

# TEXAS LIBRARY JOURNAL

Volume 99, Number 4, Winter 2023

STORIES  
INSPIRE  
OPPORTUNITIES  
AWAIT

APRIL 16-19, SAN ANTONIO

TLA 2024 Annual  
Conference Program

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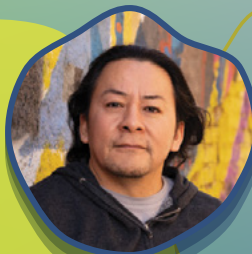
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# President's Perspective

By Gretchen Pruett

I hope that you are all as excited as I am to receive the winter 2023 issue of the *Texas Library Journal*, complete with the TLA 2024 conference program. The Conference Planning Committee, co-chaired by the dynamic duo of Wendy Pray and Kate Horan, have put together a conference that has something to delight everyone. The theme of **"Stories Inspire, Opportunities Await"** has led to some great offerings this year. I am personally looking forward to some of the programs that you will find marked with the President's Program icon (look for the star in the circle).



leadership program. In 2022 and 2023, the classes of TALL leadership students were some of the best yet. These TALL Texans are engaged, curious, passionate and have a strong desire to serve this profession and their communities. Interacting with them and listening to their hopes and dreams was inspiring to each of the seasoned professionals that were there as mentors. I was able to remind them that they are creating their own ecosystem in their TALL classes, and they immediately saw the importance of the ecosystem to them and their work.

Speaking of the library ecosystem –

I am so encouraged by the ecosystems I see in action across the state. Another great part of my role as TLA President is visiting as many of the district meetings as possible each fall. The TLA districts are one of the first ecosystems many of us encounter in our library careers, and they are at the heart of the strength of TLA. For those of you who are considering a leadership role in TLA, the districts are a great place to “get your feet wet.”

It is because of programs like TALL Texans and the TLA District Fall Meetings that I am looking forward to a great year in 2024. We have been through a level of scrutiny and questioning that we have not seen before, but our library ecosystem has held strong and has met the challenges united and with a strong voice. I look forward to seeing you all in San Antonio and hearing your stories and discovering new opportunities for us and for our profession.

*Gretchen Pruett*

Gretchen Pruett  
2023–24 TLA President

The TLA 2024 Annual Conference should be a time for renewal, reengagement, and revitalization for all of us. The city of San Antonio will be aglow for Fiesta and is a wonderful backdrop for our gathering. I hope to see all of you there.

Don't forget to renew your membership; members receive the best conference registration rates. And only those members who join by January 31, 2024, are eligible to vote in the upcoming TLA elections. As always, we have an exceptional [slate of candidates](#), and your vote will matter to these individuals that have put their names on the ballots. This year was the first year that nominations for the Executive Board were opened to the general membership. We believe that we received our best candidate pool ever.

TLA continues to be a source of inspiration for me in my career. One of the best parts of being the TLA President is the opportunity to serve as a mentor in the TALL Texans

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# Libraries: A Safe Space to Nurture Dreams

By Michele Chan Santos

## LIBRARIES ARE A SAFE HAVEN.

Author Tom Angleberger, who wrote the seven-book *Origami Yoda* series and more than 20 other children's books, has spoken and written extensively about what libraries meant to him as a child.

Angleberger often writes about how Asperger's is his superpower, as in [this article](#) for Autism Awareness month, but he's also shared how his condition sometimes led to awkward situations and difficult times at school. But the library was a place where he knew he could take refuge.

"When I was in school, teachers and librarians sharing their books with me always meant so much to me," Angleberger said in [this video](#) (a sentiment he also shared with TLA members after winning the Texas Bluebonnet Award in 2012 for *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda*.) "The main library was a safe place for me. That was a huge thing for me."

For others, the library is a route to making a new country feel like home.

In U.S. citizenship classes held at public libraries across Texas, students learn about Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, the Declaration of Independence and other facts about American history in order to pass their citizenship exam. My parents emigrated to the United States from the Philippines in the 1960s; I remember them going to their naturalization ceremony in Denver when I was 10 years old. The naturalization ceremony where immigrants become U.S. citizens begins, for many people, at their local library.

In this issue, you'll find an article on page 15 by Kelly Hoppe, Head of Outreach and Instruction at the Cornette Library, West Texas A&M University, called "School and Academic Librarians: Cultivating Collaboration." It's about an innovative program she spearheaded where students studying to be teachers attended a program on how they could strengthen their teaching by collaborating with their school librarian. "I wanted to touch the heart of attendees and impress upon them the concept of the library as a safe place, the undisputable fact that it's a safe haven for countless students," Hoppe wrote. "My overarching goal was that attendees walked away with ideas about how to collaborate with the school librarian on their campus and



that they would be encouraged to tap into that vast wealth of knowledge, experience and most importantly compassion, caring and heart that are the innate qualities of school librarians."

We hope that the Texas Library Association offers the same kind of community and sense of refuge to you as librarians and library staff members, that your patrons and students so often feel when at the library. Whether we are supporting members facing a book challenge through the Intellectual Freedom Helpline, advocating on behalf of libraries at the Capitol, hosting our online community, TLA Engage, where you can ask questions and offer support to one another, or putting on our annual conference, we aspire to give you the sense of belonging that you so often give to your communities.

*Michele Chan Santos*

Michele Chan Santos  
Communications and Grants Manager



# Universal Broadband Connecting All Texans for a Brighter Future

By Michele Chan Santos

**NEARLY SEVEN MILLION.** That's how many Texans lack access to broadband services. "That's seven million Texans who can't access job postings, telemedicine appointments, work or educational opportunities from home," said Comptroller Glenn Hegar, whose office includes the Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO).

Hegar compares universal broadband to when Texans were able to drive on a paved road across the state for the first time, or when Texans first had electricity to keep their homes lit at night. "And so universal broadband is the interstate highway system of this century," Hegar said. "It is a transformative effort that, similar to highway construction or electrification,

will open up huge opportunities across rural Texas and unlock the tremendous potential that has been pent up in underserved communities."

Greg Conte, Director of the BDO, said the need for universal access is constantly increasing. "On a daily basis, our dependence on reliable internet is growing. Texas has something like 70+ counties without a hospital; if you can access a doctor by clicking on a screen, that's a game-changer," Conte said.

It's a goal the federal government is promoting through the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) — that's why Texas was granted \$3.3 billion in federal funds for broadband expansion, more than any other state. Priority areas are

## PROP. 8 PASSED

### What does that mean for universal broadband?

With the passage of Proposition 8 on November 7, Texas now has \$1.5 billion in state funds to invest in broadband. Proposition 8 creates a special fund that lasts until 2035 to build out broadband infrastructure. This investment is "a substantial dedication to ensuring we will achieve the goals this office was created for," Conte said. Passage of Proposition 8 makes Texas "less reliant on federal funds. We do have a diverse set of needs that is unique to our state."



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**“Librarians really stand on the front lines of this effort. Texas libraries and their staff play an important role in ensuring that Texans have access to digital skills, resources, and information to participate in education and employment opportunities. They are vital partners in coordinating universal access. I urge Texas librarians to stay engaged with the Broadband Development Office to help us connect all Texans.”**

**—Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar**

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parts of the state that don't have access to broadband – unserved areas – or ones with inadequate access, called underserved areas.

Comptroller Hegar, Conte and Cindy Fisher, Digital Opportunity Program Supervisor for the BDO, shared the state's plans to achieve widespread access to broadband with the federal funds, and what role Texas' libraries and librarians can play in bringing connectivity to their communities. The BDO, which was established in 2021, is at the forefront of the effort to bring connectivity to every Texan.

#### **CHALLENGES FOR TEXAS**

Although the \$3.3 billion Texas received seems like a huge amount, Conte explained that considering the size of our state, both population-wise and geographically, the amount might not be enough.

“When you look at it per capita, we are 40th (in terms of the amount of money received), and when you look at the funds per unserved location, we're 47th. Is it substantial enough? How can we make this money work for the most people?” Conte said. “Texas is so huge. We have large swaths of rural areas. If you look at it from a pure fiber solution, we will spend through that money very quickly. We want to make sure it's used effectively.”

The topography of Texas — the deserts and mountains of West Texas, the wooded areas of East Texas — add to the challenge. But Conte knows reliable internet can change lives, especially when brought to far-flung locations.

“There are comparisons to the quality of life in communities with access to reliable broadband versus

ones that don't,” Conte said. In health and education, “the outcomes are significantly better with access to reliable internet.”

#### **HOW LIBRARIES CAN HELP BRING BROADBAND FUNDS TO THEIR COMMUNITIES**

Conte explained that the use of the federal funds “is cascading. All unserved areas must be served first – unserved business and residential locations, then it (funding) moves on to underserved areas, then it moves on to community anchor institutions.” Only certain locations in the state will be eligible. Libraries are considered community anchor institutions.

The BDO developed the Initial Proposal for the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program after gaining comprehensive engagement and feedback from local governments, community-based organizations, community anchor institutions, industry and residents lacking a reliable, affordable high-speed internet connection.

They accepted public comment on the initial proposal through Dec. 4, 2023. In 2024, communities will find out if they are in an area that is eligible for funding.

Fisher said, “It's important for libraries to understand their role in this process. As librarians, they understand their community's needs. They are serving people who don't have internet at home, in their libraries.”

During this process, it's crucial for librarians to engage other people in their communities, particularly city leadership, “to advocate for their community, for the ISP (internet service

provider) in their community, applying for a BEAD grant.” If librarians stay informed about this process, they can play a huge role in helping other people in city governments understand why this is important and how to apply for funds, Fisher said.

#### **THREE-PART PROBLEM**

The challenge in providing universal access to Texans comes down to three interrelated barriers, Conte and Fisher said: (1) a lack of infrastructure, (2) the need to increase digital literacy and (3) ensuring affordability and access to needed devices.

“They are all interdependent. The infrastructure makes the most sense to people, build it and people can access it — but it's not just the cost to build but the cost to access it,” Conte said. During meetings across the state, “We heard from a lot of folks — some people have access to Wi-Fi in rural areas, but it costs them \$150 a month. And it's not reliable and they can't access it eight hours a day. You can have devices but if you can't have the access or pay for it, then what is the point?”

Explained Fisher, “There are long-term sustainability challenges with the other two pieces — with the digital literacy piece, and with affording the access. The (federal BEAD) grant funds will be expended by 2026. But people will still need devices after 2026; there's still a need for training and digital literacy efforts after 2026. So how do we continue to stand up programs that are self-sustaining in some way? Our next set of challenges will be: how do you keep the programs running after the grant program ends?”

## HOW LIBRARIES ARE HELPING BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Libraries serve all members of the community by providing a central place to connect to high speed internet, access to devices to connect to the internet, as well as digital skill training and one-on-one support, Conte and Fisher said. Libraries are also well connected with other community resources, such as organizations that provide workforce development and social services.

“Libraries really understand they are the place where everyone in the community comes. They understand such a diverse set of needs from the community,” Fisher said. “Librarians are the ones that can really be the translator for the community – libraries provide telehealth, have digital navigators teaching classes, or help people sign up for subsidies for internet access. Libraries are often so busy doing this work we don’t get enough of an opportunity to tell people about the work that we are doing.” Librarians whose programs are helping bridge the digital divide need to make sure their city leadership and others in the community are aware of their work: “The grants can help augment their ability to do this.”

## NEXT STEPS

Conte said, “Let us know how we can help you. How can we be creative with the information we are providing? It’s so important to us that we are getting the right message out and that it percolates through communities. Let us know. We certainly see ourselves as partners with local libraries.”

Comptroller Hegar agrees. “Librarians really stand on the front lines of this effort,” he said. “Texas libraries and their staff play an important role in ensuring that Texans

have access to digital skills, resources, and information to participate in education and employment opportunities. They are vital partners in coordinating universal access. I urge Texas librarians to stay engaged with the Broadband Development Office to help us connect all Texans.”

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

## STAY CONNECTED

**What can TLA members do to stay up to date with what’s happening next regarding allotting federal funding to communities for broadband?**

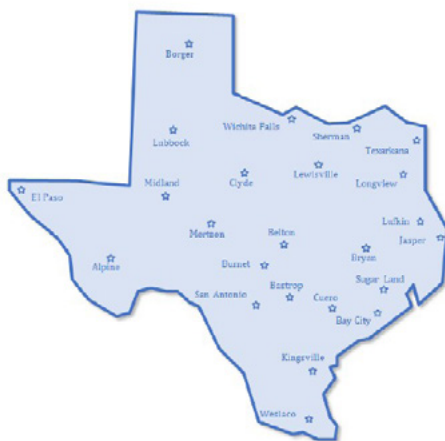
1. Sign up for the Broadband Development Office newsletter, which provides information and updates regularly. [Newsletter signup](#)
2. Attend the BDO’s virtual monthly roundtables and invite your local community leaders to join. These are open to anyone. Held on the first Thursday of every month at 10 AM. [More info.](#)



TEXAS BROADBAND  
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

## Public Meetings Summary

*The Broadband Development Office met with Texans over seven weeks; a total of 1,274 people attended the meetings.*



- The BDO and CTT visited 24 cities and hosted 2 virtual meetings across the 12 economic regions of Texas in 7 weeks.
- There were 1,274 participants in the meetings
- Participants represented 127 Counties





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# Reel in the Fun

## Library Launches Innovative Program Allowing Patrons to Borrow Fishing Rods and Supplies

By Justin Swink

**THANKS TO A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT (TPWD)**, the Little Elm Public Library (LEPL), has been able to loan out fishing rods and fully-stocked tackle boxes since August of 2022. As LEPL is a stone's throw from Lake Lewisville, the program seemed a good fit for our community. Lake Lewisville is one of the largest lakes in North Texas, spanning 29,000 acres, with 233 miles of shoreline.

The federally-funded program provides loaner sites like ours with everything from 6' spincast fishing rods, to tackle boxes stocked with extra hooks, bobs, sinkers and clippers. TPWD even provides the racks to securely store the rods. The library pays for nothing, and anything lost or broken can be replaced (upon request) by TPWD. In this article, I'll walk you through the process of establishing your library as a loaner site; it's been enjoyable and well-utilized by our patrons.

The program is reaching people in the community for whom fishing is a new experience. I've had parents come back and tell me about the luck their child had with their first catch. I talk to a lot of patrons who either have not fished before or haven't been able to take their child fishing for one

reason or another, and they love knowing that the equipment is readily available.

In the process of setting up the program, cataloging equipment, and introducing the concept to the public, I participated in an Angler Education Instructor Workshop (hosted by TPWD). This workshop allows me to teach beginning angler classes at the library. As with the tackle loaner program, TPWD provides plentiful resources and materials to host a class of any size, including booklets, pins and pens, instructional cards, stickers and certificates. Angler instructors are asked to report their class hours monthly. Hours for classes led by an angler instructor accrue over time, leading to an impressive volunteer history and track record. Tackle loaner sites are not required to have a certified angler instructor on staff, but for public libraries, it makes for easy, free, and unique programming.

Tackle loaner sites must provide a monthly online statistical report to TPWD, but this is the only requirement of a loaner site to maintain the program. Information from this report is collected





at the time a patron checks out a fishing rod (via an official form that is also provided by the TPWD). The form is a simple, one-page document requesting demographic information that TPWD, in turn, reports to the federal government in order to maintain funding for the program. Demographic information is collected on a voluntary basis, so many times reporting demographic statistics is an educated guess if patrons decline to fill out the form.

When the program first rolled out, the library had just 4 rods and 4 tackle boxes. We were sent a healthy amount of extra tackle, so I stocked each tackle box with 4 extra hooks, bobs and sinkers, and one pair of clippers. The remaining supplies I held back for replenishing the tackle boxes. In the past year we have added 6 more rods and 6 more tackle boxes. Racks hold up to 5 rods each and they were easily mounted on a prominent wall inside the library, within reach of patrons. Tackle boxes are kept at the front counter and are available upon request.

#### CHECKOUT LIMITS

At this time the library allows 2 rods and 1 tackle box to be checked out with a library card. The limit applies to individuals (17 years of age and older) and families, ensuring that enough rods are available to the greatest number of patrons. All tackle is available for an initial checkout period of 3 weeks, followed by 1 renewal period of an additional 3 weeks (in slower seasons we readily allow for extra renewals when asked).

Cataloging the equipment was fairly simple. After creating separate items in our ILS (one for rods and one for tackle boxes), I applied item barcodes directly to the rods, near the handle, and taped them over for protection. For the tackle boxes (5" x 7.5" clear-plastic boxes with dividers), I applied labels to the top of the box identifying contents, quantity, and item barcode. On the bottom of the tackle box, I affixed a map of Lake Lewisville identifying permitted fishing areas (created by the

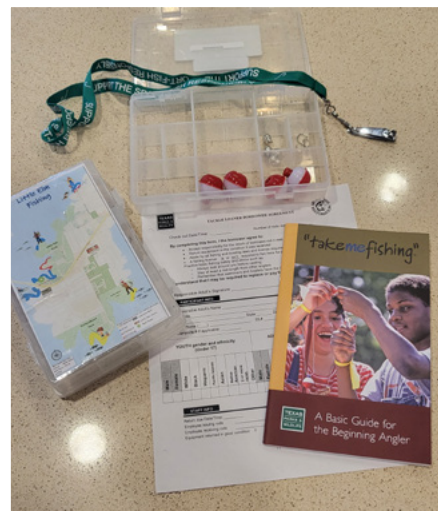
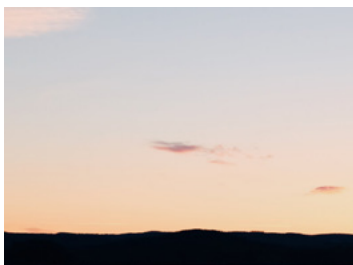
town's GIS department).

When a patron wishes to check out any of the tackle, we ask them to fill out the aforementioned demographic sheet (which also obliges them to take care of, and return, the equipment). We then check out the tackle on their library account. From there, responsible fishing is in the patron's hands; the library does not sell fishing licenses but does provide information to the patron as to who needs a license, and where one can be purchased.

One of the unexpected benefits of becoming a tackle loaner site are the paths it has opened to other kinds of programs, as well as novel ideas for material the library collects. Lake Ray Roberts (a Texas State Park located about 26 miles away) has been a terrific source of family-oriented programs that have maxed out our program spaces, introducing patrons to Texas nature and outdoor activities. And in the coming year the LEPL hopes to develop and offer Texas State Park themed hiking/travel kits, incentivized to get patrons out into nature.

If any equipment is not returned, the patron's library account is blocked from further checkouts at the library. Since we can get replacement equipment for damaged/broken items, all we really ask is that they let us know if an item is lost/broken so we can replace it. Any libraries looking to take on this program can find more information here on the [TPWD website](#), or email [Adam Comer](#) at TPWD.

*Justin Swink is the Reference and Tech Services Librarian at Little Elm Public Library.*



# SUPPORTING **OPEN** **PEDAGOGY** AS A PATH TO STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

By Kate Carter

The use of open educational resources (OER) has expanded in higher education, increasingly benefiting students' access to learning materials. Instructors often use OER—teaching and learning materials that are free and openly licensed—to replace commercial textbooks, both to enhance affordability for students, as well as improve quality and relevance of the materials for their courses. The open license associated with OER enables instructors and students to use, share, adapt, and redistribute the learning materials freely.

While the use of OER alone has many benefits, open resources can also pave the way for greater impact through open educational practices. The library has always been viewed as an obvious partner in advocating for the adoption of OER, but librarians can engage in even more meaningful collaborations with faculty by supporting the implementation of open pedagogy.

## **WHAT IS OPEN PEDAGOGY?**

There are many definitions of open pedagogy, but most of them describe it as an experiential and process-centric teaching approach that views students as co-creators of knowledge, challenging traditional “banking” models of education that see them as solely consumers of information. With roots in emancipatory and constructivist pedagogies, open pedagogy encourages students to demonstrate understanding through participation in the information creation and open publishing processes.

Perhaps the most common way that instructors engage in open pedagogy is through an open assignment, whereby students are invited to openly license and share the work they develop during their course under an open license, such as a Creative Commons license. Often called a renewable assignment, this allows student work to have value beyond the classroom, benefiting the learning of not only the student, but also their peers and the broader community. This is contrasted with the disposable assignment of traditional classes, where students generate content for their courses that is seen only by the instructor before it is graded and then thrown away. Open pedagogy recognizes that student work can benefit a larger audience outside the classroom context and uses the renewable assignment as a way to empower students to share their knowledge.

Open pedagogy assignments can take a variety of forms. Most commonly, students can be invited to contribute the material they generate for their assignment, such as an essay, to



be published as a part of an OER. In one project supported by the University of Houston Libraries, students wrote chapters in an openly licensed textbook covering a series of East Asian cities. Introductory chapters covered background information about the cities, featuring student research on history, politics, and the tourism industry of each city. Other chapters included critical analysis essays about relevant cultural subjects, such as Taipei's night markets, Tokyo's work culture, and the preservation of the Cantonese language in Hong Kong.

Open pedagogy assignments can also have a smaller scope. For example, students could be invited to openly license and publish other types of materials as standalone learning objects or artifacts that could be shared online. For example, students could create videos or presentations demonstrating a problem solving technique or create podcasts about their research topic.

When students are empowered to contribute their work to the knowledge commons and the world more broadly, this helps them see value in their labor and in the end product itself. Consequently, producing something of value can itself add value to the learning experience. Knowing that others may use and benefit from their work can mitigate student perceptions that doing homework is a waste of time. In fact, this awareness may encourage students to invest more time and effort into producing a high-quality product, thereby enhancing their own mastery of the content. Finally, knowing that others will have the opportunity to see and engage with their work can help students view themselves as active participants in the broader scholarly conversation.

### **LIBRARIANS AS COLLABORATORS TO HELP ENSURE STUDENT AGENCY**

How can libraries support instructors in adopting open pedagogy? First, and most importantly, librarians can consult with faculty around the design of the assignment and help ensure students retain agency over their work. This step is crucial, as it is essential to confirm that students have control over whether and how their work is shared. Instructors should provide students with the opportunity to choose whether or not they want to publish their work. For students who do not want to publish, those decisions must be respected and should have no impact on their grade. Instructors may consider offering alternative assignments for those students, or simply allow them to complete the assignment without taking the extra step of sharing the work online. Librarians can help navigate these logistical scenarios and make recommendations on manageable and sustainable approaches.

For students who do want to publish their work, allowing them to choose their own open license will encourage them to more critically consider how they would like their work to be used. For example, students who are comfortable with their work being adapted except for commercial purposes may be comfortable publishing under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial International License. Designing the assignment in such a way to provide students with the choice of an open license can inspire them to think critically

about the different ways information is produced, shared, and used, which can inform how they think about other information they produce and publish online.

Another way to enhance student agency is to allow students to be credited as they wish in their openly published work. Students may not be comfortable connecting their legal name to their work, so instructors should provide them with an opportunity to publish their work anonymously or under a pseudonym. This enables students to protect their privacy while still allowing them to participate in the open publishing process.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR OPEN PEDAGOGY**


The consultative phase is the most important and can involve in-depth conversations with faculty about their plan for the assignment and how students can engage in the open publishing process. Librarians can also provide instructional support for open pedagogy by leveraging our expertise in information literacy and open licensing. For example, librarians can help students gain perspective on the benefits of open publishing, as well as its implications for them and their work. We can also address how open licensing functions on top of copyright and help students understand the different ways that openly licensed material can be reused and modified, distinguishing this from traditional copyrighted materials.

Finally, librarians can provide technical expertise in publishing and sharing openly licensed materials created with students. We can assist faculty in identifying appropriate platforms available for creating and sharing OER that will work best for their assignment. In addition, we can also provide support in enhancing the discoverability of the resources by helping instructors deposit materials in major OER repositories, where they can be more easily found and used by others. We can also assist with archiving OER in institutional repositories for long-term preservation.

OER can be leveraged to enhance student learning in a unique and powerful way through open pedagogy. Instructors who engage in this practice can benefit from the support of librarians, who can provide consultative, instructional, and technical expertise to maximize student engagement with the open publishing process. Librarians already possess many of the skills necessary to support open pedagogy and can use these skills to enter into engaging and meaningful collaborations with faculty. These partnerships can ultimately benefit students, who can learn to see the value in the work they produce and share, and how open education can help them as well as future learners.

*Kate McNally Carter is the Open Educational Resources Librarian at University of Houston Libraries.*





# School and Academic Librarians

## Cultivating Collaboration

By Kelly Hoppe

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*Collaboration is a core value of libraries and librarians,  
especially teaching librarians.*

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**YOU’LL SEE VARIOUS FORMS OF THE WORD MENTIONED THROUGHOUT DIFFERENT LIBRARY STANDARDS.** As an academic librarian, I’m constantly on the lookout for ways to promote academic/school librarian partnerships. Maybe this is more on my radar because I was a school librarian for 14 years before moving to academia. As a school librarian, there were many teachers who understood the value of collaborating with a school librarian; however, there were just as many to whom the library and librarian were just an enigma and they had little idea about the myriad of valuable collaborative possibilities that existed with a highly trained individual

just steps away on their campus. They did not understand that collaborating with a librarian could reduce the student-teacher ratio, therefore providing students with more individual attention. They did not understand that collaborating with a librarian could help them strengthen areas where they were lacking in knowledge or experience. As a school librarian, I did my best to educate my colleagues on the value of these collaborative partnerships, but I knew there had to be a way to do more.

When I became an academic librarian in 2017, that dilemma did not go away as one of the professors always wanted me to talk about my school

library experiences with his preservice teachers each time I provided instruction for his class, an opportunity for which I was grateful as it allowed me the opportunity to continue to spread the “Collaborate” message. I would share my experiences of working with special education students, explaining how my lessons with them would span the range of lessons about the holidays to teaching them how to write research papers — spelling out explicitly that my training as a classroom teacher gave me the knowledge to know how to do all of that. I emphasized that once they became teachers, they would have access to the very same relationship by collaborating

with their school librarian. Through this experience, I realized I was perfectly situated as an academic librarian, with previous K12 experience, to make a huge impact and had to figure out a way to make the message more widely heard. I knew there had to be a way to spread the message more broadly. What if there was a way to talk to a larger group of preservice teachers educating them about the power of collaborating with their school librarian BEFORE they ever walked onto a K-12 campus for their first teaching experience?

Fast forward several months, and an idea that started as a fleeting thought has now come to fruition with phenomenal results. It developed into something more impactful than I ever dreamed possible. The inaugural event, **School Librarians: The Missing Piece**, a panel of three school librarians and one district level library director speaking to 140 preservice teachers, took place this fall. This program was the result of a collaborative experience between myself, the panelists and five Education Department faculty members. It was an opportunity to

educate preservice teachers about the power of collaborating with school librarians before they actually begin their teaching careers. They were able to hear about the experiences of the panelists who were from a variety of schools, ranging from a rural 1A community to a 5A District, and ask questions so they would begin their careers with a thorough knowledge of everything from how one becomes a school librarian in Texas to the full range of collaborative possibilities offered by school librarians.

Local TV news station KFDA featured our event in [this news segment](#).

Specifically, some of the things discussed were the importance of the school library as a safe place, ways to get students excited about reading and the impact of the ever-changing digital world on librarians and library services. Questions from the audience continued the conversation on topics such as English Language Learners, Special Education students and banned books.

Feedback from participating students was highly complementary and in addition to presenting on the topic at

TLA 2024, all collaborating partners are now discussing the possibility of a Children's Literature symposium in the spring with the panel becoming a reoccurring fall event.

There were several messages I hoped to convey at the event. First, school librarians are well credentialed, experienced educators but more importantly, I wanted to touch the heart of attendees and impress upon them the concept of the library as a safe place, the undisputable fact that it's a safe haven for countless students. Finally, my overarching goal was that attendees walked away with ideas about how to collaborate with the school librarian on their campus and that they would be encouraged to tap into that vast wealth of knowledge, experience and most importantly compassion, caring and heart that are the innate qualities of school librarians. We succeeded beyond my wildest dreams!

