

# TEXAS LIBRARY JOURNAL

Volume 100, Number 3, Fall 2024



## Seeds of



# Knowledge

Building a Culture  
of Reading

Social and Emotional  
Learning in  
School Libraries

Forward Progress  
with the Backlog



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# TEXAS LIBRARY JOURNAL

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Woodland, TLA Director,  
Advocacy & Communications at:  
wendyw@txla.org

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Priscilla Takyi

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3420 Executive Center Drive,  
Suite 301  
Austin, Texas 78731

512.328.1518 [www.txla.org](http://www.txla.org)  
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## 80

- 80 President's Perspective**  
Elizabeth A.M. Howard
- 82 Editorial**  
Wendy Woodland

## 84

- 84 Meeting Them Where They  
Are: Leaning Into Community-  
Driven Programming**  
Linda Lopez and Amanda  
Watson
- 85 Seeds of Change – Starting a  
Texas Native Seed Library**  
Craig Bruska and Nicky Pownall
- 87 UniCon: How to Host Your  
Own Comic Con**  
Amanda Hunt
- 89 Forward Progress with the  
Backlog**  
Brandy Abbott
- 92 Beyond Books: Social and  
Emotional Learning in School  
Libraries**  
Kelsie McLeod and Rachael  
Welsh
- 95 Applying Ecosystem Concepts**  
Dorcas Hand
- 97 Building a Culture of Reading  
with Texas Library Association  
Reading Lists: A Guide for  
Librarians**  
Terri Harkey
- 99 Houston Mayor's Office  
Expands Digital Literacy  
Efforts**  
Warren Davis



## 101

- 101 NewsNotes**

## 105

- 105 2024 Sponsors**

### AD INDEX

- 77** American Library Association
- 90** TLA Career Center
- 103** Frontline Fundamentals
- 81** Publisher's Weekly
- 91** Stay Connected with TLA
- 91** Support Texas Libraries
- 106** Texans for the Right to Read
- 107** TLA 2025
- 106** TLA Engage
- 79** TLA Membership

# THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

Renew

## I'm a TLA Member Because

**"I am a TLA member because professionals should belong to professional organizations that support your growth and networking goals."**

– Becky C.  
Coordinator of Libraries  
Ysleta Independent School District



Collaboration is a cornerstone of TLA. Whether seeking advice on collection development, brainstorming programming ideas, or exploring new technologies, TLA membership provides the forum to connect, learn, and grow together.

Imagine the possibilities when you tap into the collective wisdom of our diverse membership.

**Renew your 2025 membership starting October 1**  
**[txla.org/membership](https://txla.org/membership)**

# President's Perspective

By Elizabeth A.M. Howard

The Texas Library Association (TLA) is only as strong as our membership.

We are 5,000 members strong today but think how much more we could do for libraries if we grew that number. Growth in members means a stronger advocacy voice, more grant opportunities, increased training opportunities for all library types... the possibilities are endless. I would like to envision a time when the university library directors encourage all of their employees to be members, cities and counties support their public librarians' membership, and school boards would support school librarians' membership.

Membership gives us a stronger voice to support Texas libraries and library workers at the state capitol. During the legislative session and in the interim we advocate for the interests of all libraries and provide guidance on implementing newly enacted legislation. The association helps everyone in this industry, regardless of membership status, across the state.

The personal advantages of being a member are numerous. Leadership opportunities abound from the district level to association wide positions. Many of us got our first taste of leadership serving as an officer or other role in one of the many Round Tables. From there you can grow into any of the wide variety of roles at the district and division levels. Beyond that are more opportunities to serve on committees, the TLA Council, and the Executive Board. We have hundreds of volunteer opportunities at TLA year-round that provide members valuable leadership experiences, networking and skills enhancement.

Educational opportunities abound in TLA. While the TLA Annual Conference and the TALL Texans program may be some of our more well-known offerings, our robust catalog of free online training webinars should not go unnoticed. Newer library workers benefit immensely from the Launch leadership



program. Getting involved in the conference and district meetings gives members the opportunity to learn from their peers and teach others.

Participation in your association returns benefits to you exponentially. We are not just an opportunity for networking, at TLA you will forge friendships and partnerships that will last your career and beyond. Newer members can find mentors for their professional journey and more experienced members share their expertise and guidance with others.

