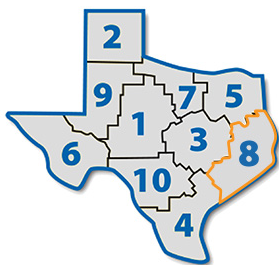


Texas Library Association



DISTRICT 8

Fall Conference

Your Quest for Library Joy

NOVEMBER 2, 2024

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
ELIZABETH D. ROCKWELL PAVILION
MD ANDERSON LIBRARY





Program Overview

9:30 AM Check-in & Refreshments

10:00 AM Opening Program: Celeste Bleu, TLA District 8 Chair
Christina Gola, Interim Dean of UH Libraries
Valerie Prilop, TLA President-Elect

10:30 AM Keynote Speaker: Mychal Threets

11:30 AM Meet & Greet with Mychal Threets & Visit with Exhibitors

BREAK

12:00 PM Breakout Session 1

Breakout 1A

Lightning
TitleTalks with
CATS

Breakout 1B

Sustainability: It's
Not Just Hugging
Trees

Breakout 1C

Let's Go! Using
Popular Party
Games to Gamify
Library Instruction

12:50 PM Lunch & Visit with Exhibitors

2:00 PM Breakout Session 2

Breakout 2A

Library Ecosystem
Thinking: ONE
VOICE for
Advocacy

Breakout 2B

Finding Yourself on the
Shelves: The Joy of
Recognition

Breakout 2C

Digital Connections:
Building Joyful
Communities via
Staff Social Media
Engagement

2:50 PM BREAK

3:00 PM Breakout Session 3

Breakout 3A

We're All Students Here:
Leveraging Community
to Foster a Culture of
Learning

Breakout 3B

Amplifying Voices:
Leveraging Social
Media for Library
Advocacy

Breakout 3C

Nontraditional
Programming for
Nontraditional
Patrons

3:50 PM BREAK

4:00 PM Closing Program

Celeste Bleu & Virginia Osborne, TLA District 8 Chair & Chair-Elect

Keynote Speaker

Mychal Threets

Mychal Threets is a librarian, literary ambassador, and the library's number one fan (according to himself, admittedly). He grew up in Fairfield, CA, right between Sacramento and San Francisco. He was raised in his local library as a home-school kid.

He got his first library card at the age of five and was hooked on libraries from there. He got his first library job as a library shelver at the library he grew up in and worked his way up to become Supervising Librarian of that very same library.



"Library joy and book joy are what I'm all about. We all belong in our libraries!"

Mychal is very open about his mental health. He talks about it in hopes that it'll help others in their mental health journey. He is adamant about encouraging people to believe him when he says he's happy they are here. He considers it an honor to the library people who raised him that he is a recipient of the 2023 "I Love My Librarian" award from the American Library Association, one of School Library Journal's 2024 Movers and Shakers, and one of TIME Magazine's 2024 Next Generation Leaders.

**The Mychal Threets Collection by Out of Print will be available for sale by Kindred Stories
Pre-order using the QR Code below**

About Kindred Stories

Kindred Stories is a bookstore born of a love for reading and a passion for community.

2304 Stuart St, Houston, TX | <https://kindredstorieshtx.com>



We believe reading is one of the most vital acts of self-care. When we read, we can take a step back from our day-to-day stresses and fall into new worlds — and when that book is **written by someone who looks like us**, grew up in a similar environment to ours, and understands what we're going through, we can return from our momentary escape with new knowledge that helps us live more beautiful and authentic lives.

Kindred Stories is a community space and bookstore that doesn't just highlight Black literature but celebrates our stories in all their diverse and genre-spanning glory. Every book on the shelves is written by a Black author or other marginalized voice, and every display can spotlight a unique aspect of Black storytelling and craft.



It's been a wild ride since launching in 2021 during a global pandemic and time of steep social change, but our community members unceasingly remind us that our work is vital and the **spaces we're creating are needed**. Our physical store is located in Third Ward in partnership with Project Row Houses. We hope to edify our community's swelling appetite for authentic stories — as told by those who have lived them. Follow us on Instagram, shop online, or visit the store to keep up with all the fun happening at Kindred Stories.

Session Descriptions

Breakout Session 1

12:00 PM - 12:50 PM

Session A: Lightning TitleTalks with CATS

Presenter – Sara Shepard, Baker & Taylor

Location: Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion

Discover what's hot off the press and what publishing trends to look out for in spring 2025 as your friendly neighborhood CATS manager booktalks the latest and greatest titles for kids and teens from lots of different publishers. What are the upcoming season's buzziest titles? Can Sara get through at least 45 titles? Check out this session to get ideas for books your library needs to order for your book displays and book lists.

