

Annual Conference

Get Ready for 2018!

Plan to join thousands of library professionals at the 2018 TLA Annual Conference April 3 – 6 at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas. You won't want to miss this exceptional four-day professional development opportunity! Inspiration abounds with more than 320 education programs presented by 857 experts from Texas and across the country; almost 50 hands-on and innovation labs, and maker table demonstrations; over 400 exhibitors showcasing the latest industry products and services; and at least 200 authors and illustrators discussing and signing their latest works.

Broaden your global perspective at General Session I. Libraries and travel have much in common. Both expand our understanding by exposing us to different cultures and perspectives. Librarians and travel guides lead us to discover and appreciate the diverse world we live in. **Rick Steves** – acclaimed for his bestselling guidebooks and public television series – believes there's more to travel than good-value hotels, great art, and tasty cuisine. Americans who "travel as a political act" can have the time of their lives and come home smarter with a better understanding of the interconnectedness of today's world. In this provocative presentation, Steves will explain how travel, whether overseas or through libraries, can be truly transformational, providing the greatest souvenir: a broader perspective.

Our General Session II speaker is **Junot Díaz** who was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in New Jersey. He is the author of the critically acclaimed *Drown*; *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, which won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award; and *This Is How You Lose Her*, a *New York Times* bestseller and National Book Award finalist. A graduate of Rutgers University, he is currently the fiction editor at Boston Review and the Rudge and Nancy Allen Professor of Writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Díaz will discuss his debut picture book *Islandborn*, which captures the universal immigrant experience while celebrating our imagination's boundless ability to connect us —to our families, to our past, and to ourselves.

Registration will open before the end of December! More information, registration [rates](#), and the link to [book your hotel](#) are posted on the Annual Conference [webpage](#).

Teacher Day@TLA

Elephant and Piggie. Peanut butter and jelly. Teachers and librarians. Some things are just better together.

Do you know a classroom teacher who would enjoy the TLA Annual Conference? Our annual conference – made up of books, authors, technology integration, makerspaces, curriculum connections, and supportive librarians – may very well be the stuff of teachers' dreams. They unquestionably have to experience it to believe it.

"For me, Teacher Day@TLA was an introduction into a world of educators who have a passion for fostering a love of reading in their students every day," said San Marcos CISD teacher Ryan Damron, who attended the inaugural Teacher Day@TLA in 2017. "I can't express how encouraging and inspiring it was just to be in that kind of environment. The connections I made with other teachers and librarians are invaluable, and have given me an extended professional learning community to whom I look for advice

quite often. Teacher Day definitely made a lasting impression on me as an educator. Every teacher would love it!"

Now is your chance to make a teacher's dream come true! On Thursday, April 5, classroom teachers will have the opportunity to experience a special one day event during the TLA conference, comprised of speakers, activities, and pricing designed just for them. Sponsoring school librarians play a crucial role by identifying interested teachers, helping them secure permission and funding for their attendance, guiding them through the registration process, and ensuring they have a positive experience.

Plans are underway for a fun, interactive day for the teachers who attend, as well as the librarians who sponsor them. Participants are welcome to stay for the full conference. The program's goal is for classroom teachers who experience a TLA conference to return to their districts as library advocates and collaborators—or perhaps become librarians themselves.

Applications to attend Teacher Day@TLA are now being accepted—don't delay, apply today. Go to www.txla.org/teacher-day for more information and to apply. This is an event that should not be missed!

TLA Contributed Papers Session is Back

Looking for a forum to present your latest research?

TLA is seeking academics for the Contributed Papers Session, which allows academics and graduate students a peer-reviewed forum to present their current research. This year, there will be four slots available. If your proposal is accepted for presentation, you will be required to [register](#) for the conference, where you will give a 20-minute presentation based on your abstract.

Please submit your 1000 word abstract by January 20. Abstracts will be reviewed by three academics, and four will be chosen for presentation at the 2018 TLA Conference in Dallas, April 3-6. Final papers will be due by March 15.

