**Everyday Evaluation: Using Evaluative Thinking in Your Library**  
*Track: Connections | Room: Glens 1*

Become an evaluative-thinking expert. Leave with a plan to incorporate organizational learning and evaluation at your library.

**Speakers:**
Andrea Vernola, Kalamazoo Public Library  
Allison Priuer, DARE Impact Consulting

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**Increasing Accessibility in Libraries with Virtual Tours**  
*Track: Unity | Room: Glens 2*

Learn how to use virtual tours as a tool for increasing your library’s accessibility for all members of your community.

**Speakers:**
Melissa Cole, Capital Area District Libraries  
Meegan Winters, Able Eyes

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**Connecting the Dots from Childhood to Adulthood**  
*Track: Unity | Room: Glens 3*

Connect the dots between ages, departments and community members to get everyone reading!

**Speakers:**
Rachel Manela and Danielle Mazur, Novi Public Library

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**Michigan Supreme Court Records & Briefs: Introduction & Demonstration**  
*Track: Networking | Prairies 4*

Come learn the new online versions! This is a great resource for academic, public, school, & special libraries.

**Speakers:**
Michelle LaLonde and Kathryn Polgar, Wayne State University

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**Connecting with Donor Dots: Public Library Fundraising Dos and Don’ts**  
*Track: Networking | Prairies 5*

Fundraising can be a successful way for a library to raise funds—but it’s important to know the limits and requirements.

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

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**Grant Opportunities and Program Partnerships with Your Library and Michigan Humanities**  
*Track: Connections | Prairies 5*

Michigan Humanities will share current grant and program offerings available to Michigan libraries.

**Speakers:**
Estee Schlenner and Jennifer Rupp, Michigan Humanities

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**The Power of Play: Playful Programming for ALL Ages**  
*Track: Unity | Room: Stone Theatre*

We all know young children learn through play, but what other benefits can play offer? Get inspired to create!

**Speakers:**
Elizabeth Griffin, Loutit District Library  
Christina LeVey Rowland and Diana Wenger, Muskegon Area District Library
Breakout Sessions

3:00 - 4:00 PM, Wednesday, October 18

BPL'S Books Unbanned: Libraries Resisting Censorship

*Track: Networking  | Room: Glens 2*

Learn more about the Books Unbanned campaign, and how all libraries can take steps to center teen voices and defend Intellectual Freedom.

**Speakers:**
Karen Keys and Jackson Gomes, Brooklyn Public Library (NY)

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How to Win in a Landslide: Successful Resident Advocacy Campaign

*Track: Unity  | Room: Prairies 4*

Learn how a local resident group became community organizers and rallied the Township to handily defeat the exit proposal.

**Speakers:**
Jennifer Folsom and Amanda Gerheardt

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Reimagining Your Emergency Action Plan

*Track: Networking  | Room: Prairies 5*

This session will cover federal regulations and real-world solutions designed to help keep you safe in the workplace.

**Speakers:**
Aaron Witt, A-Train Tactical, LLC

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After the Audit: Sustainable Steps to Maintaining a Diverse Collection

*Track: Connections  | Room: Prairies 6*

What do you do with the information your library gained from your diversity audit? We'll show you!

**Speakers:**
Tammy Schneider, Kent District Library
Marie Mulder, Kent District Library
Liz Guarino-Kozlowicz, Kent District Library

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Connecting the Community with the College Library

*Track: Connections  | Room: Stone Theatre*

A community college library serves the college and the community. Learn how we are connecting with both.

**Speakers:**
Jill Sodt, Mott Community College

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How to Use Collaboration to Overcome Funding Challenges

*Track: Networking  | Room: Glens 2*

Kalkaska County Library and community partners are collaborating to overcome funding obstacles and improve quality of life and equity.

**Speakers:**
Cash Cook, Kalkaska DDA
Rick Heitmeyer, Kalkaska Public Schools
Mike Jantz and Dennis Jensen, C2AE
John Roberts, Kalkaska County Public Library

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Breaking Down Barriers: Hosting a Living Library

*Track: Unity  | Room: Glens 3*

Muskegon Area District Library shares how they cultivated community and diversity with their oral history ‘Humans of Muskegon’ project.

**Speakers:**
Philip Croff, Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga and Holly Pelkey, Muskegon Area District Library

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*Track: Networking  | Room: Glens 2*

Learn more about the Books Unbanned campaign, and how all libraries can take steps to center teen voices and defend Intellectual Freedom.