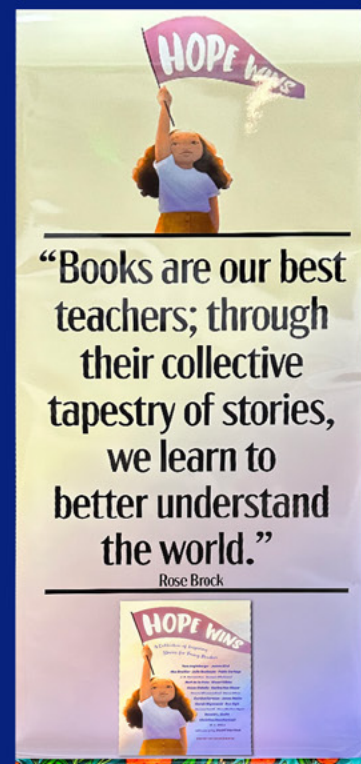
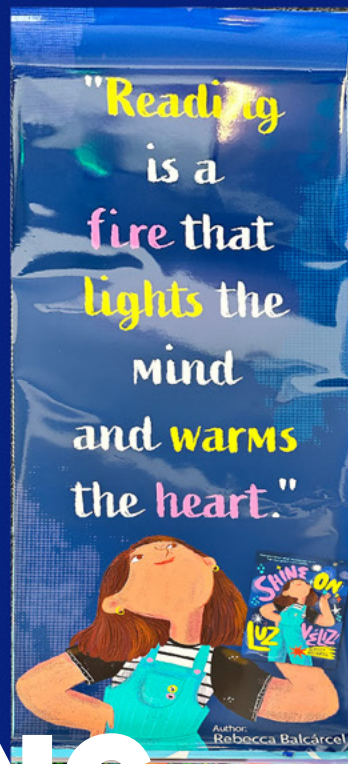
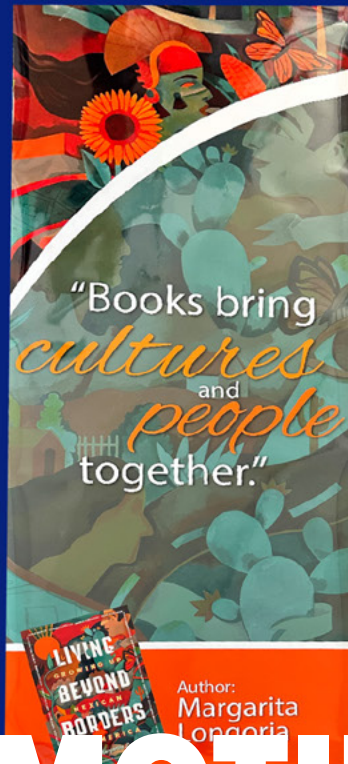
*Kelly Hoppe is Head of Outreach And Instruction at the Cornette Library, West Texas A&M University.*

Dive into the literary wonders curated by Texas Library Association members! Explore an unparalleled selection of reading lists tailored for every age from 2 to 102. From captivating fiction to riveting nonfiction to vibrant graphic novels and everything in between.

New 2024 lists available!



[txla.org/reading-lists](https://txla.org/reading-lists)



# PROMOTING LITERACY THROUGH BOOKS & ART

## Celebrating Texas Authors

By Deborah Zeman

In the world of a librarian, creativity knows no bounds when it comes to promoting literacy. From engaging reading challenges to vibrant library displays, librarians continuously strive to ignite the passion for books among students. Today, I want to share how I brought a touch of Texas to Hedrick Middle School Library to celebrate Texas authors while promoting literacy and the love of reading: by creating a giant bookmark display! The bookmarks measure 3' x 8', and display featured quotes from notable Texas authors, showcasing the rich literary heritage of the Lone Star State.





Texas has always been home to countless talented authors, producing books that have captivated readers around the world. As a middle school librarian who has had the opportunity to meet, interview, and eventually become friends with some of these authors, I recognized this wealth of talent and sought to celebrate it by featuring quotes on giant bookmarks.

The idea for the display itself came from myself and the district's designer, Tony Hicks. He came to visit the library and asked what I envisioned on the walls. To give you an idea of the space we have, my library has 30-foot high ceilings and a lot of blank space to fill in. We began to brainstorm. At first, I was throwing out quotes from books and then Tony suggested bookmarks, more specifically, quotes from Texas authors. Oddly enough, I had created a bookmark a couple of years ago with the quote: "The Love of Learning Comes From the Love of Reading". His eyes grew wide and said, "Yes! - that will be the centerpiece." Fortunately, I was already interviewing a couple of authors at the North Texas Book Festival and could ask them if they were willing to participate in this project.

I emailed six authors, whose works range from middle-grade to young adult to nonfiction. I explained the idea and how I wanted to not only promote their works but promote their love of reading.



Within thirty minutes of sending the email, all six were on board, sending the most inspiring quotes in relation to the central quote of the display. The quotes, along with the accompanying images and artwork of the books' covers were sent on to the designer. The result is both heart-stopping and inspiring. When I received the preliminary artwork, I was both stunned and tearful. They were magnificent. I was able to share the drafts with some of the authors at the TLA Annual Conference, and to say that they were surprised and pleased is an understatement. The impact of seeing their words married to the book cover images left them speechless.

I want to send a special thank you to the authors who took the time to provide these inspiring quotes: Rebecca Balcárcel, Rose Brock, Lisa Fipps, Margie Longoria, Jasminne Mendez, and Rex Ogle. I am hopeful that we will be able to add additional quotes and bookmarks from Texas authors in the future.

The primary objective behind this project is to promote literacy among middle school students. By featuring quotes from Texas authors, I want to expose students to the diverse literary voices of their home state, fostering a sense of pride and connection to their cultural heritage. The display also encourages them to explore these authors' works and discover new books to enjoy.

The quotes selected for the display were carefully chosen to resonate with young minds, offering words of wisdom, motivation, and insight from these well-known Texas authors. By encountering these powerful words every time they visit the library, the students will be

inspired to embark on their own literary journeys, explore different genres, and embrace the joys of reading.

Beyond its literacy-promoting purpose, the display also enhances the overall atmosphere of the library. It transformed this space into a visually appealing and welcoming environment that beckons students to explore the world of books. The bookmarks add color, texture, and personality to the walls, stimulating curiosity and a desire to discover the stories behind the quotes.

I am hopeful that this project will extend beyond the walls of the library, by reaching out to the larger community. As we are able to add additional bookmarks, I will actively involve students, teachers, and parents by inviting them to suggest quotes from their favorite Texas authors. This collaborative effort will further foster a sense of ownership and pride, making the display a true representation of the school community's literary tastes and interests.

By celebrating the rich literary heritage of the Lone Star State, this project instills a love for reading and encourages students to explore the works of local authors. It serves as a constant reminder of the transformative power of books and the joy of storytelling. Through creative initiatives like this, librarians will continue to ignite the imaginations of young minds and cultivate a lifelong love for literature.

*Deborah Zeman is a Library Media & Instructional Design Specialist at Hedrick Middle School, Lewisville ISD.*



# LIBRARIES ARE A Gift THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

By Jeannette Davies

## TALK ABOUT THE ONE GIFT THAT JUST KEEPS ON GIVING.

Libraries are it. Libraries, locally, regionally, nationally, and globally are the consummate community givers. Ever-evolving, changing, and adapting to meet users' needs, libraries provide books, DVDs, CDs, computers, programming, etc. The list goes on and on. Increasingly important, libraries serve as a community's third space between home and school. Readers, creatives, writers, musicians, claim their local library as the one place that inspired them to learn to read, put brush to canvas, pen to paper, notes to music. Libraries are often given the honorable distinction as being the one place that saved patrons from their own devices.

This holiday season, encourage your patrons to give one another the gift of the library. Taking your grandchildren, nieces or nephews or other loved ones (along with a parent or guardian) to the library to get their first library card is a gift that could change their lives. Going to a library event together, whether that's a story time, wildlife exhibit, crafts activity or performance, is a special memory you can make together.

Libraries have a challenging role to play, trying to be all things to all people. A virtually impossible feat, yet library gatekeepers are committed. They understand only too well the responsibility libraries carry and willingly carry the torch, order the books, work with cities, counties, boards of trustees, to grow libraries, knowing full well, change is the only constant.

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein comes to mind. The tree's

love of giving represents the happiness humans can experience in finding a greater cause.

In the role of the giving library, all libraries face the challenging role of trying to be all things to all people. Gatekeepers of libraries understand change as the one truly constant. Librarians across Texas know the drill. They know how to stay calm and carry on the mission of libraries day after day, come what may.

In a world of upheaval, libraries remain constant. Always present. Yes, changing with the times, changing with technology, and changing with patron requests, demands. Rain or shine, less funding, more funding, book challenge after book challenge, libraries are undeniably the one gift that keeps on giving, again and again.

Inspire your patrons to share the gift of the library! The best way to introduce someone to the library and help them sign up for a library card is to make a special day of it. Bring your family member, friend or new neighbor to the library with you, offer assistance in signing up for a library card, then show them your favorite parts of the library and complete the outing with coffee, hot chocolate and a treat at a local bakery or coffee shop. For people new to your neighborhood or city, it's a great way of connecting to the gift that keeps on giving – your local library.

*Jeannette Davies is the Library Manager of the Brook Hollow branch of the San Antonio Public Library.*

## TLA Awards & Scholarships Applications Deadline Feb. 1

Calling all librarians! It's time to honor brilliance in our community. Nominate exceptional librarians and library programs for the coveted TLA Awards. Deadline Feb. 1. Learn about the TLA Awards [here](#). TLA scholarship applications are open too. More information about scholarships can be found [here](#). Share this information with the library students you know!

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### TEXAS BLUEBONNET AWARD VOTING

Voting is open for the Texas Bluebonnet Award! Don't forget to register your school or public library. Voting ends February 10, 2024. [Register](#).

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### BRANDING IRON AWARD DEADLINE FEBRUARY 15

TLA's Branding Iron Awards honor the inspiring and creative marketing efforts of all types of libraries with awards presented in several categories, and one overall Best of Show winner. [Share your best work with us!](#)

### In Memoriam

Katherine Boyer  
 Ada Jane Brooks  
 Carol Joyce Brown  
 Mary D. Lankford  
 Rose Aleta Laurell  
 Elizabeth Meeker  
 Larry Joel Ringer  
 John Thomas Ringhauser  
 Carolyn Gassman Simon  
 Karen VanLeuvan  
 Richard Lee "Dick" Waters

### TOCKER FOUNDATION: APPLY FOR A TLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE TRAVEL STIPEND

The Tocker Foundation is pleased to provide travel stipends for staff at rural libraries to attend the TLA's annual conference.



**TOCKER**  
FOUNDATION

Attendees will enjoy opportunities to learn from experts in the field, find new vendors in the exhibit hall, network with their peers, hear from authors as well gain valuable CEU's at designated sessions. [Learn more and apply](#). Deadline is January 20.

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### BOOK YOUR HOTEL FOR TLA 2024

Make your hotel room reservations now as hotels are starting to fill. It is very important that you book your hotel room within the TLA block. Booking within the block supports TLA, ensures a competitive rate, can ease the challenges with reservation changes, and encourages networking as you'll be staying near other conference attendees. When you reserve a room with an official TLA hotel, you are helping to keep costs down and support not only TLA in 2024, but also for future meetings. [Reserve your room.](#)

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### ORDER YOUR TLA 2024 MERCHANDISE

Get ready to show your Texas Library Association pride with our exclusive TLA 2024 Annual Conference merchandise! We've got T shirts (including tie dye), tote bags and mugs. (These will not be available onsite at conference.) [Order yours today.](#)



## Meet the Executive Board Candidates

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

**Joel Bangilan**

Librarian

Recent work at the Boniuk Library at Holocaust Museum Houston has heightened the awareness of censorship, racism, and discrimination throughout history, the body of literature, and the shared knowledge maintained in Texas libraries. The library is a stronghold of democracy. Libraries and other institutions of learning like schools, museums, media, universities, and other public spaces, must lead the way to building on the collective knowledge to avoid the pitfalls of extremism. Libraries must open the scope to include histories that have been neglected to prepare for future coexistence. Librarians must purposefully and realistically adapt to changing constituencies, economies, expectations and innovations. When librarians are collaborating, cooperating, and sharing responsibilities, Texans can experience the benefits of the wisdom found in libraries across the state.

**Valerie Prilop**

Senior Librarian, MD Anderson Cancer Center

My work with the executive board has emphasized intentional Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. The Coalition of Texans for the Right to Read helps librarians to do the same in their communities. We must help all librarians sustain academic and intellectual freedom. Challenges in school libraries have repercussions across public and academic libraries as well. All library types and areas need spaces to collaborate more effectively. With challenges like COVID, censorship, and other unforeseen events, librarians are leaving the field unexpectedly, highlighting our need for better succession planning. We must supplement this with more effective recruitment to fill roles that have been vacated. Finally, considering the impact these challenges have had on libraries across Texas, I will focus on rebuilding our confidence and empowering our library workers.



### REPRESENTATIVE-AT-LARGE (ACADEMIC)

**Elizabeth Nebeker**

Lead Librarian, Highland Instruction Librarian and Adjunct Faculty, Lone Star College – Cyfair  
Attacks on books, libraries and librarians are at an all-time high. Libraries have become a pawn in politics because many people do not understand the value of libraries. This is a critical issue affecting TLA and the Texas library community. School, academic, and public libraries are all being impacted by the lack of understanding of who librarians are and what libraries do. There is a crucial need to redefine and articulate libraries' roles beyond traditional repositories of books. As an Association, we need to support libraries as they face this pivotal challenge. We must harness innovative communication strategies to spotlight libraries as dynamic knowledge centers, fostering literacy, community engagement, and technological empowerment. Effectively conveying the contemporary relevance of libraries helps communicate the value of libraries.

**Cynthia Y. Rodriguez**

Director of Library Services, Laredo College

The Texas library community faces a multitude of pressing challenges. Foremost among these is the preservation of intellectual freedom. The Texas Library Association can lead the way by advocating for essential resources and endorsing best practices to provide steadfast support to librarians. Simultaneously, it is crucial to fortify membership to secure the profession's longevity. In order to better serve Texas's diverse population, TLA should prioritize leadership training, offering comprehensive training and resource support. The persistent challenge of retaining skilled library professionals can be eased through advocacy, the promotion of professional development opportunities, and the establishment of mentorship programs. Augmenting its membership will strengthen the Texas library community, ensuring that libraries continue to fulfill their indispensable role as cornerstones of their communities.



## REPRESENTATIVE-AT-LARGE (PUBLIC)

### Jill Donegan

Director, Tom Green County Library System

Libraries are in a vulnerable place right now. Our collections and services are being scrutinized and challenged. Our very profession is being questioned and devalued. Libraries have historically stood as beacons of knowledge, where people of all backgrounds can access a diverse range of materials, engage in informed discourse, and expand their minds and horizons. They play a critical role in fostering literacy, education and intellectual growth for all. However, recent challenges impacting all that we stand for are threatening our livelihood, hindering our mission, and putting the profession in peril. We need to train new librarians and support seasoned librarians as we navigate this new landscape.



### Israel Favela

Collection Development and Cataloging Manager at Houston Public Library

Librarians know a lot about adversity; now, the current political climate has led to increased challenges to our profession and to our collections. Censorship puts freedom of information at risk; in some cases, librarians advocating the value of diverse collections featuring “controversial” topics do so at a personal and professional cost. However, librarians are resilient, and we must continue to pull together as we have done in the past: working together with our peers, supporting each other, and sharing tools to overcome these challenges so that we may continue to thrive and libraries may continue to be a welcoming space for all, including staff. The safety as well as the mental and physical well-being of our most valuable assets, the staff, are critical to our profession.



## ALA COUNCILOR

### Stacy Cameron

Library & Instructional Materials Coordinator, New Caney ISD

What an interesting time to be a librarian! Despite it all, we remain focused on the important work we do for our library communities. TLA has been right there with us, providing support and resources to members and advocating for Texas libraries. The most critical issues facing us right now are divisions among membership, weariness from what we’ve been through, and uncertainty for what is to come. We address these challenges by looking for opportunities to find common ground, shining a light on all the great work of Texas librarians, and leveraging the resources of the Association and each other. I am excited to be part of what is to come with libraries and I will support all Texas librarians through my work on the executive board.



### Monica Babaian

Librarian, Fort Bend ISD

The most critical issues libraries currently face are attacks on intellectual freedom, the mischaracterization of how libraries impact their local communities, and budget cuts. Unfortunately, these issues have a negative impact on morale among librarians as well as the local community as a whole.

Texas librarians have done an excellent job of promoting the work that we do, and now it is time to shift our focus to helping decision-makers understand the influence that our work has on communities. We must provide our members with the tools necessary to build relationships with stakeholders and bring awareness to how libraries enrich lives and strengthen communities by cultivating informed, engaged citizens.



## JOIN BY JANUARY 31 TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN TLA ELECTIONS

In 2024, members will elect a President-elect, Representative-at-large (Academic), Representative-at-large (Public) and an ALA Councilor to serve on the Executive Board. TLA elections will open mid-January and close mid-February. **You must be a current 2024 member by January 31 to be eligible to vote in the elections.** Your participation in the election process is critical as these leaders will help set the course for the association for the coming year. [Join today.](#)



# Partnering With TLA To Explore Member Dues Options

By Marcie Peck, MA and Moira Edwards, MS, CAE

## **LAST YEAR, THE TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (TLA) SOUGHT THE HELP OF OUR COMPANY, ELLIPSIS**

**PARTNERS**, to explore and assess the organization's current member dues structure and make recommendations for an alternative dues structure. Ellipsis Partners serves as a trusted advisor to associations across the country and has previously counseled TLA on several major initiatives. We were honored to partner with TLA once again on this effort.

Currently, TLA has a complicated structure of member dues, based on member income, and the division, roundtable, and district options a member chooses. Originally developed in alignment with the dues structure of the American Library Association, TLA's dues structure has since become burdensome, clunky for members to navigate, and complex to administer.

## **GOALS**

Working closely with TLA's leadership, we established the following goals for this project:

- Develop a simplified member dues structure that is easy to understand, administer, and pay.
- Continue to have a dues structure that reflects TLA members' ability to pay.
- Remove barriers for new members to join and engage.
- Grow TLA's membership.

Over the past year, our team has engaged in a multi-step process to accomplish these goals:

**Conversations with TLA staff:** Ellipsis Partners met on multiple occasions with TLA staff to gain historical context behind the current dues structure and deepen our understanding of member and organizational needs.

**Comparative Research:** We identified five member-based organizations, including Texas-based non-library associations and larger library-focused organizations, and conducted detailed interviews with them about their membership and dues structure. We conducted additional online research, gathering information from all 50 state-library organizations to identify trends in membership dues structure and implementation.

**Literature Scan:** Membership structures are often the subject of discussion in association forums and publications. We reviewed and distilled the most current thinking on membership structure from association literature and combined that with our experience with membership structure challenges and innovations that we have seen addressed. This provided an understanding of best practices and a framework in which to place our recommendations.

**Focus Groups:** Utilizing a focus group format, we met with 40 current TLA members, both in person at the TLA Annual Conference in Austin last April and online in June. Participants represented all library types, sizes, and geographic locations. Members told us why they joined and remain members of TLA and described the value of that membership to them personally and professionally. We learned much about their goals and expectations of TLA membership, their perception of the value of membership, and how that measures against the cost of membership.

## **MEMBER SURVEY:**

Working closely with TLA staff, Ellipsis Partners designed and fielded a survey to understand current and former TLA members' needs and preferences, and how that relates to paying annual dues.

We asked about members' work environments, participation in districts, divisions, and roundtables, attendance at conference, how long they've been a member, and who pays their annual dues.

In an open-ended question, we inquired, "what is the best part of being a TLA member?" and received a wide variety of responses reflecting how much the association means to participants, both personally and professionally.

Finally, we tested members' comfort level with various flat dues rates for librarians, students, vendor/suppliers, unemployed, and retired members.

The survey was open for two weeks, between Oct. 12-27, and 2,702 current and former TLA members participated.

## **OVERALL FINDINGS**

Members value TLA immensely. Attendance at the conference; involvement in roundtables, districts, and divisions; and participation in programs like TALL Texans and the Texas Bluebonnet Award are very important to their professional lives. Members were passionate about how TLA has given them a professional home, as well as additional career opportunities.

However, those involved in library services have limited budgets. A high level of dues would be an immense barrier for the many who pay for dues themselves or have to rely on uncertain budgets to fund their membership.

At the same time, the current multi-tier structure is tricky, and hard to figure out. A simplified structure would make it easier to explain, understand, and pay. This applies especially to library systems that might be paying dues for multiple members. In addition, the move nationally is away from dues reflecting a direct correlation to individual income, toward a simpler structure that still accommodates those at different income levels.



As a result, our recommendations for TLA consideration are:

#### Remove levels of income

- Move away from the current multi-tiered structure of income levels.
- Instead have levels reflecting role within the workplace.
- Retain options for those in transition, such as students, unemployed or retired.

#### Utilize a flat fee for adding additional units

- Make this a flat fee that is easy to calculate when members choose to add additional divisions, districts, or round tables to their membership.

#### Enhance library membership

- Implement an institutional membership.
- Charge dues that are based on the institution's revenue.

#### Increase dues for vendors and corporate partners

- Increase dues for commercial entities and consider organization-based dues.

### SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on our research and analysis, Ellipsis Partners has developed the following draft recommendations for a new TLA Member Dues Structure (*see below table*).

### HOW WILL THESE CHANGES HELP TLA MEMBERS AND THE WHOLE ASSOCIATION?

In contrast to the current complex member dues structure, we believe the adoption of the new recommendations will simplify and streamline how TLA members understand and pay annual dues.

Instead of determining dues based on income, the new system will align with the professional level of each individual member

Students and unemployed members will have financial margin in a season where they find themselves low on cash but still eager to learn new skills, stay informed about industry

trends, and connect with other library professionals.

Additional districts, divisions, and roundtables will have a flat fee that is easy to understand.

With this new level of simplicity, the administration of the system will be more efficient.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

Between January-February 2024, Ellipsis Partners will host online discussion groups with TLA members. We anticipate three to four groups to be scheduled. These discussions will provide an opportunity for members to give live feedback on the proposed dues structure.

Meanwhile, TLA will offer dedicated opportunities to discuss the proposed dues changes in the TLA Engage online platform. TLA will also host virtual town halls open to all members to answer questions and gain additional feedback.

Last, we will present our final set of recommendations to the TLA Council during TLA's Annual Conference in April. Once approved by Council, TLA's membership will be asked to vote whether or not to approve and adopt the recommended changes.

It is an exciting time in the life of the Texas Library Association. Once again, it is an honor to work with TLA's Board of Directors and dedicated staff on this initiative. We look forward to hearing from you in the months ahead as we finalize our recommendations and move forward for the growth of the organization and the benefit of its current and future members.

**[TLA wants to hear from you! If you have questions or concerns about the proposed recommendations or the work Ellipsis Partners and TLA have done on this initiative, please click here to share that with us.](#)**

*Moir Edwards and Marcie Peck are consultants with Ellipsis Partners, LLC, a firm that works exclusively with associations and nonprofits on strategy, operational, and technology decisions.*

Member Type	Description	Annual Member Dues
Regular	Includes 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 certification; or (c) are managerial.	\$187-\$207*
Library Support Staff	Includes those employed in library and information services or related activities in a non-managerial or support role.	\$53-\$67*
Unemployed	Includes those without current salary or in-transition.	\$0 (Up to 2 years)
Students	Includes individuals currently enrolled in a library science course of study	\$0
Associate	Includes those 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	Includes those 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	Includes those that provide services to libraries and information services professionals.	\$275-\$325
Institutional	Sliding scale of fees based on size of institution.	Fees will vary based on the published revenue of the institution.
Unit Fees	A fee to cover the costs of participating in additional Districts, Divisions, and Roundtables.	\$5.00

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



STORIES INSPIRE  
OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT  
**TLA★2024**  
★ SAN ANTONIO ★  
APRIL 16 – 19

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM



# Conference Welcome

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Welcome to TLA 2024!

It gives me immense pleasure to extend a warm invitation to each of you to join us at the TLA 2024 Annual Conference!

On behalf of the Conference Planning Committee, the TLA Executive Board, the TLA staff, and everyone who has worked so hard to bring this conference to life, I am honored to share the 2024 Annual Conference Program with you.

From April 16 to 19, the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in downtown San Antonio will transform into a haven for learning, networking, and celebration. No matter your affiliation—be it school, public, academic, or special libraries—this conference is tailor-made to empower you with sessions designed to elevate your service to our communities.

Our theme for TLA 2024 is “Stories Inspire, Opportunities Await.” At conference, you will

- **Listen and Be Inspired:** Engage with renowned speakers, bestselling authors, and leaders within our field to glean insights, perspectives, and inspiration that will fuel your professional journey.
- **Rediscover Your Passion:** Reignite your fervor for librarianship, rekindling the essence of why you embarked on librarianship as a career, and rediscover the profound impact we have on our patrons.
- **Forge Connections:** Build robust networks, forging connections with like-minded professionals, fostering growth through shared experiences.

In addition to many learning opportunities, TLA 2024 provides a unique opportunity to relax, have fun and create lasting memories with your librarian friends in beautiful San Antonio. We look forward to seeing you there!

*Gretchen Pruett*

Gretchen Pruett  
TLA President 2023–2024

# Featured Speakers



**TOMI ADEYEMI** 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.



**KATHERINE CENTER** is "the reigning queen of comfort reads," according to *BookPage*. She's the *New York Times* bestselling author of ten novels, including *How to Walk Away*, *Things You Save in a Fire*, and her newest, *Hello Stranger*. Her summer 2024 book is *The Rom-Comers*—a connected story to her blockbuster hit, *The Bodyguard*. Katherine writes laugh-and-cry books: deep romantic comedies about how life knocks us down—and how we get back up. The Netflix movie adaptation of her novel *Happiness for Beginners*—starring Ellie Kemper and Luke Grimes—hit the Global Top Ten in 81 countries.



**ERNEST CLINE** is an internationally bestselling novelist, screenwriter, father, and full-time geek. He is the author of the novels *Ready Player One* and *Armada* and co-screenwriter of the film adaptation of *Ready Player One*, directed by Steven Spielberg. His books have been published in more than 50 countries and have spent more than 100 weeks on the *New York Times* bestsellers list. He lives in Austin, Texas, with his family, a time-traveling DeLorean, and a large collection of classic video games.



**KATE DICAMILLO** is the author of many books for young readers. Her books have been awarded the Newbery Medal (*Flora & Ulysses* in 2014 and *The Tale of Despereaux* in 2004); the Newbery Honor (*Because of Winn-Dixie*, 2001), the Boston Globe Horn Book Award (*The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, 2006), and the Theodor Geisel Medal and honor (*Bink and Gollie*, co-author Alison McGhee, 2011; *Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride*, 2007). She is a National Ambassador for Young People's Literature Emerita, appointed by the Library of Congress.



**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.



**KATHY ISHIZUKA** is the Executive Editor of the *School Library Journal*. From spearheading an annual awards program to creating SIPs dedicated to issues facing educators, she has worked to transform *School Library Journal* for success in the digital age. Constantly working on new initiatives and projects, she has led several partnerships aimed at bolstering the SLJ brand within its space, including working with the nonprofit organization We Need Diverse Books to create a diverse books kit for booksellers, librarians and teachers.



**ABBY JIMENEZ** is a Food Network winner, *USA Today* and *New York Times* best-selling author, and recipient of the 2022 Minnesota Book Award for her novel *Life's Too Short*. Abby founded Nadia Cakes out of her home kitchen back in 2007. The bakery has since gone on to win numerous Food Network competitions and has amassed an international following.



**TJ KLUNE** is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling, Lambda Literary Award-winning author of *The House in the Cerulean Sea*, *The Extraordinaries*, and more. Being queer himself, Klune believes it's important—now more than ever—to have accurate, positive queer representation in stories.

# Featured Speakers



**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 24, 2024.



**GEORGE TAKEI** is a civil rights activist, social media superstar, Grammy-nominated 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.