TLA NEWS

Renew Your TLA Membership Today

What a year! Looking back at 2017, we want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to you, our amazing members, and share highlights from this year:

- Successfully advocated for libraries during a contentious **Legislative Session**;
- Produced a fantastic **Annual Conference** with almost 7,000 attendees, 300+ education sessions, and hundreds of exhibitors showcasing the latest developments and trends
- Prepared directors and administrators to reach the next level of excellence through the **Executive Leadership Immersion** program
- Offered essential **continuing education** opportunities with more than 20 professional development webinars;
- Kicked off **Leadership Launchpad**, a new leadership development program for librarians with less than five years of experience;

- Provided advanced leadership and management education to 24 outstanding librarians at **TALL Texans**;
- Released 11 fantastic **reading lists** covering a wide-range of genres and curated by librarians for readers of all ages.
- Produced nine new **Powered Libraries** videos spotlighting creative programming and collections in various Texas libraries, collectively garnering over 35K views.

None of this would happen without our members. Please renew your membership today. We look forward to a fantastic 2018! [RENEW TODAY!](#)

Meet the TLA Executive Board Candidates

In February, Texas Library Association (TLA) members will elect three individuals to the Executive Board which serves as the central management board for the association, and recommends policy, budget and operating policies to the Council.

President-Elect

Cecilia Barham, director of library services, North Richland Hills Library
Roosevelt Weeks, director of libraries, Austin Public Library

Representative at Large - Academic

Dreanna Belden, assistant dean for external relations, University of North Texas Libraries
Christina Gola, director of recruitment and organizational learning, University of Houston Libraries

Representative at Large – Public

Rebecca Sullivan, former library director, Terrell Public Library (*retired*)
John Trischitti, library director, Midland County Public Libraries

ALA Councilor

Terry Roper, library consultant, Region 10 Education Service Center
Mary Woodard, director of library services, Mesquite ISD

Each candidate brings great expertise and passion to the profession, and to our association. The candidates' official complete bios and statements of concern are found on the [TLA 2018 Election](#) page in the members' only area of www.tla.org. The election will open on February 20. To be eligible to vote, members must be current 2017 TLA members by February 1.

Librarians Selected to Sponsor Students at the 2018 Texas Bluebonnet Award Luncheon

Each year student representatives from the ten TLA library districts play an important role in presenting the Texas Bluebonnet Award (TBA) to the winning author and illustrator. This ceremony is the culminating event for the master list, and will take place at the TBA Luncheon on Thursday April 5 during TLA 2018 in Dallas. Librarians who wished to sponsor a student submitted student representative forms and were selected by random drawing. Congratulations to these librarians who were selected to sponsor a student representative from their district!

District 1 - Courtney Rutherford, San Angelo ISD, Crockett Elementary

District 2 - Leslie Whitaker, Claude ISD, Claude Elementary

District 3 - Susan Cooper, Belton ISD, Joe M. Pirtle Elementary

District 4 - Lori Dodd, Hallettsville ISD, Hallettsville Elementary
District 5 - Sheila Ortega, Dallas ISD, Cesar Chavez Learning Center
District 6 - Leticia M. Guevara, Ysleta ISD, Ascarate Elementary
District 7 - Kathleen Grupe, Birdville ISD, West Birdville Elementary
District 8 - Gloria Miller, Clear Creek ISD, Whitcomb Elementary
District 9 - Shelly Powe, Shallowater ISD, Shallowater Intermediate
District 10 - Stephanie Arnold, Comal ISD, Specht Elementary

New TLA Reading Lists

Congratulations to the seven reading list committees that have announced their latest book selections. From nonfiction to graphic novels and beyond, these lists will keep you reading the best literature all year long.

2018-2019 [Texas Bluebonnet Award Master List](#) | Grades 3-6

2018 [Lone Star Reading List](#) | Grades 6-8

2018 [The Spirit of Texas \(SPOT\) | Middle School](#) Reading Program

2018 [The Spirit of Texas \(SPOT\) | High School](#) Reading Program

2018 [Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List](#) | Grades 6-12

2018 [Tayshas Reading List](#) | Grades 9-12

2018 [Texas Topaz Nonfiction Reading List](#) | All ages

Stay tuned in 2018 as we announce other highly-anticipated selections from the 2x2, Lariat (adult), Little Maverick Graphic Novel, and Tejas Star (bilingual) reading lists committees. Happy reading!