Session B: Sustainability: It's Not Just Hugging Trees

Presenters – Laura Smith & Anjela Martinez, Harris County Public Library; Allison Gower, League of Women Voters Houston; Lisa Lin, Harris County Office of County Administration-Sustainability

Location: Training Room 10-G

Harris County Public Library (HCPL) is working to become certified as a sustainable library system through the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI). SLI is built upon the principles of the triple bottom line definition of sustainability: environmentally sound, economically feasible and socially equitable. Working to achieve sustainable library initiative certification has allowed HCPL to foster resilient communities. We have partnered with Harris County Sustainability Division and Citizens' Environmental Coalition to host Repair Cafes and expanded our partnership with the League of Women Voters of Houston to innovate how we provide access to voter information using the Libby App. What's more, we have seen our staff take initiative on changing practices and have helped to identified areas of improvement. Sustainability is a core value of librarianship and being more purposeful in how we deliver services shows our commitment to our community and its future. This panel will show how libraries are well placed to become sustainability leaders by giving examples of programs, practices, and partnerships that contribute to the resiliency of their communities.

Session C: Let's Go! Using Popular Party Games to Gamify Library Instruction

Presenter – Katherine Counterman, Katy ISD

Location: Training Room 10-F

Telestrations, Just One, Dixit, Headbandz, Blank Slate - sounds like someone is ready for game night! What if I told you these popular party games can also enhance library instruction? Tabletop games can be a fun and interactive way to teach and reinforce a multitude of academic concepts from PreK to Pre-med. Come learn about (and play!) more than a dozen games that can be easily incorporated into instruction.

Session Descriptions

Breakout Session 2

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM

Session A: Library Ecosystem Thinking: ONE VOICE for Advocacy

Presenter – Dorcas Hand, Students Need Libraries in HISD

Location: Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion

A patron of one library is the potential patron of any other library at a different time of life or location. No library exists independent of the library ecosystem. When we stand together in mutual support using common messaging themes that demonstrate this interconnectedness, every library is stronger.” D8 includes librarians from all types of libraries. We are all busy in our own worlds, but collaborating across and among our silos would benefit all our libraries. We can speak as citizens for other library types even if we cannot publicly advocate for our own; we can help other librarians better understand the issues we face in our silo that they may not understand. Ecosystem thinking supports this kind of collaboration towards speaking easily with ONE VOICE for all libraries. Especially in the current political climate, we need to stand strong together. This program will offer an overview of Ecosystem thinking, links to useful documents, and some time to collectively dig into applying the ideas. Each attendee will leave with a personal action plan.

Session B: Finding Yourself on the Shelves: The Joy of Recognition

Presenter – Amelia Morris, Pasadena Public Library

Location: Training Room 10-G

The purpose of this presentation is to talk about the important and increasingly challenged role libraries serve as a community center, and how they have the ability to affirm and uplift marginalized members of their community. I will speak on my experiences both as an openly out librarian and a closeted teen who found shelter and comfort in my hometown’s library even without them ever having huge pride displays. I will also be discussing the protentional emotional and mental hurt caused by presumed identity erasure, book bans, and how showing up in any capacity can alleviate that and bring joy to libraries. Lastly, I’d like to speak on ways to continue to promote information access through collection development, policy, and check out procedure while also protecting the safety of your staff and library. I will be supporting my points throughout the presentation with scholarly articles on collection development, psychology, personal experience, and examples pulled from other libraries across the nation.

Session C: Digital Connections: Building Joyful Communities via Staff Social Media Engagement

Presenters – Hannah Franklin and Elizabeth Sanders, Mary & John Gray Library

Location: Training Room 10-F

Many libraries utilize social media to boost user engagement, but these spaces can also be used to boost library joy among staff. Incorporating library staff into the library’s social media plan is a good way to build connections between library staff and the communities they serve while also building connections among staff. This program will share examples of how the Mary & John Gray Library has been boosting library faculty and staff engagement and morale using social media posts and series. Posts and series focus on highlighting staff within the library and how they contribute to the library’s overall success. They also include fun series that get library staff involved, such as staff book recommendations. Attendees will learn how staff-inclusive social media plans can build community and joy among staff, while also improving users’ familiarity with library personnel. They will also hear planned ideas that they may adapt for their own social media plans.

Session Descriptions

Breakout Session 3

3:00 PM - 3:50 PM

Session A: We're All Students Here: Leveraging Community to Foster a Culture of Learning

Presenters – Jennifer Holland, Carolina Hernandez, Erica Lopez, and Ariana Santiago, University of Houston

Location: Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion

Librarians are often praised for their knowledge and expertise, but perhaps overlooked for their capacity to learn. In the spirit of professional growth, the UH Libraries Teaching and Learning Department leads cross-departmental monthly learning sessions on a variety of topics. These sessions are planned, developed, and led by librarians interested in sharing and celebrating their learning with a larger audience. The learning sessions are not just about demonstrating expertise or mastery of a topic, but rather inviting others along on our quest for new knowledge. The learning sessions initially focused on pedagogy and student success, but have evolved to include other areas of interest, allowing librarians to pursue their individual scholarly and professional development interests. A learning session can also serve as a foundation for new initiatives and inform best practices. These opportunities allow us to discover shared interests, provide a forum for honing presentation skills, and better recognize and appreciate the work of our colleagues.