**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 also a 2018 Kirkus Prize finalist, and which was followed by two more acclaimed books about the Suárez family: *Merci Suárez Can't Dance* and *Merci Suárez Plays It Cool*. Her work examines how cultures intersect through the eyes of young people, and she brings audiences stories that speak to both what is unique in Latino culture and qualities that are universal. Her favorite protagonists are strong girls.



**KELLY YANG** is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Front Desk* (winner of the 2019 Asian Pacific American Award for Children's Literature), *Parachutes*, *Three Keys*, *Room to Dream*, *New from Here*, *Finally Seen*, and *Finally Heard*. *Front Desk* also won the Parents' Choice Gold Medal, was the 2019 Global Read Aloud, and has earned numerous other honors including being named a best book of the year by Amazon, *The Washington Post*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *School Library Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, and NPR.



**STEVEN ROWLEY** is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Lily and the Octopus*, a Washington Post Notable Book of 2016, *The Editor*, named by NPR as one of the Best Books of 2019, *The Guncle*, a Goodreads Choice Awards finalist for 2021 Novel of the Year and winner of The 22nd Thurber Prize for American Humor, and *The Celebrants*, a TODAY Show Read With Jenna Book Club pick. His fiction has been published in twenty languages. All of his books are in development for feature film or television adaptation.



**DR. MICHELLE 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 for 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 degree in Administration and Supervision from the University of Houston, a Bachelor's of Arts in English from the University of Houston, and an Associate of Arts from Ranger College in North Texas.



**LISA WINGATE** is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of over thirty novels, including the instant bestseller *The Book of Lost Friends* and *Before We Were Yours*, which remained on the 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. She coauthored a nonfiction book, *Before and After* with Judy Christie.



TLA thanks our generous 2023 Sponsors who contributed to the success of our 2023 events.

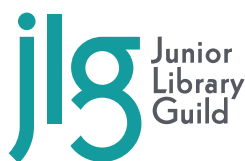
### Legacy Partner



### President's Circle



### Diamond



### Platinum



### Gold



### Silver



As of December 13, 2023

# 2024 Conference Planning Committee

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Thank you to the members of the 2024 Conference Planning Committee for their dedication and hard work. Many, many hours went into planning the TLA 2024 Annual Conference and we are grateful for their commitment.

**Kate Horan**, McAllen Public Library, Co-Chair  
**Wendy Pray**, Mission CISD, Co-Chair  
Joel Bangilan  
Zinnia Bayardo, Northside ISD  
Michelle Beebower, Austin Public Library  
Kristen Calvert, Dallas Public Library  
Nichole Chagnon, Austin Public Library  
Katherine Counterman, Katy ISD  
Billy Cryer, Texas A&M International University  
Virginia Druart, Trinity Episcopal School  
Matt Glaser, Midland County Public Library  
Tosca Gonsalves, Palo Alto College  
Samantha Gordano, St. Philip’s College  
Joni Harris, Plano ISD  
John Hayden, Walworth Harrison Public Library  
Amanda Hunt, New Braunfels Public Library  
Lauren Jones, Mesquite ISD

Lisa Kulka, Northside ISD  
Jake Mangum, University of North Texas  
Tuan Nguyen, Mackin Educational Resources  
Julie Ousley, New Braunfels Public Library  
Joe Pendleton, Amberton University  
Christine Peterson, Amigos Library Services  
Sergio Pineda, Ysleta ISD  
Jillian Pratt, Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD  
Ruby Robinson, University of Houston-Downtown  
Elizabeth Rush, Northside ISD  
Felice Sanders-Johnson, Arlington ISD  
Jacob Sherman, University of Texas at San Antonio  
Carolyn Slavin, Leander ISD  
Dorothy Steelman, Pleasanton Library  
Dawn Wilbert, Decatur Public Library  
Dawn Zeig, San Antonio Public Library

## Code of Conduct

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The Texas Library Association (TLA) is dedicated to providing a harassment-free 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.

## 720 Design

**A.** Bargas & Associates  
ABDO

Abrams The Art of Books  
Adilam Inc.

Adobe

ALA Membership / State  
Chapters

ALA Office of Intellectual  
Freedom

Albert Whitman & Company

Alexandria by Companion  
Corporation

Amy Vogel

Anti-Defamation League

Arcadia Children's Books

Arte Publico Press

Astra Books for Young  
Readers

Authors and More

Auto-Graphics, Inc.

AWE Learning

**B**aker & Taylor

BattleQuestions.com

Bayou City Press

Beanstack/ZooBean, Inc.

Bearport Publishing

Beech Street Books

Bellwether Media

Benbrook Library

Biblionix

Bibliotheca

Black Sands Entertainment

Blackstone Library

Bloomsbury / ABC-CLIO

Bloomsbury Children's  
Books

Book Nook

Book Systems, Inc.

Bookelicious

Bookish Love Co.

Books Are Fun

Bound To Stay Bound Books

Brainfuse

Braver Angels of Central  
Texas

Britannica Education

Broadcast Made Easy

Brodart Co.

Brown Books Publishing  
Group

BRW Architects

Bywater Solutions LLC

**C**ameron Books

Candlewick Press

Capstone

Carpe Librum

Cavendish Square /  
Greenhaven

Charlesbridge

Cherry Lake Publishing

Children's Plus

Child's Play

Chronicle Books

Claire Lynn Designs

CoLibri System

Consortium

Cover One

Crabtree Publishing  
Company

Creativebug

Cultural Surroundings

**D**ata Axle Reference  
Solutions

Del Alma Publications, LLC

Delaney Educational

Demco/Upstart

Demco's Book Doctor

Dexterity / K-LOVE Books

Diamond Book Distributors

Disney Publishing  
Worldwide

DK

D-Tech International USA

Dynamic Authors Group

**E**BSCO Information  
Services

Eerdmans Books for Young  
Readers

EnvisionWare

**F**actcite/Lincoln Library  
Press, Inc.

FE Technologies

Firefly Books

Flying Eye Books

Follett

Fox Chapel Publishing

fun abounds

**G**ale, part of Cengage  
Learning

Gareth Stevens/Enslow  
Publishers

Garrett Book Company

Groundwood Books

Gumdrop Books

**H**achette Book Group

Half Price Books

Hamilton Buhl

hand2mind

The TLA Exhibit Hall features the latest library-related products and services. Be sure to allow plenty of time to visit and connect with the exhibitors. Check out the [online exhibit floorplan](#) and directory and plan your time in the exhibit hall.

HarperCollins Children's  
Books

H-E-B Read 3

Hiveclass

Holiday House / Peachtree /  
Pixel+Ink

**I**ndeco

Independent Publishers  
Group

Infobase

Ingram Content Group

Innovative a part of Clarivate

Insignia Software

**J**ump!

Junior Library Guild/Media  
Source

**K**anopy

Kids Discover

Komatsu Architecture

**L**atinx Kidlit Book Festival

Leap 'n Logos

Learn About Sharks

Lectorum Publications, Inc

Lerner Publishing Group

Letter Lounge

Library Comic

Library Ideas, LLC

Library Interiors of Texas

LibraryPass

LibrarySkills, Inc.

Lightbox Learning

Literati

Little Bee Books

Little Free Library

Little, Brown Books for  
Young Readers

Love My Library/Read-a-thon

Lyngsoe Systems Inc

**M**ackin Educational  
Resources

Macmillan Adult

Macmillan Children's  
Publishing Group

Mad Caves Studio

Magazine Subscription  
Service Agency

Maverick Books, Inc.

Media Flex - OPALS - CERF

Merge

Midwest Tape / hoopla  
Digital

Mitinet Library Services

MPC Publishing

**N**ational Museum of the  
Pacific War

Newsbank, Inc.

North Star Editions

Novel Effect

**O**CLC

Orca Book Publishers

OverDrive - Digital Library  
Reserve

Oxford University Press

**P**artners for Rural Impact  
Partners Library Action  
Network

Penguin Adult

Penguin Random House -  
Grupo Editorial USA

Penguin Young Readers

Percussion Play

Perma-Bound Books

PGAL

Playaway Pre-Loaded  
Products

Progressive Rising Phoenix  
Press, LLC

Publisher Spotlight

Publishers Group West

**R**ainbow Books

Random House Children's  
Books

Red Comet Press LLC

Renee Hayes Books

Reycraft Books

Rosen/Power Kids/Norwood  
House

**S**alem Press

San Jose State University -  
School of Information

Santillana/Vista Higher  
Learning

ScannX

Schlager Group / Milestone  
Documents

Scholastic, Inc.



School Life  
 Sebco Books  
 SenSource, Inc.  
 Sequoia Kids Media  
 Shadow Mountain Publishing  
 Shushbooth  
 Simon & Schuster, Inc.  
 SirsiDynix  
 Small Library Resource  
 Center/Tocker  
 Society of Children's Book  
 Writers and Illustrator  
 Sourcebooks, Inc.  
 Southwest Solutions Group,  
 Inc.  
 StackMap  
 Steinberg Hart  
 Stop Falling Productions  
 Swank K-12 Streaming

**T**each Big  
 TeachingBooks  
 Tech Logic  
 Tech Terra Education  
 Texas Book Festival  
 Texas Council of Academic  
 Libraries  
 Texas SmartBuy/Tx  
 Comptroller of Public  
 Accounts  
 Texas State Library and  
 Archives Commission  
 Texas Wildlife Association  
 Texas Woman's University  
 - SLIS  
 TexQuest Support Center at  
 ESC-20  
 The Child's World, Inc.  
 The Creative Company

The Crowley Company  
 The Magik Theatre  
 The Penworthy Company,  
 LLC  
 The Quarto Group  
 The RoadRunner Press  
 Thriftbooks  
 TLA Black Caucus Round  
 Table  
 TLA College & University  
 Library Division  
 TLA District 4  
 TLC/Tech Logic  
 Today's Business Solutions  
 Transparent Language, Inc.  
 Two Rivers/Ingram  
 Academic  
 Tyndale House Publishers

**U**.S. Citizenship and  
 Immigration Services  
 Union Square & Company  
 University of Texas Press  
 UNT College of Information  
**V**irco Inc.  
 Viz Media  
**W**. W. Norton & Company  
 WB Manufacturing  
 Writers' League of Texas  
 WT.Cox Information Services  
**X**ist Publishing



# 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

## Important Deadlines

JAN  
31

Early-bird rate ends

APR  
1

Standard registration  
rate ends

APR  
5

Deadline to  
purchase tickets for  
ticketed events

APR  
2-  
19

Late and on-site  
registration

### NEED TO REGISTER & PAY FOR MULTIPLE INDIVIDUALS?

The deadline to register and pay for multiple individuals is March 31.

To register multiple Individuals from the same organization, complete a conference registration form for each person and mail all forms with a check for the total amount due to TLA.

To register 10 or more individuals, contact [Christy Reynolds](#) at TLA.

To request an invoice in order for payment to be processed, email the completed registration forms to [Christy Reynolds](#) at TLA with the subject line: **invoice request**. March 31 is the deadline to request an invoice.

[txla.org/annual-conference](https://txla.org/annual-conference)

### CANCELLATION POLICY

#### Refunds

Cancellations received on or before March 31, 2024 will receive a refund, less a 20% administrative fee. Registrations made after Sunday, March 31, 2024 are non-refundable. Exhibits Only registrations are non-refundable. Refunds will be processed within 60 days following the conclusion of the conference. All registration cancellations, including meal events must be made in writing to [tla@txla.org](mailto:tla@txla.org) by Sunday, March 31, 2024. No phone requests can be accepted.

#### Transfers

Substitutions of registrations to another individual, including meal events, must be made in writing by Sunday, March 31, 2024 to [Joanna Franco](#). No phone requests can be accepted. The individual submitting the substitution request is responsible for all financial obligations (any balance due) associated with that substitution.

#### General Cancellation Information

TLA reserves the right to cancel all or any part of this event if there is insufficient registration or for other reasons. If TLA must cancel the event, TLA will transfer the registration to a similar virtual or in-person event(s) of equal or greater value than the original registration price paid within the 2024 calendar year. TLA will not be responsible for any indirect, special, or consequential damages (including transportation, lodging, and meal costs) incurred by the registrant.

*Registrations are not refundable after Sunday, March 31, 2024 for any reason, including and without limitation lack of participation (no show), failure to use registration due to illness, travel-related problems, loss of employment, and/or duplicate purchases.*

# Tuesday, April 16 Programs & Events

## LEGEND

★ President's Program

### Continuing Professional Education Credits

CPE credit information is provided as a guideline. Refer to [tla.org](https://tla.org) for information on claiming CPE credits.

**Registration**.....7:30 AM – 7:00 PM

**Exhibit Hall**.....2:00 – 5:00 PM

**Bag Check**.....1:00 – 6:00 PM

## TLA 2024 CONFERENCE PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE ONLINE

TLA is thrilled to offer the TLA 2024 Annual Conference microsite where you can explore our conference program, view maps of the convention center, see maps of our exhibit hall and host hotel, browse the list of exhibitors and so much more. It's searchable by target audience (library type), session type, and topic. Just click on "search/filter program" to search. We are continually adding to and updating the site, so please check back regularly to see what's new. This dynamic site will make it easy to plan your time in San Antonio. [Check it out!](#)



All sessions are open to all attendees, unless otherwise noted.

### Earning Public Service Loan Forgiveness is Easier than Ever!

**9:30 - 10:30 AM**

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) has been out of reach in the past due to the complexity of its rules and the lack of transparency of their application. 2021-2023 brought relaxation of some of the most difficult rules and modernization of the Department of Education and loan servicers' systems. These changes make the process of earning PSLF easier to manage for all public servants, and should help every public, school, or academic librarian with student loan debt.

[Matt Amory, Massachusetts Library Staff Association](#); [Christina Ceballos, Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program Support](#); [Michelle Dahlenburg](#)

### New Horizons: Strategies for Launching Secondary School Libraries

**9:30 - 10:30 AM**

Are you responsible for opening a new secondary school library or revitalizing an existing one? Explore effective strategies and best practices for successfully launching secondary school libraries. From planning and design to collection development and community engagement, this session will provide valuable insights and practical guidance for librarians, administrators, and educators involved in the creation or transformation of secondary school libraries. Learn from experienced professionals who have navigated the challenges and harnessed the opportunities of establishing vibrant and inclusive library spaces that inspire a love for reading, foster information literacy, and support student success.

[Stephanie Galvan Russell, Hutto ISD](#); [Kaitlyn Carpenter, Houston ISD](#)

### Passive Makes (Practically) Perfect: Using Passive Programming to Engage Patrons

**9:30 - 10:30 AM**

Librarians are busy and may feel like they don't have the time or the bandwidth to engage patrons in regular active programming. Utilizing engaging and fun passive programming opportunities is a wonderful way to make connections with patrons and help them make

connections. Presenters will share a wide range of passive programs that librarians can do at little to no cost that will allow patrons to feel like active participants in the library space and a part of the larger library community.

[Nicole Graham, Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD](#)

### Empowering Librarians as Leaders Using the Future Ready Librarian Framework

**9:30 - 10:30 AM**

Are you a school librarian looking to enhance your leadership skills? Join us for an interactive session designed to provide librarians with the knowledge, tools, and strategies necessary to lead from the library and collaborate effectively with teachers, administrators, and other stakeholders within their school community. Together, we will explore the Future Ready Librarian Framework, a dynamic approach that empowers librarians to embrace emerging trends, technologies, and resources shaping the future of libraries.

[Shannon McClintock Miller, Van Meter Community School](#)

### Enhancing Customer Service through Emotional Intelligence

**9:30 - 10:30 AM**

Explore the intersection of libraries, emotional intelligence, and customer service, highlighting best practices and the importance of empathy in fostering meaningful connections with library coworkers and patrons. Libraries are vital community hubs, providing diverse services and resources to many patrons. To deliver exceptional customer service, librarians must go beyond traditional expectations and develop a deep understanding of their users' needs, emotions, and experiences. Emotional intelligence involves perceiving, understanding, and managing both one's own emotions and those of others. By cultivating emotional intelligence skills, librarians can create a supportive and inclusive environment that meets the emotional needs of their patrons, ultimately enhancing their overall library experience.

[Wendy Pray, Mission CISD](#); [Mark Gottschalk, Tarrant County College](#); [Zinnia Bayardo, Northside ISD](#); [Rebecca Ivey, Denton Public Library](#)



## I'm New Here: Making the Transition to an Academic Library

9:30 -10:30 AM

Academic librarians share their experience transitioning from a public to an academic library. They discuss the learning curve and what newcomers should be aware of such as faculty, budgets, and institutional demands when entering an academic library environment, as it is a different world with unfamiliar expectations. Speakers will also make a case that their value is beyond the library; they are an integral position, working with faculty, Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Institutional Affairs supporting curriculum initiatives and campus assessments.

[Elizabeth Bradshaw, Wiley College](#)

## Book Bunches and Beyond: Building Book Communities on a Budget

9:30 -10:30 AM

Are you looking for a new and equitable way to promote the Bluebonnet and Tejas Star lists? Our mixed-grade book club model used these lists to build a collaborative, positive campus culture around reading at our Title I elementary school, encouraging students to read across genres, in their choice of English or Spanish, and to participate in discussions about what they read in a fun and meaningful way.

[Heather Stephens, Katie Adams, Kendall Omick, Austin ISD](#)

## Drinking from a Firehose: Combatting Information Overload for First Year Students

9:30 -10:30 AM

Too much information, too fast, can lead to frustration and poor decision-making. First-year college students are given a lot of information quickly to help them adapt to the many changes and new expectations. Nevertheless, roughly 24 percent drop out within the year. How can the library avoid being part of the information overload problem while also providing first-year students with the support they need to thrive? A survey of our first-year students showed that 38 percent do not have experience using the library for research prior to college. Using the information from our survey, we adapted our First-Year Seminar instruction to provide a foundation for using library resources without info dumping.

[Jennifer Batson, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor; Caitlin Miller, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor](#)

## From Local to Global: Enhance Global Collaboration in Libraries

9:30 -10:30 AM

Educators want students to connect with learners of other backgrounds and cultures, to work with others, and examine things from multiple viewpoints. Discover how libraries can

participate in global projects, such as the Global Read Aloud, to help students explore global issues. Attendees will learn how to get started with these projects as well as tips to connect with others around the world. They will leave with everything needed to get started, from how to obtain the books to how to collaborate with schools in other parts of the world.

[Joni Harris, Plano ISD](#)

## MakerSTREAM 2.0: Integration of Maker Education and STREAM

9:30 -10:30 AM

Learn about the integration of maker education and STREAM with lessons and ideas of collaboration and co-teaching using literature. Lessons will be TEKS based, aligned with TEA STEM Education Framework, and cover the STREAM components, as well as tackling relevant social issues with a maker mindset. We will present social issues and materials to use and implement immediately in your elementary school.

[Jenny Armentrout, Kimberly Richardson, Allen ISD](#)

## Deep Search and Notify Me: Maximize Collection Development in your Digital Library

9:30 -10:30 AM

Help users find more content in Libby and let you know what books they want to read with OverDrive's new deep search and Notify Me tags. Discover how these powerful new OverDrive tools can empower libraries to meet users' reading interests in a new and efficient way.

[Troy Hoyles, San Antonio Public Library](#)

## Advocacy: The Importance of Leveraging Community

9:30 -10:30 AM

How can we work better together to advocate for school libraries? Librarians, bookstore owners, and authors join the FReedom Fighters to share insights on the impacts of building an informal advocacy community. Hear about their experience advocating with legislators. Learn how to create your own informal support network, work together to increase impact, and build a community that can sustain us during difficult advocacy work.

[Carolyn Foote, Retired Librarian - FReedom Fighters; Becky Calzada, Leander ISD; Lucy Podmore, Northside ISD; Chris Barton; Charley Rejsek, BookPeople](#)

## Learn to Tinker with Tinkercad: 3D Print Modeling for Beginners

9:30 -10:30 AM

This step-by-step session is designed for the novice 3D enthusiast who wishes to teach their patrons how to create their own 3D designs. Participants will acquire basic CAD skills

using Tinkercad; a simple free web-based 3D design program. We will walk through some of the program's tools and features creating and designing along the way. Bring your own tablet or laptop; attendees create an Autodesk Tinkercad account (<https://www.tinkercad.com/3d-design>); presenters help participants register at the beginning of the session.

[Angela Rajcic, Lubbock ISD](#)

## Beyond the Books: Community-Driven Secondary Library Programming

9:30 -10:30 AM

Learn various ways to engage your middle school and high school audience through programming. Participants will not only walk away with easy ideas to use in their own library but also a chance to share what has worked for their area.

[Andrea Keller, Irving ISD](#)

## Find Your People: 12 Ready-To-Use Collaborative Programs

9:30 -10:30 AM

Give your library programming a glow up with twelve sparkly collaboration strategies. Build meaningful experiences through games, community events, student leadership opportunities, and the power of stories. Yassify your library with innovative ideas that amplify an outstanding library program. Grow new partnerships with students, families, community organizations, and other teachers into a super squad to highlight diverse perspectives and refine your programming. Lean into your community's interests with these exciting new ideas!

[Emily Kupersztoch, Round Rock ISD; Kristen Fournier, Forest North Elementary; Jamie Wright, Leander ISD](#)

## The Librarian's Guide to the Galaxy

9:30 -10:30 AM

So you want to do astronomy and space programming and outreach, but don't know where to start? Don't panic! Even if you've never done space programming before, these public library presenters will show you the wonders of the universe for libraries big and small. They will highlight free and paid resources and ways to acquire funding.

[Rachel Stout, Houston Public Library; Cecilia Pham, Houston Public Library - Community Engagement; Miranda Morris, Houston Public Library](#)

## Google Tools for Inclusive Learning

9:30 -10:30 AM

Join us in an engaging session as we explore the diverse array of Google tools, apps, extensions, and features designed to support learners of all kinds. From text-to-speech and speech-to-text capabilities to readability enhancements,

reading comprehension tools, audio support and more, we'll delve into the practical applications in the library. This hands-on session aims to equip you with the knowledge and skills to harness the full potential of Google's educational technology, fostering an inclusive and effective learning environment for every library patron.

[Stacy Cameron, New Caney ISD](#); [Emma McDonald, Mesquite ISD](#)

### Better Together: Co-Writers of Young Adult Literature

**9:30 - 10:30 AM**

Co-authors collaborate with one or more writers to create literature. Communication, shared decision making, and following the same vision are important elements of co-writing. Authors combine their strengths, talents and voice to create a successful literary work. The panel will discuss their process of writing with another author.

[David Bowles, Desiree S. Evans, Flatiron/Macmillan](#); [Saraciea J. Fennell, Flatiron/Macmillan](#); [Ashley Woodfolk, Scholastic](#)

### Texas Bluebonnet Award Speed Dating (TICKETED)

**10:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

Authors and Illustrators on the 2024-2025 Texas Bluebonnet Award Master List will share their stories and inspirations, while committee members will present best practices and book-specific resources to promote a lifelong love of reading. Several of the author/illustrator's books will be made available by publishers.;

*Tickets must be purchased by Friday, April 5.*

### Teaming Up to Protect Libraries, Librarians and Students' Right to Read

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

School board members, library directors, school librarians, students and parents all have roles to play to ensure students' right to read. These stakeholders will discuss how communication among these groups plays a critical role in the freedom to read.

[Lucy Podmore, Lisa Kulka, Carol Harle, Northside ISD](#)

### STEM-ulating Minds: Unleashing Creativity in the Elementary School Library

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

STEM-ulating Minds embraces the idea that STEM components and literacy naturally intersect and support one another. Utilizing knowledge from a STEM-certified librarian, learn about current trends in STEM and how to apply them, immediately and long-term, to your library classes and curriculum, regardless of grade level and time limits.

[Amanda Chacon, Sheldon ISD](#)

### Renovating for the Missing Patron

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

How can you design library space for the unmet needs of your community? How can you recognize the missing patrons in your library and plan a space that invites them? The author of *Library Space Planning: A PLA Guide* (ALA, 2019) will share how to identify community needs, analyze your existing space and design inclusive library spaces.

[David Vinjamuri, New York University](#)

### How to Run a Successful Regional Book Battle

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

A book battle is a great way to bring together your book nerds to compete for the school while at the same time bringing together librarians from around the region. The North Texas High School Book Battle has been successfully running for almost a decade. We have ranged from 13 to 20 schools competing throughout the years. In this session, we will go over what we know works, doesn't work, and everything in between.

[Jaime LeRoy, Northwest ISD](#); [Sarah Thomasson, Northwest ISD](#)

### Creative PD to Ace your Library Evaluation

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Providing professional development to our campus community is part of our library standards; it may even be part of your yearly evaluation. What happens if you are denied face-to-face time by your administrator? What can you do? When the traditional avenues to reach your audience do not work, it's time to let those creative juices flow. Learn innovative ways to reach your audiences, document your endeavors, and strengthen your end-of-year evaluation. Lots of purposeful activities, templates, and ideas will be included to help equip you with the tools you need to start tomorrow.

[Jeni Tahaney, Mansfield ISD](#); [Pamela Pinkerton, Mansfield ISD](#)



### Elephant in the Library: The Plight of Destructive Leadership in Academic Libraries

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Explore the phenomenon of destructive leadership in academic libraries. While the prevalence of destructive leadership of this phenomenon has not been formally quantified, an ever-growing body of blog posts, literature, and conference presentations about library workers' encounters with destructive leadership practices and behaviors suggests that libraries are not immune to the megalomania and authoritarianism often associated with Wall Street and Silicon Valley. Drawing on scholarship from organizational and social

psychology, the session will demonstrate that destructive leadership does not arise solely from the actions of a single individual, but rather requires a confluence of leader, follower, and environmental factors. Participants will be introduced to the Toxic Triangle Framework (TTF), which provides a solid foundation for understanding the complex interplay of psychosocial and structural forces that enable destructive leadership, and may also offer clues to how it can be dismantled - or better yet, prevented.

[Jennifer Holland, University of Houston](#); [Katherine Carter, University of Houston](#)

### Breakout Box Activities Kinder-Fifth Grade - Use Ours or Build Your Own!

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Breakout (or escape room) activities put students in the center with hands-on learning. Using clues, puzzles, and locks to decode, students engage in using academic knowledge and soft skills. A quality Breakout activity increases student engagement, problem solving skills, critical thinking, and teamwork; but they can be time-consuming to create and sometimes too difficult for littles to decode. A team of elementary librarians and instructional technology coaches will share TEKS-aligned, fully planned, ready-to-use breakouts for each grade level, kindergarten through fifth grade. Scaffolded plans will help even new kindergarteners develop skills as collaborative learners and critical thinkers. Along with these prepared breakouts, learn a streamlined process for creating Breakouts that teach and reinforce curriculum using various resources: digital methods with Google, homemade methods with hardware store items, and BreakoutEDU purchases.

[D'Anne Mosby, Heather Garavaglia, Crystal McCord, Elizabeth Brown, Tanya Spencer, Prosper ISD](#)

### Not Everything Can Go on the Homepage

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Is your public library homepage a catch-all of miscellaneous content instead of reflecting your library's vision and brand? It's challenging to curate a website homepage that will capture the attention of diverse users while managing competing needs from several library departments. Presenters will discuss the art of homepage content prioritization by delving into strategy, data-driven decision-making, and effective content management using evaluation criteria. You'll be empowered with best practices, resources, and a case study to help you create a compelling homepage that resonates with your target audiences. Together, we'll navigate the complexities of homepage design so you can elevate your library's online presence and captivate your community.

Kati Polodna, BiblioCommons; David Cherry, Harris County Public Library, Nancy Hu, Harris County Public Library

### Microprojects: Elevated Library Instruction to Enhance Student Agency

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Flying solo on a fixed schedule doesn't have to mean library coloring sheets. But, how do you manage circulation and student learning stations without going down in flames? Come play with tools and learn tricks to help manage learners and increase independence with microprojects. Participants will design and develop lessons and activities that support the new K-5 Tech Apps TEKS and national and state library standards. Let's elevate library instruction to help learners soar!