Branding Iron Award Deadline February 15

This award honors excellence in library public relations activities. With multiple categories, make sure you and your staff are recognized for the great work you do promoting your library and its services. Visit the [Branding Iron Award webpage](#) for more information and to submit your entry.

TLA Scholarships

Several scholarships are available for TLA members who are currently enrolled, or planning to enroll in an ALA accredited library school program in Texas. These scholarships include the Ray Janeway Scholarship, TLA Summer School Scholarship, Van Dusen-Tobin-Kaiser Scholarship for students studying to be elementary school or children's librarians, and the Escue Scholarship for library school students focusing their studies in a technical services area. These scholarships range from \$500 to \$2000. Interested applicants should [apply online](#) by **January 31**.

Numerous unit awards and stipends are also available. More information and the online applications are found on www.txla.org/awards.

TLA Awards Deadline January 15

There is still time to nominate outstanding individuals and programs for TLA awards! Take a minute to nominate someone for the Librarian of the Year Award, Distinguished Service Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, Outstanding Services to Libraries Award, Wayne Williams Library Project of the Year Award, or Libraries Change Communities Award. Visit [TLA's award webpage](#) for more information and the online nomination form.

Texas Book Festival Grant Applications Due February 2

The Texas Book Festival (TBF) awards grant to support collection enhancement for Texas public libraries. This funding enables libraries to share the diversity and breadth of literature with their entire communities. TBF is now accepting Library Grant applications for the 2018 grant cycle. Application deadline is February 2. Visit the [TBF website](#) for more information and the online application.

Call for Applications for the 2018 Jeanette & Jim Larson Mystery Grant

The application period for the TLA [Jeanette & Jim Larson Mystery Grant](#) (public library for mystery genre) is now open. The successful applicant, from a public library, will receive \$500 to purchase mysteries for any age reader and in any format. The submission deadline is **January 20**. Applications should be submitted to [Kathy Hoffman](#), chair of the Jeanette & Jim Larson Mystery Grant Committee.

Retirement Not Required

The Retired Librarians Round Table (RLRT) offers many opportunities for members to explore their next steps of professional service and personal growth. We offer programs that help us look at future options, examine where we can share our expertise, and honor recognized librarians at special events during Annual Conference. You don't need to be "retired" to be a member! As you renew your TLA membership, please renew your RLRT membership. If you haven't been a RLRT member, now is the time to join.

Join TLA at ALA Midwinter | February

If you attending the ALA Midwinter Conference in Denver come say "Howdy!" to TLA in booth #503. Attendees can enter to win a free 2018 TLA Annual Conference registration and pick up the latest and greatest TLA Reading Lists for all ages. Don't miss the chance to be among the first to watch the world premiere of TLA's inspiring [Powered Libraries](#) documentary on Saturday, February 10, at 10:30am (Room 112) as part of Now Showing @ ALA Film Program.

TLA is also inviting members to volunteer at the TLA booth. This is a great opportunity to meet librarians from Texas and around the country, and share your experiences. If you can volunteer for at least a two-hour block, please contact TLA communications and marketing specialist Sara Ortiz (sarao@txla.org) by January 19, 2018. See you in Denver!

Exhibit Hours

Saturday, February 10 9am – 5pm

Sunday, February 11 9am – 5pm

Monday, February 12 9am – 2pm

Corporate Members

We thank our [corporate members](#) for their investment in TLA and Texas libraries. See some [examples](#) of initiatives facilitated through our corporate partnerships that are making a large contribution to Texas libraries.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

A to Z: Diverse and In-Depth Training for Library Support Staff

This popular library support staff training series continues with monthly webinars taught by Julie Todaro. Registration for each webinar is \$25 for TLA members, \$45 for non-members. Group rates are available based on library size and you can register an unlimited number of staff for the webinar for a single fee. For more information and to register visit www.txla.org/CE-AZ.