Session B: Amplifying Voices: Leveraging Social Media for Library Advocacy

Presenter – Rachael Welsh, Pearland Independent School District

Location: Training Room 10-G

Social media is a powerful tool for advocacy, allowing libraries to reach broader audiences, promote resources, and champion causes that impact our communities. This session explores how librarians can strategically use platforms like Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok to advocate for the profession, connect with stakeholders, and amplify library initiatives. We will discuss best practices for crafting effective messages, engaging diverse audiences, and using social media analytics to measure success. Whether you're a social media novice or a seasoned user, this session will provide actionable strategies to elevate your library's voice and influence in the digital space!

Session C: Nontraditional Programming for Nontraditional Patrons

Presenters – Rachel Stout, Michelle Johnson, and Lesly Rangel, Houston Public Library

Location: Training Room 10-F

What do you do when the people in your community need more than traditional library services? You provide non-traditional services. Staff from Houston Public Library share what they've done to meet the diverse needs of their community with programming, including college readiness, activity boxes, outreach programming, and more.

Driving Directions & Parking

Directions to Park in Welcome Center Garage

For GPS, use the address: 4800 Martin Luther King Blvd., Houston, TX 77204

From all directions and main arteries in the city of Houston and its surrounding areas **north** of the University of Houston campus:

- Merge onto I-45 headed south
- Exit State Route 5S (44B) and merge onto TX-5 SPUR S
- Turn right onto University Drive into the UH campus
- Continue on University Drive
- Turn left at Martin Luther King Blvd
- Turn right into the Welcome Center; visitor parking is located on the third and fourth floors



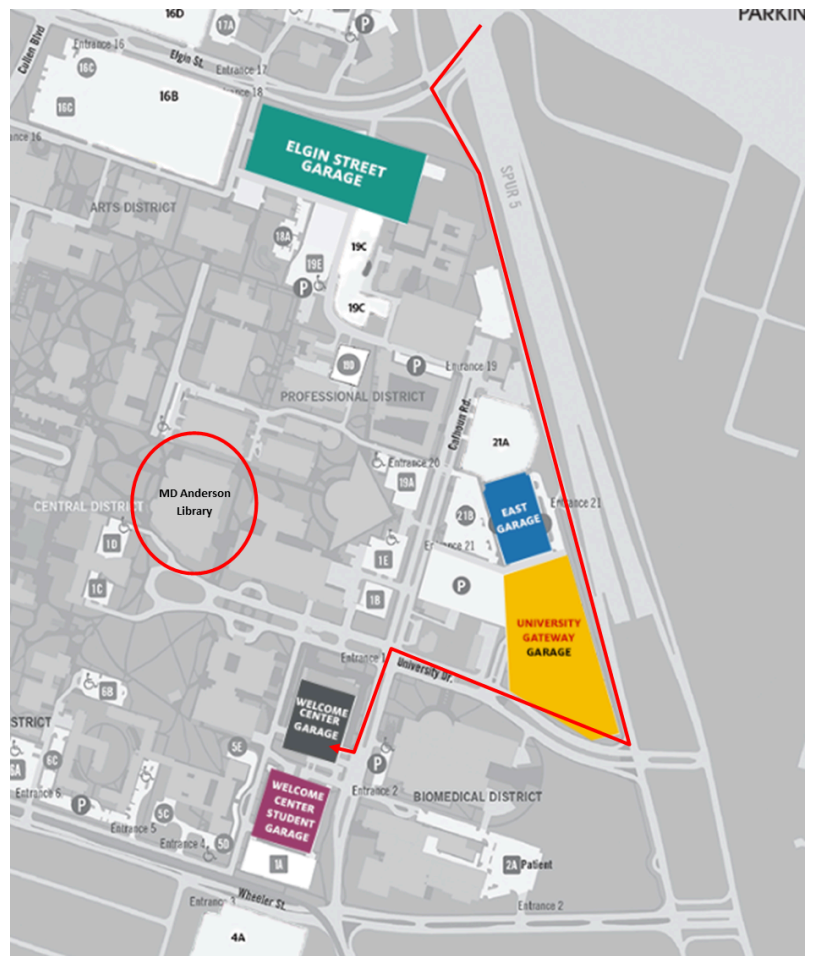
From all directions and main arteries in the city of Houston and its surrounding areas **south** of the University of Houston campus:

- Merge onto I-45 headed north
- Exit Elgin-Lockwood Cullen (44A)
- Go under overpass, turn left at stoplight onto TX-5 Spur S
- Turn right onto University Drive into the University of Houston campus
- Continue on University Drive
- Turn left at Martin Luther King Blvd
- Turn right into the Welcome Center; visitor parking is located on the third and fourth floors

Parking Rates and Other Locations

Please see the [UH Parking website](#) for a complete list of parking rates and locations. Saturday parking is \$10.