[Mariya Ortiz, East Central ISD; Susan Reeves, Education Service Center, Region 20](#)

### School Librarianship...It's a Vibe!

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The library plays such a crucial role in school culture and we have a broad reach within our school community. As the school librarian, you are a leader to your students, their families, and your colleagues. Does your vibe and people's perceptions match your library and school goals? In this interactive presentation, strategies will be shared to assist in creating a vibe where the library is the heartbeat of the school.

[Brandi Grant, Frisco ISD; Heather Lassley, Frisco ISD](#)

### Innovative Ideas that work for Academic and Special Libraries

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Learn how other librarians are applying innovative tech solutions you can put to use during this idea sharing session facilitated by the Innovation and Technology Round Table. Bring your own challenges and successes to share with your peers.

[Margaret Miller, Pflugerville Public Library](#)

### Getting It All Done: Time Management Strategies for Busy Librarians

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Do you find yourself busy all day but don't feel as though you accomplish anything? Discover four specific time management techniques and four tech tools to help increase your productivity and reduce stress. Don't end your day feeling like you've been hit by a board. Instead, use this 4 x 4 to walk away feeling productive and a sense of accomplishment.

[Emma McDonald, Mesquite ISD](#)

### So I Bought a Cricut, Now What?

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Innovate your library by learning how to use Cricut technologies. Learn how easy it is to set up, use the software, what materials you need to get started, and ideas to design, create, and engage your audience. You can improve the visual appeal of your library's circulation desk, displays, and bulletins or share how to create and design in makerspaces and clubs. Using a Cricut is fun for all audiences and there really are endless possibilities.

[Theresa Maresca, FBISD](#)

### Small, Not Rural: How to Thrive as a Small Public Library in an Urban Setting

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

If you have a small staff, a small building, and/or a small budget but are located in the middle of a large city or affected by urban sprawl, use your size to your advantage. Prosper by collaborating with other departments, befriending your neighbors, and using statistics in your favor.

[Regina Reed, Leon Valley Public Library; Theresa Brader, City of Leon Valley; Angelina Corona, Leon Valley Public Library](#)

### Transforming Careers: Exploring the Transition into Medical Librarianship

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

This session brings together medical library leaders to discuss the transformative process of moving from school, public, or academic libraries to the dynamic world of medical librarianship. Attendees will gain invaluable insights into the essential qualities and transferable skills required for a successful shift into this specialized field. Explore how skills acquired in non-medical library settings can be harnessed when transitioning into medical librarianship. Learn what knowledge is unique to medical librarianship and how to acquire that knowledge. Discover how to create beneficial partnerships with healthcare professionals, researchers, and other stakeholders. Explore how medical librarians advocate for equitable access to healthcare information.

[Clara Fowler, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center; Katie Prentice, Texas Medical Center Library; Brian Leaf, University of North Texas Health Science Center](#)

### I See You: Building Inclusive Graphic Novel Collections for the People

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Collection development in today's public library landscape can prove challenging and the sheer volume of graphic novels available in the publishing market can be overwhelming. How can the library ensure our patrons have access

to the stories that are meaningful to them, as well as to those that connect them to our global community, that both delight and inform? In this session, a graphic literature specialist will share best practices for developing an inclusive graphic novel collection for all ages that celebrates diverse and intersectional communities, including BIPOC and LGBTQ+ people, explain why graphic novels are "real reading," and provide guidance on how to guard against book challenges.

[Rebecca Oxley, District of Columbia Public Libraries](#)

### Long-Term Planning is an Art, Not a Science

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

It is easy to get bogged down in the day-to-day work of managing a public library, while ignoring the need to spend time mapping out plans for long-term aspirations. Public librarians will examine how to synergize both what has to happen for the good of the building and what needs to happen to develop a robust library program in a session centered around goal-setting and project management that utilizes the strengths of the librarian.

[Karen Locklear, Dallas ISD](#)

### TLA Council I

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### Twisting on the Edge of Your Seat: YA Thrillers

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

We all love them, dark, high stakes, suspenseful plot-driven stories! The elements of writing ramp up in this genre with dread, anticipation, danger, and twists to elicit a highly emotional reader experience. Authors will discuss how to create high impact thriller/horror literature and how this process differs from writing other genres.

[Visit the TLA 2024 microsite for updated author list](#)

### The New Collection Development Standards

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission will discuss the new State Collection Development Standards required by HB 900. Presenters will lead a discussion of the law and share information on the agency's collection development guidance document. Bring your questions and learn how to help your district implement a comprehensive policy that complies with the new law.

[Vanessa Ashcraft, Texas State Library and Archives Commission](#)



## Devices, Books, and Games, Oh My! An Assistive Technology Petting Zoo

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Learn about assistive technology provided by the Texas Talking Book Program. Try out accessible games like Monopoly with braille on the bills and Connect 4 with tactile dots; experiment with braille e-readers, money identifiers, and digital talking book machines; and gain a deeper understanding about how you can access assistive technology across Texas, and provide those resources to your own community.

Olivia Ochoa, Texas State Library and Archives Commission

## For Real, Though: New Nonfiction for Kids

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Engaging nonfiction grows knowledge. Authors will share information on the newest nonfiction titles that will hook readers.

Visit the [TLA 2024 microsite](#) for updated author list

## Exhibits Grand Opening

**2:00 - 5:00 PM**

Be sure to 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. Authors will be signing books in the Authors Area

## TALL Texans Social (TICKETED)

**4:30 - 5:30 PM**

Calling all TALL Texans alumni classes! Connect and network at this casual, fun event. Plus, if you are interested in applying to be a TALL Texan, alumni will share why the TALL Texan Leadership Institute is an amazing opportunity and why you should definitely apply. *Tickets must be purchased by Friday, April 5.*

## Texas Association of School Librarians Awards and Social (TICKETED)

**5:00 - 6:00 PM**

Celebrate TASL's Award Winners, meet TASL Leadership, enjoy light appetizers, and mingle with fellow TASL members during this annual social.

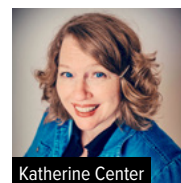
*Tickets must be purchased by Friday, April 5.*

## Evening with the Authors (TICKETED)

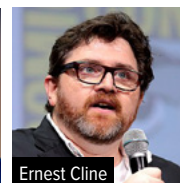
**6:00 - 8:00 PM**

Join us for a convivial evening where we'll feature a group of authors/speakers in conversation with one another. Attendees will enjoy a plated three-course dinner, and then sit back to enjoy listening to a fun and literary conversation moderated by a TLA librarian. Free books for all attendees! *Tickets must be purchased by Friday, April 5.*

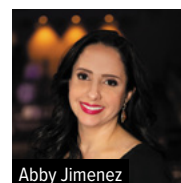
Featured authors: Katherine Center, Ernest Cline, Abby Jimenez, TJ Klune, Steven Rowley



Katherine Center



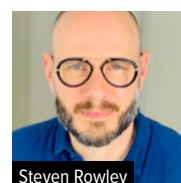
Ernest Cline



Abby Jimenez



TJ Klune



Steven Rowley



# 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!

# Wednesday, April 17 Program & Events

## LEGEND

☆ President's Program

### Continuing Professional Education Credits

CPE credit information is provided as a guideline. Refer to [txla.org](https://txla.org) for information on claiming CPE credits.

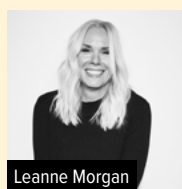
**Registration**..... 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**Authors Area**.....10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**Exhibit Hall** .....10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**Bag Check** .....7:30 AM – 5:30 PM

All sessions are open to all attendees, unless otherwise noted.



Leanne Morgan

### General Session I

**8:15 - 9:15 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. She is currently on her sold-out theater and arena standup tour called, *Just Getting Started*. Her first book, *What in the World?*, is set to be published by Random House/Convergent on September 24, 2024.

### Not Your Ordinary Book Tasting, Research That!

**10:00 - 11:00 AM**

Book tastings allow students to sample many books in a short amount of time. Presenters will discuss various forms of book tasting and the steps used to guide research topics and book selections. Types of book tasting covered include fiction and non-fiction for all grade levels.

[Michelle Saenz, Socorro High School](#); [Lucille Aranda, John Ensor Middle School](#)

### Empowering Readers Through Spooky Stories

**10:00 - 11:00 AM**

Middle grade horror writers will discuss how horror and spooky stories can help young readers access larger themes. Resources and activity ideas for how to incorporate these books in the classroom will be shared.

[Adrianna Cuevas, Harper Collins](#); [Shakirah Bourne, Scholastic](#); [Justine Pucella Winans, Karina Quilantan-Garza, PSJA ISD](#); [Ellen Oh, Harper Collins](#)

### ☆ Teaching Digital Citizenship with Picture Books

**10:00 - 11:00 AM**

An elementary librarian will present a curated list of over 30 picture books that cover digital citizenship topics such as cyberbullying, keeping safe online, privacy, passwords, and limiting screen time. Each book is presented with a short book talk and possible no/low prep lesson ideas. Participants will have the opportunity to preview all of the books and also add additional titles to a shared Jamboard to create a crowdsourced list of book titles and lesson ideas.

[Patrina Nix, Bastrop ISD](#)

### We Love the Li-berry!

**10:00 - 11:00 AM**

Are you struggling with classroom management in your library? Are your elementary students excited to come to the library? Are you able to productively fill up a fifty to sixty minute library block? Learn how two seasoned librarians have easily implemented library stations as a creative outlet, classroom management, and library excitement building tool. Join us in the information-filled, positive, fun session and leave with the knowledge and tools needed to introduce stations into your library within the week!

[Brandye Roland, Liz Fambrough, Brazosport ISD](#)

### Using Open Pedagogy to Promote Student Engagement

**10:00 - 11:00 AM**

Open pedagogy is a teaching approach that invites students to more fully engage with their course content by participating in the knowledge creation process. By leveraging the benefits of open educational resources (OER), open pedagogy provides opportunities for students to contribute to—rather than simply consume—the knowledge commons, leading to deeper and more meaningful learning experiences. A university library recently piloted support for open pedagogy collaborations where students were invited to contribute to student-authored textbooks as part of their assignments. These projects have informed the development of a service model that formalizes open pedagogy support. Learn about different applications of open pedagogy, how to advocate for it to enhance information literacy outcomes, and considerations and best practices for your campus.

[Katherine Carter, University of Houston](#)

### Differences Bring us Together: Creating a District-wide Diversity Book Club

**10:00 - 11:00 AM**

Librarians will share how they developed and implemented a diversity book club on their elementary and middle school campuses. Learn how the book club adapted and grew over time - including shared read alouds and enrichment activities for our featured books for the 2023-2024 school year. Delve into resources for book selection and activities that promote STEM and SEL opportunities.

[Mandi Ray, Temple ISD](#); [Sherry Burnett, Lamar Middle School Library](#); [Michelle](#)

Martinez, Cater Elementary School; Milissa Beechem, Travis Science Academy

## Trauma Informed Care Part 1: Focus on Staff

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Using the lens of trauma-informed care, discover how public libraries can increase their ability to provide safe and supportive spaces for individuals who have experienced trauma. Learn about the principles of trauma-informed care and explore practical strategies with staff to employ when facing difficult behaviors and interactions. Part One of this session will explore trauma informed approaches staff can take from varying roles to cultivate compassionate environments and provide trauma-sensitive spaces. (Part 2, Thurs, April 18, 8:30-9:30)

Cheryl Sheehan, Kiyanna Stephens, Dacari Lambert, San Antonio Public Library

## Best Practices for Cataloging Comics and Graphic Novels

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Comic Book or Graphic Novel? Fiction or Nonfiction? Juvenile, YA, or Adult? When managing a library collection of comics, graphic novels, and manga, there are many decisions that need to be made—from deciding on using a single record with multiple volumes or multiple records for each volume of a collection, deciding on a shelving location and call number. Using guidelines developed by the ALA Graphic Novel and Comics Round Table, this session will help you determine best practices for cataloging comics and graphic novel collections.

Chad Hetterley, Grapevine Public Library

## Coaching vs. Managing: Collaborative Staff Development

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Coaching provides a framework for mutual understanding of concepts like trust, respect, values, and mission. As libraries take on the challenge of staff development and retention, top-down models can fail when attempting to clearly communicate these ideas, in turn affecting organizational success. Consider ways to enhance your current staff development initiatives by encouraging peer-to-peer conversations, utilizing coaching techniques to explore individuals' goals and aspirations, and building mutually supportive partnerships between management and employees. Public librarians will share examples from their Librarian Talking Circles and Library Support Supervisor coaching toolkit, and gather ideas for building a template for peer-led professional and paraprofessional development.

Cecily Ponce de Leon, Amanda McClure, Plano Public Library

## From Facts to Fascination: Nurturing Curiosity with Nonfiction in Libraries

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Join us for a discussion featuring esteemed nonfiction authors and experienced elementary librarians, who will delve into the effective use of nonfiction books for read-alouds in the school library setting. The panelists will share insights directly from the source, offering invaluable perspectives on their own books and the best lessons they have witnessed tied to their works. Attendees will gain practical knowledge and inspiration on how to utilize nonfiction books effectively in their library programs.

Kristen Shaheen and Sarah Day, Northside ISD; Chris Barton; Carole Weatherford; Traci Sorell

## Book Love: Creating a Culture of Readers at your Campus

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Want to learn how to make reading and the elementary library the heart of your school? In this session you will learn specific ways to promote a love of reading at your school or district. Topics include book talking, parent newsletters, reading promotion incentive programs, and gaining principal and teacher buy in.

Linda Sanchez, Community ISD

## Making your Library Browsable, Dynamic, and Inviting

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Librarians often talk about making the school library an inviting space for students, but what does that really mean? How can you make changes in your space to make them more inviting? Make it a place they enjoy? Presenters will share the changes they have made in elementary and middle school libraries, such as genrefication, ditching Dewey, dynamic shelving, trendy displays, and passive programming activities that have made a difference for our students. Attendees will get a glimpse into the libraries, learn the hows and whys behind the choices, and see how students are engaged. Walkaway with extensive, curated resource lists of ideas and who to follow on social media for inspiration.

Karyn Lewis, Katy ISD; Teresa Dolan, Terrace Elementary

## Using Regular Expressions to Improve Data Retrieval

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Regular expressions are a way to take searching and data retrieval to a higher level. One person has called regular expressions, "wildcards on steroids." Many applications allow regular expressions to be used as part of their data retrieval and/or searching capabilities. Even a basic understanding of this tool can facilitate increased versatility in searching.

Michael Pullin, University of North Texas Health Science Center

## Improve Your Library Performance with Improv

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Do you conduct library instruction sessions, give presentations, work with a team, lead meetings or serve customers? If yes, then attend this session to learn how improv can help you succeed in those roles. The lessons and techniques of improv can improve communication skills, creativity, and confidence. Learn what improv is, how it applies to librarianship, and play some introductory improv games. See how the yes, and philosophy can benefit you.

Joshua Wallace, Tarleton State University; Esther Garcia, University of St. Augustine

## Where are the People? Using Passive Programming to Bring in More Patrons

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Learn about the benefits of adding passive programming to your public library. Passive programming includes all kinds of activities that can be set-up and left alone, allowing patrons to participate without direct monitoring or supervision. Any type of library can easily implement these programs to build engagement and community. Walk away with a multitude of ideas to get started right away.

Elizabeth Herndon, Katy ISD; Rebecca Gruen, Haskett Junior High; Nancy Limmer, Katy ISD

## AI and You: An Academic Librarian's Toolkit

10:00 - 11:00 AM

How can librarians harness the power of generative AI in the library setting? How can AI be used as a "Universal Basic Intern?" (Galecia Group, 2023). Presenters will share specific practices that can be utilized, and attendees will gain a greater understanding of the different types of generative AI available for patrons and librarians within academia.

Elizabeth Gross, SHSU; Henry Stokes, Texas State Library and Archives Commission



## Storytelling 101: How to Engage Audiences with Oral Storytelling

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Oral storytelling is a powerful tool to enhance your public library storytimes, library programs, and presentations. Beyond reading aloud, learn a process for selecting, learning, creating and refining stories for audiences of all ages.

Hannah Fassett, Spicewood Springs Library; Carmen Lazo, Pflugerville Public Library; Diane Sikkenga, Pflugerville Public Library

## Building Community Through Collaborative Partnerships

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Learn how to build community through library programming partnerships between elementary and secondary librarians. This includes programs that were adapted to be in-person as well as online. School librarians will share how they created literacy events and shared resources to give opportunities for students from elementary and secondary to partner with one another.

Milissa Vo, Lewisville ISD; Julie Mosty, Coppell ISD

## College, Career, and Military Readiness Resources from TexQuest

10:00 - 11:00 AM

From STAAR to the ACT to the ASVAB, TexQuest resources have test preparation tools and more! Find exam prep materials for AP, ACT, SAT, TSIA, and many career certification exams. Learn how students can take interest and skill inventories, explore careers, write resumes and letters, and even search for colleges, scholarships, and jobs. Attendees will experience hands-on exploration of TexQuest and how it can be used for classroom assignments and student personalized learning.

Norma Gutierrez, Education Service Center, Region 20

## The Public Library's Guide to Election Programming

10:00 - 11:00 AM

The 2024 election is right around the corner! Encouraging voting and civic engagement are essential parts of utilizing the public library as a community gathering place. From learning media literacy principles to better understanding the role bias plays, learn how to engage your customers in programming that will give them the tools they need to cast an informed vote in the upcoming election. This session will include programming models centered around civic engagement, media literacy and voting.

Kristen Calvert, Dallas Public Library; Laura Tadena, Austin Public Library

## Public Library Division Presents: Who Wrote the Book of Love?

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Join romance authors to learn about their process, perspective and books. Visit the [TLA 2024 microsite](#) for updated author list.

## YA and Middle Grade Texas Authors and Illustrators

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Texas librarians will hear from Texas YA and middle grade authors and illustrators with traditionally published books coming out 2023-2024.

Carolyn Flores, Susan Kralovansky, Texas Authors and Illustrators Round Table

## Texas Tea with the Authors (TICKETED)

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The Texas Tea is a wonderful time to gather together to meet YA authors, hear all about their latest releases, and meet with other YA librarians. Similar to a speed-dating event, authors move between tables to book talk and chat about their book(s). *Tickets must be purchased by Friday, April 5.*

## TAYSHAS Showcase

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Join the members of the TAYSHAS committee as they discuss what it takes to be on this fantastic reading list committee. Presenters will also share the; top ten books and some honorable mentions from the new list. There will be a book giveaway at the conclusion of this event.

Jessica Hedrick, Point Isabel ISD

## Book Buzz Session One

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Hear the latest buzz about the newest titles from your favorite publishers.

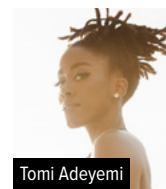
W.W. Norton & Company, Union Square & Co., IPG, Disney Publishing, Sourcebooks, Hachette Book Group

## The Power of Story: A Discussion Sponsored by Children's Round Table

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

In *The Diviners*, Libba Bray wrote, "There is no greater power on this earth than story." Join this group of illustrious creators for a meaningful conversation about the eternal power of story, and why it is critical that all stories are valued and celebrated in these trying times.

John Schu; Katherine Applegate; Kate DiCamillo; Erin Entrada Kelly



Tomi Adeyemi

## Black Caucus Round Table Author Session (TICKETED)

10:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Named one of TIME magazine's 100 Most

Influential People, Tomi Adeyemi 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. *Tickets must be purchased by Friday, April 5.*

## Connected Librarians: Tap Social Media to Enhance Professional Development and Student Learning

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

This session offers insights into the opportunities and obstacles of social media, including practical ideas for making the most of it in your school library. Presenters will demonstrate how to model responsible social media use to manage issues of privacy and anonymity within social media sites and apps. They will also provide tips on teaching digital citizenship, such as using a learning management system to create a safe environment for students to hone digital communication skills. Social media can also encourage reading and writing through rating and reviewing books, creating fan fiction and more.

Nikki Robertson-Griffin, Hutto ISD

## Speed Mentoring

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Seasoned librarians will meet with up-and-coming staff members to provide advice and guidance on a variety of topics. Participants will have a chance to get a new perspective on issues that have been plaguing them and to build their network of colleagues.

Lisa Loranc, Brazoria County Library System

## Caution! Content Warnings

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

A middle school librarian will discuss the rationale and process for providing content (trigger) warnings on the inside of books in a secondary library to support readers. Considering mental health issues, past experiences and trauma that many readers have faced, content warnings allow patrons to decide for themselves whether the title they're about to read is right for them at that moment.

Amanda Hunt, New Braunfels ISD

## Libros para Todos: Library Collaborations with Emerging Bilinguals

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

When their campus opened up a newcomer emerging bilingual program, the ESL lead and librarian partnered to create a safe space for these students to become lifelong readers and encourage multilingualism throughout the campus. Speakers will share the strategies and lessons implemented in the library space to encourage language acquisition and build students' confidence in social interaction. Through this collaboration, the library not only saw its multilingual collection significantly grow to meet the needs of these students, but also saw a significant increase in student engagement in library programming.

[Rebecca Gruen, Haskett Junior High; Victoria Bohannon, Rockwall ISD](#)

## Make an Impression with Your High School Library Orientation

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Library orientations are an important investment in student success, helping familiarize students with services, spaces, and resources. Library orientation programs can be delivered in a variety of ways, including in-person sessions, online modules, and self-guided tours. The best approach will vary depending on the needs of the students and the resources available. Join us as we discuss how to be proactive in making an impression with your students and staff with an engaging and meaningful library orientation.

[Michelle Tuttle and Andrea Mion, Katy ISD; Julie Trevino, Miller Career & Technology Center](#)

## Choose Your Own Adventure: Leadership and Organizational Theories

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

When you manage people, how do you motivate and build momentum to follow the organization's vision? How does your organization function and change? How do you fit into that organization to lead your team? This session will discuss organizational and leadership theories that impact your style and workplace morale. Leave with an understanding of how these theories relate to libraries, employee satisfaction, and your personal growth.

[Katherine Quinnell, Tarleton State University](#)

## Creating a Dynamic Elementary Library Curriculum

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Ever wished you had a robust library curriculum to guide you through the school year? A group of elementary school librarians collaborated on a curriculum that aligns with ELAR TEKS, state library standards, district curriculum and more. Presenters will share how they worked

together to create a library curriculum that can be adapted for individual schools and library programs, and used as a resource to advocate for and educate stakeholders in the important academic and social emotional work taking place in libraries by certified teacher librarians.

[Kate Hebert, Shelli Adams, Ronna Clawson, Alvin ISD](#)

## The Nuts and Bolts of Nonfiction Children's Books: From Research to Publication

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Gain insight into the intricate process behind creating nonfiction books for children. From the collective knowledge and experiences of our experts, learners will discover how to utilize this information and share with their patrons on: conducting thorough research, finding and selecting reliable sources, effectively organizing information, and writing captivating narratives. Attendees will learn key trends in the nonfiction genre and ways to use nonfiction books in educational settings.

[Susannah Richards Sussing, OutBooks; M.O. \(Mindy\) Yuksel, HarperCollins; Pam Courtney; Karen Romano Young, IWasAKid.com; Lesa Cline-Ransome, Author](#)

## Academic Collection Development in a Post-Roe World

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Is your academic library collection still telling students that Roe v. Wade is the rule of law? Have you looked at your existing abortion literature and realized it all needs to be weeded? Working from a reproductive justice framework, let's figure out which parts of your collection still align with core history coursework and which parts need a revamp.

[Melissa Arjona, South Texas College](#)

## Great Books for Middle and High School

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

In this session, a leading literacy advocate will share over 200 titles across genres, formats, and styles that are perfect for middle and high school readers. The presenter will share summaries, reviews, explanations, and extensive tags to make finding those just-right titles for your students a snap.

[Steve Tetreault, William R. Satz Middle School, Holmdel, NJ](#)

## Librarians and TEA Literacy Initiatives: Navigating Our Place in Their World

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

TEKS, RBIS, STR, HQIM? These TEA initiatives are driving literacy across the state in many districts. While districts trained teachers in these initiatives, many librarians were left out.

Unfortunately, this means that the drivers of literacy for our students are unknown to the professional on the campus who is the driver of lifelong literacy: the campus librarian. How do school librarians find a place to lead in the journey of trends in Texas literacy when we weren't even invited to travel the path? Learn to decipher the TEA literacy initiative language so you can communicate your essential value on your campus and beyond. Conversations will include ways the school librarian can amplify the effectiveness of curricular programs and contribute to student achievement.

[Mariya Ortiz, East Central ISD; Meg Grossman, Education Service Center, Region 20](#)

## We Need (Neuro)Diverse Books!

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Research suggests that between 15-20 percent of the U.S. population exhibits some form of neurodivergence. This can include conditions such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia, Tourette Syndrome, and many others. How can we update our public library collections to respectfully and accurately represent these diverse populations? How can we use these books to promote empathy and acceptance? And how can we ensure that diverse and intersectional identities - such as race, class, and queerness - are also included? A neurodivergent librarian will share book recommendations, and you'll leave with resources that will help you keep up with this growing subsection of children's literature.

[Adriana White, South San Antonio ISD](#)

## Innovative Ideas that Work for School and Public Libraries

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Learn how other librarians are applying innovative tech solutions you can put to use during this idea sharing session facilitated by the Innovation and Technology Round Table. Bring your own challenges and successes to share with your peers.

[Margaret Miller, Pflugerville Public Library](#)

## Planning and Designing for Success: Preparing for Bond Elections and Capital Campaigns

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

This session will explore facility planning and design services and discuss how to incorporate these services into a plan to prepare for a bond election or capital campaign for public libraries. Participants will learn how to evaluate and select an appropriate facility design team, integrate the user community in the facility planning process, manage the timeline and prepare an accurate budget for a new or renovated facility program. The session will also explain the importance of strategic branding, communications, and advocacy in mounting a successful bond election

or capital campaign. Attendees will return to their own library with an understanding of the planning process and the tools needed to undertake and successfully market a bond election or capital campaign.

[Gretchen Pruett, New Braunfels Public Library](#); [Maureen Arndt, 720 design Inc.](#), [Garry Ford, City of New Braunfels](#); [Jordan Matney, City of New Braunfels](#)

### **Comics Club: Exploring the World of Comics through Creation and Discussion**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

In this session, speakers introduce the concept of a Comics Club where participants immerse themselves in various comic genres to learn all about comics, have meaningful discussions, and gain hands-on experience in creating their own comics. Join us as we outline the activities and implementation strategies to successfully run a Comics Club in the high school library.

[Elsa Treviño-Dominguez, Taft High School/Northside ISD](#); [Leslie Flynn, Austin Public Library](#)

### **Harnessing Data for Equity Mapping: A Public Library Case Study**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Over the past five years a public library's Early Childhood Outreach team has increasingly turned to publicly available data to drive decision-making to ensure equitable and accessible programs. In this session we will discuss how the team uses data mapping and the impact it has had on the programs and services we provide. Attendees will leave with resources to build the case for providing equitable services in your communities.

[Julia Lazarin, Megan Cruz, Eva Banda, San Antonio Public Library](#)

### **Scaling Up Your Asynchronous Virtual Learning Environment**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Recent technological advancements multiplied the variety of virtual learning experiences possible. This has led to an expansion of online course opportunities, and with that, an increased demand for asynchronous educational content that provides greater access to library resources, research tools, and other support. This session provides examples of how to effectively develop asynchronous experiences, with discussion of lessons learned and ideas for the future.

[Alison Young, South Texas College](#)

### **Travel the World with Google Geo Tools**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Want to take your students on field trips around the world, but don't have the budget or passports? Technology makes it easy and free to explore the globe. Use Google Geo tools like Maps, Street view, Earth, and Arts and Culture to get up close and personal with the world's most iconic sites without leaving your classroom! Presenters will explore how to use links and embed codes to add these geo elements to lessons and projects.