**Speakers:**
Karen Keys and Jackson Gomes, Brooklyn Public Library (NY)
Breakout Sessions

4:30 - 5:30 PM, Wednesday, October 18

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Track: Unity | Room: Glens 1
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Speakers:
Karen Keys and Jackson Gomes, Brooklyn Public Library (NY)

How to Comply with Michigan's Wage and Hour Laws
Track: Unity | Room: Glens 2
This session will discuss the current status of the law since two ballot initiatives in 2018 sought to significantly change wage and paid leave requirements.

Speakers:
Michael Blum, Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith PC

Small Libraries, Big Ideas
Track: Networking | Room: Glens 3
Want to learn how to accomplish big things in your small library? Ideas including working with other libraries, schools and service groups will be discussed.

Speakers:
Cindi Place, Bellaire Public Library

Connect Your Community to the MeL eResources
Track: Connections | Room: Glens 3
In this session we will discuss how the MeL eResource content can be a vital source of knowledge for community partners.

Speakers:
Laura Warren-Gross, MCLS

Helping the Unhoused: Community Change Driven by the Library Board and Library Director
Track: Networking | Room: Prairies 5
When TADL was inundated with behavior policy violations, the TADL Board and the Director worked with community organizations to take action.

Speakers:
Marylee Pakieser and Michele Howard, Traverse Area District Library

Get SLIC with Library Initiatives: A Model
Track: Connections | Room: Prairies 6
"I wish I'd known about that!" De-silo and connect your library’s projects, initiatives and more with the Canton Public Library’s SLIC model.

Speakers:
Laura Fawcett and Laurie Golden, Canton Public Library

The (Digital) Experts Are In!: A Digital Practice Open Forum
Track: Networking | Room: Stone Theatre
Bring questions to this audience-driven session where three experts and your colleagues provide insight about good practice for digital collections.

Speakers:
Richard Adler, Michigan Service Hub
Chelsea Denault, MCLS
Biz Gallo, Library of Michigan

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Speakers:
Laura Warren-Gross, MCLS
Breakout Sessions

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM, Thursday, October 19

Connecting the Dots Between Public Libraries and Schools

**Track: Networking | Room: Glens 1**

Learn new ideas for engaging students, educators, and families with library resources.

**Speakers:**

Jennifer DeGroat, Lynn Harper, Thais Rousseau, Capital Area District Libraries

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Climate Action in Libraries

**Track: Unity | Room: Prairies 5**

Climate action work can feel overwhelming, but libraries can lead the way towards impactful change.

**Speakers:**

Lisa Kropp, Lindenhurst Memorial Library (NY)
Jennifer Ferriss, Saratoga Springs Public Library (NY)

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Dots on the MAP: An EDI Model

**Track: Networking | Room: Prairies 6**

Come find out how Michigan Activity Pass helps connect the dots on the MAP. Hear how EDI and accessibility are integrated into the all new MAP product.

**Speakers:**

DJ Bond and Steven Bowers, The Library Network
Amy Rosen, White Lake Township Public Library

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Michigan Library Advocacy Update

**Track: Unity | Room: Stone Theatre**

Advocacy is one of the pillars of MLA's work, so what is actually happening in Lansing? Come hear from MLA's lobbyist and Michigan library leaders!

**Speakers:**

Bob Devries, Governmental Consulting Service Inc.
Val Meyerson, Petoskey District Library
Jenny Marr, Ferndale Area District Library

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Ask the Lawyer

**Track: Connections | Room: Glens 2**

Ask the lawyer your burning library law questions

**Speakers:**

Mike Blum and Anne Seurynck, Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith PC

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Best Meeting Ever!: Gathering with Intentionality and Purpose

**Track: Connections | Room: Glens 3**

Practical tips and tools for applying purpose and intentionality to all the ways we gather with others, at work and in life!

**Speakers:**

Jan Davidson, MCLS

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Jumpstart Your Strategic Planning Process

**Track: Connections | Room: Prairies 4**

Engaging in thoughtful pre-planning provides a library the opportunity to create more equitable, inclusive programs and resources for their entire community.