While the personal benefits of membership are clear, it is important

to remember that we are an organization run by volunteers. Don't just join TLA, be involved. Lend your voice to make the association the best it can be. Attend meetings and share your stories to help us shape the future of the association to meet our evolving needs. Make your voice heard by voting in TLA elections and filling out membership surveys. Your voice is what guides the path of TLA's future.

Now more than ever the Texas library industry needs to be united. Each of us must work together not only to better ourselves but to preserve and improve all libraries across the state. This is the very core of the mission of TLA, and the stronger our membership is the more we can accomplish. I would like to challenge every one of you to bring a friend, colleague, or coworker into the association. Help us bolster our membership. Support libraries, support education, and support your communities through TLA.

*Elizabeth A.M. Howard*

Elizabeth A.M. Howard  
2024-25 TLA President



*Children's Bookshelf*



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# Letter from the Editor

By Wendy Woodland

Libraries support literacy, foster a love of reading, help bridge the digital divide, and offer free access to information, resources, and services that enrich lives. They ensure that everyone, regardless of socioeconomic status, can learn and grow to reach their full potential.

Yet, for the past two years, headlines across Texas have trumpeted news implying that library collections include material that is harmful to children, and that libraries are not safe, welcoming spaces for everyone in their communities.

Nothing could be farther from the truth! Libraries, on school campuses, in urban cities or rural counties, or on college and university campuses, are welcoming spaces that serve everyone in their communities.

We want to celebrate all the amazing things that libraries offer to Texans. From workforce development, technology support and access, to literacy and programming to encourage life-long learning, libraries are essential.

This summer, the Texas Library Association launched the

**[I Support Texas Libraries](#)** campaign which features a video where Texans share their love of libraries and an **[online petition](#)** to provide people a way to demonstrate their support for our libraries. Please help us spread the word and share the video and petition with your friends, families and colleagues!

A strong show of support is critically important in these three months before the 89th Texas Legislature opens on January 14. We must demonstrate to our elected officials that Texans value their libraries.

## I SUPPORT TEXAS LIBRARIES

[Watch the video](#)

[Sign the petition](#)

**SPREAD THE WORD!**

It is also important that library advocates connect with their elected officials. Offer to be a resource if they have questions about libraries and share information about the impact your library has on their constituents and the community. TLA has several opportunities for members to learn more about the issues, advocacy, and how to get involved.

**October 3** | Law for Librarians: The First Amendment and Your Library [Learn more](#)

**October 17** | Legislative Advocacy Training at the Capitol [Learn more](#)

**October 23** | Legislative Advocacy Essentials: Understanding the Impact of Proposed Legislation [Learn more](#)

**November 13** | Legislative Advocacy Essentials: Responding to a Call to Action [Learn more](#)

**[TLA Fall District meetings](#)** are another great opportunity to meet fellow librarians and discuss advocacy and the issues confronting Texas libraries.

I hope to see you at one, or more, of these important events!



# Meeting Them Where They Are

## Leaning into Community-Driven Programming

By Linda Lopez and Amanda Watson



Amanda Watson, SAPL, leads Toddler Story Time at Blossom Park, photo courtesy of SAPL

Do you want to make an impact in the community that your library serves? Are you struggling with comparing your work to your peers, or feeling like you aren't doing enough? Everyone wants to feel like their work makes a difference. Two years ago, we were hired to do the same job, in the same public library system, around the same time and at two different branch locations. We navigated our day-to-day duties and fell into routines that made sense for us. But when we compared our days, they looked nothing alike.

---

Linda spent a great deal of time outside her library at community events and outreach, informing potential library patrons about the value of the library and all the resources they could find there for free. Amanda was doing story times for large crowds almost every day, along with well-attended family programs inside the library. It would have been easy for us both to look at each other and question why our jobs looked so different or feel like we weren't doing enough. Instead of telling ourselves we should be doing more or placing unrealistic expectations on our work, we chose to investigate why.

### KNOW YOUR WHY

The Golden Circle is a well-known concept coined by Simon Sinek that helped us change our perspective and messaging when it comes to the programs and services we offer at the library. Sinek purports that the crucial component of your work's mission is knowing the why - the value and reasoning behind why you do

what you do. Instead of focusing on program attendance or keeping up with our peers, we started changing our perspectives and focusing instead on what our communities needed and how we were already meeting those needs.

