



PLD Candidate Information

Name: Karen Hart

Candidate Position: Chair-Elect, PLD

- Degree, Master of Library Science
 - Institution, Texas Woman's University
 - Start Year: 2014 - End Year: 2016
- Degree, Bachelor of General Studies
 - Institution, Texas Woman's University
 - Start Year: 2010 - End Year: 2013

Work Experience

- Title, Assistant Director
 - Institution, Friendswood Public Library
 - Start Date: 08/06/2018 – Present
- Title, Assistant to Library Director
 - Institution, Friendswood Public Library
 - Start Date: 11/12/2007 – 08/06/2018

TLA Activities

- SMART, Councilor
 - Dates: 2020 - 2023
- SMART, Alternate Councilor
 - Dates: 2018 - 2020
- District 8, Treasurer
 - Dates: 2018 - 2019

Other Professional Association Membership Information

- Texas Municipal League Director's Association
- American Library Association

Honors (Awards, Prizes, Medals, etc.)

- City of Friendswood Director Award, Hurricane Harvey Responder, August 2019

Statement of Concern:

Today, public libraries provide free access to information and resources, foster community engagement through programs and spaces, support literacy and education, offer technology access, and act as a hub for job seekers and career development, all while ensuring inclusivity and serving diverse community needs. Americans last year challenged more book titles than ever before, according to the American Library Association. Librarians are often caught in these campaigns and legislative attempts to censor library materials. Libraries should be neutral spaces. And they should

be protected as that neutral space. In the words of my library's mission statement, as librarians we should be here to Engage, Educate, Entertain, and Empower.