



Intellectual Freedom Award

Purpose: Established in 2023, the MLA Intellectual Freedom Award recognizes a library for the Board's and Staff's outstanding work to protect and/or promote the principles of intellectual freedom and the right to read.

Eligibility: Libraries in Michigan who have demonstrated a commitment to protecting the right to read, opposed censorship, educated their community on First Amendment rights and/or developed and shared policies and procedures to assist other Michigan libraries with materials challenges and censorship issues may be nominated for the award. The award may be for a single event of the current year or for an ongoing project, educational workshop, or promotion.

The nominee library should be able to demonstrate they have:

- Provided education to the community, which has enhanced the image or visibility of the library and the understanding of intellectual freedom; or
- Demonstrated leadership in upholding the principles of intellectual freedom in the face of controversy; or
- Initiated policies or procedures or best practices for challenged material that can be modelled or scaled for other libraries' use; or
- Found allies or created partnerships with community leaders and other organizations to protect the right to read; or
- Empowered the library's staff and board to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom.

Nomination packet should include:

- Nominee contact information (library director name, library name, address, phone, email address)
- Nominator's contact information (name, address, phone, email address). (Self-nominations are accepted.)
- Letter of nomination
- Minimum of one letter of support, maximum of three letters of support
- Maximum of three pages of other supporting documentation as appropriate

Nomination letter should tell the awards workgroup:

- Reason for nominating the library for this specific award
- Events, projects, or circumstances that illustrate the reason for this nomination
- Current and previous activities and any other relevant information about how your library has worked as a team to support intellectual freedom
- In a field of qualified candidates, what makes this library stand out?
- Nominee library's involvement in the Michigan Library Association

Nominations should be submitted via MLA's SlideRoom webpage: milibraries.slideroom.com

Send questions to: mla@milibraries.org

Amount of award: \$500

Sponsored by the MLA Advocacy Fund.