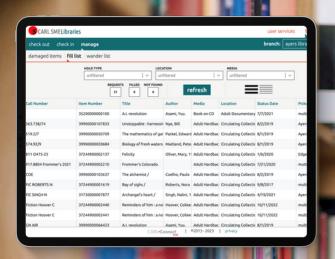


A Texas Librarian in Europe

The New Mandatory Collection Development Standards San Marcos Public Library's Enhanced ID Card Initiative



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TEXAS LIBRARY JOURNAL

Published by the TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Membership in TLA is open to any individual or institution interested in Texas libraries.

For editorial and advertising information, contact Wendy Woodland, TLA Director, Advocacy & Communications at: wendyw@txla.org

Opinions expressed in *Texas Library Journal* are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by TLA.

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Texas Library Journal (ISSN 0040-4446) is published quarterly in spring, summer, fall, and winter by the Texas Library Association, 3420 Executive Center Drive, Suite 301, Austin, Texas 78731.

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AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

President's Perspective

By Gretchen Pruett

AS YOU READ THIS. WE ARE JUST DAYS **AWAY FROM THE TLA 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE — STORIES INSPIRE, OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT.** My hope is that everyone who attends will be inspired and renewed and ready for whatever opportunities await you in the coming year. I hope that the stories you share and collect will sustain you and help you tell others about the work the libraries and librarians do every day to make our world a better place for all.

Planning the conference was a work of love for the Conference Planning Committee and I know that it will show as you walk through the Conference halls. The TLA staff were a critical component of

the process and their innovations this year — the microsite, the Journey Maps, the Unit picks — will enhance your conference experience in new and wonderful ways.

This year's General Sessions are particularly exciting. Powerful stories are the theme of these sessions. We start off at Wednesday's General Session I with Leanne Morgan, an incredibly funny woman who has become an author this year. Her book — What in the World?! — A Southern Woman's Guide to Laughing at Life's Unexpected Curveballs and Beautiful Blessings — is definitely on my "To Read" list for this year. And laughter is never a bad way to begin a conference!

At General Session II on Thursday historian and Pulitzer Prize winner Doris Kearns Goodwin will speak about her newest book, An Unfinished Love Story — A Personal History of the 1960s. We will be treated to her remembrances of an exciting time in American history from the vantage of her front row seat.

And Oh Myyy! We close our conference with George Takei at General Session III. He'll speak about his upcoming book, which draws on his experience in the U.S.-operated Japanese American internment camps during World War II. My Lost Freedom — A Japanese American World War II Story is a beautifully illustrated picture book that captures his memories of this time in our history.



And that is just the tip of the iceberg - there are over 300 education programs at this conference, along with a very special event — the Texas Library Champions Celebration. We will honor individuals whose influence has changed the landscape of Texas libraires today and for years to come. If you are unable to join the celebration, please take a moment to review the list of inductees to this very special group. I guarantee that you will know many of them. Please take the time to reach out and congratulate those that have been a part of your library journey.

I have been reflecting on this last year as your TLA President. It has flown by in a flurry of meetings, letters and phone calls. This year continued to serve up challenges for the library community and we all tried to find the best path forward for ourselves and our colleagues. The library ecosystem has been more important than ever before. I encourage you all to keep informed and encourage your personal and professional ecosystem members to sign up for the Texas for the Right to Read coalition to help us navigate these challenges.

It has been the honor of a lifetime to be able to serve each of you and our profession in the capacity of TLA President. Our work goes on, and the leadership and passion of the Texas library community is second to none. I look forward to continuing to work alongside each of you in the coming years. Opportunities Await!

Gretchen Pruett

Gretchen Pruett 2023-24 TLA President

TLA Proposed Membership **Dues Structure**

By Shirley Robinson, CAE

One of the three strategic priorities included in the Texas Library Association's (TLA) strategic plan is to cultivate a thriving organization. As part of the scope of work established to work toward that priority, TLA began a year-long research project last winter to evaluate our current membership dues structure and recommend an alternative structure.

Based on our members' feedback in statewide surveys over the last few years as well as an evaluation of current best practice trends in the association space we've learned that our current dues structure, based on member salary levels, is cumbersome and does not reflect current needs of the membership.

TLA leadership established the following goals for our work on this project:

- · Develop a simplified member dues structure.
- Continue to have a dues structure that reflects TLA members' ability to pay.
- · Remove barriers for new members to join.
- · Grow TLA's membership.

Over the past year, we have engaged in a multi-step process to accomplish these goals, beginning with conversations with TLA leaders, comparative research of other member-based organizations, and a literature scan. We've engaged with TLA members through numerous focus groups (virtual and inperson), a member survey (2,700 responses); and three virtual town hall member feedback sessions. The TLA executive board has provided feedback at every board meeting throughout the last year and, at their recent March meeting, reviewed the proposed dues structure outlined below.

Additionally, we have incorporated Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), Texas Education Agency (TEA), and National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data on library size and service population to inform our recommendations.

FEES TO ADD ADDITIONAL UNITS TO A MEMBERSHIP

TLA membership includes free membership in one district, division, and round table. The cost to add additional units is currently calculated as a percentage of basic dues, which is extremely complicated and difficult to administer. The new dues structure would simplify that by charging a flat fee for each additional unit added.

- · District: \$3
- · Division: \$11
- · Round Table: \$4

NEXT STEPS

These recommendations will be discussed at the TLA Membership meeting Thursday, April 18 at 5:15pm during the TLA Annual Conference. Then they will be presented at TLA Council II Friday, April 19 at 12:15pm for a vote. If approved by Council, the full membership will vote on them via an online ballot in the summer. TLA will begin the work of restructuring our database, with a target implementation date of October 2025 for the FY2026 membership year.

We believe these new recommendations meet the varying needs of the majority of our large membership and allow for current and potential members to participate in TLA at whatever point they are in their career path.

Shirley Robinson is the Executive Director of the Texas Library Association.

Proposed New TLA Dues Structure

Member Type	Description	Annual Member Dues Range
Librarian	Librarians, as well as others employed in library and information services or related activities, in positions that: (a) require a master's degree; (b) require a state level librarian or educator certification; or (c) are managerial.	\$187-\$207*
Librarian – Reduced Dues	 Librarians who meet at least of one of the following criteria: Those serving small populations: School District with less than 1,600 students Public Library under 20,000 service population Academic Library with less than 2,000 students Those in their first 3 years of employment Those earning less than \$40K annually 	\$67-\$87*
Library Support Staff	Individuals employed full or part-time in library and information services or related activities in a support or non-managerial role.	\$53-\$67*
Unemployed	Individuals without current salary or in transition.	\$0 (Up to 2 consecutive years)
Students	Individuals currently enrolled in an accredited library science course of study. (Does not apply to joint TLA/ALA student membership)	\$27-\$33*
Associate	Individuals not employed in library and information services or related activities who, through their personal commitment and support, promote library and information services as volunteers, fundraisers, members of governing boards, advisory groups, etc.	\$53-\$67*
Retired	Individuals who have retired from library and information services or related activities.	\$53-\$67*
Dues Assistance	Any member can request reduced dues through an assistance program.	Free or reduced dues
Vendor	Individuals employed by companies that sell to the library market.	\$275-\$325*
Additional Unit Fees	Covers the costs of participating in <i>additional</i> Districts, Divisions, and Round Tables.	\$3.00-\$11.00/unit added

^{*}Denotes a range, allowing TLA the flexibility to adjust dues for market conditions.





A Texas Librarian in Europe

TRAINING ON LIBRARY IMPACT AT IFLA



By Jennifer Peters

Last fall, I had the opportunity to attend a training course that turned out to be the most rewarding experience of my professional life.

IT STARTED WITH A NOTICE POSTED IN THE ALA CONNECT ONLINE COMMUNITY

ON JULY 28, 2023. The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) had issued a "Call for Trainers" to develop a pool of facilitators to lead trainings on public library measurement, evaluation, and the impact of library services. They would be convening a three-day "train the trainers" course at their headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands, in early November, and all expenses would be covered.

As I read the details of the announcement, I realized that I met all of the selection criteria. I knew I would always regret it if I didn't give it a shot.

Shortly after I submitted my application, I was notified that I was selected for the training. IFLA sent me a plane ticket from Austin to Amsterdam a few days later.

To say I was elated would be an understatement.