### CHECK THE DATA

When we looked at the data, the statistics from the City of San Antonio's Equity Atlas supported the unique needs of our different communities. For example, the average median household income in Linda's library neighborhood is about \$40,000 less per year than in Amanda's library neighborhood. We recognized that our day-to-day duties looked different because they were a reflection of the specific community needs, and that helped us stop comparing or putting undue pressure on ourselves.

If your city doesn't have something similar to an Equity Atlas, a great resource to help you determine your specific community's needs is the [Census Reporter](#) website. This data





John Glenn Elementary  
PreK Roundup, photo courtesy of SAPL



Linda Lopez at Passmore Elementary  
Back to School Bash, photo courtesy of SAPL

provides a roadmap to help you support your programming efforts by shifting your focus from the programming goals you have and instead looking at what the people you are serving actually need.

#### **BUILD RELATIONSHIPS**

Another great way to connect to new ideas and local resources is to build professional relationships and local partnerships. For us, that meant attending each other's programs to draw inspiration for our own planning. We started a pen pal program so children at our libraries could write each other letters that would be displayed across town. We also assisted at outreach events together to get to know the diverse needs of our city. Similarly, just like it does not make sense to compare your work with your peers, it also does not always make sense to compete with other community organizations in your neighborhood. Building partnerships to connect your library patrons to other resources in the community is a more valuable way to support your customers

and build community connections.

#### **SOAR ANALYSIS**

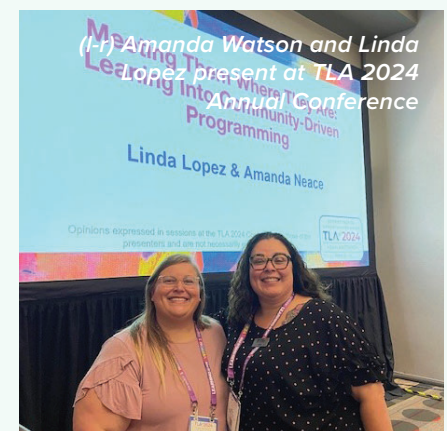
One last resource that might be useful in shifting your programming perspective is to try a SOAR analysis. This is a positive way to consider the Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and evaluate the Results of problem areas you are seeing or new initiatives you want to try. When you start with your strengths, you will probably realize that you are doing more and providing more value than you may be giving yourself credit for. Using the knowledge you've gained about your community's needs will help you identify the opportunities you have for positive impact. The aspirations you come up with and the results you would like to see will give you a roadmap to create new goals that are community driven.