If desired, there are other locations to park on campus. Please refer to this [Visitor Parking map](#).

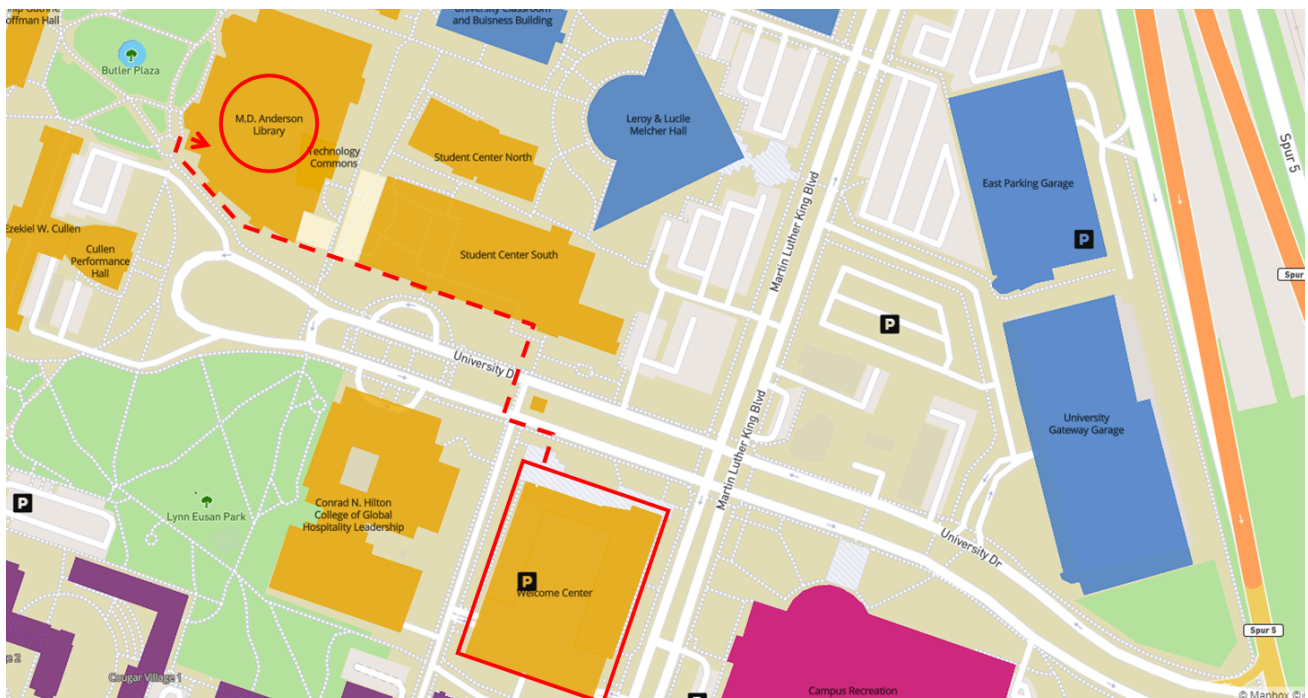


If the Welcome Center Garage is full, the Elgin Street Garage also has visitor parking.

Campus Directions

Directions from the Welcome Center Garage to the MD Anderson Library

- Exiting from the Welcome Center Garage, proceed to the corner of University Dr and Cougar Village Dr.
- Walk northeast, crossing Cougar Village Dr then crossing University Dr toward the Student Center South.
- Proceed northeast past the Student Center South. You will pass a library book drop on your right.
- Continue on the sidewalk, turning northward toward Butler Plaza (the sculpture *Tower of Cheyenne* will be visible, pictured above). The MD Anderson Library is on your right.
- Enter the MD Anderson building using the Honors College entrance, the first door on your right.
- Proceed to the second floor, where you will find the Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion.



Thank You to Our Volunteers

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Kate McNally Carter, Past Chair
Holly Matherly, Secretary

Cheryl Loewen, Treasurer
Katie Smith, Councilor
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Thank you to University of Houston Libraries Staff

Christina Gola, Interim Dean, University of Houston Libraries
Dwendol Nelson, College Events Coordinator
Susan Houston, Building Administration Manager

Please complete our conference evaluation form!
<https://t.ly/e43Vw>



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TLA  **Join TLA**
TEXAS LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

As a member of the Texas Library Association, you can connect and share ideas with other professionals, apply for professional development and conference scholarships, and learn about job openings across the state.

Learn more at txla.org