[Jennifer Wyatt, Victoria ISD](#)

### **Neuroinclusivity: Secrets for Welcoming the Neurodiverse at your Public Library**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Support and engage neurodiverse individuals in your school or public library by fostering a welcoming and neuro-inclusive library program. Learn about the unique needs of the neurodiverse community, which includes people with autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dysgraphia, Tourette Syndrome, and other conditions that affect executive functioning and sensory processing. The presenter will provide concrete examples for building an inclusive and affirming library collection, creating welcoming and sensory friendly spaces, and planning programs that engage and respond to neurodivergent needs.

[Megan Skipworth, El Paso Independent School District](#)

### **Immersive Marketing: Give Patrons a Virtual View of Your Library**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Have you ever taken an online tour of a model home or apartment in which you could travel throughout each room and get a 360-degree view of the space? The same thing can be done in your library as patrons can virtually tour the different nonfiction and fiction sections, maker or craft spaces, lounge seating, circulation desk, and more. Learn ways to link surveys, databases, online catalogs, or any other web resources pertaining to your program. The tour can then be added to marketing materials such as flyers, newsletters, or mass emails so patrons can visit the library any time they want!

[Brooke Corso, Houston ISD](#)

### **LGBTQIA Books and Your Collection**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Building a well-rounded, well-represented collection of fiction and nonfiction resources to help students to explore how they fit in the world is essential. For those students who identify as LGBTQIA, they are able to see themselves in literature which has previously relegated them to

supporting characters or only cautionary/trauma stories. Consideration will be given to multiple genres for the middle school library.

[Carin Galanter, Magoffin MS](#); [Randi Santaella, Magoffin MS](#)



### **Ask A Lawyer...**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

How can I respond to a patron's claim that a book is obscene or "harmful to minors"? What can a librarian do when law enforcement shows up with a warrant? How can I prepare and respond to challenges and disruptions in the library? While this session won't be offering legal advice, this is your opportunity to ask questions on legal topics of concern to libraries and librarians and learn when you need to consult an attorney. Staff from the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom and Freedom to Read Foundation will examine the legal issues surrounding daily practice, materials reconsiderations, and more.

[Deborah Caldwell-Stone, American Library Association](#)

### **Texas Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List Showcase**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

The Texas Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List is intended as a guide for recreational reading, targeted to readers in grades 6-12. Authors will discuss their latest books and elements for writing for this age group.

[Karina Quilantan, Jaime Escalante Middle School](#); [Rebecca Novotny, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD](#); [Leslie Flynn, Austin Public Library](#); [Morgan Green-Griffin, City of Plano](#); [Stephen Vernon, Houston ISD](#)

### **Young Adult Round Table Presents: YARI Award Winner Showcase**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

The winner of the Young Adult Round Table's Young Adult Reading Incentive Award will showcase their award winning library program.

### **Welcome to the New Statewide Interlibrary Loan System: SHAREit**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

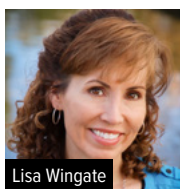
Texas State Library and Archives Commission staff will discuss the progress in implementing the new statewide interlibrary loan system, Auto-Graphics Inc.'s SHAREit for Texas public libraries. SHAREit will be live in spring 2024 as the current system, Navigator, is retired in August 2024. This will be an opportunity for library staff to learn more about SHAREit training and configuration and to ask any questions they might have about moving forward.

[Naomi DiTullio, Sara Hayes Texas State Library and Archives Commission](#)





Meg Medina



Lisa Wingate

## Opening Author and Awards Session (TICKETED)

12:15 - 1:45 PM

Kick off your TLA conference with an insightful and entertaining discussion about books, and a celebration of library supporters. Our featured speakers will be author Meg Medina; and author Lisa Wingate. The TLA Benefactor, Outstanding Services to Libraries, and Libraries Change Communities Awards will be presented. This event is hosted by TLA's Library Friends, Advocates and Trustees Round Table (LIFTA). *Tickets must be purchased by Friday, April 5.*

## Dungeons and Dragons and Libraries: Running Games for Teens

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Learn how to run games of Dungeons and Dragons (D and D) for teens thoughtfully and with care, to maximize fun and opportunities for learning skills they aren't otherwise picking up at school. There are ways to give teens chances to lead and give them space to explore being in charge of shaping the story. Running D and D games also gives teens the opportunity to be creative and experiment. Playing games shouldn't stop with children: everyone deserves the chance to play and explore, at every age and emotional level.

[Shannan Prukop, San Antonio Public Library](#)

## Academic Integrity: Building an Online Course with Librarians

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Through building a culture of collaboration between librarians, teachers, faculty, and academic affairs, this program will share new research and outline the best practices in instituting an Academic Integrity Library Workshop that tackles the guidelines to support student success, from plagiarism challenges to library resources, ChatGPT, AI and services and contract cheating endeavors.

[Kimberly Gay, Prairie View A&M University](#)

## Preparing your Collection to Fight Censorship

1:30 - 2:30 PM

A solid collection development policy is only the library's first line of defense. Materials challenges can be overcome with practical procedures, objective standards for material selection and strong platforms for community input. This program will offer practical solutions

to use throughout the collection maintenance process, from selection to discard, to provide an objective basis for responding to materials challenges.

[Lisa Loranc, Brazoria County Library System](#)

## Student Employment Experience: Development, Implementation and Effectiveness of a Training and Skills Program

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Student employees are an academic library's most valuable resource. Without them the library would not function. On-the-job training provides useful skills but to be most effective for our customers, student employees must be trained to a higher degree. A Texas university developed a curriculum based on library and marketable skills that is used to not only train our frontline workers, but also our newly minted Peer Research Consultants who provide one-on-one engagement with students to help them get into library resources. Attendees will learn about the development and effectiveness of the curriculum, asynchronous, multi-use training modules, and the new Peer Research Consultant positions.

[David Baca, Retired; Kerri Foley, Texas A&M University Galveston](#)

## A Principal and a Librarian: Building Community Through Literacy

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Are you looking for a way to promote your library, create a literacy community and build a better relationship with your principal? See how this librarian and principal used a book per month to engage readers and create connections beyond the classroom.

[Sara Romine, Woodstone Elementary; Diadra Williams, Woodstone Elementary, NEISD](#)

## School Libraries, Collection Development, Advocacy, and HB 900

1:30 - 2:30 PM

School library leaders will discuss what collection development and advocacy looks like for school librarians across the state since HB 900 was passed by the state Legislature. Participants will learn how HB 900 impacts school library collections, analyze their current collection development policies, and take away helpful advocacy tools to communicate how they are providing valuable services to the school community as well as partnering with their administration and faculty to assist with classroom libraries.

[Heather Hornor, K-12 Library; Lucy Podmore, Northside ISD; Brooke King, Texas Association of School Librarians](#)



## The Battle for the First Amendment: Why You Can't Afford to Remain Neutral

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Organizations like the Freedom to Read Foundation help libraries and librarians educate themselves and their community about how the First Amendment protects everyone's right to read, think and write. No one can remain passive in the face of these attacks on the freedom of speech; not publishers, authors, librarians, or our patrons.

[Jennifer Coffey Griswold, Pflugerville Public Library; Dorcas Hand, Students Need Libraries in HISD; Elizabeth Nebeker, Lone Star College CyFair; Skip Dye, Freedom to Read Foundation](#)

## Trends in Sustainability in School Libraries

1:30 - 2:30 PM

From environmental impact to creating a program that will thrive in rapidly changing educational systems, sustainability is a trend that is here to stay. The United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals are making an impact in the book industry and trickling into schools as well. A panel of industry leaders will provide insight to assist participants in moving their practice to the next level.

[Jennifer LaBoon, Bound to Stay Bound Books; Lori Smith, Bound To Stay Bound; Marisela Rodriguez, Southwest ISD; James Marshall, Rosen/Power Kids; Jen Cannell, Southern Westchester BOCES](#)

## Engaging Secondary Students with Novels in Verse

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Books in verse are great for all readers but are particularly helpful when engaging reluctant readers. They are fast, high quality, and less intimidating. In this session, presenters will share titles of books they love as well as ideas for using them with students.

[Kelly Kiehnhoff and Laura Fuller Spring Branch ISD](#)

## Reclaiming Social Media: Fun Strategies for Library Success!

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Are your library BookToks and other content being overshadowed by TikTok trendy dances and funny cat videos? Learn how a public library embraced humor, let books take center stage, and made one branch an overnight viral sensation by celebrating Large Type books. Presenters will share examples of how implementing a few fun, straightforward strategies can benefit library systems of all sizes. Learn how they expanded their reach while still maintaining regular library duties and making social media fun again.

[Nicole Ross, Nancy Hu, Sana Thalho, Harris County Public Library](#)

## Building Intentional Inclusion: An Online Book Club Experience

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Academic librarians frequently express frustration regarding student and faculty engagement outside of locating academic resources. Similarly, the beloved one-shot session does not yield much of a playground to hone active learning strategies and inclusive techniques. Learn how one librarian developed an online book club to increase student belonging and faculty engagement as well as active and inclusive learning. Identify ways to increase engagement, learning, and inclusion at your own institution utilizing your institution's strengths and resources.

Mary Havens, Austin Community College

## Revolutionizing School Libraries with Generative AI: An Ideal Partnership

1:30 - 2:30 PM

You've heard of ChatGPT, and of Bing and Google using AI. Explore the revolutionary impact of generative AI on school libraries. Discover how generative AI enhances information access, personalizes learning experiences, and fosters creativity. Discuss ethical considerations and strategies for responsible implementation, empowering educators and students through collaboration with the school librarian to embrace the exciting possibilities of generative AI and its use in the school library. Whether you're new or experienced with using generative AI, join us to discuss a future where innovation and traditional library resources converge, shaping a dynamic learning environment for the school library community.

Holly Weimar, Elizabeth Gross, Sam Houston State University

## Middle Grades Information Literacy Lessons

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Learn creative ways to engage students with information literacy by leveraging lesson plans related to an argument and debate class. The speaker will demonstrate some of the lessons and materials which attendees can modify to fit their own needs. While the lessons were created specifically for 7th graders, they can be adjusted up or down to meet the needs of a wide variety of learners.

Steve Tetreault, William R. Satz Middle School, Holmdel, NJ



## Mind the Gap: An Analysis of Intentional Practices for Diversifying Collections

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Do you want to diversify your offerings to public library patrons but don't know where to go for reputable reviews? Are you interested in

equity in your library? Presenters will share the results of a survey that will help you update your collection with confidence. The resources our colleagues shared in the survey revealed a wide-ranging and credible set of resources for librarians who want their collections to reflect their users and meet their needs.

Elizabeth Gross, SHSU; Jennifer Dickison, Cypress Fairbanks ISD

## Lend an Ear: Print to Audio Book Production

1:30 - 2:30 PM

As the demand for audiobooks increases, so has the availability and quality of narrated books. Production techniques have become more sophisticated and satisfying to their audience and lead to a broader author influence. YA authors will share their involvement in the creation of their audible format.

Susan Schilling, Humble ISD



## Burnout and Vocational Awe in Libraries: The Things We Don't Talk About

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Libraries are beloved institutions that strive to improve the world, but what happens when the normal people working in those institutions get worn out? Material challenges, budget cuts, natural disasters, economic downturns and more have hit us all professionally and personally. This presentation will introduce vocational awe, toxic positivity, and burnout in libraries, share some tactics for identifying, preventing, and combating burnout, and recommend further resources for learning about these topics.

Marjory Gibson, Cedar Park Public Library

## Let's Collab! Creating Teen-Led Library Programs

1:30 - 2:30 PM

What do you do when your teens have great ideas for programs but you don't have the time or know how to implement them? Collab! Discover the joys and challenges of teen-led programming.

Darla Pruitt, Atascocita Branch Library

## Public Library Division Presents: It's not all Dragons and Fairies

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Join Fantasy authors, still to be announced, to learn about their process, perspective, and upcoming books in this session presented by TLA and the Public Library Division.

Visit the [TLA 2024 microsite](#) for updated author list

## AI in Libraries and Education: Empowering Tomorrow's Minds Today

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Join us to explore the intersection of AI and education in libraries. From a diverse range of generative AI tools to the seamless integration of Google's AI in Docs, Slides, Sheets, and more, we unravel the future of learning. During our session we'll discuss the profound benefits and challenges of incorporating AI in education, providing insights into how these tools can empower both librarians and learners to create a dynamic and personalized educational experience. Don't miss this opportunity to envision the potential of AI in shaping the future of education.

Stacy Cameron, New Caney ISD; Emma McDonald, Mesquite ISD

## Top Texas Topaz Picks

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Discover the newest and best nonfiction for all ages from the 2024 Texas Topaz Nonfiction Reading List. In this round-robin style session, Topaz Committee members will highlight some top picks from the impressive company of nonfiction titles. Topaz books to be given as door prizes.

Bette McDowell, Pflugerville Public Library; Megan Firestone, Southwestern University; Shelly Landreth, University of Texas Permian Basin College of Education; Kandra Gibbs, North Richland Hills Library; Bethni King, Georgetown Public Library

## Authors for Your Book Club

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Stymied about what your book club might like to read? Searching for books suitable for discussion? Authors will share information on their new titles to spark conversation among your members.

Visit the [TLA 2024 microsite](#) for updated author list

## Little Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Join the Little Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List Committee members, and featured creators as they showcase some of their favorite recent graphic novels. Learn more about the many benefits of graphic novels for young readers and your role in advocating for them in your collection.

Kazu Kibuishi; Vera Brosgol; Johnnie Christmas; Renee Kurilla

## Best Believe I'm Still Bejeweled: New Books by Award-Winning Authors and Illustrators

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Come see what's new with your favorite award-winning authors and illustrators! This star-studded author panel includes picture books and illustrated chapter books.

Visit the [TLA 2024 microsite](#) for updated author list

## Texas Library Champions Celebration (TICKETED)

2:30 PM 4:00 PM

At this event, we'll honor the new inductees into TLA's list of Texas Library Champions, individuals and organizations whose influence has fundamentally changed the landscape of Texas libraries. These honorees will be added to the list of Texas Library Champions that was compiled in 2002 in commemoration of TLA's 100th anniversary celebration. Please join us as we honor these legends of the Texas library world. *Tickets must be purchased by Friday, April 5.*

## Level Up: How Supplemental Certifications Boost Your Value and Impact

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Librarians have an array of supplemental ambassador and certification programs they can choose, from LEGO Teacher Ambassador, Ozobot Certified Educator, Google Education to Wakelet Ambassador, there is something for everyone. Learn about the different types and requirements of ambassador and certification programs available to librarians, and how obtaining such certifications can bring empowered learning to your librarianship.

[Amanda Chacon, Sheldon ISD](#)

## Start a Young Authors Program at Your Library!

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Since 1992, a public library has invited kids in grades five to nine to attend an intensive seven-week writing workshop that culminates in their very own published children's book. These books are then added to the library collection for others to check out and enjoy. Librarians who have planned and run this program will share what has worked and what has not and how this program became a part of the community for over 30 years.

[Kelly Keller, Richardson Public Library;](#)  
[Nancy Churnin, Nancy Churnin Children's Books;](#)  
[Diane Bashaw, Richardson Public Library](#)

## Automate Your Instagram with Canva and AI

3:00 - 4:00 PM

It's incredibly easy to create content for your library's Instagram posts in seconds with ChatGPT and then schedule the posts using Canva's content planner tool, thereby increasing your social media presence. The presenter will walk attendees through the process of writing instructions for the ChatGPT prompt, transferring the data created by ChatGPT to Canva, formatting the Instagram posts in Canva, and finally, scheduling the posts through the Canva.

[Monica Babaian, Fort Bend ISD](#)

## Makers Without Spaces

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Public libraries have a unique opportunity to offer access to a variety of new technologies. In recent years, maker equipment has found its way into the spaces of many public libraries. But what happens if the library can't fund or house those technologies? A Texas public library received a Special Projects Grant from TSLAC which funded a mobile makerspace and increased programming capabilities while maximizing the flexibility of the library's space. Learn about their experience and how to uncover your own community's creative needs, increase maker programming with community partnerships, and foster new learning opportunities at your library.

[Faria Matin, Julie Crisafulli, Lori Eddy,](#)  
[Mansfield Public Library](#)

## Academic Library Instruction Design 101: Back to Basics

3:00 - 4:00 PM

In this hands-on session for new(ish) academic librarians, participants will learn techniques and pedagogical methods that will help them become better teachers for both in-person and online formats, and different ways of preparing and planning to teach college students. Participants will be able to develop student learning objectives for instruction based on the ACRL Framework for Library Instruction, discuss ideas for assessment and instruction activities, and receive feedback on ideas from the facilitators and other participants.

[Robyn Reid, Texas Christian University;](#)  
[Kelly Hoppe, Cornette Library, West Texas A&M University](#)

## Yes for Success: Making the Right Ask for Fund and Friend Raising

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Recruiting to the Friend's group and fundraising are key to cultivating thriving organizations. Effectively telling your story is crucial to communicating your value. Put yourself in the best position to get a "yes" from donors, volunteers, and friends by learning, planning, preparing, and practicing the right and

wrong ways to make the ask and respond appropriately whether the answer is yes or no. A panel of experienced public, academic, and school librarians will guide you through the process.

[Kathy Hillman, Baylor University;](#)  
[Susan Mann, Hillsboro City Library;](#)  
[Mark Gottschalk, Tarrant County College;](#)  
[Kate DiPronio, retired school librarian;](#)  
[Edward Smith, Abilene Library Consortium](#)

## Do It for the 'Gram: Social Media, Advocacy, and School Libraries

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Marketing a school library program with social media can be a huge undertaking. Librarians serving on the Texas Association of School Librarians (TASL, a Texas Library Association division) social media committee will share how to use various tools to reach patrons beyond the walls of the library, advertise their programs, and advocate to administration, district officials, community, and more.

[Jillian Pratt, Comal ISD;](#)  
[Rachael Welsh, Pearland ISD](#)

## Skating on Thin Ice (and Liking It): Writing Safely on Sensitive Subjects

3:00 - 4:00 PM

More and more, libraries are compelled into public discourse on subjects that would have been unthinkable even a few years ago. Public libraries that remain silent send a very clear message and one that can be costly in both community perception and political relevance. In short, silence allows others to dictate the scope of discussion on topics that may impact your library. Writing well to advocate for your communities and your library on sensitive and charged topics is a necessary skill for all library workers. Using real-world examples, this presentation will provide practical tips, best practices, and planning tools for writing public and private responses on almost any issue. This session will be discreetly interactive, so feel free to bring topics you may be struggling with.

[David Cherry, Harris County Public Library](#)

## Creating Multi-Generational Family Programming to Bridge Gaps using A Juneteenth Celebration Cookbook

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Most Juneteenth programs focus on a particular age group, but how do librarians and educators develop programs to engage the whole family? The author of *The Juneteenth Cookbook*, will share a program that introduces younger and older audiences alike to the holiday. Learn how to present to whole families with Juneteenth crafts and cooking lessons that will educate and engage.

[Mel Schuit, The Quarto Group](#)



## In Defense of Comics: Challenging Stereotypes and Celebrating Comics

**3:00 - 4:00 PM**

Convincing adults that comics are a legitimate way for kids to read can be a difficult task. Explore the extraordinary potential of graphic novels, comic books, and manga to captivate readers and nonreaders alike. Arm yourself with data and research that show that graphic novels can be effective tools in building proficiency and enjoyment in reading. Walk away with examples of how to use graphic novels effectively.

[Katelyn Patterson, Austin Public Library](#); [Elsa Treviño-Dominguez, Northside ISD](#); [Leslie Flynn, Austin Public Library](#); [Shari Sawyers, Cheatham Elementary](#); [Erin Petrie, Harris County Public Library](#)

## How To Become An Essential Partner On a School Campus

**3:00 - 4:00 PM**

iSchool librarians are invited to this interactive session to discover the transformative power of collaboration with classroom teachers, enabling them to become essential partners on campus. Librarians will learn how to leverage their expertise and communicate their value in supporting student learning and academic success. Attendees will be introduced to a wealth of ready-to-use lessons and resources, tailored to various grade levels and subjects. These valuable takeaways will empower librarians to seamlessly integrate their services into the curriculum, aligning with instructional goals and promoting information literacy, research skills, and critical thinking.

[Erica White, Judy Boone, Irving ISD](#)

## Be the Game Changer: Strategies for Alleviating Library Anxiety for College Students through Outreach and Engagement

**3:00 - 4:00 PM**

Library anxiety is common among college students, especially first-year students. This form of anxiety can cause students to feel intimidated, embarrassed, and overwhelmed by libraries and librarians. This presentation will focus on effective outreach and engagement strategies that librarians can use to create a welcoming and supportive environment for college students.

[Bryant Moore, Texas A&M University-San Antonio](#)

## ChatGPT and Copyright: Current Status of US Copyright Law on Generative AI

**3:00 - 4:00 PM**

While ChatGPT and other AI software are capable of creating reports, videos, and other creative content, someone has to initiate the request. Does this person then retain the

copyright to whatever the AI software created? In this session you will learn about some basics about the infrastructure related to generative AI and how this applies to understanding copyright law, as well as the status of several lawsuits regarding generative AI and how this might affect copyright law.

[Lisa Muilenburg, Del Mar College](#); [Erin Burns, Texas Tech University](#)

## ¡Para Todos! Leveraging the Latinx Kidlit Book Festival to Support Your Curriculum

**3:00 - 4:00 PM**

The Latinx Kidlit Book Festival is a free multi-day virtual event during Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month that showcases Latinx authors, illustrators, books, and publishers. Discovers how to integrate free educational tools from the festival to foster empathy and bolster representation at libraries and schools in Texas and around the country. Attendees will leave with handouts such as: Read-a-Like recommendations; Theme Weeks during Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month; Latinx Identity Is Not a Monolith.

[Stephen Vernon, Houston ISD](#); [Alexandra Villasanté, Latinx Kidlit Book Festival](#); [Ismee Williams, Latinx Kidlit Book Festival](#)

## Employee Engagement: Strategies to Help (New) Employees Thrive

**3:00 - 4:00 PM**

As a leader, do you notice problems like quiet quitting, a lack of engagement, or retention issues? Research and surveys have continuously revealed that many employees do not feel fully committed to their organization for the first two years. Learn how you can help your new employee feel an increased sense of commitment and belonging to the organization. Although this presentation is specifically directed towards leading new employees, the concepts are also applicable for engaging tenured employees.

[Charles Heasley, J&C Leadership Consulting](#)

## Young Adult Books and the Political Youth Awakening

**3:00 - 4:00 PM**

The right to vote is one of the most powerful ways for citizens' voices to be heard. Analysts predict that America's youth is a politically animated generation poised to impact the 2024 elections. YA authors have written books with political themes which may further encourage teens to vote. Libraries can offer books and other resources to students of all ages to develop awareness of our political processes.

[Susan Schilling, Humble ISD](#); [David Levithan, Penguin Random House](#)

## The Hive Mind: Defending Intellectual Freedom Together

**3:00 - 4:00 PM**

Join the FReedom Fighters for a collaborative conversation and Q&A on defending intellectual freedom in contentious times. Learn about best practices for warding off censorship and the impacts of current legislation. Work with other attendees to build a digital collection of best practices to address local concerns.

[Carolyn Foote, Retired Librarian, FReedom Fighters](#); [Becky Calzada, Leander ISD](#)

## The Unconventional Book Club

**3:00 - 4:00 PM**

Conventional book clubs can be difficult to engage students, but this example of an unconventional book club in grades 6-12 will double or even triple participation at your school library. Students will not only love to share the books they are reading with book talks, but they will want to spend more time in the library. The unconventional book club was able to empower students with organizational and presentational skills, teach them to better express themselves, and above all, help them have a feeling of accomplishment.

[Pete Biddle, EPISD Young Women's STEAM Research & Preparatory Academy](#)

## Technology, TEKS and Teacher Collaboration In Your School Library

**3:00 - 4:00 PM**

Looking for ways to collaborate with teachers and include technology while you help them cover essential TEKS? Presenters will share easy to use applications that cover TEKS and engage readers in the process of creating and responding to reading of their choice.

[Charlotte Polk, Brenham ISD](#); [Gwen Waller, Brenham ISD and Blinn College](#)

## Picture Books, Graphic Novels, and Primary Sources: Better Than the Sum of their Parts

**3:00 - 4:00 PM**

This session explores the interplay between historically based nonfiction picture books, graphic novels, and primary sources as a means to investigate a historical topic or individual, explore research methods, or understand and evaluate an author and illustrator's story. This hands-on presentation will immerse participants in the process of analyzing primary sources and connecting their thinking and learning to related children's literature.

[Tom Bober, Clayton School District](#)

## Middle Grade Fiction for Budding Active Citizens

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Children are deeply insightful, and more aware of the problems plaguing modern society than they are often given credit for. Reading books that show children taking action in the face of adversity can motivate kids to get involved for the betterment of their communities.

[Nick Eliopoulos Zando](#), [Zack Loran](#), [Clark Zando](#)

## Prepared for Pride: Challenges to Programs and Displays

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Pride month displays, programming, and materials with LGBTQ+ content are being heavily targeted by groups attempting to dismantle, deface, or completely remove them. Further, librarians and library professionals within academic and special libraries, identifying as LGBTQ+, also continue to face challenges in the workplace. In this session, presenters from the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom will share experiences and strategies supporting the LGBTQ+ community, library personnel, and content.

[Joyce McIntosh](#) and [Eric Stroshane](#), [American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom](#)

## Promote Your School Library with Professional Development Opportunities

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Show off library resources and leadership skills by hosting professional development at the department, campus, or district level. The school library has valuable services and solutions teachers need. This session will provide a roadmap for approaching administrators, advertising workshops, and using what already is known to create relevant, informative professional development content that will set you apart as a go-to person on campus or districtwide. Don't hide these skills and knowledge! Faculty and staff need what the librarian offers, but do they know it?

[Sandra Plumb](#), [Freiheit Elementary](#); [Rachel Pruett](#), [Comal ISD](#)

## Navigating a Brand New Public Library Facility

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Building a new public library can be a daunting task, but simultaneously it's also an exciting opportunity for learning and growth for all individuals involved. Learn how to navigate and energize the community to support a new branch, identify any problems and issues so you can prepare for them (and not repeat them), and make the experience the best, regardless of the outcome. This session is for those who have a new library facility in their future or curious about

the experience of building a brand-new facility.

[Chamong Siong](#), [Fort Worth Public Library](#); [Javier Rodriguez](#), [Fort Worth Public Library](#); [Michelle Cervantes](#), [City of Round Rock Public Library](#); [Shelley Holley](#), [City of Frisco/Frisco Public Library](#); [Monique Franklin](#), [Fort Bend County Libraries](#)

## A Day in the Life of a Training Officer: The New Normal

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Public library staff and librarians are being pulled in many directions. One-on-one interactions with library public patrons are reaching an all-time high and there is inadequate staffing to implement complex programs, let alone help patrons with resume writing or device assistance. How can libraries successfully provide a quality service to their patrons? A Texas public library created a collaboration between Training Officers and library staff that has positively impacted patrons. This unique group of adult educators provide individual and group support, specializing in full cycle career support, computer proficiency, assistive technology, community resources, device-lending program and the Enhanced Library Card program.

[Marcella McGowan](#); [Denise Cadena](#), [City of San Antonio](#)

## Birds of a Feather

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Connect with others working or eyeing a career in special libraries to network and learn from each other.

[Jodie Borgerding](#), [Amigos Library Services](#)

## Library Director: First Year Survival Skills

3:00 - 4:00 PM

The first year as a library director can be challenging although ultimately rewarding. A panel of public library directors who have been in the job less than three years will share how they coped, what they learned and who to have at your side during your transition into that new role.

[Naomi DiTullio](#), [Katherine Adelberg](#), [Texas State Library and Archives Commission](#)

## 2x2 Reading List Showcase

3:00 - 4:00 PM

The Texas 2x2 Reading List Committee will introduce titles from the 2024 2x2 Reading List, and a featured author-illustrator will share about their creative process and their upcoming works.

[Montana Rindahl](#), [Mammen Family Public Library](#)

## Throwbacks: Engaging Middle Grade Students with Historical Fiction

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Historical fiction is a powerful way for kids to connect with the past and apply those lessons to today. Authors will share the newest middle grade historical fiction that kids will be begging to read.