The training was held November 4-6, 2023, in the IFLA offices, which are part of a larger compound that houses the Royal Library and National Archives. Our trainer had spent several years developing a set of learning modules on measurement, evaluation, and impact. Over the next three days, she walked us through each module, sharing the

A diverse of librarians

A diverse group of librarians from around the world slides, handouts, and training manual so that we would be equipped to return to our regions and provide the training ourselves. It was an intensive three days, but we left with a framework for understanding library measurement, evaluation, and impact, as well as detailed lesson plans that we can use to train others.

I was part of a cohort of 12 international librarians attending this training, two from each of IFLA's six geographic regions. I was one of two librarians from the North American region, and, as it turned out, the only American! The other attendees were from Canada, Australia, Sri Lanka, Oman, Egypt, German, Latvia, Ghana, Kenya, Chile, and Trinidad and Tobago. We also had observers from Nigeria, France, Hungary, and the Netherlands in attendance.

It was transformative to get to know and work with these librarians from all parts of the world. Discovering what we had in common, and how we differed, was eye-opening. I knew that small and rural libraries in the US have challenges of funding, capacity, and staffing, for example, but it had never occurred to me that small and rural libraries, in, say, Latvia, might face the same issues. As we discussed community needs assessment, I was interested to learn that librarians in some countries can't access the kind of statistics and census data we have at our fingertips because it's

not public information. Further, while some countries have a decentralized approach to library services, others require that every library follow national standards developed and overseen by government ministries. It was fascinating, and I gained a global perspective on libraries and best practices in the library field.

We also had fun. After each long day of training, we walked or took a tram to dinner as a group where we shared delicious Peruvian, Turkish, and Kenyan meals, made personal connections, and goofed around taking selfies.

I'm working with the Canadian librarian, Kim Silk, to schedule trainings in our region. If you're interested, please <u>contact me</u>.

I've joined IFLA and am following IFLA's work to raise the worldwide profile of libraries. Among its numerous projects, programs, reports and standards that aim to "inspire, engage, enable and connect the global library," IFLA has been building a Library Map of the World (Library Map of the World – IFLA) and

is working with libraries to populate that map with library impact stories that align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

What struck me most throughout this experience is that librarians and library advocates across the world share similar perspectives, recognizing the power and potential of libraries, looking for opportunities to demonstrate our value to our stakeholders, and making efforts to engage our communities. Wherever we're from, we're more alike than different. Even in uncertain times, we can connect and find common ground.

I want to thank the leadership of Austin Public Library, and in particular Director Roosevelt Weeks and Baylor Johnson, for supporting my request to participate.

Jennifer Peters is the Division Manager of Programs & Partnerships at Austin Public Library. She previously served as Grants Administrator, Community Engagement Administrator, and Director of the Division of Library Development and Networking (LDN) at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. She is a 2016 TALL Texan.









San Marcos Public Library's **Enhanced ID Card Initiative**

Bridging the Gap for Photo ID Access

By Michele Chan Santos

Having a valid photo ID opens many doors. It allows you to set up a utility account for a new apartment, visit your child at school, borrow a library book, join a gym and do a myriad of other things.

Not having one often means a series of barriers in your life that require a lot of time to navigate and can reduce opportunity.

That's why Diane Insley, Library Director at San Marcos Public Library, is proud that since November of 2020, her library has offered an enhanced ID card — a library card that includes

the person's photo, name, date of birth, address, gender and library card ID number.

Since the start of the program, the library has created more than 200 enhanced IDs for local citizens.

HOW THE PROGRAM STARTED

The idea came from a local social justice organization called Mano Amiga. "They help a lot of recent immigrants, people who are incarcerated, and they felt there was a real need to have some sort of photo identification card," Insley said. At the time, San Antonio Public Library was offering this service, but San Marcos became one of the first smaller library systems in Texas to offer an enhanced ID.

"We talked to a lot of people about the need for this card. It was Mano Amiga's idea to get it started, and they provided seed money to provide the equipment - ink, laptop, rolling cart, camera, materials to make the cards." Total setup cost was about \$6,000, Insley said.

Many people who have recently emigrated to the United States encounter difficulties in having their photo ID from another country accepted for basic everyday tasks — picking up their child from school, having lunch with their student at school, setting up utilities for their apartment and other needs. The enhanced ID solves that problem.

SENIOR CITIZENS NEEDING ID

Insley said she was surprised that one of the biggest groups to request the enhanced ID card are senior citizens.

"They do not know, in many cases, how to make an appointment online to get a Texas ID card or a driver's license," Inslev said. Others have a Texas ID or driver's license already, but it has expired, and then they get tripped up by the REAL ID renewal requirements, which include supplying an original or certified copy of a birth certificate or an unexpired U.S. passport book or card.

"If you were not born in Texas, it can make it difficult," Insley said. If you were born in another state 70 years ago, for example, and your birth certificate is one that the doctor signed in the hospital but is not an official state birth certificate, you can't meet the renewal requirements, she said. This creates another barrier: "They might not know how to get another birth certificate, or it's expensive, or they stood in line for hours at DPS and it's hard for them if they have a health condition, but they need an ID to live in their apartment," she said.

Having the enhanced photo ID from the library can allow older Texans to set up utilities, for example, or they can present it when signing a lease for an apartment.

In addition to issuing enhanced photo IDs to senior citizens, library staff will also go online with the individual to help them try to renew their Texas ID or license, by ordering a new copy of their birth certificate and providing other help.

TAKING THE GED EXAM

Another group needing the enhanced ID are GED students pursuing a General Education Development certification.

Many students come to the library to take GED classes. At the end of the course, "in order to take the GED test at the testing center, they have to have a photo ID, and a lot of them don't have one," Insley said. The photo ID from the library allows them to take the test and earn their GED certification.

The San Marcos Public Library serves the people of Hays County, families in San Marcos ISD, and residents of the city of San Marcos.

"Our own city departments accept

this identification to establish a city utility account for water, electric and other services, including membership in the San Marcos Activity Center," Insley said.

HOW CAN PEOPLE APPLY FOR AN **ENHANCED ID?**

San Marcos Public Library accepts a wide range of identification; you can find the full list here. People can drop in on Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4 PM to apply or make an appointment by emailing the library.

BUILDING A NEW LIFE

Other uses for the enhanced ID include helping people coming out of homelessness or incarceration establish a new life. People experiencing homelessness may not have records like a Social Security card or a birth certificate in their possession, while those who have recently finished their prison sentences have improved opportunities when they have an ID besides their inmate card.

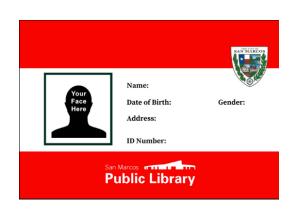
ADVICE FOR OTHER LIBRARIES

"Investigate the equipment you are going to be using," Insley said. At San Marcos PL, the camera, printer and cards are all on one rolling cart, so library staff can take the cart to outreach events or move it to different rooms in the library. "It's helpful in our community to have a bilingual person" on staff to help with the photo IDs, Insley said.

"I'm proud we are improving the quality of life in our community," she said. "Not just to have a library card and use the library, but to give people the ability to take their GED test, get their lease signed for an apartment, sign their kids up for a basketball team at the parks and recreation department, and help senior citizens stay in their homes."

She encouraged other librarians to see what their community's needs are to see if this program would be a good fit, saying: "Don't be afraid of adding this service. It's not expensive and it makes such a difference for the people who need it."

Michele Chan Santos is the former Communications and Grants Manager at the Texas Library Association.



Curious about implementing this program at a large urban library system? At our February **TLA Talks webinar, Austin Public Library staffers** discussed APL's enhanced ID program and how it removes barriers for those in the Austin community.

Listen to the recording



The New Mandatory Collection Development Standards

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Wendy Woodland

The following is a summary of a webinar hosted by TLA on February 20, 2024. Panelists included Vanessa Ashcraft from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and Joy Baskin from the Texas Association of School Boards.

TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION

As required by HB 900, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) adopted mandatory collection development standards for school libraries. The new rules are in the Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter A, Rule §4.2.

Each Texas public school district board or governing body must approve and institute a collection development policy that describes the processes and standards by which a school library acquires, maintains, and withdraws materials as outlined in the standards.

The standards provide a baseline for districts to develop their policies. There is flexibility that allows districts to customize their policies to meet local expectations and needs as long as any added procedures do not conflict with the minimum requirements in the standards.

While HB 900 and the standards do not specify a compliance deadline or timeline, the law and standards are in effect, so districts should be reviewing existing policies to determine compliance and make needed updates as soon as feasible.