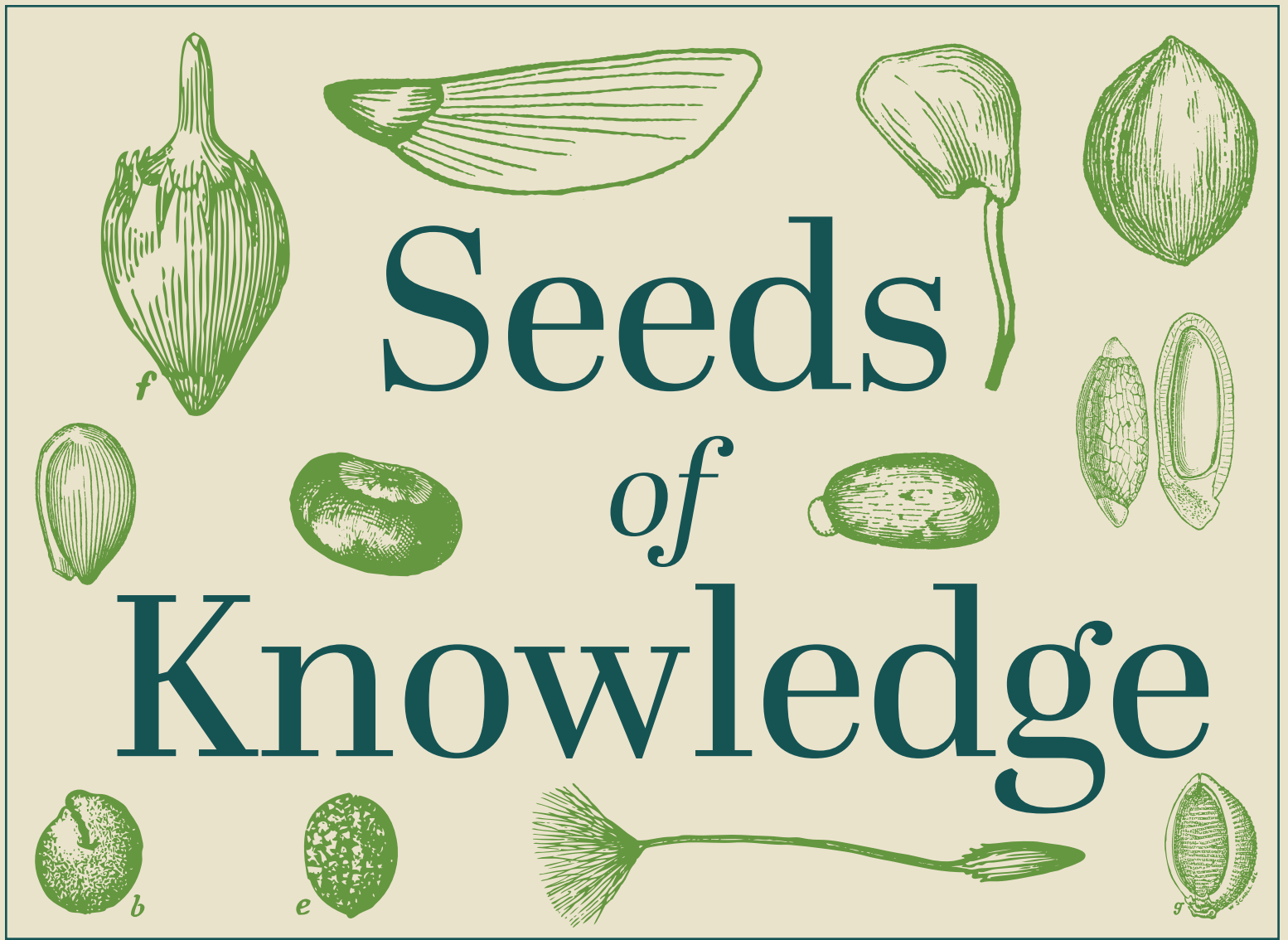
At the end of the day, you are already doing the work by showing up for your community and trying to make connections and meet them where they are. Your library is an asset to

your community, but you are the keeper, facilitator, and sharer of all those resources as the expert in your neighborhood's needs. Give yourself some grace and when things are hard, try shifting your perspective.

*Linda Lopez is the Children's Librarian at the Henry A. Guerra, Jr. branch of the San Antonio Public Library*

*Amanda Watson is the Branch Manager of the Tobin at Oakwell branch of the San Antonio Public Library*

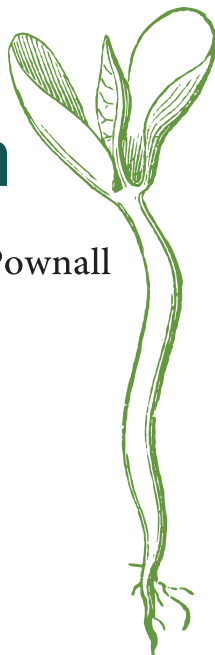




# Seeds of Knowledge

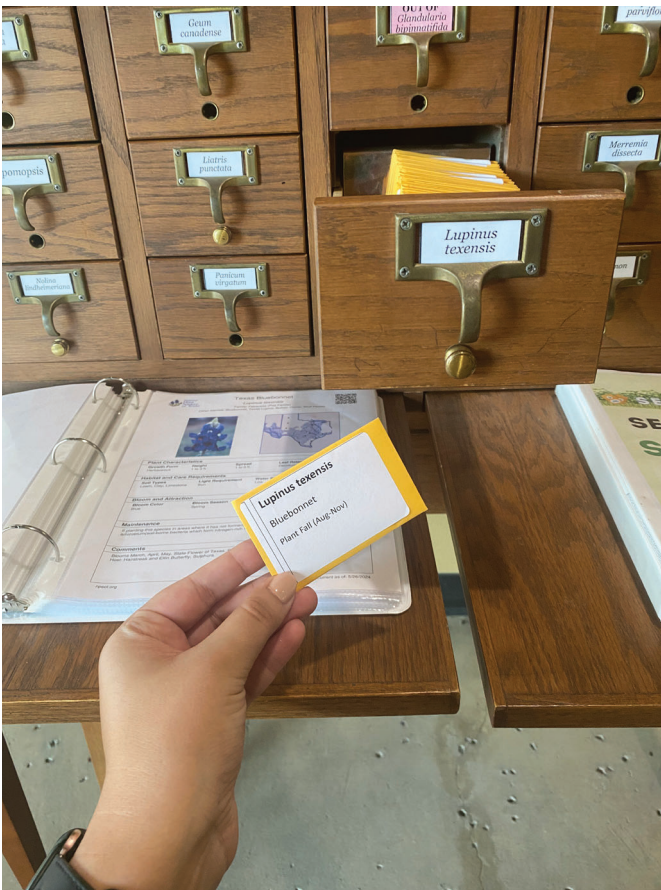
## Starting a Texas Native Seed Library at Your Branch