**Speakers:**

Pam Seabolt and Lissa Krull, MCLS
Breakout Sessions

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM, Thursday, October 19

What’s All This Then? Explaining Censorship to Patrons
Track: Unity | Room: Glens 1
Library staff can find engaging and effective ways to inform their patrons about intellectual freedom in the face of rising censorship.

Speakers:
Jeff Milo and Mary Grahame Hunter, Ferndale Area District Library

Effective Use of Social Media & Crisis Management for Public Libraries
Track: Networking | Room: Glens 2
Learn pragmatic, practical tips to survive the initial stages of a crisis and emerge with your reputation intact or even enhanced.

Speakers:
Thom Fladung, Hennes Communications

Public Libraries and Public Schools: Creating Spaces that Connect
Track: Networking | Room: Glens 3
As core community spaces that are cut from the same cloth, building connections between libraries and school can maximize public impact.

Speakers:
Eric Lieske, Flint Cultural Center Academy
Kay Schwartz, Flint Public Library
Samantha Szeszulski, Kingscott Architects

FOIA and the OMA: Back to the Basics
Track: Connections | Room: Prairies 4
Education regarding Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

Speakers:
Anne Seurynck, Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith PC

Trans Staff and Patrons: Where to Begin, Next Steps
Track: Unity | Room: Prairies 5
Come learn best practices and tips for advocating for your trans and gender-nonconforming staff and patrons.

Speakers:
Simon DeSalvo and Damon Verdema

Serving Library Patrons with Memory Loss
Track: Networking | Room: Prairies 6
Librarians specializing in services to senior citizens share why and how to connect with patrons with memory loss and their caregivers.

Speakers:
Chris Wisswell and Meghan Mott, Clinton-Macomb Public Library

Kalamazoo Author Panel
Track: Connections | Room: Stone Theatre
The Kalamazoo area is rich with literary talent! Hear from many of these authors as to why great writing thrives in any community.

Speakers:
Kevin King, Kalamazoo Public Library
David Small, Bonnie Jo Campbell, Emmy Kastner, Authors

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Breakout Sessions

5:15 PM - 6:15 PM, Thursday, October 19

The First Amendment, Censorship and Spine Labels
Track: Unity | Room: Glens 1
Are spine labels a first amendment issue? Can libraries limit minors’ access to explicit video games? Why don't books have ratings? Find out in this session!

Speakers:
Anne Seurynck, Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith PC
Clare Membiela, Library of Michigan

Integrating Your Makerspace into Your Library
Track: Unity | Room: Glens 2
Your makerspace isn’t just for patrons! You can use it too, and it can benefit your library in astonishing ways!

Speakers:
Jeff Jimison, The Idea Lab at Baldwin Public Library

The Barbershop in the Library: How Creative Partnerships Inspire Patrons
Track: Unity | Room: Glens 3
Authors don’t just read books, they bring them to life in unique ways at local libraries.

Speakers:
Sean Hollins and Sonya Hollins, Season Press LLC

Thinking Outside the Box: Reader’s Advisory and Library Book Boxes
Track: Connections | Room: Prairies 5
Looking for a fresh way to deliver readers’ advisory? Come learn how we launched our popular monthly Book Box program for Babies, Tweens, and Teens.

Speakers:
Nicole Cook, Laurie Walters, Kate Wheeler, Brighton District Library

Connecting Resources, Libraries and Education: A Dialogue on Professional Development in Michigan
Track: Networking | Room: Prairies 6
Come meet with UMSI faculty about how we can work with you to enhance your skills and your library’s capacity.

Speakers:
Kristin Fontichiaro, Jesse Johnston, Cliff Lampe, University of Michigan School of Information
Breakout Sessions

9:00 - 10:00 AM, Friday, October 20

Looking at Library Safety and Security Through a Trauma-Informed Lens

*Track: Connections  |  Room: Glens 1*

Increase the feeling of safety in your library by wearing a trauma-informed lens!

**Speakers:**
Kevin King, Kalamazoo Public Library

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Managing Contentious Patrons: Part I

*Track: Unity  |  Room: Prairies 5*

Learn how to manage and disarm angry and abusive patrons in an informative, and loud, interactive two-part session.

**Speakers:**
Kristin Fontichiaro, University of Michigan School of Information
Clare Membiela, Library of Michigan

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Grant Writing: Tips and Tricks

*Track: Networking  |  Room: Glens 2*

Interested in ways to acquire grant funding for your library? Not sure how to start or where to go for information? This session is designed to help.