January 17 | 1pm-2pm | AZ: The Big Picture: Crucial Roles for Library Specialists

Explore the roles and responsibilities for library staff (including library assistants, library clerks, etc.) in a 21st century library. The session includes a broad overview of institutions as well as the basic processes, with attention to the key job functions, governing principles and the tenets of professionalism for all library staff, including ethical work practices (confidentiality, privacy, documentation). Handouts include seminar content, recommendations on how to integrate learning and training into support staff orientation, training and development, and additional web content.

[REGISTER](#)

February 21 | 1pm-2pm | AZ: Dealing with Difficult Situations

This program features advanced training in the art of customer service (both frontline and behind the scenes), including types and levels of service, dealing with harassment, scripts for consistency and training, coping with difficult situations (conflicts with patrons, coworkers, bosses), and articulated behavioral expectations.

[REGISTER](#)

March 28 | 1pm-2pm | AZ: Keeping Up with Trends

Every library requires that all of their library staff "keep up" with the technology in the library - both hardware and software. But libraries are changing and - in fact - they are rapidly and constantly changing! It is critical that library staff work with their managers to determine WHAT they need to keep up with and how that might happen. This webinar content will offer diverse ways to keep up with library's changes and the library and information profession so that you and your staff can stay current and relevant.

[REGISTER](#)

Connect to Know – Continuing Education

All webinars are recorded; a link to the archived version is sent to everyone who registers. Most webinars carry Continuing Education credit of 1 hour. Registrants who miss a webinar may still earn credit by viewing the recording and taking a short quiz. Register for TLA webinars at www.txla.org/CE.

January 24 | 2pm-3pm | Defining Community Engagement

Presenter: Mary Beth Harrington

Community engagement is a hot topic in the library field now, and also the theme of the 2018 Texas Library Association Conference. A recent TLA survey showed, however, that librarians are unsure of what really constitutes community engagement as opposed to community outreach. Join this free webinar to get a clear definition of this action and what it can mean for the survival of all types of libraries. (free webinar)

[REGISTER](#)

February 27 | 2pm-3pm | Volunteer Management

Presenter: Mary Beth Harrington

Volunteers are the most underutilized resource in nonprofits. In this fast paced, content rich webinar, we will review everything you need to know to have a robust and revenue generating volunteer program. Volunteer managers often attend however executive directors and other staff members are also encouraged to attend since the vitality of your organization's volunteer program really depends on you! (\$25 for TLA members; \$45 for nonmembers)

[REGISTER](#)

February 28 | 1pm-2pm | Basic Supervision

Presenter: Julie Todaro

Whether you are just starting out as a supervisor in a new job, taking over as manager when your manager retires, moving up in your organization from a non-supervisory to a supervisory role, or supervising a new department or a new function in the library or – as often happens – you are coordinating the activities of other staff (employees, etc.) - you have your work cut out for you. As you supervise the activities of others - whether they are full, part time, hourly employees or volunteers - you realize you are responsible for motivating, identifying, delegating/assigning work responsibilities, designing new work projects, tracking and assessing work product and performance, and providing - by using all appropriate forms of communication - direction and feedback to indicate success and a need for improvement. (\$25 for TLA members; \$45 for nonmembers; group rates available)

[REGISTER](#)

March 7 | 1pm-2pm | Communication in the Workplace

Presenter: Julie Todaro

The foundation of every discussion of successful management styles or techniques includes recommended (and required) communication styles with techniques for print and oral communication, as well as techniques for in person and distance communication. No matter the management or leadership style, communication activities in both centralized and decentralized environments are enhanced by consistent, standardized policies and practices for communicating up, down and across work groups. What are the top ten tips for communicating in organizations? Tune in and discover - no matter the size of your library - how excellent communication is the underpinning of all activities and is at the heart of the success of you and your library staff. (\$25 for TLA members; \$45 for nonmembers; group rates available)

[REGISTER](#)

March 14 | 2pm-3pm | Community Engagement in the Real World

Presenter: Mary Beth Harrington

TLA's Community Engagement Task Force identified numerous examples of how libraries are truly becoming partners and stakeholders in their local regions. Join this free program from the task force to learn how all types of libraries are redefining their larger role to enjoy more support and more influence. (free webinar)

[REGISTER](#)

LIBRARY NEWS

Draft Texas School Library Standards & Guidelines Posted for Public Comment

The Texas School Library Standards Steering Committee and Subcommittees have been hard at work updating the School Library Standards and Guidelines for Texas.