By Craig Bruska and Nicky Pownall



Libraries have always planted seeds for change and growth. Now, Seed Libraries are providing the opportunity for library patrons to plant seeds and learn about native plants.

This story sprouts in a repurposed card catalog in the rural Hill Country. The Tye Preston Memorial Library (TPML) Seed Library in Canyon Lake, Texas has set a new standard by being the largest Native Seed Library in Texas with a collection of 60+ species of Texas native plants. Patrons can check out up to five seed packets per month per card (TPML issues cards to all residents of Texas) and search for plants by common or scientific name in the Seed Indexes. When borrowing seeds, users complete and submit a Seed Library Lending Agreement which stipulates the terms of “borrowing” seeds. The agreement asks borrowers that if all goes well and the seeds they check out germinate and produce a new generation of seeds, the borrower will return 10% of those new seeds to the library.



The seed library is the result of collaboration between TPML and the Lindheimer Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (Society).

Each year the Society annual seed swap for members at their November general meeting, where members share seeds they collected over the season. As the group was always left with a surplus, they decided to offer TPML the seeds for public use. Library staff had sustained interest in opening a seed library but lacked the specialized knowledge and time to fully manage the collection; the Society stepped up to fill that gap.

The State office of the Society launched their [interactive Native Plant Database](#) in 2023, providing background information on each species featured in the collection including requirements for light, water, soil, and the Texas ecoregion it is best adapted to. The Society used this resource to pull the information for both a scientific and common names

index for user reference. The Society processes the seeds by cleaning them, putting them in coin envelopes, labeling them, and printing out plant information sheets.

TPML takes the Excel file indexes created by the Society, and using Canva, creates and shares those indexes which are organized in three binders: Scientific Name, Common Name, and Plant Information. The Plant Information binder has both name indexes and the plant information sheets of available seeds from the Society's Native Plant Database. The [TPML Seed Library webpage](#) provides information and both indexes.

TPML evaluated managing the seed collection using either seed inventories or seed indexes. The library ultimately chose indexes of information about the plants as inventories require more intensive maintenance and updating of specific species' availabilities, which are outdated soon thereafter. Using the index model, new species are updated into the catalogs on an as-needed basis by the library and the Society creates the planting instructions for the label template just once. For the labels on the drawers of the card catalog itself, TPML created a system with the species name in black and white on one side to signify that it is in stock and the reverse side listing "OUT OF [species name]" on a red background for when they are out of stock. If more seeds are available, the Society will restock the drawer. If not, it will remain red until donors deliver seeds as the seeds become ready to harvest.

At the Seed Library's grand opening in June, the library received its first two seed donations from patrons. Since then, donations are regularly dropped off at the front desk. If they are already in the index, it just a matter of getting them in envelopes, labeling them, and restocking the drawer. If the drawer was empty, we just flip the label from red back to black and white.

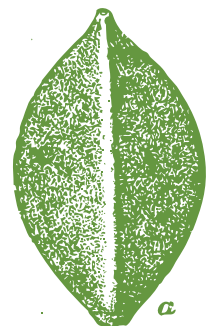
The Society's Seed Committee meets monthly to process donations during Seed Library Seed Cleanings. These sessions are both social and educational. Attendees share plant knowledge, best tips for growing, and more. After processing the seeds, the indexes are updated and given to the library to update the Canva versions of the documents.

The Society has reached out to libraries in Comal, Gillespie, and Guadalupe counties to share our method. The Society will be providing resources including the seed label templates in multiple file formats, Canva files of the Seed Index printables, and seeds they have in abundance to other interested libraries. The TPML Seed Library is in the [Central Texas Seed Savers](#) network with whom we have reciprocally exchanged seeds.