Visit the [TLA 2024 microsite](#) for updated author list.

## TLA District 5 Business Meeting

3:00 - 4:00 PM

## Storytelling Swap and Concert

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Join us for an evening of storytelling! Attendees will have an opportunity to sign up to share their own stories and enjoy curated performances from guest storytellers.

[Hannah Fassett](#), [Spicewood Springs Library](#); [Carmen Lazo](#), [Pflugerville Public Library](#)

## TLA District 4 Business Meeting

4:00 - 5:00 PM

## TLA District 10 Business Meeting

4:00 - 5:00 PM

## Innovation and Technology Round Table Reception (TICKETED)

4:00 - 7:00 PM

Join the Innovation and Technology Round Table (ITRT) for an unforgettable evening! Our social is relaxing and fun; drop in as you can. Location: Guadalajara Grill, 301 S Alamo Street, in beautiful downtown San Antonio. *Tickets must be purchased by Friday, April 5.*

## Public Libraries Division Social (TICKETED)

6:00 - 8:00 PM

**The Briscoe Museum, 210 W Market St. San Antonio**

Join your fellow PLD-ers for mingling, networking, and of course, food and refreshments. *Free to attend. RSVP via online conference registration form by Friday, April 5 to reserve your place.*

## Small Community Libraries Round Table Social (TICKETED)

8:00 - 10:00 PM

This is a social for small city libraries to come together for networking, professional growth, and fun at the same time, but all are welcomed. Awards to be given are Librarian of the Year, Library Advocate of the Year, and announcement of stipend winners. *Free to attend. RSVP via online conference registration form by Friday, April 5 to reserve your place.*





**Chips and queso.**  
**Hamburgers and fries.**  
**Teachers and Librarians.**  
**Some things are better**  
**TOGETHER!**



**April 18, 2024**

**8-10 am**

Information available at  
[txla.org/teacher-day](http://txla.org/teacher-day)



# Thursday, April 18 Programs & Events

## LEGEND

★ President's Program

### Continuing Professional Education Credits

CPE credit information is provided as a guideline. Refer to [txla.org](http://txla.org) for information on claiming CPE credits.

**Registration**..... 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**Authors Area**..... 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Exhibit Hall** ..... 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

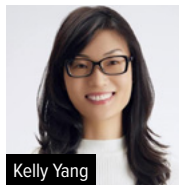
**Last day exhibit hall and authors area are open**

**Bag Check** ..... 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

All sessions are open to all attendees, unless otherwise noted.



Kate DiCamillo



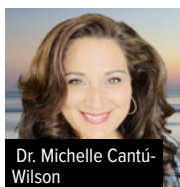
Kelly Yang

### Teacher Day @ TLA (TICKETED)

**8:00 - 10:00 AM**

It's an extra-special Teacher Day at TLA this year, as two bestselling authors are joining us for this amazing event! Kate DiCamillo (*The Beatryce Prophecy* and many more) and Kelly Yang (the *Front Desk* series) will discuss their newest books. Join TASL for an event celebrating collaboration between teachers and librarians! *Tickets must be purchased by Friday, April 5.*

[Kate DiCamillo](#); [Kelly Yang](#)



Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson

### Leadership Symposium (TICKETED)

**8:00 - 10:00 AM**

This session is open to people at all career levels who are interested in sharpening their leadership skills. The keynote speaker for the Leadership Symposium is Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson. 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 then turn practice into habit? In this interactive and research-based session, participants will learn about the origins and impact of burnout and will develop personal plans for preventing burnout in the future. Dr. Michelle 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 for the developmental education department. She holds a Doctor of Education degree in Higher Education Leadership from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. *Tickets must be purchased by Friday, April 5.*

### TLA Supervision Management Administration Round Table Business Meeting

**8:00 - 9:00 AM**

### Beyond Book Challenges: Advocating for Intellectual Freedom in the Media

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

As public and academic libraries deal with unprecedented censorship issues and book challenges, librarians and library staff have an opportunity to be proactive instead of simply reacting to negative media coverage. This session will provide practical tips for dealing with media requests, fielding interviews, writing effective op-eds and letters to the editor, and speaking effectively on issues of first amendment advocacy and librarianship.

[Kerol Harrod](#), [Texas Woman's University School of Library and Information Studies](#)

### Bros on a Budget: Renovating A School Library with Limited Funding

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Librarians have big dreams and small wallets. Three guybrarians will share how they renovated school libraries with creative replicable solutions that you can try in your library. that can be replicated in your libraries. A sterile library can become vibrant again with some out-of-the-box thinking, planning, a little elbow grease, and simple changes and additions that make the library one that invites students. Get creative and make the library a place that meets students' needs, and where they feel at home.

[Marco Zannier Virginillo](#), [Aldine ISD](#); [William Schaller](#), [Aldine ISD](#); [Luke Black](#), [Aldine ISD](#)

### Getting the Most out of E-Read Texas

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission and Amigos Library Services will share updates about the E-Read Texas program and the SimplyE mobile app. This session will conclude with a user group meeting for libraries currently participating in E-Read Texas.

[Karen McElfresh](#), [Texas State Library and Archives Commission](#); [Christine Peterson](#), [Christine Peterson Consulting](#)

## Educating Preservice Teachers: Ensuring Better Collaborative Experiences for K-12 Librarians and Teachers

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

School librarians frequently run into barriers when trying to collaborate with teachers on their campus. What if teachers began their careers wanting to collaborate with a school librarian and knowing everything school librarians do for them? An academic librarian, school librarians and a university professor will share how they worked toward that goal through an educational panel of school librarians for K-12 preservice teachers at a local university. Explore the logistics of this collaborative experience to discover how to implement something similar in your school district or university.

[Kelly Hoppe, Cornette Library, West Texas A&M University](#); [Pamela Barrett, Amarillo ISD](#); [Heather Finsterwald, Leslie Whitaker, Claude ISD](#); [Paula Schwertner, Bushland ISD](#)

## TELPAS Café: - Work with ESL Teachers to Help Students Grow

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

During TELPAS Café, the secondary school librarian and ESL teachers work together to prepare students for the TELPAS test by creating monthly, thematic lessons. Each month's stations allow students to practice speaking, listening and writing skills in a fun, safe environment. Students show growth in their English skills each month as they prepare for the TELPAS test.

[Veronica Barajas, Daniela Herrejon, Michael Caston, Jaclynn Meyer, Northside ISD](#)

## Trauma-Informed Care Part 2: Focus on Public

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Using the lens of trauma-informed care, discover how public libraries can increase their ability to provide safe and supportive spaces for individuals who have experienced trauma. Learn about the principles of trauma-informed care and explore practical strategies to employ when facing difficult behaviors and interactions from the public. Part two of this session will empower library staff to cultivate compassionate environments and provide trauma-sensitive services to its community. (Part 1, Wed, April 17, 10-11am)

[Cheryl Sheehan, Kiyanna Stephens, Dacari Lambert, San Antonio Public Library](#)

## Books Modeling Conflicting Points of View in Respectful, Engaging and Entertaining Ways

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Disagreement doesn't have to be disagreeable! A trio of authors whose newest books show readers how to bring balance to topics that might otherwise polarize offer entry points into discussions in which readers learn about listening respectfully and giving

fair consideration to opposing viewpoints. Sometimes these disagreements are caused by a rush to judgment, solution, or resolution. A lack of information or understanding may be a primary factor. Authors who may spend years crafting a text and use dozens of sources in their research along the way have insights to share which can help school librarians better equip their students to navigate such conflicts.

[Becky Calzada, Leander ISD](#); [Chris Barton, Crystal Allen, HarperCollins](#); [Ali Terese, Scholastic](#)

## TLA Intellectual Freedom Helpline Explained

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

The TLA Intellectual Freedom Helpline offers peer support to librarians in Texas who face challenges, to materials, resources and/or programs offered by their libraries. Helpline volunteers will share examples of requests for assistance received from school, public and academic librarians and the resources available to support librarians facing challenges.

[Dorcas Hand, Students Need Libraries in HISD](#); [Kimberly Gay, Prairie View A&M University](#)

## Get Sensational: The Importance of Sensory Programming at Your Library

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Learn how to provide a supportive and engaging environment in your public library where those with special sensory needs can learn and explore. Using sensory-focused crafts, toys, and nature-based activities, participants are able to utilize all five senses to explore their world. Learn more about how to craft and create these programs.

[Heather Fellenstein, Pioneer Library System](#); [Abby Curry, Pioneer Library System](#)

## Preparing for the Inevitable: Getting the Hard Stuff Out of the Way to Enjoy Retirement

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Anyone at any time can find themselves in the role of caregiver. What do you need to consider if you find yourself caring for older loved ones? What if you are the one needing care? What are the practical considerations and decisions needed should this happen to you? This session will identify the hard questions to ask and answer and the practical resources available to feel confident in retirement providing for loved ones.

[Jeanne Standley, TLA Retired Librarians Round Table](#); [Gretchen McCord, Digital Information Law](#); [Katie Dickinson, The Senior Source](#)

## The Scoop on Poop: Engaging Read Aloud Experiences

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

There is no doubt that poop is funny! What is more engaging for a young reader than watching grown-ups and librarians squirm and say stinky words? Capitalize on student interest in potty humor to create engaging read aloud experiences for elementary and middle grade readers. In this session we will recommend book titles and library lessons that will delight students and patrons and encourage a love of literacy. (Not for the squeamish.)

[Heather Picciuti, Patrick Adams, Keller ISD](#)

## TexQuest Supports for Emergent Bilingual and SPED Students

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Our classroom landscapes have a wonderful mix of cultures, languages, strengths, and needs. TexQuest digital resources provide access to authoritative online content including articles, videos, images, and full-text nonfiction eBooks, in English, Spanish, and other languages. Join us for an informative session covering how these digital resources can be used to accommodate emergent bilingual students and those with special needs.

[Norma Gutierrez, Sandra Villagomez, Education Service Center, Region 20](#)

## The Prose Less Traveled: Telling Difficult Stories in Unique Ways

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

When it comes to handling difficult topics in middle grade literature the rules of prose must be stretched to pull out meaning. Sometimes form, style and genre can be priceless tools in creating a seamless link between the writer and the reader. Presenters offer their unique perspectives and will discuss processes and practical ways to connect readers with these books.

[Ro Menendez, Cannaday Elementary](#); [Chris Baron, Macmillan/Feiwei and Friends](#); [Torrey Maldonado, Ally Malinenko](#); [Amber McBride, Macmillan Children's Publishing Group](#)

## Really Interact During Academic Library Instruction with Nearpod

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Nearpod is a web-based presentation creation tool that includes interactive slides, videos, and game-based learning activities. These either can be in-person or asynchronous lessons. Nearpod encourages students to enter responses even if they don't want to speak up in class. Thus, keeping them focused on the instructor's teaching and while giving feedback. In addition, it offers reports on the lessons that are shareable for assessment and statistics. Participants will need to bring devices with internet access to take part in the sample lessons.

[Linda Gray, Blinn College District](#)

## DIY Escape Rooms and Mystery Nights

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Escape rooms and mystery nights are great ways to draw new patrons into your public library. These interactive gaming events can be designed for a range of ages and encourage teamwork, critical thinking, and creativity, and can build upon existing programs like book clubs. Learn how to design mini-escape rooms and mystery nights, what supplies you will need, and how to run a successful event in your own library.

[Amanda Cawthon, Cedar Park Public Library;](#)  
[Kassandra Gaither, Aubrey Area Library](#)

## Beyond Your Four Walls: Hosting Public Programs with Local Businesses

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Give your patrons a memorable experience while reaching new audiences and supporting the local economy. Public library staff will share tips and lessons learned while building partnerships with local business owners and working together to raise awareness of offsite programs, ranging from a no-cost book club to a concert with a five-digit budget. Learn practical strategies for identifying the perfect venue and working with local businesses to create mutually beneficial relationships, and confidently develop or adapt even the most traditional public programs for nontraditional spaces.

[Jana Hill, Jennifer Demas, Rita Alfaro, Patricia Everett, Rachel Sicard, Fort Worth Public Library](#)

## Yes, You Are a Leader!

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

When librarians and library workers think of leadership, they often think of someone who has a director, coordinator, or manager title or who aims to have a title in the future. In librarianship, each librarian and library worker has the potential of being a leader with or without that title. Come to this session where we will discuss LAUNCH and the TALL Texan Leadership Institute, what they are all about, and why you, yes you, are a great candidate for either of these great TLA leadership programs. This will be a partial panel and workshop style session where participants will learn and have the option of sitting down with LAUNCH and TALL Texan alumni for their feedback!

[Heather Hornor, K-12 Library](#)

## Texas Topaz Nonfiction Gems for Kids and Teens

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Nonfiction books are some of the hottest picks for young readers, but often are hidden gems. Texas Topaz Reading List Committee members will highlight nonfiction titles for kids and teens and share ways to utilize titles in library

programming and classroom instruction. Select Topaz titles to be given as door prizes.

[Bette McDowell, Pflugerville Public Library;](#)  
[Candace Hudson, Mesquite ISD; Bethni King, Georgetown Public Library; Kristi Starr, Mustang Public Schools \(OK\); Rachel Asselin, University of St. Thomas – Houston](#)

## TAYSHAS Reading List

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

The TAYSHAS Reading List is intended as a guide for recreational reading, targeted to readers in grades 9-12. Authors will discuss their latest books and elements for writing for this age group.

[Patrick Flores, Little, Brown; Jas Hammonds, Macmillan Children's Publisher; Patricia Park; Jumata Emill, Random House Childrens; Adib Khorram, Penguin Random House](#)

## Lone Star Reading List

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

The Lone Star Reading List is intended as a guide for recreational reading, targeted to readers in grades 6-8. Authors will discuss their latest books and elements for writing for this age group.

[Kimberly Brubaker; Ruth Behar, Penguin Young Readers; Kekla Magoon, Candlewick Press; Gary D. Schmidt, Harper Collins Childrens](#)

## That's Like Me! Books Featuring Children with Differences

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Authors will discuss the inclusion of disabilities in children's books, and how their recent releases can help all kids feel seen.

[Visit the \[TLA 2024 microsite\]\(#\) for updated author list](#)

## It Takes a Village: Family and Communities in Picture Books

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Children really are raised by a village: parents, siblings, teachers, librarians, , and others in the community. The creators on this panel will inspire you to spend quality time with those you love.

[Visit the \[TLA 2024 microsite\]\(#\) for updated author list](#)

## Help Staff Achieve Career Success with an Interview Workshop at Your Library

**10:00 - 11:00 AM**

Are you a manager that has internal job candidates that demonstrate an excellent skillset in their day-to-day work, but their interview skills prevent upward mobility? Do staff in your organization feel like upward mobility is impossible because they continually apply for positions that don't fit their strengths? A public

library developed a three-part workshop to assist staff in developing interview skills that would help them rise to the top of the interview pool. Learn how staff have benefitted from a basic and focused opportunity to learn and discuss interview techniques and challenges.

[Lisa Jordan, Johnson County Library, Kansas;](#)  
[Kristen Holdman-Ross, Johnson County Library, Kansas](#)

## Beyond the Books: Building a Community of Readers through Special Programming

**10:00 - 11:00 AM**

Learn how different school library events incorporating holidays and literary works to build a sense of community and appreciation for reading. The Harry Potter back-to-school bash, Halloween lock-in, Super Hero night, district Fandom event, and Valentine's escape room promote literacy. Attendees will understand the research on how these events support student achievement and collaboration with teachers and staff. These activities can be planned with minimal funding but will still lead to a successful event.

[Cristina Bustillos, Olga Elbancol, Socorro ISD](#)

## Decloaking Wakanda: Creating Space for BIPOC Nerds

**10:00 - 11:00 AM**

For the past 30 years, BIPOC nerds have existed in the cringe-worthy shadow of Urkel. What if, instead, they'd had portrayals such as Chadwick Boseman's Black Panther, Oscar Isaac's Poe Dameron (Star Wars), and Simu Liu's Shang-Chi to look up to?? Would BIPOC fans feel more welcome?? Just as the fictional land of Wakanda was a fiercely guarded safe haven in Black Panther, libraries can create spaces for the BIPOC fandom - an underserved and underrepresented community. Join us for this discussion focused on connecting with nerd culture and creating a welcoming environment for fans of color who are passionate about comics, manga, anime, gaming, sci-fi and fantasy.

[Christina Taylor, Texas State Library and Archives Commission; Stephanie Galvan Russell, Hutto ISD; Jean Darnell, Dessau Middle School](#)

## Level Up Your Library Program with Esports

**10:00 - 11:00 AM**

Level up your library programs with this esports primer overview session including the what-how-why of building a high quality, student-led program, even for the most budget-conscious school district. Coaches from a school's esports club will demonstrate their program.

[Katie Michna, Robert G. Cole Middle and High School; Wacey Tobler, Robert G. Cole Middle and High School](#)



## Using Tabletop Role Playing Games to Support ACRL Frameworks

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Parts of the ACRL Frameworks, such as specifically Information Has Value, can be very hard to articulate to individuals in a classroom setting. Tabletop Role Playing Games provide vivid living examples of how the Frameworks function and have the bonus of being in a fun/interactive setting. Learners will understand the context of the ACRL Frameworks using this platform in a way that can reach not only upper but lower level students.

[Carlton Nelson, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley](#)

## Creative and Collaborative Programming for High School Students

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Transform library makerspaces to the next level with programming ideas that are ready for instant implementation. Take a step outside the proverbial box and discover new ways to keep students engaged inside and outside the library. Three librarians share their experiences with creating collaborative library programming events in both virtual and in-person formats. Some of the programming ideas discussed include arts and crafts, literary library karaoke, mental health wellness, poetry slams, and market days.

[Monica Babaian, Fort Bend ISD; Jessica Nguyen, FBISD; Shantel Benjamin, Thurgood Marshall High School](#)

## Soften the Blow of “No”: Five Simple Strategies for Courteous Refusal

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Library personnel might need to say “no” to patrons for many reasons. Perhaps the request falls outside the scope of your mission, or your policy simply does not allow staff to comply with the request, or resources and staff are too limited to offer the requested service. Even in the face of completely valid reasons, some staff members struggle with the ability to say “no.” They are tempted to make policy exceptions to maintain relationships with patrons. The desire to maintain quality relationships with the community is valid; however, every exception to policy creates a break in the dam that threatens to become a flood. Eventually, customers come to expect an exception, thereby rendering your policies obsolete. Learn five clear strategies for rejecting customer requests without actually saying “no.”

[Jessi Akins, Giddings Public Library](#)

## Inclusive Approaches to Genealogy and Improving Diversity of Genealogical Programs and Collections

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Does your genealogy collection offer resources for those from all ethnicities and backgrounds to research their family histories? Or does it focus on those from only a certain part of the world? Are your genealogy programs reaching everyone in your surrounding communities or catering to just a select few? Learn how to update your collections and diversify your programs to reach those with lineages from every part of the world. This session will be presented by the TLA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee.

[Chad Hetterley, Grapevine Public Library](#)

## Human Resources Refresher

10:00 - 11:00 AM

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) administers and enforces more than 180 federal laws. Some of these include Fair Labor Standards, FMLA, Health Coverage, Occupational Safety, Equal Employment Opportunity, Age Discrimination, and Americans with Disabilities Act. This session will review the essential standards and laws employers and managers must adhere to. Refresh these skills and learn something new.

[Katherine Quinell, Tarleton State University; Jackie Gunner, City of Beaumont](#)

## All by Ourselves: How Solo School Librarians Thrive and Survive

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Are you a solo librarian in your district? Do you feel isolated and unsure if you are serving your district effectively? Network with fellow solo librarians who have been through the good, the bad, and the ugly and survived. Join the conversation to gain insights into successfully navigating the solo librarian experience.

[Linda Sanchez, Community ISD; Christina Moore, Sanger ISD; Allison French, Aubrey ISD; Abby Moore, Breckenridge ISD; Cara Tareilo, Everman ISD](#)

## Do You Know About the Texas Literary Hall of Fame?

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Many people are not aware of the Texas Literary Hall of Fame, and it's time to get the word out! This session will provide background on the Texas Literary Hall of Fame, its honorees and what it takes to get inducted. Past inductees will talk about their successes and what being a part of the Texas Literary Hall of Fame means to them. Attendees will learn about the criteria and nomination process. Join us to learn how you can help spread the word and get our Texan authors recognized.

[Tracy Hull, Texas Christian University](#)

## Getting the Job Done Alone: Strategies for Solo School Librarians

10:00 - 11:00 AM

If you are a solo school librarian who sometimes feels defeated by all the great things you see other librarians doing on social media or in presentations, this session is for you. The solo librarian is responsible for all aspects of the library: teaching, programming, collection development, budgeting, advocacy, and more. It can be overwhelming. Attendees will leave this session with strategies for managing an effective school library program without an aide or other support personnel. There will also be time to share insights and tips from attendees' own experiences.

[Kimberly Herrington, Pearland ISD; Deborah McComb, Pearland ISD](#)

## Lived Experiences in Literature: The Importance of Authentic Disabled Perspectives

10:00 - 11:00 AM

One in four American adults are disabled in some way, but only 3.4% of children's books feature a disabled main character. Additionally, many books about disability - particularly those written by nondisabled authors - tend to paint disabled lives as unspeakable tragedies. Other stories focus too much on individuals heroically (and improbably) overcoming their disabilities. Disabled writers, on the other hand, are much more likely to create narratives that respect the dignity of their characters, but authentic stories with complex characters are often overlooked in favor of more inspirational (and unrealistic) titles. How can we bring more nuanced stories of disability into our library collections? What should we look for in stories about disability? And how do ideas like #OwnVoices factor into this conversation? Attendees will leave with book recommendations and other useful resources.

[Adriana White, South San Antonio ISD](#)

## Hungry Children Can't Read: Combating Hunger for Food and Books during Summer

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Children in food insecure households experience increased hunger during the summer months when school-based meals are unavailable. At the same time, these children lose access to essential school- and classroom-based reading materials, a fact that contributes to learning loss. Public and school-based libraries are well-poised to address these intertwined challenges. Tailor summer programs combating both types of hunger to the specific capabilities of your library staff and volunteers, as well as the needs of your community. A panel, including an experienced librarian, an expert on Texas food security programs and policies, and a program manager for a lending library operating at a USDA summer

meals site, will guide you through the planning process.

[Linda English, Literacy Connexus](#); [John Puder, Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty](#); [Carol Hafer, Benbrook Public Library](#)

### Picture Perfect Programming

10:00 - 11:00 AM

This session will showcase programming throughout the year for the elementary library, including the Texas Bluebonnet Award list and Texas 2x2 programming ideas, family events, STEM and makerspace activities, coding and more!

[Meghan Hunt, Kate Mancuso, Julie Mosty, Coppell ISD](#)

### Databases: Hidden Gems of the Public Library Collection

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Public librarians are at the forefront of providing trustworthy information and resources to their communities. However, in today's era of Google and Amazon, the library's most valuable digital treasure troves, databases, often go unnoticed. This session is about not only unveiling the potential of databases, but also equipping attendees with practical strategies to effectively promote them, ultimately transforming their library service and empowering patrons to make informed decisions and enrich their lives.

[Janet Cox, Plano Public Library](#); [Rhonda Kuiper, Round Rock Public Library](#); [Tammy Ross, EBSCO Information Services](#)

### Overcoming Challenges in Creating a Spanish Language Collection

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Public library collection development can be a challenging process for even the most seasoned librarians. It is more difficult when the selector lacks expertise in an area or is faced with a language barrier. With the rise in demand for Spanish-language materials, libraries with little knowledge of the language, publishers, authors, and dialects find it difficult to select materials. A panel of experts will share the results of in-depth interviews with libraries facing these issues, their direct experiences serving this community, and tips that can benefit any library.

[Michelle Morris, Fort Worth Library](#); [Diana Miranda-Murillo, Austin Public Library](#); [Yaika Sabat, Novelist](#)

### Privacy, Libraries, Patrons, and the Law

10:00 - 11:00 AM

The right to read and consider ideas and literature, free from any unwanted surveillance by the government or others, is the bedrock foundation for intellectual freedom. Librarians have long been committed to protecting the privacy and confidentiality of library users'

information, but new technologies, social media, and digital resources present new challenges for libraries and librarians who are striving to protect patron privacy. Attendees will learn about the ethical and legal foundations for libraries' obligations to protect patron privacy, including a review of Texas' library confidentiality statute. Attendees will also learn about best practices when collecting, using or sharing library users' data, and discuss how to elevate privacy with trustees, patrons, and friends of the library.

[Deborah Caldwell-Stone, American Library Association](#)

### Texas Picture Books and Early Reader Authors and Illustrators

10:00 - 11:00 AM

This session will introduce Texas librarians to Texas picture book and early reader authors and illustrators with traditionally published books coming out 2023-2024.

[Carolyn Flores, Susan Kralovansky, TLA Texas Authors and Illustrators Round Table](#)

### The Spirit of Texas (SPOT) Reading List

10:00 - 11:00 AM

The Spirit of Texas (SPOT) Reading List is intended as a guide for recreational reading, targeted to readers in grades 6-12. Authors will discuss their latest books and elements for writing for this age group.

[Samantha Mabry, Hachette Book Group](#); [Kim Johnson, Random House Children's Books](#); [Lisa Fipps, Jason Sonnenblick, Scholastic](#); [Rex Ogle](#)

### Lone Star List: Lone Star Reading List Showcase

10:00 - 11:00 AM

The Lone Star Reading List is intended as a guide for recreational reading, targeted to readers in grades 6-8. Authors will discuss their latest books and elements for writing for this age group.

[Michelle Marin, Karina Arroyos, Ysleta ISD](#); [Jennifer Hill, Cypress Fairbanks ISD](#); [Jamie Henry, Ector County Library](#); [Melissa Silerio, Mansfield ISD](#)

### Constructing Fantastical Works

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Magical forces, infinite world building, fantastical characters, and dangerous quests make fantasy a popular genre. Fantasy is easy to read, character-driven, doesn't stereotype younger people, and frequently is a series. YA authors will discuss the art of crafting fantasy literature.

[Gabi Burton, Bloomsbury](#); [Kate Chenli, Union Square & Co](#); [Hafsah Faizal, Macmillan Children's](#); [Romina Garber, Wednesday Books/Macmillan](#); [L.M. Elliott](#)

### Data Makes the Difference!

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Explore several data sources to create reports and presentations that demonstrate the library's value and have a lasting impact on stakeholders. Presenters will take a deep dive into Texas Public Library statistics and demonstrate techniques for using them. Additionally, tips and tricks for successful presentations will be shared.

[Naomi DiTullio, Valicia Greenwood, Tim Gleisner, Texas State Library and Archives Commission](#)

### Your Public Library Presents...

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Your Public Library hosts an exciting speaker, and a library leader joins them for a conversation!

### Tough Topics for Growing Kids: Books Dealing with Heavy Issues

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Kids are often dealing with more than what is known and reading about similar struggles can help them feel represented. Authors will discuss their new middle grade titles that deal with bullying, grief, fitting in, and more.

### It's Not Easy Being Green: New Books about the Environment and Ecology

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Today a reader, tomorrow a leader. These new titles will help you discover the next Greta Thunberg.

Visit the [TLA 2024 microsite](#) for updated author list

### Grief, Loneliness, and Mental Health in Children's Literature: How Stories Heal

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Young readers of all ages and backgrounds who are suffering loss, isolation for being different, and/or mental health challenges are often (usually) not getting the support they need and do not know how to ask. The right book at the right time can help normalize family or reader mental illness, diminish the stigma and silence, model coping, let a reader know they are not alone, and encourage them to reach out for support. Many exceptional picture books, middle-grade and young adult novels by diverse authors are released every year that do all of this. Authors and librarians will discuss outstanding titles, what to look for, what to avoid, and why these books are so important.