TSLAC developed an FAQ and checklist to help districts implement the new standards. They are working on an optional collection development policy template and guidance document for school boards and district staff that should be available in the near future. TSLAC also plans to offer online training later this spring and into the summer. Check the TSLAC website for updated information.

The 5th Circuit (federal court of appeals with jurisdiction over TX, MS, and LA) has upheld a preliminary injunction preventing TEA from enforcing the parts of House Bill 900 that required book vendors to rate

library books as sexually explicit or sexually relevant.

The court determined that the independent booksellers who brought suit had standing, a ripe claim, and a likelihood of success on the merits. The booksellers demonstrated likely financial damage if they did not comply with the compelled speech required by the rating mandate, and the assignment of the ratings was neither "government speech" nor so factual and uncontroversial (like a nutrition rating) or necessary to government operations that the mandate should enjoy an exception to First Amendment standards for free speech.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals' recent ruling does not affect the new collection development standards as a whole. Districts are still required to institute a collection development policy addressing the minimum standards in the rule. However, the ruling does carry implications for two provisions in the rule.

The collection development standards include references to two sections of the new law that are currently encompassed by the injunction. Under §4.2(c)(5), a collection development policy must "[i]nclude a process to determine and administer student access to material rated by library material vendors as "sexually relevant" as defined by Education Code, §35.001 consistent with any policies adopted by the Texas Education Agency and local school board requirements." Under §4.2(c)(7)(B), a collection development policy must "[p]rohibit the possession, acquisition, and purchase of ... library material rated sexually explicit material by the selling library material vendor under Education Code, §35.002[.]" Because of the injunction, library material vendors are not currently required to rate materials; therefore, these two provisions of the collection development standards are effectively inoperative at this time.

In addition, it is important to reiterate that the other provisions in the collection development standards prohibiting the possession, acquisition, and purchase of harmful material, as defined by Penal Code, §43.24, and library material that is pervasively

vulgar or educationally unsuitable as referenced in Pico v. Board of Education, 457 U.S. 853 (1982) are not impacted by the lawsuit and remain in effect.

Because legal proceedings regarding this matter are ongoing, district staff are advised to consult with their legal counsel with any questions specific to their policy implementation.

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL **BOARDS (TASB) POLICY UPDATES**

In April 2022, TASB released updated policies that separated instructional materials (EFA Local) from library materials (EFB Local).

In November 2023, TASB released an updated EFB (Legal) policy that reflects the new HB 900 requirements in the education code.

In February 2024, TASB released an updated EFB (Local) policy that reflects the new collection development standards.

To obtain a copy of any of the TASB updated policies, librarians should talk to their district administration.

TASB will finalize their full policy update in May 2024, which will include the EFB (Local) policy released in February, and an updated EFB (Legal) policy that will include the collection development standards referenced in the Administrative Code, in addition to the HB 900 requirements in the Education Code.

The May policy packet is customized for individual districts so will roll out over the course of a few weeks.

Districts that are interested in making a policy change should ask their TASB policy consultant to put together a packet that the superintendent can present to the school board for consideration. The packet will be customized to fit their local preference. In the full policy update beginning in May 2024, TASB will recommend that all districts separate content on instructional materials at EFA from library materials at EFB.

CLASSROOM LIBRARIES

There was a great deal of discussion about how the new regulations apply to classroom libraries and the school librarian's role and responsibility in applying the standards to classroom libraries.

The new law and the new collection development rules *do not require* school librarians to take responsibility for classroom libraries.

School librarians don't have any control over what is in classrooms; administrators must determine and establish the processes and protocols for teachers to follow for purchasing books for their classroom libraries.

School districts are required to develop policies for classroom teachers to follow related to materials in their classroom libraries.

Classroom libraries must follow the TSLAC standards, but they do not have to implement those standards in the exact same way as libraries do. Districts should develop policies specifically for classroom library materials.

The law does not differentiate between materials donated to a classroom library, materials purchased by a teacher for their classroom library or materials purchased by the district for a classroom library. The collection development rules apply to materials in the classroom library that are for students to self-select, not to those directly related to the required curriculum.

Districts must have a plan that allows efficient parental access to what is included in a classroom library. For example, a PDF list of books posted on the teacher's website would provide information on and access to what materials are included in that teacher's classroom library.

The law and standards do not require classroom library materials to be included in the district's school library

Administrators should work with the school attorney to determine what public access for classroom library materials looks like for that district. The level of detail available about classroom library materials, and how that information will be accessible, is up to each district to determine.

Find more information and resources on TLA's HB 900 resource page.

Wendy Woodland is the Director of Advocacy and Communications for the Texas Library Association

You Know What Really Grinds My Gears? Sitting Through a Bad Presentation

By Sian Brannon

Let it be said that I am not a super presenter; I am not even a seasoned presenter. What I am, though, is a seasoned presentation attendee. I've seen upwards of 1,000 presentations in my career if you count each presenter on a panel at every single conference, workshop, symposia, and class I have attended. Though most were great at presenting, some weren't. And for those presenters, there were common threads of wrong-doing — and that really grinds my gears.

I am an antsy person — I fidget, I get exasperated. I have an especially hard time when I feel like my time is being wasted. When I choose to go to a presentation, I am dedicating a portion of my life; I'm older when it ends.

Now that we are fully in conference season, many of us are slated to soon give presentations to our colleagues. Many more of us are going to attend and listen to those presentations. The suggestions below, which are all taken from live events I've attended, are given from a place of kindness, with the intent of making presentations engaging, successful, and most of all: memorable for the right reasons.



Timina

- Don't penalize the punctual. We showed up and want to hear what you have to say. If you start late, you are probably going to end late.
- Watch your time. Do not run long. We have other meetings and presentations to run to (sometimes a mile away in a convention center) in 10 minutes.
- On a panel, don't hog the spotlight. Pay attention to your five-minute warning and when you are told your time is up. Be respectful of your fellow panelists' and your audience's time.
- State when you'll take questions. We need to know if we should write our questions down so we don't forget them.
- If you go too fast and have time left over, ask people for questions. If no one asks questions, ask the audience to provide examples from their own experience.

Speaking

- Be cognizant of your voice volume. Speak up. Huge pet peeve: Just because you are an "instruction librarian" or "work with kids" doesn't mean you don't need a microphone. You are in a big room and the entire audience is breathing, shuffling papers, playing solitaire on their phones, and scraping their feet on the carpet. We can't hear you.
- Speak slowly. Pause regularly.
- Don't mumble. Enunciate.
- Talk INTO the mic, not just near it. When you turn your head to look at the screen, we can't hear you.
- Repeat the questions you are asked from the audience into the mic for the rest of us to hear. (Side note advice for attendees: you ALSO need to use the microphone.)

- Stick to what you proposed and what's in the description. It is so frustrating to dedicate 45 minutes to two hours of your time listening to a different presentation than what you thought you were attending. We understand that circumstances may have changed. In that case, announce it at the beginning so we can decide whether or not to stay in our seats. We may have other work to do or a runner-up presentation we'd like to attend.
- If you talk too much and don't get to finish all of the content, you might have practiced more, in front of other people, asking what you could take out. But, since you made it to the end of your time and still have a lot of content to go, inform your audience that you will be available after the presentation to talk, and ask that attendees give you a business card so that you can send them your slides/notes. People attended because they wanted to learn.

- Know how to start and move through a PowerPoint slide show. It is so frustrating to see people trying to find the "Start Slide Show" button.
- While we are talking about technology, try to get in there and set up your laptop, projector, red laser pointer, and YouTube videos before the first 5 minutes of the presentation.

General

- Don't face the presentation screen. That's it. We want to see
- If you tend to read your notes, please look up from the podium every 5 seconds. If you can take a microphone with you, walk AWAY from the podium. Look AT the audience, look AROUND the audience. Pick a spot on the wall at the back, we won't know. Just look up from the podium sometimes.
- Cover your mouth when you cough. (I shouldn't have to say this, but ew. Just ew.) And, it's LOUD in the microphone.
- Don't mess with your hair, glasses, tie, etc. Then that makes me subconsciously mess with my hair. Then the guy behind me can't see, he's bobbing back and forth, and on and on.
- Take your hands out of your pockets. In fact, use your hands. You'll seem more animated, less devil-may-care.
- Put your notes on a tablet or cards, NOT napkins. Yes, this really happens.