By creating a simple and clear process for library users to research plants and their requirements, along with involving users in a 'pay it forward' system from the start, we believe this will be a sustainable resource to our library community for the long term.

Nicky Pownall ([email](#)) is the Adult Services Coordinator at Tye Preston Memorial Library

Craig Bruska ([email](#)) is the Education Chair of the Lindheimer Chapter [Native Plant Society of Texas](#)





# UniCon

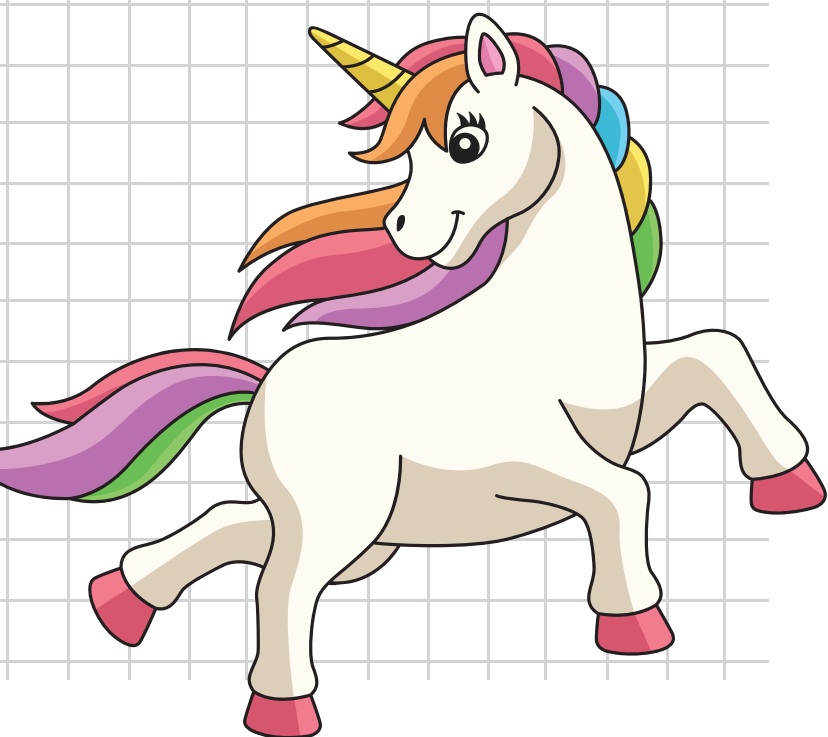
## How to Host Your Own Comic Con

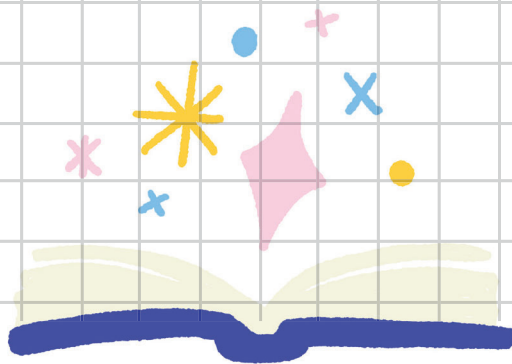
By Amanda Hunt

**IN OCTOBER 2023, I EMBARKED ON AN AMBITIOUS ENDEAVOR: HOSTING OUR CAMPUS'S INAUGURAL COMIC CON EVENT.** As a middle school librarian in a Texas suburban district, I recognized the immense popularity of graphic novels, manga, and comic books among our students. My extensive collection, acquired through my involvement with the TLA Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List Committee, provided a solid foundation for this literary celebration.

Setting the date for May 14, 2024, I strategically aligned the event with our Scholastic Buy One, Get One Free book fair to promote summer reading. My vision for UniCon was grand: a true Comic Con experience complete with author talks, vendor booths, student activities, photo ops, cosplay contests, gaming, food trucks, and mascot costumes. Organization was my forte, but my reluctance to seek help would prove to be a significant stumbling block.

Dubbed "UniCon" after our unicorn mascot, the event expanded to include 5th graders from the elementary schools that feed into our middle school. Securing free participation





from authors Adrianna Cuevas, Gume Laurel, PJ Hoover, and Gabriela Epstein, I faced the challenge of scheduling Gabriela's morning sessions for our 5th graders. Collaborating with elementary librarians, we arranged buses to bring these eager students to UniCon.