**Speakers:**
Cindi Place, Bellaire Public Library

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Making Meaningful DEI Changes

*Track: Unity  |  Room: Prairies 6*

Learn to make easy and meaningful DEI improvements at your library.

**Speakers:**
Dan Major, Lori Morris, Troy Walker, Orion Township Public Library

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Examining Early Literacy Spaces: Are We on the Right Track?

*Track: Unity  |  Room: Glens 3*

“Play is like medicine for my children. For most children, it’s fun to play, but for our children, it’s a need.”

**Speakers:**
Kimberly Bolan, Allen County Public Library (IN)
Erin Jennings, Luminaut

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A Holistic Approach to Strategic Planning

*Track: Connections  |  Room: Stone Theatre*

Don’t create a strategic plan in a silo! Come learn how to holistically design a strategic planning process to level up your library!

**Speakers:**
Dan Major, Lori Morris, Troy Walker, Orion Township Public Library

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Cultivating Community: Libraries & Food Insecurity

*Track: Unity  |  Room: Prairies 4*

Looking for a fresh way to deliver readers’ advisory? Come learn how we launched our popular monthly Book Box program for Babies, Tweens, and Teens.

**Speakers:**
Nicole Cook, Laurie Walters, Kate Wheeler, Brighton District Library

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Breakout Sessions

10:15 - 11:15 AM, Friday, October 20

A Human-Centered Approach to Designing Library Services

Track: Networking  |  Room: Glens 1

Learn about human-centered design and use your new superpower to reimagine and create library services designed to include the whole community.

Speakers:

Heather Wood-Gramza, Library of Michigan
Katie Rothley, Northville District Library

Intellectual Freedom: A Discussion with Michigan Library Directors

Track: Networking  |  Room: Glens 2

Library directors around the state will share their experiences navigating book challenges within their communities.

Speakers:

Rebekah Craft, Baldwin Public Library
Amy Churchill, Lapeer District Library
Andrea Ingmire, Peter White Public Library
Juliane Morian, Rochester Hills Public Library
Val Meyerson, Petoskey District Library

Marketing Your Library: From Research to Evaluation

Track: Networking  |  Room: Glens 3

A panel of library marketing professionals will discuss the importance of marketing research, plans, communications, and knowing your audience.

Speakers:

Jeff Milo, Ferndale Area District Library
Victoria Meadows, Capital Area District Libraries
Jenny Kobiela-Mondor and Mary Ruthko, MCLS
Storm Kopitsch, Fowlerville District Library

Extra! Extra! Libraries Learning to Digitize Newspapers

Track: Unity  |  Room: Prairies 4

Learn everything you need to know about historic newspaper digitization and discover what statewide resources are available to your library!

Speakers:

Carrie Marsh, Central Michigan University
Biz Gallo, Library of Michigan

Managing Contentious Patrons: Part II

Track: Unity  |  Room: Prairies 5

Learn how to manage and disarm angry and abusive patrons in an informative, and loud, interactive two-part session.

Speakers:

Kristin Fontichiaro, University of Michigan School of Information
Clare Membiela, Library of Michigan

Aspiring Entrepreneurs and Your Library: A Perfect Match!

Track: Connections  |  Room: Prairies 6

Connect the dots with your aspiring entrepreneurs. Supporting underserved communities and being an engine of economic opportunity is easier than you might think!

Speakers:

Hillary Hentschel, Novi Public Library; Jan Murphy, Gale Cengage; David Silberman, Clarkston Independence District Library; Emily Tobin, West Bloomfield Township Public Library; Sherri Vaughn, Farmington Community Library

Connecting the Dots: Building Lasting Relationships with Teens Through Outreach and Adaptable Programming

Track: Connections  |  Room: Stone Theatre

We’ll discuss everything from outreach to multi-library programming, successes and failures, and ways we’ve each adapted services to work for us.

Speakers:

Therese Bulszewicz, Romeo District Library; Erin Delore, Warren Public Library; Jocelyn Levin, Lyon Township Public Library; Colleen McWinnie, Clinton-Macomb Public Library; Julianne Novetsky, Warren Public Library; Jennifer Perryman, Milan Public Library
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At the heart of this year’s conference theme, “Connecting the Dots,” lies the belief that libraries are the cornerstones of knowledge, community and innovation. EBSCO is excited to be a part of your library’s journey towards a brighter future.

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