So there — some tips for presenters, all drawn from real-life presentations. The suggestions come from a place of love love for my colleagues and love for using time wisely.

Sian Brannon is the Senior Associate Dean at the University of North Texas Libraries.

Happy 12th Birthday, LibraryPalooza!

San Antonio Festival Connects Authors with Teens in a Meaningful Way

By Michele Chan Santos



MORE THAN 1,000 STUDENTS TYPICALLY ATTEND LIBRARYPALOOZA, A ONE-DAY **AUTHOR FESTIVAL FOR MIDDLE** SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN NORTHSIDE ISD, SAN **ANTONIO.** Sheryl Stoeck is the school librarian at O'Connor High School

in Northside ISD and is the planning committee chair of the event (and one of the founders). The format — an opening panel featuring all six authors and then breakout rooms for each author where students can ask questions directly makes it a memorable and literaturefilled day for the teenagers.

The school librarians in Northside ISD promote the festival's authors and their books starting at the beginning of the school year, so by the time the event takes place, students are familiar with each author and their body of work.

The festival, held at Brandeis High School, is free and open to the public. Past LibraryPaloozas have featured high-profile middle grade and YA authors including Dan Santat, Nicola Yoon, David Yoon, Neal Shusterman, Nic Stone, Tomi Adeyemi, Jennifer Smith, Jason Reynolds and more.

This year's event took place on February 24 and featured authors Kelly Yang, Marc Favreau, Victoria Aveyard and Gabriela Epstein. We caught up with Sheryl to talk with her about the 12th year of LibraryPalooza and how it's grown over the years.

Congratulations on having the 12th LibraryPalooza this year! How did this event come about?

I was a librarian in Humble ISD in the Houston area and we had an author festival. I had been part of that and then after I came to San Antonio, I took students for a few years to what was the Austin Teen Book Festival at Westlake High School. So I had been to these other events, but we didn't

have anything like that in San Antonio, at the time there was not even the San Antonio Book Festival. I really enjoyed having author events for my students and I thought it was important. And I couldn't afford to bring really big name authors so we had this idea maybe if the librarians in our district got together, we could have a bigger event and pool our resources and bring some of these big-name authors that none of us individually could afford. Those factors were what brought about LibraryPalooza. It's for all the students in Northside ISD. Our campus librarians from Northside are basically the organizers. It is free and open to the public and now we do have students attending who aren't from Northside ISD, in addition to our own students.

How many attendees came last year, how many do you expect this year? What percentage (estimated) are NISD students on a field trip, and what percentage are from the community?

It's hard to know, some people are coming and going, we do count attendance for each session. Last year, we had about 1,100 people for the day. We started having librarians sign up if they were bringing a field trip of kids. We had a book to give the students on



the field trips; about 400 students came as part of a field trip from their school. We do a survey every year, not everyone fills it out, last year about 1/3 of the people who filled out the form were not Northside students.

How many people work on this event? I know it can be an involved process to work with publicists, book authors, etc. Do you have a committee of volunteers, are they librarians, other teachers from vour district?

We have nine people on the planning committee, those are our Northside ISD middle and high school librarians and some of our central office library staff. Beyond that, we have additional people who volunteer the day of, and we work closely with our bookselling partner, Nowhere Bookshop.

How do you decide what authors to invite?

There are a few things we are looking for. The number one factor is inviting authors whose works circulate well at our district's middle school and high school libraries. Then some things we try to get — ideally authors with both middle school and high school appeal. Authors who have a number of books out because we do promote it all year. We do buy multiple copies of the books. There's more for the kids to check out when the authors have several books out. We have six-ish authors, try to balance out genres, appeal to some different interests. We always have a

graphic novelist/artist — those are the things that we are looking for. And then it depends on who is available, who is willing to come, whose publisher is willing to send them.

How far in advance do you know who is coming? To share the books with the kids throughout the year.

We are pretty much starting (to plan for the following February event) by the time we are at the TLA conference each April. This time, by the time we went back to school (this past fall) we had all the authors confirmed. Sometimes it's the whole slate and sometimes there is one last author to book at the beginning of the school year.

The authors must love it to see so many students there. What has their reaction been?

We have good feedback from the authors. We talk

to them at the festival and ask for feedback after they say they like it! The publishers send authors every year and know the authors enjoy it. Michael Grant (author of the bestselling GONE series, Messenger of Fear, and other books) came and said

he really enjoyed interacting with the students. Since we've been promoting them and their catalog of books all year, the students know quite a bit about the authors and their books by the time LibraryPalooza comes around.

What budget do you have for this event? How does your school district support this event?

Our district does give us a lot of in-kind support, for this event. Promotional material, printing, the facility, lighting, chairs, tech services, microphones in the auditorium. We pay the police overtime. The district pays for some items and the Friends of Northside Libraries — which is attached to the Northside Education Foundation —also covers some expenses; we fundraise under the umbrella of the Friends group. Our expenses were 10K-12K, some of that is like T shirts which we are selling, so we get money back from that. We have sponsors and donations and some fundraisers (to help cover the overall cost.)

When you first started this event, what did it entail? How has it changed since 12 years ago?

At the beginning there was a lot of fundraising, a lot of grant writing, we also at that time reached out directly to authors to book them. Now we are going through publishers instead. At the beginning we were trying hard to get people to come, but now we have a lot of staff and students who have come in the past, who come each year. They know about it and look forward to it every year. Small evolutions — we have a lunch break and we used to have





somebody talking about upcoming books from the publisher, now since COVID we have morphed that to have an extra author session during the lunch period. We also have a new bookselling partner (their previous partner was a large chain bookstore). Our current bookseller partner is Nowhere Bookshop (a local bookstore in San Antonio). They were doing the sales for the San Antonio Book Festival. They give us a percentage of the sales. Since they are local and independent, they are flexible and can do an in-store display, they post about us on social media.

What are the biggest challenges you faced along the way, and how did you overcome them?

(They have had the event every year except for one year during the COVID pandemic.) COVID was a challenge for us, as it was for everyone. Fundraising can be challenging. Figuring out how many books to order for sales. What has a similar book done in the past, how many do we think we can sell. Always trying to predict that sweet spot. Our school district has various financial regulations — they have a lot of policies that they have in place — it's something we always have to navigate.

What is your advice for librarians who would like to start a similar event at their school district?

One thing I would say is know why you are doing it and what your goals are. That's important. Know what you are really trying to get out of this and let

that guide you. Not all book events have to look like the Texas Book Festival they don't all have to be on that scale or have that many authors. You can reimagine what an event could look like — be inspired by positive book festival experiences but on the other hand you can imagine other possibilities. We just have our six authors plus our lunchtime author. We started out with that number and we haven't changed we like our format a lot and we are really happy with it and it's achieving the goals we set out for ourselves.

What are your goals for the event, the reasons you stay motivated?

One of the things that inspired us was to bring in popular authors that we couldn't normally afford. We want to keep that feeling. With the smaller number of authors — the first event is a panel and then the authors are in their own individual rooms. The students can ask questions directly to the author and specifically about that author's work and their writing.

What do you see in the future for this event? What else would you like to share with our readers?

I don't think we'll have any major changes to the format. Our lunchtime event has evolved and we are always trying to get feedback based on the survey or observations during the event. Last year we started giving free books for the students coming on the field trips. I hope we have the funds to keep

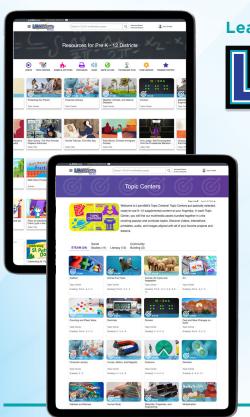
doing that in the future. We did a reveal party of our author lineup this year that was new — at Nowhere Bookshop and it was well attended, we plan to continue doing that. I would love to see more authors come to San Antonio on their tours. To LibraryPalooza and also just in general, that's always something I'm hoping for.

Another thing we are starting is a new event for our high schoolers called Fiesta of Words — it's a poetry event with a poetry contest, more of a workshop format. We had a small version of that last year and we'll have a larger version of that this year.

What are you most proud of, when it comes to LibraryPalooza?

We've had some longevity now — we have really great authors even though it's not on the scale of a Texas Book Festival. I'm just proud that we've been able to attract the kind of authors we set out to bring to our school district. We have a smaller scale, boutique festival. And we have it open to everyone who wants to come but it's still small enough that the kids are able to meet the authors and have their book signed. It's a very well-oiled machine at this point. We have our processes down. I'm proud that we have been able to keep that feeling, that original idea of the author visit and immersing the kid in the author visit experience.