After two years of work, the draft document was approved by the Texas Education Agency State Board of Educator Certification, and passed the Texas State Library and Archives Commission workshop session. It was posted in the [Texas Register](#) for public comment. We invite you to [view these documents](#) and submit any comments to [Jennifer Peters](#) at TSLAC by December 24. The standards will be considered, and hopefully approved, by Texas State Library and Archives Commission at their February 2018 meeting.

The Steering Committee will begin work on a crosswalk to the new AASL Standards once we have an approved document. We would like to thank our Steering Committee and Subcommittee members for their hard work on this project. It would not have been possible without their valiant efforts.

Donna Kearley and Sonja Schulz, chairs; and Liz Philippi, school program coordinator, Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Texas Book Festival Grant Applications Due February 2

The Texas Book Festival (TBF) awards grant to support collection enhancement for Texas public libraries. This funding enables libraries to share the diversity and breadth of literature with their entire communities. TBF is now accepting Library Grant applications for the 2018 grant cycle. Application deadline is February 2. Visit the [TBF website](#) for more information and the online application.

2018 Loleta D. Fyan Grant Now Accepting Proposals

The American Library Association's Office for Research and Statistics is now accepting applications for the Loleta D. Fyan Grant, a grant for up to \$5,000 for the improvement of public libraries and the services they provide.

The grant is to be used for the development and improvement of public libraries and the services they provide. The project should:

- Result in the development and improvement of public libraries and the services they provide;
- Have the potential for broader impact and application beyond meeting a specific local need;
- Be designed to effect changes in public library services that are innovative and responsive to the future; and
- Be capable of completion within one year.

Applicants can include but are not limited to: local, regional or state libraries, associations or organizations, including units of the ALA; library schools; or individuals. Deadline for submissions, sent via email, is January 12. You can find more information about the grant, how to submit proposals, and requirements of the recipient(s) [here](#).

Powered Libraries Gears Up for an Exciting 2018

The TLA PR & Marketing committee has exciting plans for year three of the Powered Library campaign. On January 9, Powered Libraries will present a keynote titled [The Power of Libraries, Partnership, and Place](#) at the ReThink It Conference in Austin. A month later on February 10, the *Powered Libraries: 7 Success Stories* [documentary](#) will have its world premiere at ALA Midwinter in Denver.

The Power UP Award is the newest of nine categories in the TLA [Branding Iron Awards](#). Programs incorporating the Powered Libraries/Power Up at Your Library campaign are encouraged to submit their entries by the February 15 deadline.

Powered Libraries will also have a kiosk at the 2018 TLA Annual Conference in Dallas, so be sure to stop by and learn more about giveaways, the campaign, and how you can be involved. Visit [poweredlibraries.org](#) for more information and [upcoming events](#).

NAMES IN THE NEWS

- **Emily Billings** is now access media librarian at Midwestern State University.
- **Diane Graves** retired from Trinity University.
- **Kate Horan** was recently honored by being featured in a book on 28 library directors around the world.
- **Sylvia Vardell** received the USBBY's Alida Cutts Lifetime Membership Award for 2017.
- **Bethany Wilson** joined the Texas State Library and Archives Commission Library Development and Networking Division as youth services consultant.

Deceased

- **Harold Wayne Billings**, former director of general libraries at University of Texas at Austin, passed away in November.
- **Ina (Ikie) Miller**, long-time TLA member and Houston school librarian passed away in November.
- **Cornelia (Connie) Moore**, who served on the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and Texas Historical Commission, passed away.
- **Carol Ann Rhodes**, a former school librarian, passed away.
- **Juanita (Nina) Van Dusen Efrid**, who created the baskets for the TBA Luncheon centerpieces for many years, passed away in October.
- **Daniel Walsh**, COO of Children's Plus Inc., passed away in October.