[Ann Jacobus Kordahl, Nikki Grimes, Mark Oshiro, Emily Day, Macmillan Publishers \(Tor Teen\) and Dina Sherman, Disney Publishing \(Disney Hyperion\)](#). [Nancy Bo Flood, Melissa Buron, Houston ISD](#). [Stephanie Ledyard](#)

## The Fight Against Censorship in a Rural Texas Public Library System

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

In 2022, seven patrons of the Llano County Public Library system filed a first amendment lawsuit against the county in response to the removal of 17 titles, suspension of access to digital library books, and replacement of the county's library board. Presenters, including one of the plaintiffs and two of the plaintiff's attorneys, will share an overview of the case, the impact on the community, and where the lawsuit currently is in the legal process.

[Leila Little](#); [Student at UNT](#); [Ellen Leonida, BraunHagey & Borden LLP](#); [Katherine Chiarello, Botkin, Chiarello, Calaf PLLC](#)

## Pre-K Library - Let's Get Started

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Preschool students in the library can be a daunting challenge. How do you manage the class, make story time engaging, implement a makerspace, check out books, and keep the shelves organized and functional? Two veteran preschool librarians will share all of our tips, tricks, and schemes to make the Pre-K library run smoothly for all involved.

[Patrick Adams, Keller Independent School Dist](#)

## Serving Homeless Students in School Libraries: A Beginner's Guide to McKinney-Vento

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was enacted over 30 years ago, and yet many librarians are unaware that there are populations of students experiencing homelessness on their home campuses. Policy experts will share basics of the McKinney-Vento Act and the unique struggles these students face in accessing an equal education. Learn how to help your students overcome these struggles from current librarians and McKinney-Vento liaisons. By partnering with their districts' McKinney-Vento liaison, school librarians can introduce best practices that will help increase literacy, engagement, and a sense of belonging for students experiencing homelessness.

[Wendy Hackert, Round Rock ISD](#); [Desiree Viramontes, Jerretta Jimmerson Davenport, Sara Pavone, Round Rock ISD](#)

## Finding the Balance: Literacy and Makerspace

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Juggling between literacy and makerspace? Three secondary librarians share strategies, tips, and procedures that have helped find balance in their libraries leading to increased book checkout and makerspace opportunities for students. Topics will include goal setting, scheduling, marketing, and utilizing support. Finding this balance will lead to increased

equity, literacy, inclusivity, and encourage lifelong learning.

[Tania Castillo, CCISD](#); [Shirley Dickey, Clear Creek ISD](#); [Clear Lake High School](#); [Katrina Zannier, CCISD](#)

## Writing Authentically: Connecting with Young Readers and Encouraging Young Writers

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

To forge a strong connection between a student and a book, authenticity in the words is key--whether it be an author's experience, passion, or view of the world. A panel of award-winning picture book authors will discuss how pulling from past experiences and personal passions makes those connections and empowers and encourages students to read and create their own authentic stories.

[Melissa Coffey, Lindsay Leslie, Meghan Browne, Random House Children's Books](#); [Anne Wynter, Kari Lavelle, Nicholas Solis, Sleeping Bear Press](#); [Robyn McGrath](#)

## Help! I'm a Brand New School Library Leader

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Whether you are a new lead librarian, district librarian, library coordinator or director, or even wondering if library leadership is for you, being new to library leadership can be daunting. School Library leaders who represent all facets of school district library leadership will share practical tips and how to build your Professional Learning Network (PLN) Attendees will have an opportunity to thought-partner with new and experienced library leaders from throughout the state.

[Heather Horner, Alejandra Isais, Richardson ISD](#); [Amanda Trowbridge, Keller ISD](#); [Amanda Butler, Frisco ISD Library Services](#); [Rhia Johnson, Wylie ISD](#)

## Programming Content Teams: Reasons to Consider Them and How to Begin

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Effective program planning can be a daunting task. Striking a balance between ages, patron interests, staff favorites, and hot topics can be overwhelming while doing the safe thing can feel stagnant. Content Teams -- topic-focused workgroups that create and deliver programs -- are one solution to this challenge. A public librarian will share how topic-focused content teams streamline seasonal planning, consolidate program development and delivery, and serve as incubators for new ideas while supporting knowledge management. Learn how to establish your teams, core activities through the programming life cycle, and how teams can leverage the diverse skills of all library staff. Content Teams are instrumental in assessing the effectiveness of library programs and opportunities to grow or sunset programs

as needed.

[Maggie Fox, Plano Public Library](#)

## Centering Teens in the Fight Against Censorship

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Attempts to ban books disproportionately target stories for and about young adults, especially those reflecting historically marginalized communities. Libraries have a role to play in empowering and educating teens and young adults to fight for their right to read freely. Presenters, including public librarians, school librarians, an independent bookstore representative and a high school student will share strategies for helping teens engage in intellectual freedom advocacy and make their voices heard.

[Kathleen Houlihan, Austin Public Library](#); [Becky Calzada, Leander ISD](#); [Meghan Goel, BookPeople](#); [Karen Keys, Brooklyn Public Library](#); [Nicole Miltonberger, Vandegrift High School Banned Books Club](#)

## More than a Story: Engaging Early Learners at Your Library

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Libraries encourage and empower young readers every day, but does your programming support your library's literacy goals? Early learning programs are library staples for literacy development. Learn strategies to create intentional programs that address essential skills, develop a staff training model and programming templates, and explore strategies to engage staff in early literacy initiatives. Topic-focused content teams streamline seasonal planning, consolidate program development and delivery, and serve as incubators for new ideas while supporting knowledge management. Discover how to establish your teams, core activities through the programming life cycle, and how teams can leverage the diverse skills of all library staff.

[Andrea Cabrera, Plano Public Library](#); [Meredith Del Monte, Plano Public Library](#)

## Librarian Plus Teacher Equals Co-teaching Dream: Librarians Become Instructional Partners

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

The elementary library is the largest classroom in the school, so leverage your instructional abilities by creating relationships with teachers. Learn to create co-teaching relationships and encourage teachers to use you as a resource and become an instructional partner. Imagine having two certified teachers within a classroom: instructing, working with groups, and assisting students in mastering TEKS. Understand how to share your expertise in print resources, digital resources, instructional tech tools, what an instructional partnership can look like, and how to make it happen on your own campus.

[Laurie Bruns, Frenship ISD](#)



## Innovate, Learn, Grow: Building Community with Self-Directed Programs in Secondary Libraries

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Self-directed or passive programming refers to a collection of activities and initiatives designed to engage students in the library outside of traditional instructional settings. Unlike conventional programming, passive programming does not require direct supervision or active facilitation, making it an excellent opportunity to provide ongoing learning experiences for students while accommodating their varying schedules and interests.

[Melinda Lanham, Belton ISD](#)

## Sparkling Reading Joy with Middle Grade Verse Novels

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Middle grade verse novels have an important place in children's literature. They share nuanced themes, challenges, and triumphs that young people face every day, amplify diverse voices, and encourage a love of reading in an accessible way, which sometimes surprises those not familiar with this rich genre. Exploring how verse novels can create emotional impact and empathy for young people, how to pair readers with books and themes based on their individual interests and needs, how to further engage students with poetry using verse novels as read-alouds, and how students can be inspired through verse novel writing craft. Attendees will leave with a well-researched list of both popular and lesser known titles, and a wealth of ideas for how to get these accessible books into regular rotation to spark interest and joy for all readers.

[Shari Sawyers, Cheatham Elementary;](#)  
[Mae Respicio Self, Lisa Fipps, Chris Baron,](#)  
[Macmillan/Feiwel and Friends](#)

## Getting Started in Open Education

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

What is Open Education, and how does it relate to all the other Opens? How do you explain what you do when no one has ever heard of it before? Join academic librarians as they explain the Open Ecosystem, share their experiences starting Open Education programs, and how to keep it real when it comes to planning, documentation, and learning the field while doing the work.

[Tricia Boucher, Texas State University;](#)  
[Isabelle Antes, Texas State University](#)

## Ecosystem Progress: Impact on TLA Strategic Plan

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

All TLA unit leaders who attended the Officer Governance Training Workshop in July were introduced to Ecosystem ideas, and asked to consider how to apply them to TLA needs, especially with reference to the Strategic Plan.

By April 2024, many units will be onboarding new leadership who may not have experienced the July session. This session will offer outgoing and incoming leaders a review of Ecosystem ideas and tools, and an opportunity to explore together Ecosystem progress, both successes and potential new ideas or even revision of previous planning.

[Dorcas Hand, StudentsNeedLibrariesinHISD;](#)  
[Michelle Robertson, University of Central Oklahoma](#)

## How We Hurt: Navigating Grief and Trauma in BIPOC YA Lit

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

In times of deep hardship, books can offer hope and understanding for teens who are dealing with life-altering experiences. Marginalized teens, especially, are in need of stories that help them name and process their struggles while recognizing their humanity and not erasing the systemic issues often exacerbating or causing their traumas. Four YA authors whose books identify constraints young people face—within the juvenile justice system; the medical system; single-narrative education systems, and familial expectations—discuss ways that readers can find comfort, healing, awareness, and agency.

[Marcia Argueta Mickelson, Lerner Publishing Group;](#)  
[Natalia Sylvester, Jennifer Baker; Jonny Garza Villa](#)

## Branching Out With Book Vending

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

In 2023, a public library installed a library lending kiosk vending machine and book drop at the local shopping mall. It was a great success and prompted the county judge to ask the library to add these kiosks in other parts of the county. Learn about the impact these mini-branches can have on your patron base.

[Howard Marks, Ector County Library;](#)  
[J'Nevelyn White, Ector County Public Library](#)

## Unlocking Creativity: Curriculum Ideas Inspired by Novels and Poetry

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Unlock the potential of collaboration between elementary librarians and teachers with novels and poetry. Discover how these rich literary forms can cultivate creativity, critical thinking, empathy, and cultural awareness. Authors will share ready-made activities and lessons you can implement with your students.

[Lorrie Roussin, Northside ISD; Jennifer Ziegler, Happy Chapters, LLC; Varsha Bajaj, Penguin Random House; Sean Petrie, Typewriter Rodeo; Leila Sales, ABRAMS](#)

## De-escalation: How to Safely Communicate During Challenging Interactions

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Librarians may be called upon to interact with agitated individuals, patrons in a mental health crisis or emotional crisis. This presentation provides an overview of several key de-escalation techniques to help librarians confidently and successfully interact with individuals in difficult or high-stress circumstances.

[Charles Heasley; J&C Leadership Consulting](#)

## Family Programming: Building Stronger Connections Through the School Library

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Does your campus or library struggle with parent/family involvement? Family Nights in the library are among our largest middle school events. While most school-wide events see only 2-20 attendees, our last library event had extremely high attendance.. Discover the programs that made a difference in our Title 1 middle school. Take away exciting ideas and digital resources to aid you in designing and promoting your own library events.

[Angela Rajcic, Lubbock ISD](#)

## Meeting Them Where They Are: Leaning Into Community-Driven Programming

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Do you want to make an impact in the community that your library serves? Are you struggling with low program attendance, comparing your work with your peers, or feeling like you aren't doing enough? Everyone wants to feel like their work makes a difference. This session will encourage a shift in perspective when it comes to community engagement, by considering what your unique service population actually wants versus what you think they need and utilizing resources like the American Community Survey and equity atlases. Hosted by two children's librarians from public libraries that serve vastly different neighborhoods, this session is for anyone who wants to rethink the programming and services that they offer in order to meet community needs with fresh and creative ideas.

[Amanda Neace, San Antonio Public Library;](#)  
[Linda Lopez, San Antonio Public Library](#)

## Open-Source Software from the Provider's Side: Stories for the Curious

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Delve into the inner workings of Open-Source Software (OSS) and its impact on libraries. Explore the challenges faced by organizations involved in developing and hosting OSS in the library domain. Gain valuable insights into the

considerations required to create and maintain stable OSS solutions. Discover the significance of collaboration, community involvement, and continuous learning in harnessing the potential of OSS for libraries.

[Christine Peterson, Christine Peterson Consulting](#)

### **Dollars and Sense: Making the Most of Library Programs on a Dime**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

In search of great ideas that won't break the bank? A group of school librarians will provide engaging programming ideas, effective genrefying techniques, and successful grant opportunities for media specialists. Presenters will share their best practices for making a big impact with small budgets.

[Linda Martinez, Balaw Early College High School - PSJA ISD; Lauren Mobley, North Clayton Middle School; Karina Quilantan-Garza, PSJA ISD](#)

### **Young Adult? New Adult? Adult? The Debate Continues**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Squeezed between Young Adult and Adult Fiction is the developing New Adult genre. It was first coined 15 years ago to fill the need of readers aged roughly 18 - 25 years. New Adult has progressed significantly from romance titles to include all fiction types. There is much discussion in the literary world on the legitimacy and need for this new genre. Authors and publishers will speak to this new and ever-changing conversation.

[Susan Schilling, Humble ISD](#)

### **Insights and Updates from a Texas Senator**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Libraries have been dragged into culture wars and targeted by well-organized groups seeking to limit access to valuable literature. During the 2023 legislative session, almost 40 bills were filed that would have directly impacted librarians and libraries. While only one of those, HB 900, passed, we know that these issues are not going away. What can we expect in the 2025 legislative session? What can we do this year to prepare? A long-time Texas State Senator who serves on the Senate Education Committee and is a strong library supporter, will share his insights and thoughts on how librarians can counter the negative narrative and increase support for the work they do.

[Senator José Menéndez, Texas Senate District 26](#)

### **Adult Book Pairings for Programming**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Members from TLA's Lariat Adult Fiction Reading List and Texas Topaz Nonfiction Reading List committees will highlight book pairings from their respective lists. Discover these fiction and nonfiction gems for readers advisory and collection development, and gain ideas for programs for adults, book clubs, and book displays.

[Bette McDowell, Pflugerville Public Library; Holly Bowman, Andrews County Library; Dian Bruxvoort; Shelly Landreth](#)

### **Texas Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

The Texas Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List is intended as a guide for recreational reading, targeted to readers in grades 6-12. Authors will discuss their latest books and elements for writing for this age group.

[G. Neri, Tu Books, Lee & Low; Molly Knox Ostertag, Scholastic; Jen Wang, Macmillan Children's](#)

### **TSLAC Primary Sources**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Students often come to school and academic librarians seeking help with research topics (and are especially looking for those pesky primary sources). This session will highlight the online resources provided by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. These resources are either digitized or are born-digital primary.

[Naomi DiTullio, Texas State Library and Archives Commission; Tonia Wood, Texas State Library and Archives Commission](#)

### **Texas Bluebonnet Award Author Session (TICKETED)**

**11:45 AM - 1:45 PM**

The Texas Bluebonnet Award is a nationally-recognized children's choice award. During the luncheon, the author and illustrator of the winning Bluebonnet title will share stories and inspiration on their writing and art and will accept this year's award from student representatives from all over the state. Luncheon tickets must be purchased in the registration.

*Tickets must be purchased by Friday, April 5.*

### **Voices with Choices: Empowering Students with Podcasting and Voice Tools.**

**1:30 - 2:30 PM**

Let's talk! Make learning accessible for all with podcasting and voice tools. Participants will learn how to leverage voice-recording tools to create student-led classroom podcasts, integrate voice tools across Google and Microsoft platforms, and how tool accessibility empowers student choice.

[Karina Quilantan-Garza, Jaime Escalante Middle School, PSJA ISD; Alexandra Cornejo, Harlingen School of Health Professions, Harlingen CISD](#)

### **Oh My Genre!**

**1:30 - 2:30 PM**

How do you get students to read something outside their comfort zone? By promoting different genres of course! Join us for a fun and informative way of talking to your students about books based on their genres, learn about genre lesson plans, and watch your circulation increase. The library does not have to be "genreified" for this to work.

[Christi Diggins, Lufkin ISD](#)

### **Can I Touch? Yes, You Can! Planning your own Sensory Museum**

**1:30 - 2:30 PM**

Gain insight into how to plan an engaging Sensory Museum experience for your entire school community in an effort to drive critical thinking and inquiry-based learning centered around the five senses. Specific examples and stations will be shared, as well as tips for low-cost implementation and fundraising ideas.

[Anna Waugh, Mesquite ISD](#)

### **Driving Your Library Narrative: A District-Wide Perspective**

**1:30 - 2:30 PM**

As the climate around library services continues to drive an irregular narrative, it is imperative to share your library services department's story, clearly and positively. This session will provide examples and resources of how one Texas school district's library services department took control of their narrative by prioritizing several components. Attendees can take these lessons back to their own school district.

[Amanda Butler, Frisco ISD Library Services; Jennifer Hazen, Sara Riley, Frisco ISD](#)

### **Graphic Novels 101**

**1:30 - 2:30 PM**

Unsure how to incorporate graphic novels (GNs) into your K-12 programming? Need help advocating for their validity with teachers and/or parents? Learn about the evolution of the comics format, how they meet TEKS, and discover collection development tools. You'll even get a tutorial on using graphic novels for read-alouds! Attendees will walk away with lists and infographics divided by TEKS at all grade levels that the GN format uniquely supports, as well as ideas for engaging lessons using GNs in the library.

[Katherine Countermand, Katy ISD; Karyn Lewis, Katy ISD](#)

## The Masked Reader: Summer Reading Promotion

1:30 - 2:30 PM

What started as a way to share some of our audiobook and ebook titles with students before school ended has grown into a school-wide program that gets students and staff excited for summer reading. Participants will walk away with a blueprint for how to implement summer reading promotion. The foundation of what we created can be changed in countless ways to meet your school needs and resources. Introduce your students to great digital books before they ever leave your building.

[Amy Bermudez-Swoeland, Prosper ISD;](#)  
[Amy Holdge, Prosper ISD](#)

## Transgender Workplace Belonging in Libraries

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Workplace belonging is an employee's sense of acceptance by their organization and their colleagues. While several workplace belonging studies exist, none have specifically surveyed transgender and gender diverse individuals in libraries. A research team surveyed transgender and gender diverse individuals and will share the initial results to reveal ways we can make our organizations more affirming places to work for our transgender colleagues. It is important to expressly ask individuals from this community if their needs are being met in their workplace because there is a general societal assumption that all individuals are cisgender (gender matches gender assigned at birth); therefore, most organizational cultures exist from a cisnormative perspective.

[Julie Leuzinger, Briana Knox, Emily Peebles, University of North Texas Libraries](#)

## Against the Grain: Deconstructing Siloization in the Workplace

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Organizational siloization hinders communication, hurts morale, and suppresses innovation. Break down those barriers by embracing transparency, consistency, vulnerability, and flexibility. This session will focus on small/medium-sized public libraries, with an emphasis on the benefits of a culture deeply rooted in teamwork and collective investment. Attendees will learn how to recognize siloization, how to work to dismantle it, and how to move forward with buy-in from colleagues and leadership to effectively make a positive cultural change in their organization.

[Rachael Pattillo, Margaret Lange, Kalena Powell, Georgetown Public Library](#)

## Treat Your Staff and Build Relationships with School Library Programming

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Staff buy-in is a key component for a school

library to flourish. Creating opportunities for teachers and staff to interact with the library and library staff through specific programming, builds that relationship. Programming ideas along with resources will be discussed and shared. The cost (if any) of each event will also be addressed along with partnership ideas that could possibly offset expenses.

[Lisa Nguyen, Lesley Baker, Katy ISD](#)

## Does Your Organization Have Ethical Agility? Do You?

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Ethical agility reflects our ethical maturity. Awareness of our strengths and weaknesses allows individuals to assess the subtleties of a given situation and respond ethically. This capacity for self-reflection and application improves our ability to handle complex ethical decision-making. An expert in these issues will review the latest research related to ethics and workplace culture.

[Dr. Di Ann Sanchez, Amberton University](#)

## They Inspired: How to Promote Diversity and Inclusion through Women in STEM

1:30 - 2:30 PM

At this interactive presentation, four award-winning STEM authors will demonstrate how to cultivate an area of learning about women scientists and engineers through presentations and book lists to engage readers' curiosity and support life-long learning.

[Jennifer Swanson, Jennifer Swanson Books/Solve It for Kids; Rajani LaRocca, author; Laurie Wallmark, children's author; Christine Taylor-Butler](#)

## Ready, Setting, Go! Identifying and Teaching the Craft of Vibrant Settings

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Authors will discuss writing vibrant settings, how details can teleport young readers to new or familiar worlds, and offer specific exercises to help budding writers create their own immersive settings.

[Meghan Browne, Random House Children's Books; Anne Wynter, Nicholas Solis, Sleeping Bear Press; Caroline Kusin Pritchard](#)

## Strategies for Designing Library Instruction on AI Tools and ChatGPT

1:30 - 2:30 PM

This interactive session will provide participants with a set of skills and strategies they can use to plan and design various types of library instruction addressing student use of AI-powered tools like ChatGPT. This presentation will cover specific strategies, including determining appropriate student learning outcomes, investigating student interest and

familiarity with AI tools, and selecting formative means of assessing learning. Librarians who are being asked to provide library instruction on AI tools and ChatGPT can use the strategies to meet the unique needs of their students and educational institutions and plan effective instruction around these evolving needs. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities, like sharing their concerns about designing instruction on this topic and ideas for learning activities.

[Taylor Xiao, Lamar University](#)

## Mental Health Resources for Children, Teens, and Families

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Since the pandemic, mental health issues among children and teens have risen significantly. An associate medical director from the National Alliance on Mental Illness will provide key insights into supporting young patrons and their families based on clinical experience and guidance from leading experts.

[Christine Crawford, National Alliance on Mental Illness](#)

## Books Matter: Using Children's Literature to Invite Conversations about Identity, Bias and Social Justice

1:30 - 2:30 PM

This session begins with the concept of mirrors, windows and doorways and how books can make connections to identity, diversity and reinforcing self-affirming concepts. Presenters will share data on the diversity gap in children's literature and how being intentional about book selection addresses this gap. They will provide hands-on resources that answer these questions: how can books help address anti-bias topics, what are the anti-bias education pillars and how do book bans and challenges impact collection development decisions.

[Sherasa Thomas, Jinnie Spiegler, Anti-Defamation League](#)

## More Giggling, Less Wiggling: Tried & True Takeaways to Captivate Your Early Learners

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Whether just a beginner, or a mastered veteran, return to your library equipped with simple yet powerful strategies for your public library's youngest learners. Attendees will collect fresh, fun and engaging lesson ideas; gather simple, effective procedures and routines to facilitate successful library visits; pinpoint developmentally appropriate research-based skills to embed throughout your instruction; and discover innovative projects and programs to increase student and family engagement.

[Mary Eldredge, Kookan EC Education Center, Arlington ISD](#)



## The Black Gospel Archive, from Op-Ed to a University-Supported Program

**1:30 - 2:30 PM**

The Black Gospel Archive (BGA) consists of the Black Gospel Music Preservation Program, The Black Gospel Preachers Project, digital collections, and a physical archive at the Baylor University Libraries and grew out of a New York Times Op-Ed piece emphasizing the urgent need to preserve America's golden age of black gospel music (1940s-1970s). This session will cover the work done to expand this 15-year project, as well as workflows, staffing, equipment choices, funding, program planning, fellows, and the new endowed chair in the study of black worship.

[Darryl Stuhr](#), [Robert Darden](#), [Kathy Hillman](#) and [Stephen Bolech](#), [Baylor University](#)

## Empowering Readers: Promoting Literacy Development through Home Book Collections

**1:30 - 2:30 PM**

Creating home book collections for children is an evidence based practice that provides positive benefits beyond literacy development. Robust home book collections are research proven to encourage reading as an activity of choice, increase reading enjoyment, promote vocabulary development, correlate positively to higher education attainment, and boost reading frequency and reading time. Presenters will share strategies for increasing the number of books available to students for their home collections.

[Cheryl Hensley](#), [Houston Independent School District](#); [Janice Newsum](#), [University of Houston - Clear Lake](#)

## 20th Annual Poetry Round Up

**1:30 - 2:30 PM**

Since April 2005, TLA has hosted nearly 100 poets writing for young people at the now-annual Poetry Round Up. Always a big draw, this session is the perfect addition to a conference held during National Poetry Month! Participants hear poets read from their work, join in reading and performing poems, and learn more about the best and latest poetry for kids. They experience firsthand the pleasures to be found in the spoken word and the power of poetry for developing literacy and language. Poet and teacher Georgia Heard put it this way, "Kids need to become friends with poetry.... They need to know that poems can comfort them, make them laugh, help them remember, nurture them to know and understand themselves more completely."

[Sylvia Vardell](#), [Texas Woman's University](#); [Jaha Nailah](#), [Avery Charlesbridge Publishing](#); [Carole Weatherford](#), [Rebecca Kai Dotlich](#), [Astra Books for Young Readers](#); [Georgia Heard](#), [Astra Books for Young Readers](#); [Carmen Tafolla](#)

## Be Your Biggest Cheerleader: How to Record and Share your Triumphs

**1:30 - 2:30 PM**

Once the school year starts up, the pace of a busy school library is frenetic. It is essential to plan out the classes, events, and activities while pulling feedback from district and campus meetings and conferences, as well as department and personal goals. Creating a goals chart and concept map for each grading period or month is an easy and effective way to brainstorm and develop responsive and reflective activities that reach diverse learners and connect to the content areas. Not only do they help with organization, but they connect directly with library standards and are written reminders of when to record photos or videos for marketing purposes.

[Brooke Corso](#), [Houston ISD](#)

## Connecting to the Past Through YA Literature

**1:30 - 2:30 PM**

Historical fiction is a popular way to gain insight into past societies. These authors have created imaginative narratives to reconstruct historical events and people. Research techniques and writing styles will be discussed.

[Candy Cooper](#), [Astrid](#), [Stacey Lee](#) and [Randy Ribay](#), [Penguin Young Readers](#); [Paula Yoo](#), [W.W. Norton](#)

## Spirit of Texas (SPOT) Reading List Showcase

**1:30 - 2:30 PM**

The Spirit of Texas (SPOT) Reading List is intended as a guide for recreational reading, targeted to readers in grades 6-12. Authors will discuss their latest books and elements for writing for this age group.

Visit the [TLA 2024 microsite](#) for updated author list

## Cool Jobs

**1:30 - 2:30 PM**

A panel of librarians with atypical jobs will tell you where they are, what they are doing, and how they got there. Learn about the fascinating jobs found in non-traditional libraries and other organizations that build on library and information science education.

[Jodie Borgerding](#), [Amigos Library Services](#)

## TexShare and TexQuest Updates

**1:30 - 2:30 PM**

Obtain the latest news about the TexShare and TexQuest programs offered by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. Presenters will review the current e-resource contracts and provide information on customizing packages for institutions, curating content, and promoting resources to generate more use.

[Naomi DiTullio](#), [Jeremy Selvidge](#), [Vanessa Ashcraft](#), [Texas State Library and Archives Commission](#)

## Book Buzz Session Two

**1:30 - 2:30 PM**

Hear the latest buzz about the newest titles from your favorite publishers.

[Ingram Publisher Services](#); [Macmillan Publishers](#); [Workman Publishers](#); [Blackstone Publishing](#); [Simon & Schuster](#); [Chronicle Books](#)

## Essential Digital Tools and Apps For Teacher Librarians

**2:45 - 3:45 PM**

Finding the right digital tools and apps to use within the library and classroom is one of the keys to our success as we work with students and teachers. As we discover and test digital tools and apps that support the curriculum and empower our students as creators, we illustrate in unique and engaging ways our expertise, and so much more – including our awareness of what students have learned and are passionate about. The speaker will share essential tools for curriculum-focused teacher librarians, including details about each tool and app, diving into examples she has used with her preschool to Grade 12 students.

[Shannon McClintock Miller](#), [Van Meter Community School](#)

## Pre-K Librarians in Action: the Nitty-Gritty of Story Times

**2:45 - 3:45 PM**

Pre-K librarians have the best job ever; they get to introduce littles and their families to libraries, books, and literacy! Now that many elementary libraries also serve three- and four-year-olds, we have to think about how the librarians must discover the best way to serve their youngest students. Presenters will share the wisdom they've gained on building engaging library lessons for three- and four-year-olds.