Michele Chan Santos is the former Communications and Grants Manager at the Texas Library Association.





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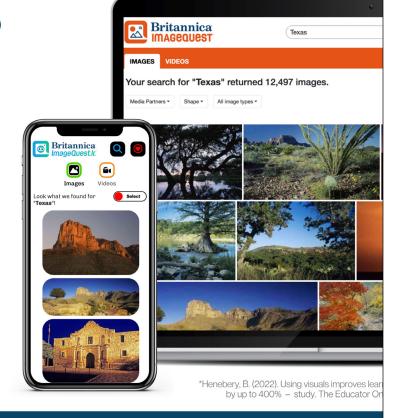
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Texas Library Association 2024-2025 Election Results

The Texas Library Association is pleased to announce the results of our 2024-2025 elections. These individuals will take office at the close of the 2024 TLA Annual Conference in April in San Antonio. Thank you to everyone that ran for office, to all members that voted and to members of the nominating committees for your time and hard work



TLA EXECUTIVE BOARD

- President-Elect: Valerie Prilop, Senior Librarian, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Representative-at-Large, Academic: Cynthia Rodriguez, Director of Library Services, Laredo College
- Representative-at-Large, Public: Israel Favela, Collection Development & Cataloging Manager, Houston Public Library
- ALA Councilor: Monica Babaian, Librarian, Fort Bend ISD

TLA UNIT ELECTION RESULTS

The following units had contested offices and chose to participate in the TLA 2024-2025 online elections.

- Children's Round Table Chair-Elect: Adriana White, South San Antonio ISD
- College and University Libraries Division Chair-Elect, Kelly Hoppe, West Texas A&M University
- District 8 Web Administrator: Rebecca Guren, Katy ISD
- Public Libraries Division Chair-Elect: Rachel Reeves, Denton Public Library
- TALL Texans Round Table Secretary/Treasurer: Kim Herrington, Pearland ISD
- Texas Association of School Librarians Chair-Elect: Katherine Harrison, El Paso ISD
- Texas Association of School Librarians Secretary/Treasurer: Amanda Trowbridge, Keller ISD

TLA BYLAWS REVISIONS

- Article IX, Section 1 Committees: passed
- Article III-Membership: passed
- Article IX-TLA Units: passed
- Annual Assemble name change to Officers Governance Training and Workshop: passed
- Conference Planning Committee name change: passed

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL COLLECTIONS ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

2024 Library Grant Applications are now open! Texas libraries are invited to apply for a \$2,500 grant to enhance their digital or physical collections. These Texas Book Festival Collections Enhancement Grants are made possible by funds raised at the annual Festival and through TBF's generous donors. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 26. Apply



THANK YOU TO THE **NORA ROBERTS FOUNDATION**

Thank you to the Nora Roberts Foundation for their recent grant supporting TLA2024. We are grateful for the foundation's generosity.

NEW 2X2, LARIAT, AND TEJAS STAR READING LISTS NOW AVAILABLE

The 2x2 Reading List is comprised of the best of recent books meant for children 2 years old to grade two, the Lariat Adult Fiction Reading List highlights outstanding fiction that is "simply a pleasure to read," and the Tejas Star Reading List offers a carefully curated list of Spanish and bilingual titles for children age 5 - 12. Enjoy!



TALL TEXANS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2024

Are you ready to take your library career to the next level? Are you eager to grow your leadership skills and knowledge? If so, the TALL Texans Leadership Development Institute (TALL Texans) is for you.

TALL Texans is designed for individuals who have at least five years of experience working in libraries, in any library and at any level. A degree in library science is not required.

TALL Texans is a transformational experience that will help you unlock your full potential as a librarian and community leader. You'll acquire new expertise and tap into your true potential to undertake new initiatives that will bring value to your organization, your field of work, and the people you serve.

But that's not all – as a TALL Texan graduate, you'll also gain access to a supportive and inspiring community of fellow librarians who are just as passionate as you are about making a difference. You'll have the opportunity to share ideas, collaborate on projects, and build lasting connections that will enrich your career and your life for years to come.

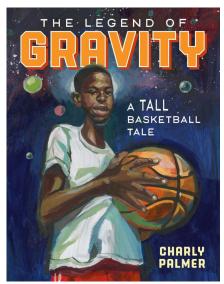
We are now accepting applications and the deadline to apply is May 31. TALL Texans 2024 will be in-person, November 21 – 23, 2024 in Georgetown, Texas. Learn more and apply today!

2024 Texas Bluebonnet **Award Winner**

More than 63.000 students across Texas voted and the results are in! The winner of the 2024 Texas Bluebonnet Award is *The Legend* of Gravity: A Tall Basketball Tale, written and illustrated by Charly Palmer. Watch Texas students make the announcement here.

Students representing 10 Texas school districts will present the award to Palmer at the Texas Bluebonnet Award Author Session on Thursday April 18 from 11:45 am - 1:45 pm, during the TLA 2024 Annual Conference in San Antonio.

(Tickets must be purchased by April 5)





GROW LEADER

Ready to take your library career to the next level?

"I was very impressed with how much TALL Texans exceeded my expectations. This was echoed by many participants. Attentive staff and presenters, as well as committed participants, made the entire week special."

"The content is amazing, but I truly appreciate the pockets of time throughout that you gave us to process and talk with each other. This truly was a remarkable experience."

"I learned alot, but the most valuable parts were meeting and connecting with other librarians."





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Deadline to Apply: May 31





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CONFERENCE INFORMATION

2024 Keynote Speakers



GENERAL SESSION I Leanne Morgan

Wednesday, April 17, 8:15-9:45 AM

Leanne Morgan, a veteran of the comedy community, is having a huge moment with the release of her first Netflix special, Leanne Morgan: I'm Every Woman, which premiered April 11, 2023, to amazing reviews and viewership. Her special was in the Top 10 on Netflix and is one of the highest watched specials on the platform in 2023. She is currently on her sold-out theater and arena standup tour called, *Just Getting Started*, and will next be seen on screen in the Amazon Prime feature, You're Cordially Invited, starring alongside Will Ferrell and Reese Witherspoon. Her first book, What in the World?, is set to be published by Random House/Convergent on September



GENERAL SESSION II Doris Kearns Goodwin

Thursday, April 18, 4:00-5:15 PM

Doris Kearns Goodwin's work for President Lyndon B. Johnson launched her career as a presidential historian. Her first book was Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream. She followed up with the Pulitzer Prize—winning No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Homefront in World War II. She earned the Lincoln Prize for Team of Rivals, in part the basis for Steven Spielberg's film Lincoln. Her last book, Leadership: In Turbulent Times was the inspiration for the History Channel docuseries on Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, and Franklin Roosevelt, which she executive produced. Her upcoming book, An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s, will be published in April 2024.



GENERAL SESSION III George Takei

Friday, April 19, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

George Takei is a civil rights activist, social media superstar, Grammynominated recording artist, New York Times bestselling author, and pioneering actor whose career has spanned six decades. He has appeared in more than forty feature films and hundreds of television roles, most famously as Hikaru Sulu in Star Trek, and he has used his success as a platform to fight for social justice, LGBTQ+ rights, and marriage equality. His advocacy is personal: during World War II, George spent his childhood unjustly imprisoned in US incarceration camps along with more than 125,000 other Japanese Americans. He now serves as chairman emeritus and a member of the Japanese American National Museum's board of trustees. In conversation with Kathy Ishizuka, the Editor in Chief of the School Library Journal, Takei will discuss his new children's book, My Lost Freedom: A Japanese American World War II Story.

2024 Keynote Speakers



BLACK CAUCUS ROUND TABLE AUTHOR SESSION Tomi Adeyemi

Wednesday, April 17, 10:00 AM-12:15 PM

(Tickets must be purchased by April 5)

Tomi Adevemi is a Hugo- and Nebula Award-winning Nigerian American writer and storyteller based in New York City. After graduating from Harvard University with an honors degree in English literature, she studied West African mythology, religion, and culture in Salvador, Brazil. Her first novel, Children of Blood and Bone, debuted at #1 on the New York Times bestseller list. Its highly anticipated sequel, Children of Virtue and Vengeance also debuted at #1 on the New York Times bestseller list. Tomi's Legacy of Orisha trilogy is being developed into a feature film. In 2020, she was named one of Forbes's 30 Under 30 in Media.



LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM: PREVENTING BURNOUT AND THE POWER OF SELF AWARENESS

Dr. Michele Cantú-Wilson

Thursday, April 18, 8:00-10:00 AM

(Tickets must be purchased by April 5)

As professionals, we recognize the threat of workplace burnout and understand the importance of self-care and value-based living. But how often do we get to turn knowledge into practice and practice into habit? Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson will lead participants in an interactive and research-based session where they will earn about the origins and impact of burnout and will develop personal plans for preventing burnout in the future.

Cantú-Wilson is a member of the Board of Trustees at San Jacinto College; and was previously the Director of Teaching and Learning Initiatives and Special Projects and a faculty member in the developmental education department. She holds a Doctor of Education degree in Higher Education Leadership from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, a Master's in Administration and Supervision and a Bachelor's of Arts in English from the University of Houston, and an Associate of Arts from Ranger College in North Texas.



TEXAS BLUEBONNET AWARD AUTHOR SESSION **Charly Palmer**

Thursday, April 18, 11:45 AM-1:45 PM

(Tickets must be purchased by April 5)

The winner of the 2024 Texas Bluebonnet Award is The Legend of Gravity, A Tall Basketball Tale, written and illustrated by Charly Palmer.

The Texas Bluebonnet Award is one of the oldest and most prestigious children's choice literary awards in the country. A total of 63,236 students, in third through sixth grade, voted. Each student had to read at least five books from the 2023-2024 Texas Bluebonnet Award Master list in order to vote. More than 1,100 schools, public libraries and homeschool groups registered to participate in this year's contest. Students representing 10 Texas school districts will present the award to Palmer.

2024 Keynote Speakers







OPENING AWARD AND AUTHOR SESSION Loren Long, Meg Medina and Lisa Wingate

Wednesday, April 17, 12:15-1:45 PM

(Tickets must be purchased by April 5)

Loren Long is the author and illustrator of the New York Times bestselling Otis picture book series, now an animated television series on Apple+. He is also the illustrator of the #1 New York Times bestsellers Of Thee I Sing by Barack Obama, Love by Matt de la Peña, and Change Sings by Presidential Inaugural Poet Amanda Gorman. His latest book is The Yellow Bus, of which he is the author and illustrator.

Meg Medina is the current National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. She is the author of the Newbery Medal-winning book Merci Suárez Changes Gears, which was followed by two more acclaimed books about the Suárez family: Merci Suárez Can't Dance and Merci Suárez Plays It Cool.

Lisa Wingate is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of over thirty novels, including the instant NYT bestseller The Book of Lost Friends and Before We Were Yours, which remained on the NYT list for over two years and has sold over three million copies. She is a Goodreads Choice award winner for historical fiction and a Southern Book Prize winner.

The TLA Benefactor Award will be presented, and J. Frank Dobie and Tock Grant recipients recognized during this event which is hosted by TLA's Library Friends, Advocates and Trustees Round Table (LiFTA).

TLA After Hours

Step into an evening of exhilarating camaraderie at TLA After Hours, an electrifying event tailor-made for the fun-loving attendees of the TLA 2024 Annual Conference. Librarians, brace yourselves for an unforgettable evening filled with a kaleidoscope of activities designed to make you laugh and relax as you spend time with friends. No additional tickets required.

Pub Trivia 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Are you a sci-fi or fantasy nerd? Test your knowledge of topics including the Marvel Cinematic Universe and Star Wars in this fun trivia game. Each round is 10 questions and teams can be made up of 1-4 people. Prizes for each round!

The Ultimate Illustrator Sketch-Off! 5:00 - 6:30 PM

It's back and better than ever before! Watch talented and creative illustrators sketch for their lives, or at least for bragging rights. You'll laugh, you'll cry (laughing), and you'll learn the deepest darkest secrets of all the illustrators (maybe). Drawings will be raffled to attendees.

Visit the TLA 2024 microsite for updated author list.

Battledecks 2024 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Calling all participants who love to laugh and/ or who love to make other people laugh! Try out this hilarious improv hour as participants are provided the opportunity to spontaneously respond to a timed Battledecks theme and attendees get to vote to decide the winner!

2024

Texas Library Champions

Texas Library Champions are individuals or organizations whose influence has changed the landscape of Texas libraries today and for years to come. The Texas Library Association began honoring library champions in 2002 in commemoration of the association's 100th anniversary.

We are honored to celebrate these outstanding individuals as 2024 Texas Library Champions. They will be celebrated at a reception at the TLA 2024 Annual Conference in San Antonio on Wednesday, April 17 from 2:30-4:00 PM.

(Tickets must be purchased by April 5)



LINDA ALLMAND (1937-2020)

was Director of the Fort Worth Public Library (1981), Chief of Branch Services at Dallas Public, and President of TLA (1986-87). She was a UNT Hall of Fame Recipient, and an ALA Approved Building Consultant. Linda was awarded TLA's Librarian of the Year Award (1985). At the Fort Worth Public Library, she revived the Library Friends Group, increasing the

membership from 50 to 600, added branches and automated the library system collaborating with the Amon Carter Museum and the City of Fort Worth. Linda modeled exemplary leadership in areas of service, automation, working with elected officials and policy makers. She focused on offering services to the underserved, and she was an excellent mentor to new librarians.



SHARON AMASTAE, President of TLA (2014-15), chaired almost every major TLA committee and is an active member of the Border Regional Library Association and REFORMA. She served as both Chair and TLA Councilor for District 6. Sharon was elected TLA Chapter Councilor for ALA (2003-06), and served on the Texas Library and Archives Foundation, as well as the New Mexico

Library Foundation Board. She was a TALL TEXAN, and a TALL TEXAN Mentor in 2007, 2013, and 2014. Her community service includes working with incarcerated teens as a founding member of the Esperanza Book Club, serving as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), and providing humanitarian services to refugees. Sharon was awarded numerous honors, including the TLA Lifetime Achievement Award (2021).



DR. BARRY BISHOP (1951-2012) was President of TLA (2002-03). He combined his leadership skills and advocacy for libraries with services to TLA to advance and strengthen all types of libraries early in the 21st century. He served on the Telecommunications Infrastructure Board awarding grants to Texas libraries, was a delegate to the White House Conference on Libraries

(2002), a TALL TEXAN Mentor, and TLA Librarian of the Year (2007). As Library Director of Spring Branch ISD and as a professor at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, Barry taught Instructional Technologies and initiated the TLA School Administrator's Conference. Through TLA, he also provided professional development in computer skills for librarians.



DR. VIRGINIA MASSEY BOWDEN, (1939-2022), a Daughter of the Republic of Texas, graduated from the University of Texas at Austin where she was one of the first students to take computer programming courses. She became the Director of the UT Health Science Medical School Library, excelled as an academic health sciences librarian, and was instrumental in establishing

organizations such as the South Central Academic Medical Libraries Consortium. Virginia was active in AMIGOS and MLA and was awarded the Louise Darling Medal for Distinguished Collection Development in Health Science. She provided outreach medical services to underserved regions in Texas. She served on the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library and on the UT iSchool Advisory Council.



SHARON T. CARR was library administrator for El Paso ISD (1990-2010) and implemented technology grants in her school district which were worth \$2 million. Appointed by Governor Rick Perry, Sharon served on the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (2005-2013). She was on the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board and the Board of Advisors for the

UNT School of Library and Information Sciences. She was President of the El Paso Area Libraries Consortium and a TALL TEXAN Mentor. Sharon was President of TASLA and served on the TLA Intellectual Freedom Committee. She is a Lifetime member of TLA and other organizations. She is a UNT Outstanding Alumna (2000-2001). She served on the boards of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra and the Junior League of El Paso.



DR. YVONNE CHANDLER (1957-2020). a UNT Associate Professor and TLA President (2013-14), was a founding member of the American Association of Law Libraries' (AALL) Black Caucus. A former student described Yvonne as a larger-than-life library science educator. She was awarded ALA's Gallagher Distinguished Service Award and the UNT President's Council

Outstanding Teaching Award. Yvonne served on the University of Michigan's Advisory Board and received the Joseph Andrews Legal Literature Award. She helped secure over \$4 million in federal grant funding for students of color and for first-time college students. She was beloved and remembered by her students who upon her death requested that a Mentorship Program be established in her name. In 2020, Yvonne was inducted into the AALL Hall of Fame.