A short time before UniCon, the 5th graders visited campus for an orientation, and I discovered an unexpected concern: some incoming middle schoolers were genuinely scared. Unlike the usual nervousness or excitement, this fear alarmed me. Inspired by Gabriela's impactful presentation at Librarypalooza in San Antonio, I knew she could ease their transition. With preordered book copies from BookPeople, Gabriela signed autographs on-site.

The day unfolded with Gabriela speaking to the 5th graders in three groups, while vendors, afternoon authors, and activity stations awaited our middle school students. Prizetopia, the ultimate reward, allowed students to choose free graphic novels, manga, comic books, toys, stickers, balloons, and candy after they completed at least 10 activities at various stations in

UniCon. Despite time constraints — 50-minute class periods and 1.5 hours after school — students eagerly collected stamps on their cards.

UniCon was a hit, but my biggest lesson? Never underestimate the power of collaboration. My middle school students enjoyed the day, and the 5th graders enjoyed themselves and had a fun introduction to middle school. Destiny reports confirmed the impact: increased checkouts of graphic novels, manga, and comics. UniCon was a memorable literary adventure, uniting our school community in the magic of storytelling.

I can't wait for next school year to bring in our entire district: unicorns and dragons for MythiCon 2025! Visit [thenextgenlibrarian.com](https://thenextgenlibrarian.com) and [Herald Zeitung news](https://www.heraldzeitung.com) to read more and get resources to host your own literacy event.

*Amanda Hunt is a 6th-8th middle school librarian in New Braunfels ISD and is the Secondary Lead Librarian for NBISD. Follow her across all social media platforms: @thenextgenlibrarian*

# Forward Progress with the Backlog

By Brandy Abbott

Backlogs are nothing new. Personnel changes, a sudden influx of donations, complexity of materials to be cataloged, and countless other factors can lead to this proverbial thorn in a librarian's side. When I began a new job cataloging at Texas Woman's University in fall of 2022, I inherited a significant backlog. As the sole original cataloger, I was concerned about how to make any progress while still handling daily cataloging needs. Fortunately, I joined a team that was open to finding creative solutions. Together, we implemented a strategy that helped us claim victory in our backlog battle.

---

## TAKING STOCK

The first step was to identify what we had. My colleagues already had an inventory with details for most of the large groups of books, but there were still plenty of unique items such as microfiche, vinyl records, and art pieces with only minimal information attached.

I reached out to our head of Special Collections. We walked through the carts and boxes together to determine which items had been donated to Special Collections and which were slated for the general collection and quickly realized that it would take longer than one meeting to address all the materials in question. We set up a standing weekly meeting to assess these items in manageable chunks. This helped balance

my time between working on the backlog and meeting current library cataloging needs. Time-sensitive projects still got attention, but our regular meetings ensured at least some backlog progress was made each week.

## THE WORKFLOW

Our backlog consisted of far more unique items than those that needed copy cataloging. The previous original cataloger chose to handle unique items independently, including importing the newly created records into our ILS. We felt it would be more efficient to incorporate our copy cataloger in the process by capitalizing on her existing expertise.

As an experienced copy cataloger, she was well-versed in the basic fields of a MARC record such as those for the author, title, publisher, publication date, physical description, etc. I put together instructions for her with screenshots to detail how to begin building a new record for a book with these pieces of information. After creating some of these skeleton records together, she felt comfortable enough to begin on her own. The revised workflow for donations started by sending the majority of newly donated books to her after a title list was generated. She created the record with these basic fields, saved them to the online save file in Connexion, then passed them to me. I was able to then check the work, fill in the more complex fields, and create call numbers.

Once I was certain the record was ready, I passed it back to her for import into our ILS. While this passing back and forth may sound like a nuisance, it took minimal time to roll a cart from her desk to mine and back. The payoff was a better-

balanced workload, leading to an overall improvement in efficiency which helped us reach our goal of shrinking the backlog. If I saved even three minutes creating and importing each record, that translated to 30 minutes saved for every ten records. If we completed at least 20 records in a day, I gained five hours each week. It quickly added up to more work being accomplished and a dwindling backlog.