[Pamela Wright](#), [Irving ISD \(Clifton Early Childhood School\)](#); [Julia Popkin](#) and [Elizabeth Le](#), [Irving ISD](#)

## Managing Manga: Making Manga Meaningful

**2:45 - 3:45 PM**

Manga's importance in the library setting has increased dramatically over the years. Discuss how to take your manga collection from nothing to a vital part of your library. This session will include introduction to manga, collection development, building programming around a manga collection, and tips and tricks to help your library meet the needs of students.

[Sean Heller](#), [Katy ISD](#); [Rebecca Gruen](#), [Haskett Junior High](#), [Katy ISD](#)

## Libros Recomendados: Presenting the Tejas Star Reading List

2:45 - 3:45 PM

Tejas Star Reading list identifies high-quality bilingual or Spanish language material for ages 5-12. Every year an accompanying activity guide for selected books is created for librarians to use in bilingual storytimes or guardians to use at home with children. This list includes a diverse range of genres, topics, and themes.

Miranda Quintero, Fort Worth ISD; Alejandra Isais, Richardson ISD; Jeffrey Merino, St. Mark's Episcopal School; Debbie Chavez, Libraries For The World; Myriam Hernandez, Fort Worth Public Library

## Building Bridges: Using School and Community Resources to Enhance your Library Book Club

2:45 - 3:45 PM

Building successful school library programming and book clubs can be a daunting task, planning, organizing, and finding the resources needed to launch the program can be overwhelming. Cooperation and collaboration with patrons, local businesses, and community members can make the process more manageable and will also give a boost in promotion which can ultimately result in a more successful program. In this session, you will receive examples and suggestions on how to build and enhance the school library book club and library programming by connecting with school or community groups and resources.

Lucila Johnson, El Dorado High School; Sandra Portillo, El Dorado High School

## Collection Development for School Libraries in a Post-HB 900 World

2:45 - 3:45 PM

HB 900 is here so what does that mean for school libraries and our LGBTQIA+ students? Three members of the Texas Library Association's Queers & Allies Round Table (QART) who are school library professionals will discuss the implications of HB 900, how it impacts collection development standards at the state and local level, and how school librarians can continue to provide affirming spaces and practices in the school library.

Rachael Welsh, Pearland ISD; Kimberly Herrington, Pearland ISD; Heather Hornor, K-12 Library

## Unite Google Apps with Scripting

2:45 - 3:45 PM

Many people and institutions are making use of Google apps for free versions of a spreadsheet (Sheets), word processor (Docs), and Web input (Forms). These apps can be made to work together using a simple scripting language. Learn how to use scripting to make these apps work together.

Michael Pullin, University of North Texas Health Science Center

## Building Strong Partnerships: Librarians and Principals Working Together for Student Success

2:45 - 3:45 PM

Explore how school librarians and principals can form powerful partnerships that can shift the culture on campus ensuring equitable access to the library and its resources to improve student outcomes. Campus administrators will share how collaboration with the school librarian has positively impacted equitable access and teaching and learning on their campuses.

Judy Boone, Irving ISD; Erica White, Irving ISD

## Embracing Every Voice: Exploring the Power of a Diversity Audit in School Libraries

2:45 - 3:45 PM

Through real-world examples, gain practical knowledge of the tools, strategies, and considerations involved in conducting a successful diversity audit of the school library collection. Explore the impact on students' sense of belonging, cultural awareness, and the overall learning environment. Walk away inspired, armed with helpful tips and resources, and equipped to start your own diversity audit project.

Ayn Frazee, Portland Public Schools

## Adapted Book Collections and Inclusive Libraries for Students with Special Needs

2:45 - 3:45 PM

The session will share inspiration and ideas on how to create the most inclusive and accessible library experience for all users, in particular those with special needs such as severe medical and/or cognitive disabilities. Special emphasis will be placed on adapted library book collections, an innovative collection conceptualized by the presenter.

Courtney Walker, Plano ISD

## A Model for Inter-Institutional Development and Distribution of Open Educational Resources

2:45 - 3:45 PM

Open Educational Resources (OER) are educational materials that generally reside in the public domain or are released under an open license that permits no-cost access by others. Under the guidance of institutional librarians and department faculty, multiple higher ed institutions have collaborated extensively for more than ten years to develop and apply open educational resources in academic and workforce programs. A most recent example is a project funded by the Texas Higher Education Foundation to develop OER materials for Algebra, Pre-Calculus and Calculus courses for use at several institutions, and for dissemination via the OERTX Repository. The

panel presenters will share the model applied in this and previous projects to facilitate inter-institutional collaboration in OER development and distribution and, in doing so, contribute to the creation and accessibility of quality OER materials.

Patricia Sotelo, South Texas College; Kevin Peek, South Texas College; Gabrielle Hernandez, The University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley; Alexander Rodriguez, The University of Texas at Dallas; Maria Rosalez, South Texas College

## Innovation Inspiration: Cool Technology from Texas Libraries

2:45 - 3:45 PM

Get inspired by libraries across Texas that are innovating with incredible new technologies! A panel of academic, public, and school librarians will describe unique services using the latest tech, including roving robots in the stacks, an innovation lab with holograms, augmented reality to identify gravestones, artificial intelligence (AI) in the school library, and a staff-less library building open after hours.

Henry Stokes, Texas State Library and Archives Commission; Stephanie Galvan Russell, Hutto ISD; Jean Darnell, Dessau Middle School; Spencer Smith, McKinney Public Library System; Khoi Nguyen, Marilyn Marvin, City of Fort Worth

## Understanding and Utilizing The Five Kinds of Nonfiction in Your School Library Collection

2:45 - 3:45 PM

Five Kinds of Nonfiction gives librarians and patrons another way to view their nonfiction collection, through text format and author intent. Participants will participate in a hands-on activity to acquaint themselves with the five kinds of nonfiction. They will then learn about and discuss ways that this structure can impact library instruction with students and collaboration with teachers.

Tom Bober, Clayton School District

## Library Social Workers: Benefits and Considerations

2:45 - 3:45 PM

Library Social Work is an increasingly growing field, though many are not aware of what this position can bring to the library team, or what they need to succeed in their unique role. This presentation will discuss the origins and need for library social work, the benefits of having a social worker on staff, and what to consider before hiring a social worker.

Anne Marie Holstead, Grand Prairie Public Library System

## How to Have a Crucial Conversation Instead of a Confrontation

2:45 - 3:45 PM

There comes a time in every librarian's work life when they need to have a frank conversation about an issue or the behavior/action of someone else. The idea of confronting another person can be intimidating and stressful. In this session participants will learn a simple yet effective strategy to engage in a short crucial conversation that helps redirect behaviors/actions before a nasty confrontation occurs.

[Emma McDonald, Mesquite ISD](#)

## Resisting Book Bans: Proactive Critical Inclusivity using Coretta Scott King Book Awards

2:45 - 3:45 PM

A discussion, based on curricula research in Educational Leadership and Information Sciences, will provide school, public, and academic librarians and faculty with practical action items, resources, and strategies to advance advocacy for student and school communities to reclaim inclusive curricular reading.

[Daniel Liou and Kelly Deits Cutler, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University; Janice Newsum, University of Houston - Clear Lake](#)

## Starting a Musical Instrument Lending Library

2:45 - 3:45 PM

Learn how one public library conceptualized, funded, and implemented a musical instrument lending library, providing an opportunity for the public to have free access to a diverse variety of instruments. Find out how to start an instrument lending library, budget for the collection, identify best practices for cataloging, processing, and circulating the instruments and market and promote the collection. Learn how to cross-promote online music lessons using sites such as Udemy, LinkedIn Learning and Kanopy.

[Chad Hetterley, Grapevine Public Library](#)

## The Joys of STEM: Semester-Long Projects in an Elementary School Library

2:45 - 3:45 PM

Would you like to incorporate more joyful and engaging project-based learning into your school library program? This session will share insights from four semester-long enrichment projects with 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grade students, including 3D Printing and Plant Adaptations, 3D Printing and Traditional Literature, Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship, and Writing a Graphic Novel projects. Full project guidelines, student work samples, examples of how to collaborate with community members, teachers, and tech coaches, and recommendations for designing your own projects will be shared.

[Mary Mosley, Langley Elementary School, Northside ISD](#)

## Intellectual Freedom In our Public and School Libraries: An Update with Staff from the Office for Intellectual Freedom

2:45 - 3:45 PM

The challenges facing Texas libraries as they strive to assure that every library user can find and access a wide range of ideas and opinions continue to grow and change. Learn about the most recent challenges facing libraries in Texas and how libraries and library staff can respond by providing library staff and trustees with information about applicable law, legislation and policy and empowering community members to advocate for libraries and unrestricted access to information. There will be ample opportunities for attendees to ask questions and discuss the topics at hand.

[Joyce McIntosh and Eric Stroshane, American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom](#)

## Public Library Division Presents: Bedlam and Bloodshed

2:45 - 3:45 PM

Join Mystery and Thriller authors, still to be announced, to learn about their process, perspective, and upcoming books in this session presented by TLA and the Public Library Division.

[Visit the \[TLA 2024 microsite\]\(#\) for updated author list](#)

## Texas Authors and Illustrators Meet and Greet

2:45 - 3:45 PM

This is an opportunity for Texas librarians to meet Texas authors and illustrators with traditionally published books coming out 2023-2024.

[Carolyn Flores, Susan Kralovansky, TLA Texas Authors and Illustrators Round Table](#)

## Standalone Versus Series Books

2:45 - 3:45 PM

Standalone books give satisfying, instant gratification with all story and character threads tied up with no loose ends. Series books have more content to fill, and typically have more complicated plots, themes, and characters. YA authors of series and standalone books will discuss their experience with writing both types.

[Alexandra Bracken, Random House Children's Books; Ellen Hopkins, Penguin Young Readers; Jodi Meadows, Holiday House](#)

## New Kids on the Block: Adjusting to Big Changes

2:45 - 3:45 PM

From moving to a new town or school, to fleeing to a new country, being the new kid

isn't easy. Authors will discuss how upcoming titles build empathy and resilience in children and showcase some of their favorite recent graphic novels. Learn more about the many benefits of graphic novels for young readers and the librarian's role in advocating for them in collections.

[Alexandra Diaz, Hena Khan, Patricia McCormick, Mae Respicio, Random House Children's Books; Rhonda Roumani; Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow](#)

## A Picture Tells a Thousand Words: New Graphic Novels for Kids

2:45 - 3:45 PM

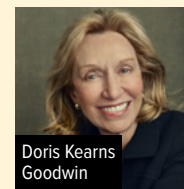
Give the kids what they want! Explore new graphic novels for beginning readers through middle grade readers with the creators themselves.

[Visit the \[TLA 2024 microsite\]\(#\) for updated author list](#)

## Texas Youth Creators Award Ceremony

2:45 - 3:45 PM

The Texas Youth Creators Award winners will be announced at this special ceremony that promotes excellence in amateur media production.



Doris Kearns Goodwin

## General Session II 4:00 - 5:00 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*. Her upcoming book, *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s*, will be published in April 2024.

## TLA Membership Meeting

5:15 - 6:15 PM

TLA leaders will provide an overview of TLA activities and other association news. The meeting is open to all members.

## Black Caucus Round Table Reception (TICKETED)

6:00 - 7:00PM

The Black Caucus Round Table Reception is a welcoming and celebratory space for Black librarians, staff and non-members to meet, greet, reconnect and network. *RSVP via the online conference form by Friday, April 5th to reserve your place.*





## Buy tickets now for Ticketed Author Sessions!

We are excited to welcome outstanding authors to [these special events](#) at TLA 2024. Tickets for these sessions must be purchased by Friday, April 5.

		TLA members	Non-members
<b>TUESDAY, APRIL 16</b>	Texas Bluebonnet Award Speed Dating	\$55	\$65
	Evening with the Authors	\$75	\$87
<b>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17</b>	Black Caucus Round Table	\$60	\$68
	Author Session		
	Texas Tea	\$43	\$53
	Opening Author and Awards Session	\$65	\$75
<b>THURSDAY, APRIL 18</b>	Texas Library Champions Reception	\$35	\$45
	Leadership Symposium	\$55	\$65
	Texas Bluebonnet Award Author Session	\$58	\$68

# Friday, April 19 Programs & Events

## LEGEND

☆ President's Program

### Continuing Professional Education Credits

CPE credit information is provided as a guideline. Refer to [txla.org](https://txla.org) for information on claiming CPE credits.

**Registration**..... 7:00 AM – 12:30 PM

**Bag Check** ..... 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM

### Unleashing the Creative Potential: School Libraries Partnering with Fine Arts Programs

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Discover how school librarians can collaborate with fine arts programs to foster interactive and engaging learning experiences. Explore strategies for librarians to support teachers and students in integrating technology into the arts effectively. Learn how this partnership enhances critical thinking skills and transforms the fine arts curriculum. Uncover real-life examples showcasing the impact of collaborative efforts in artistic expression and problem-solving. Learn how to empower students to unleash their creativity and reach new heights in their artistic endeavors through this partnership.

[Stephanie Galvan Russell, Hutto ISD; Rachael Welsh, Pearland ISD](#)

### Teen Programming: A Cautionary Tale

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Are you doing things the way they've always been done when it comes to teen programming? A public library that had a teen after hours program go terribly wrong will share what happened and why. Evaluate how you can avoid teen programs going awry and how significant events like the pandemic have reshaped how we interact with teenagers.

[Jennifer Eldridge, Longview Public Library](#)

### Adapting (and Re-Adapting): Re-Organizing a Public Services Department with Staff Reductions

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

In 2022, an academic public services department lost more than 50 percent of personnel due to transfers to other departments (to other departments within the library or to external university departments). The topics will cover applying analyses of transaction data, as well as non-quantitative environmental/space analyses, to prioritize services for the 2022-2023 academic year to adjust to those changes and assess and revise the service models for 2023-2024.

[Edward Kownslar, Stephen F. Austin State University](#)

### Partners in Crime: Librarians and Technology Coaches Working Together

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Librarians and technology coaches can collaborate when it comes to getting teachers to buy into new programs and tools. This session will explore how librarians and technology

coaches can work together to provide students and teachers with the resources and support they need to be successful. Examples will be shared of collaborations that have worked and some that didn't.

[Christina Taylor, Axtell ISD; Cathryne Nivin, Axtell ISD](#)

### Fostering Inquiry and Creativity with Mini-Projects

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Looking for inquiry-driven projects that engage middle school students and create excitement? Learn how mini-projects combine nonfiction reading, research, citation, and writing to become student-centered knowledge builders. Mini-projects help students efficiently link their research to a time or theme fostering connections that are relatable and memorable.

[Alice Bryant, ABC-CLIO](#)

### Texas Bluebonnet Award 101

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Have you heard about the Texas Bluebonnet Award program but are not really sure how to implement it at your campus or public library? Does your library participate, but you could really use some new ideas? Have you always thought about being on the committee but are not sure where to start? This is the session for you!

[Terri Harkey, Texas Bluebonnet Award](#)

### Hyping History: Highlighting History in a High School Library

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Two high school libraries, working both independently and in collaboration with history teachers, highlight national and local history topics using large scale exhibits, guest speakers and community resources.

[Lucy Podmore, Clark High School/Northside ISD; Sheryl Stoeck, O'Connor High School/Northside ISD](#)

### Book Group Kits to Go at the Public Library

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Book club books are prohibitively expensive. A New Mexico Public Library has a Book Group Kits to Go program that provides book group sets to libraries for the cost of postage, which supports readers statewide, and encourages membership in book clubs. This increases literacy, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Programs like these are especially important in literacy deserts like New Mexico, which has a high poverty rate and very low literacy.

[Megan Bennett, Farmington Public Library](#)

## Adult Programming: It's Not Just for Public Libraries

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Academic and special libraries have a varied patron base, and are often trying to find programs for their adult learners. What kind of programs work? How do we meet our adult learners' needs? This session will help any librarian who is searching for programs for their users.

[Elizabeth Nebeker, Lone Star College CyFair](#)

## Follow the Leader: Ignite Your Leadership Potential

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Attendees will hear from school librarians who want to increase their leadership presence within their campus, district, and professional organizations. Using #edtech, social media and other tools, participants will get concrete ideas on how to be a leader in the school librarian community, programs they can get involved in, templates they can use to get started and stay organized, as well as resources to be a successful leader in the education community.

[Amanda Hunt, New Braunfels ISD; Becky Calzada, Leander ISD; Alexandra Cornejo, Harlingen School of Health Professions, Harlingen CISD; Brooke King, TASL](#)

## SPARK Partnership: Resource Sharing for Access to Opportunities

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

SPARK (Sharing, Partnering, and Reaching for Knowledge) is a resource sharing partnership formed by a school district, public library system, and community college. This collaborative innovative initiative plays a crucial role in the education and development of youth and encourages them to become lifelong readers and learners by providing access to an abundance of library resources. At a time when access to library materials is being reduced, SPARK partnership provides such access.

[Janna Hoglund, HCPL/LSC-Tomball Community Library; Dianne Tidwell, Tomball ISD; Fred Schumacher, Harris County Public Library](#)

## Y'all Means All: Creating More Neurodivergent-Friendly Libraries

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

The neurodivergent community is thought to comprise 15-20% of the world's population, but what it means to be neurodivergent, and how this community can be served by libraries is not clearly articulated. Additionally, neurodivergent library staff tend to be underrepresented, undersupported, and misunderstood. By discussing what neurodivergence means - and recommending library practices and design decisions - we hope to make libraries of all types more equitable, inclusive, accessible, and enjoyable for neurodivergent and neurotypical

people alike. This session will include a special emphasis on intersectionality, highlighting experiences of neurodivergence in LGBTQ and POC communities.

[Adriana White, South San Antonio ISD; Lysanna Naley, University of Texas at Austin](#)

## New K-5 Technology Application TEKS? Enter TexQuest!

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Stumped about how you can support classroom teachers in implementing the K-5 Technology Applications TEKS next school year? These revisions change the types of support librarians and teachers provide to their school communities. In this session we'll highlight opportunities for utilizing TexQuest resources in instructional coach support, library lessons, and collaborative activities. These new TEKS can be embedded in all content areas. Reviewing the changes in advance will empower librarians and teachers to be leaders.

[Norma Gutierrez, Education Service Center, Region 20; Susan Reeves, Education Service Center, Region 20](#)

## From Rubble to Reckoning: How Archival Resources Illuminate History, Race Relations, and the Built Environment

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

The devastating 1953 Waco Tornado left fatalities, damage, and trauma in its wake. Seventy years later, archival resources from The Texas Collection, Historic Waco, and community partners have come together to create publicly accessible resources that document the storm's immediate and lasting impacts on Waco's built environment and the psyche of generations of Wacoans. This session will present a comprehensive project that includes a wide range of resources such as Google Maps implementations, digitized photos and 8mm video, a major broadcast documentary, and a local community walking tour. Attendees will leave with ideas, tactics, and practical information for how libraries of all sizes can create similar experiences.

[Eric Ames, Baylor University; Erik Swanson, Historic Waco; Ashley Thornton](#)

## Create Your Own Easy, Pretty, and Free Signs!

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Need to promote a program and want something more professional than a marker and construction paper? Learn how to create beautiful signs, social media posts, and fliers on Canva. Free full-access accounts for educators with an educational Google account!

[Amy Garnica, Sudie Williams TAG, Dallas ISD; Angela Brown, Dallas ISD](#)

## Library Therapy Dogs: A Pawsitive Way to Promote Literacy

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

An elementary school librarian and author of children's picture books about her therapy dogs, Birdie and Stella, will discuss the benefits of having therapy dogs in the library. She will share stories about how her dogs have helped to create a positive and welcoming environment for students, encouraged them to read more, and even helped them to improve their social-emotional skills. The presenter, along with her four-legged co-presenter, will also provide tips on how other librarians can incorporate therapy dogs into their own programs. This presentation will be of interest to librarians who are looking for new and innovative ways to promote literacy among their students, as well as those who are interested in learning more about the benefits of therapy dogs in the library setting.

[Mary-Katherine Arias, Birdie Arias](#)

## TLA Legislative Session Update

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

While the regular session of the 88th Texas Legislature ended in May, 2023, Governor Greg Abbott called legislators back into session multiple times over the following months. What resulted from those special sessions? What can we expect in the 89th Legislative Session which begins January 2025? Presenters will share an update on the current legislative landscape, what issues might be on the agenda in the next session, and how librarians can prepare to advocate.

[Libby Holtman, Plano Public Library; Gloria Meraz, Texas State Library and Archives Commission; Marty De Leon and MJ Nicchio, Escamilla Poneck, LLP; Wendy Woodland, Texas Library Association](#)

## Bridge the Digital Divide with TSLAC's New Office of Statewide Digital Opportunity

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

Meet the staff of The Texas State Library and Archives Commission's (TSLAC) new Office of Statewide Digital Opportunity (OSDO) and hear the latest updates on their various projects and opportunities. Launched in 2022, OSDO supports digital opportunity for Texans by helping coordinate efforts of libraries and library partners bridging the digital divide statewide. OSDO expands the current capacity of TSLAC's broadband expansion, technology access, and digital literacy efforts, which have been an aspect of the work of the TSLAC Library Development and Networking Division for almost three decades.

[Naomi DiTullio, Henry Stokes, Texas State Library and Archives Commission](#)



## Step Up Your Game: Building a Strong Foundational Knowledge of Electronic Resources

9:45 - 10:45 AM

This vendor-neutral, empowering session will cover the basics of electronic resource access and management. Attendees will explore the complex world of eResources. From What is an IP? Why use a link resolver?, the program will address elements including access models, authentication methods, link resolvers, and discovery. A bibliography of online topic-specific resources will be provided for later study and reference.

[J. Michael Thompson, Baylor University;](#)  
[Jenny Bolech, Baylor University;](#) [Carol Seiler, EBSCO Information Services](#)

## Bringing a School Comic Con to Life

9:45 - 10:45 AM

After helping organize and produce an annual thriving Comic Con at a Texas elementary school, the presenter will share how to give students an experience that money can not buy. From creating their own superheroes to organizing the logistics and build-up to the event, attendees will discover how to bring their school together with a low-cost Comic Con that focuses on reading, learning, and, above all, fun.

[Jose Angel Vela, Southwest ISD](#)

## Choose Your OER Adventure! Program Tools to Advance Your Initiative

9:45 - 10:45 AM

Is your institution beginning to venture into the world of OER? Do you have an established program and are looking for fresh new ideas? No matter where you are in your OER journey, this session will help you get to your destination and beyond. The presenters will explore recommendations and resources for enhancing impact, establishing incentives, and encouraging growth of your OER program—and, most importantly, how you can grow support for yourself. Bring your OER program ideas and aspirations to learn about existing networks of support and resources that can help you navigate through obstacles you might encounter during your adventure. Questions from attendees will guide this interactive discussion. All resources will be made available after the session.

[Gabrielle Hernandez, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley;](#) [Katherine Carter, University of Houston](#)

## More than Bluebonnet: The Breadth and Depth of Texas Library Association Reading Lists

9:45 - 10:45 AM

Wanting to get more involved with the Texas Library Association but aren't sure where to start? Consider applying for a reading list committee! TLA has 10 reading lists for all ages, covering all genres. Committee service has both professional and personal benefits. Public librarians with recent committee experience will provide an overview of each reading list, along with committee requirements and application information. They will share the pros and cons of serving on reading list committees.

[Montana Rindahl, Mammen Family Public Library;](#) [Jenny Rodriguez, New Braunfels Public Library;](#) [April Toman, Schertz Public Library](#)

## Intentional Partnerships with Social Workers in Public Libraries: Building a Service to Help Communities

9:45 - 10:45 AM

Librarians have been called upon to act as de facto Social Workers in our communities. As the scope of needs grows, partnerships with area social work organizations can help bridge a widening gap by having a caseworker in your library. Hear success stories to inspire working partnerships with organizations near you.

[Jennifer Lugo, Cedar Park Public Library;](#) [Donna Meek, Hill Country Community Ministries](#)

## A Day in the Life of an Early Childhood Librarian

9:45 - 10:45 AM

In a primary school library, students from three-eight years old toddle in with a variety of needs and abilities. Questions like, "How will I keep 4-year-olds busy for an hour?" and "Can 2nd graders really check out their books without my help?" run through your mind. In this session, attendees will get suggestions for scheduling, interactive read-alouds, online resource use, circulation procedures, and inclusion of EC-friendly technology. And, yes, how to keep four-year-olds busy for an hour!

[Michelle M. Touchet, Dallas Independent School District](#)

## Trust the Leap: A Declassified Survival Guide for Early Career Library Leaders

9:45 - 10:45 AM

As the field of librarianship is projected to see continued growth in the next several years, the number of early career librarians in pursuit of and/or finding themselves in leadership roles also continues to grow. Straight from the experiences and learned lessons of a librarian who found herself in a leadership role less than

a year into her professional career, come ready to fill the gaps of what your Library Management course may have missed. From academic to school to public to special librarianship, this session will engage, enlighten, and encourage library professionals and paraprofessionals alike, who express an interest in library leadership. Trust yourself and trust the leap.

[Delaney Daly, Harris County Public Library](#)

## Hot Off the Press: Great New Books for All Grades

9:45 - 10:45 AM

For years Hot Off the Press by Teri Lesesne was a staple and popular session at the TLA Annual Conference. As her long-time sidekicks, the presenters now feel it's necessary to keep the program alive. If you think keeping up with new and upcoming books is difficult, this session is for you. Attend to learn about great new titles for K-12.

[Karin Perry, Sam Houston State University;](#) [Stephanie Galvan Russell, Hutto ISD](#)

## Frontline Service Crafting a Desk Etiquette Guide for Library Staff

9:45 - 10:45 AM

Every patron interaction at the service desk should be consistently handled well. One public library developed a practical guide based upon a consistent service model for support staff to utilize while communicating with users. It promotes library unity and eliminates customer confusion. Whether a small or large library, learn to identify and implement similar uniform expectations for levels of service and identify opportunities to give impeccable service.

[Debra Preston, Allen Public Library](#)

## Makerspaces: From Nada to the Whole Enchilada!

9:45 - 10:45 AM

Want a makerspace but have nothing? Presenters will share how to start, build, and extend hands-on-learning by adding literacy, exploration, and imagination for students, staff, and the community. School librarians will showcase how to work with Emergent Bilingual Students: creating experiences that build background knowledge, while linking those experiences to language and literacy.

[Angela Brown, Dallas ISD;](#) [Amy Garnica, Sudie Williams TAG, Dallas ISD](#)

## It's a Marathon Not a Sprint: Pacing and Nurturing Yourself with Slow Librarianship

9:45 - 10:45 AM

Slow librarianship is essential for longevity in the field, since a constant, hurried pace is a sure path to burnout. Loosely defined as resisting the corporate need to rush and continually innovate in favor of an evaluation of needs and a focus on providing meaningful

services, slow librarianship is the idea that slowing down increases reflection, collaboration, and employee contributions. Glassman (2017) emphasizes the importance of doing what works and not just focusing on innovation at the cost of actual, positive results. Employees are looked at as whole people and problems are solved holistically. There must be a balance between trying out new ideas, continuing with proven ones, and encouraging discussion to find a middle ground. In this session slow librarianship will be defined, examples for how it can benefit a library's culture and staff motivation shared, and concrete strategies for communicating one's needs provided.

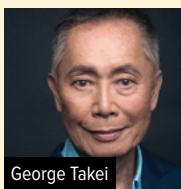
Kelly Williams, Margaret Dawson, Michelle Shea, Victoria Eastes, Texas A&M University-Central Texas

### The Power of Library Ambassadors: How Students Can Lead in the Library

9:45 - 10:45 AM

Student Library Ambassadors can strengthen the library program in important ways. In the session, school librarians will explore how a team of student library ambassadors have made an impact in an elementary library. Attendees will learn about ways these leaders have run the library before school, helped build displays, created library programs, inspired students to read, worked on student-led-purchasing, and even assisted with weeding.

Teresa Dolan, Terrace Elementary



### General Session III Featuring George Takei

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

George Takei is a civil rights activist, social media superstar, Grammy-nominated 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. In conversation with Kathy Ishizuka, the Executive Editor of *School Library Journal*, Takei will discuss his new children's book, *My Lost Freedom*.

### TLA Council II

12:15 - 1:15 PM







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