DR. JOE F. DAHLSTROM was simultaneously the Senior Director of Libraries at the University of Houston-Victoria and the Director of Libraries of Victoria College. Joe was TLA President (1987-88), served in leadership positions in TCAL, and on multiple TLA committees. He was a Contributing Editor for the Texas Library Journal. Joe also served as the Interim Executive Director of TLA. He

was active in ALA, serving as Chair of the Texas Chapter of ACRL, and on several other ALA committees. Joe is active in the Rotary Club, served on historical preservation groups and oral history projects. He has served on the Museum of the Coastal Bend Advisory Board and has been a member of the Abilene Philharmonic, the Victoria Symphony, and the UT Alumni Band.



BETH WHEELER FOX was Executive Director and founder of the Westbank Community Library and helped initiate a Texas state law that created sales taxing districts for small rural library districts. This resulted in the Westbank Community Library being the first library in Texas to become a library district. Fourteen other communities utilized the same legislation to create library districts capable of

collecting sales taxes. Beth founded the TLA Library District Discussion Group which still meets twice per year for the mutual support of library districts. She was awarded TLA's Librarian of the Year Award (2006) and was twice presented with ALA's John Cotton Dana Award (1986,1990). She also helped found the TLA Small Community Library Roundtable.



RHODA GOLDBERG was Library Director of the Harris County Public Library, a compassionate leader and an exemplary library advocate. She successfully cultivated a culture of "yes." She was a key influence in the establishment of joint (academic-public) libraries at Lone Star Cy Fair and Lone Star Tomball College, where she encouraged lifelong learning. She

chaired the TLA Legislative Committee multiple times, supporting state and national library issues. Rhoda was a TALL TEXAN Mentor and Co-Chaired TLA's Conference Program Committee and the TLA Local Arrangement Committee. As a library consultant, she offered guidance in building design, staffing, collections, and library management.



MARGARET DORCAS HAND, a

retired private school Director of Libraries at the Annunciation Orthodox School in Houston, is a library educator and advocate for libraries. Dorcas has presented and published on the importance of strong school libraries. She served on committees both in TLA and ALA. Dorcas is Coordinator of the TLA Intellectual Freedom Hotline for Texas

librarians facing book challenges. She also chaired the ALA State Ecosystem Task Force to design a toolkit for legislators and government officials outlining how to advocate for libraries. She also served as Texas Chapter Councilor to ALA. Dorcas was the founding chair of the Houston Area Independent School Library Network that works to educate the HISD School Board, administrators, and the public on why students need libraries.



KATHRYN JONES HOFFMAN is a

retired Executive Director of the MD Anderson Research Medical Library and a distinguished member of MLA's Academy of Health Information Professionals. As an adjunct instructor for UNT, and an MLA and NLM Certified Course Instructor, she mentored many librarians. Kathy has published, presented extensively, and has been a consultant on medical

cataloging and a variety of medical library topics. She was recognized by the Medical Library Association for her exemplary service and received the Estelle Brodman Award for Academic Medical Librarian of the Year (1990). Kathy co-chaired the 2011 TLA Conference Program Committee, the 2011-2015 TLA Strategic Planning Task Force, and the Retired Librarians Round Table from 2015-2018. Kathy was awarded TLA's Lifetime Achievement Award (2011).



DR. BARBARA IMMROTH (1942-

2021) was a Professor Emerita at the University of Texas at Austin, School of Information. She was an internationally recognized educator, researcher, and advocate of intellectual freedom. She was the first woman at UT to advance from assistant professor to full professor in twelve years and was the first woman at the iSchool to direct a dissertation. She

mentored students throughout their careers. Barbara authored several scholarly books and articles. She was President of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and served on several notable children's book selection committees. Barbara was elected for three terms as ALA Councilor-at-Large. She was a TALL TEXAN Mentor, President of TLA (1997-98), and was awarded the TLA Lifetime Achievement Award (2009).



MARY LANKFORD (1932-2023)

was Library Director of Irving ISD, author of twelve books, and a library advocate. She inspired many improvements in library services for K-12 students. She encouraged librarians to work closely with classroom teachers, the principal, and other facets of the community, including the public library. Director of Libraries at TEA and President of TLA

(1975-76). Mary served on notable book committees in ALA, AASL, and ALSC. She also served on the Irving Chamber of Commerce and the Irving Rotary Club. The Irving ISD Library Program won the National School Library Media Program of the Year Award (1991). Under her direction, Irving ISD's Library Program was recognized for its many innovations in library services. She was awarded TLA's Distinguished Service Award (1985).



JEANETTE LARSON has been a librarian, library school educator, library consultant, and author. She is recognized for her wide variety of published works ranging from her revision of the authoritative CREW: A Weeding Manual for Libraries and Model Policies to works on children's librarianship, and children's books. Jeanette contributed to library

literature, including The Public Library

Policy Writer and Children's Services Today. She is also the author of dozens of articles for journals and magazines. Jeanette was a trainer for the Public Library Association's Staffing for Results and Training for Results programs. Jeanette was awarded TLA's Librarian of the Year (1998); YALSA's Excellence in Services to Teens (2003); Hotho Literacy Award (2005); and TLA Project of the Year (2006).



DR. TERI LESESNE (1952-2021)

was a professor at Sam Houston State University, an author and advocate for reading, and an outstanding reviewer of books. She promoted using libraries and being best friends with a librarian. She served on numerous book award committees. Her life's work was to create readers, and she was enormously successful in this endeavor by influencing

teachers, librarians, and students. She emphasized the importance of school principals and librarians collaborating with teachers to promote reading. Teri was awarded the TCTELA Outstanding University Teacher Award (2014); the Outstanding Columnist Award, ALAN Review (2015); the Richard Halle Award (NCTE); and she was selected to represent TLA at the International Book Fair in Monterrey, Mexico. Teri was awarded TLA's Award for Outstanding Services to Libraries (2020).



DR. MARLA MCGHEE is a Texas Christian University retired Academic Professor of Educational Leadership and former public school principal. She was the first Texas professor in her discipline to advocate for school libraries. She was a presenter at TLA's School Administrators' Conference for eight years. She also promoted strong school library programs at ALA Annual

Conferences. Marla trained numerous school administrators emphasizing the importance of the school library. She has written books and numerous articles that discuss the impact of effective school library programs on student success. Marla has made a difference in how librarians are perceived by principals, teachers, parents, and students, not only in Texas but nationally. The U.S. Department of Education named Marla a National Distinguished Principal (1994).



DR. ROBERT SYDNEY MARTIN.

retired Professor Emeritus of Texas Woman's University, served as an archivist, academic librarian, researcher, lecturer, Texas State Librarian, and the first Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (2001-05). Bob worked on the first Texas Book Festival with First Lady Laura Bush, and is a distinguished alumnus of Rice, UNT, and

the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Bob is a recipient of the Ainsworth Rand Spofford Award, the Daniel W. Casey Memorial Award, and UNT's Lifetime Achievement Award. President George W. Bush awarded him the Presidential Citizens Medal (2008). Bob led several UNESCO delegations abroad, and as a writer and consultant, served on community committees and numerous national boards. Bob was awarded TLA''s Distinguished Service Award (2002).



DR. JOE MCCORD (1936-2011)

served as Dean and Director of several Texas academic libraries. He was a resource sharing visionary, often called the Father of TexShare, for his work in creating this statewide resource sharing network. He spoke eloquently and often with Texas legislators to secure free access to both print and electronic resources for all Texans. He conceived of

and organized the first TLA Legislative Day. Joe worked with Amigos, ETCL and PAISANO State consortia to promote access to information in the early days of library automation. He served as President of TLA (1996-97) and was awarded TLA's Librarian of the Year (1988), the Meritorious Service (1995), and Distinguished Service Awards (2001). Joe is buried and memorialized in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin.



MARIA ELENA OVALLE is a retired teacher, librarian, and an Education Service Center Coordinator for Library Services and Instructional Resources. She was a resource person for librarians in South Texas. She served on the TLA Executive Board and has been a presenter at TASLA, TLA, and numerous library conferences. Maria Elena trained librarians on the federal e-rate program

and also created the TLA Tejas Star Book Award. She has served on many TLA Committees, including the 2015 Program Committee. She was a co-publisher of The Toolkit for School Administrators-Hiring & Retaining Librarians. Maria Elena has served on several boards including the South Texas Literacy Coalition, and the Edinburg Public Library Board. She was a TALL TEXAN Mentor. Maria Elena received TLA's Lifetime Achievement Award (2019).



DR. GLENIECE ROBINSON was the Director of the Fort Worth Public Library who created a "Grow Your Own" development and diversity recruitment program, emphasizing degree completions. Gleniece increased usage, budget, staff, and the number of visitors to the library. She also reduced operating costs, added new branches, and renovated existing structures. She served

on TLA and ALA committees and was a delegate to the White House Conference on Libraries (2002). Gleniece was the First African American President of TLA (1999-00), Chair of PLD, a TLA Councilor, TALL Texan Mentor and was awarded the Woman of Spirit Award by the American Jewish Congress (1999). Gleniece received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (2007) and the TLA Lifetime Achievement Award (2013).



DANA ROOKS, former Dean of Libraries at the University of Houston and author of six books, is a committed leader and mentor. She served on the Board of Directors for ARL, AMIGOS, and the Greater Western Library Alliance. Dana served as TLA President (2004-05) and received three TLA awards: Librarian of the Year (1997), Distinguished Service (2009), and Lifetime Achievement (2014).

She was one of the initial founders of TexShare, as well as the founder and president of TCAL. She completed a \$20 million campaign for a Library building addition and secured substantial financial support for library operations. Dana and her husband, Charles W. Rooks, PhD, established the "Rooks Early Career Librarian Fellowship." Dana also created an endowed fund for TLA.



DR. LORIENE ROY is a Professor Emerita at the University of Texas at Austin and library school educator. She served as President of ALA (2007-08) and of the American Indian Library Association. Loriene is a prolific writer and a library presenter. Some of her professional awards include a National Conference of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums Leadership Award; a State

of Texas Senate Proclamation; and an ALA Equality Award. Loriene was named a Library Journal "Mover & Shaker" and Outstanding Alumna from the University of Arizona's Library School. She founded "If I Can Read, I Can Do Anything," a reading club for Native Children and "Honoring Generations," a graduate scholarship for indigenous students. Loriene also serves on the Library of Congress Literacy Awards Advisory Board.



CYD SHEFFY (1948-2022) was a school librarian in the Fort Worth Independent School District who rallied TLA members to support library issues. She encouraged them to contact Texas legislators and members of Congress to provide needed funding for library resources. She also taught librarians to inform and to educate these influencers on issues that were key to transforming

libraries. She knew the needs of rural and urban communities and addressed both. She spoke avidly for students and defended their right to read. She served on TLA committees, including the Legislative Committee, Bylaws & Resolutions Committee, the TASL Executive Board, and annual conference committees. She mentored many school librarians and was a TALL TEXAN Mentor. As Chair of the TL-PAC, Cyd was an effective fundraiser.



MARK SMITH is a retired Director and State Librarian of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. Previously, his career included being a public librarian, a TLA Legislative Liaison, and acting as a LSSI VP who managed 10 public library organizations. He introduced many innovative programs to libraries, improved TLA publications, and played a key role in maintaining federal funding for

TSLAC and reversing declining budget support at the agency. Mark has been persistent in providing funding opportunities for libraries. He is a public relations expert who has repeatedly advocated and negotiated for libraries both at the State and National levels. He successfully produced results through collaboration, education, and negotiation. Smith continues to provide library professional training under the sponsorship of the Tocker Foundation.



PAT SMITH served as TLA Executive Director for 35 years. Under her leadership, TLA became a network of colleagues, lifelong friends, and family moving the profession forward. Pat created infrastructures for individuals to grow professionally. With her guidance, TLA provided a state library conference with a national reputation for quality, creativity, and excellence praised by

Library Journal, American Libraries, and Publisher's Weekly. TLA has been chosen consistently as the best library association conference by conference exhibitors. A member of many library professional organizations, Pat was an ALA Councilor, chaired ALA's Budget Committee (BARC), and served on numerous other ALA award juries. She served on advisory boards for the UT School of Information and the Austin Public Library. She excelled in diplomacy, empathy, and strategic planning.



JAMES B. STEWART (1944-2017).

the Library Director of the Victoria Public Library for 30 years and a legislative advocate was a founder of the TL PAC. James served as President of TLA (1992-93), and received two TLA Awards: Librarian of the Year (1984) and the Distinguished Service Award (2013). He helped create the first joint library automation and resource-sharing system

in Texas between an academic and a public library. He was instrumental in the founding of the TALL TEXANS Leadership Development Institute and facilitated the purchase of TLA's Bee Cave headquarters building. He was appointed to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (1990's). He chaired the J. Frank Dobie Library Trust. A Vietnam Veteran, James received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.



DR. JULIE TODARO is the former Dean of Libraries at Austin Community College whose career included library manager, library educator, and public librarian. At ACC, Julie managed approximately 200 employees throughout eleven campus libraries in eight counties. She is the author of four books and co-authored a fifth. She is a presenter and library consultant on a

variety of library topics. Julie was President of ALA (2016-17), becoming the first president from a community college, president of the ACRL (2007-08), and President of TLA (2000-01). She has received three TLA awards, including Librarian of the Year (1996), the Lifetime Achievement Award (2012), and the Distinguished Service Award (2019).



DR. HERMAN L. TOTTEN is a Dean Emeritus of the University of North Texas School of Library and Information Science. He also served as the Vice President of University and Community Affairs (2011-2015). Herman expanded the range of programs, adding instructional technologies to the SLIS College, and created an endowed professorship to honor the work of an African American

instructor and advocate of children's literacy. He was the first African American Dean of UNT's SLIS. Herman served as TLA President (2002-02), a TALL TEXAN Mentor, was a Melvil Dewey Award recipient, and received the ALA Medal of Excellence for Leadership and Service.



ROSE TREVIÑO (1951-2010) was a public librarian at both the Houston Public Library and the San Antonio Public Library. San Antonio's first Hispanic Branch Manager, Rose promoted children's books and literacy programs in underserved communities. Rose served on the Texas Bluebonnet Committee, the Children's Round Table, and the 2 x 2 Reading List Committee. She was a

Siddie Jo Johnson Award recipient (1997), and chaired ALA's Newbery Committee (2009). With Pat Mora, Rose promoted El día de los libros, El día de los niños in Texas. Rose authored five books and created the Nation's first bilingual Born to Read Program. She served on the Board of Directors of ALSC and REFORMA. Rose volunteered as a reader at the Children's Shelter of San Antonio.

Code of Conduct

The Texas Library Association (TLA) is dedicated to providing a harassmentfree environment for everyone engaged with the association at events and on social media channels, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, age, ethnicity, military status, race, or religion. We do not tolerate harassment in any form at any TLA events or activities, or on any TLA social media channels, including those managed by TLA units.

We encourage productive and constructive discussion and participation. Be kind to others. Do not insult or put down others. Behave professionally. Remember that harassment, and sexist, racist, or exclusionary jokes are not appropriate.

Harassment includes offensive comments or actions related to gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, age, ethnicity, military status, race, or religion. Sexual images in public spaces, deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, harassing photography, or recording, sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate physical contact, unwelcome sexual attention, online bullying, cyberstalking, name calling or humiliating or disparaging language is not tolerated. Individuals asked to stop any harassing behavior at events or online are expected to comply immediately.

If an individual engages in harassing behavior, TLA may take any action deemed appropriate, including warning the offender, expelling them from the event, banning them from future events, hiding or deleting comments, and/or blocking the offender from any TLA social media channels.

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Texas Bluebonnet Award Author Session

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Exhibit Hall Open TUESDAY. APRIL 16 - THURSDAY. APRIL 18

Make time to visit the exciting TLA 2024 Exhibit Hall! Hundreds of exhibiting companies will showcase the newest books, products, and services for the library profession. And hundreds of your favorite authors will be signing books in the Authors Area, located in the exhibit hall.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 2:00 - 5:00 PM Exhibit Hall Grand Opening **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17** 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM **Exhibits Open**

THURSDAY, APRIL 18 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Last Day for Exhibits

The bustling TLA 2024 exhibit hall will feature more than 240 exhibitors, including 50+ who are new this year. Exhibitors represent hundreds of products and services such as publishers (university presses to graphic novels), book jobbers, bookfairs, automation, collection development, architects and design firms, furniture, supplies, STEAM products, service agencies, nonprofits, and many more new and exciting industry innovators.

Meet new authors and see your favorites! More than 250 authors will be signing in the authors area and in exhibit booths. Poster sessions will be in the Exhibit Hall Wednesday, April 17 from 11:00am-1:00pm, and be sure to check out the Exhibitor Showcases.

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