## THE FINAL STEP

To make sure our new workflow was as efficient as possible, I had to overcome my inner critic. In her article, "A Cataloger's Perspective on Cataloging Backlogs," Debra Spidal defines the "Laws of Cataloging: (1) no cataloger will accept the work of any other cataloger; and (2) no cataloger will accept his/her own work six months after the cataloging." While amusing, there is definitely a basis in fact for these "laws." If we are honest with ourselves, catalogers at times are guilty of becoming too immersed in technical details rather than focusing on our true purpose: making materials accessible to patrons. There is no cataloging competition to win. We don't need to mull over the endless possibilities of subject heading subdivisions. While we shouldn't forsake our sworn oath to be thorough and accurate, we should remember that each day the materials are in our office is a day they are not in the hands of patrons.

*Brandy Abbott is the Manager of Catalog and Metadata Services at Texas Woman's University Library.*

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<sup>1</sup>Spidal, D. (2019). A Cataloger's Perspective on Cataloging Backlogs. *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, 57(5), 337-347. <https://doi-org.ezp.twu.edu/10.1080/01639374.2019.1650862>



**TLA Career Center**  
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# YES!

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*Below: Students making friendship bracelets during the “Destress for the Tests” program during Finals Week*



# Beyond Books

## *Social & Emotional Learning in School Libraries*

By Kelsie McLeod and Rachael Welsh

Mental health matters. That has become a rallying cry on social media and with those who work with children as we see the struggles that young people face every day. We post positive mantras in our classrooms, do emotional check-ins with students in the mornings, and share “it gets better” messages on social media. Have you ever wondered what has created the push to break the stigma about discussing mental health?

As of 2021, 1/6 of the youths (ages 6-17) in Texas have experienced symptoms of a mental health disorder. 314,000 Texans ages 12-17 have depression; of those 314,000, 64.7% did not receive any treatment — that’s 200,960 young Texans struggling with a treatable disorder. Nearly 20% of high school students will report serious thoughts about suicide and 9% report a suicide attempt.

**20%**  
**OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**  
will report serious thoughts  
about suicide

Why are students in Texas not getting the needed mental health services? There are four main barriers to mental health services:

1. Affordability
2. The Texas mental health professional shortage
3. Transportation
4. The stigma associated with seeking mental health services.

John F. Kennedy once said, “Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.” Librarian Rachael Welsh and Licensed Professional Counselor Kelsie McLeod adopted this as their mantra to shape their work in the public school setting. From 2019 to 2023, Rachael and Kelsie worked together at Brazoswood High School in Clute, TX, a 6A school that served grades 9-12. According to the Surgeon General’s Advisory on Protecting Youth Mental Health, one of the sectors necessary to improve youth mental health is the support created in educational, community, and childcare settings.

*Right: Students creating vision boards as a New Year activity*

This is where the focus on social and emotional learning in school comes in. Social and emotional learning (SEL) is a term for the way children acquire social and emotional skills, like managing emotions, making responsible decisions, handling stress, setting goals, and building healthy relationships. SEL has five main skills: self-awareness, social awareness, responsible decision-making, self-management, and relationship skills. Our students are dealing with issues that are unique to this generation and the library is the perfect environment to help students build these skills.

Libraries are community spaces, especially in our schools. It is our job as educators to create spaces for all of our students, especially for those who don't have many safe spaces. It doesn't take much to create a welcoming space — something as simple as standing in the hallway greeting students during passing periods does so much to let them know that the library has an open-door policy.

Passive programming, or activities that do not require supervision or teaching, is the first step in creating a welcoming environment for students. Many passive programming activities lend themselves to social emotional regulation — coloring pages, jigsaw puzzles, and fidget toys were always available in the library. Together Kelsie and Rachael created a “zen den”, an area of the library that utilized light therapy and had weighted blankets available for students experiencing anxiety to use. There was always a quiet space in the library for students who needed to get away from the hustle of a public school lunchroom or hallway. There has been a lot of conversation in recent years about libraries being loud and vibrant spaces, but we also need to remember our students who need respite.

Kelsie and Rachael also created a Supply Station to help students with physical needs — canvas boxes filled with menstruation supplies, deodorant, disposable toothbrushes, toothpaste, face wipes, etc. If students don't have basic needs met, how can we expect them to be able to emotionally regulate, much less focus on schoolwork? Students knew that they could come in and take what they needed — there was no need to ask so they were able to keep their dignity when they needed hygiene necessities. Even teachers took advantage of the Supply Station — we all have had a day where we have fallen victim to our body needing something unexpected or we were rushed and forgot deodorant!

The biggest benefit to the Brazoswood students was the strong relationship that Kelsie and Rachael built. Because the library was established as a safe space for all with so many opportunities to find a place of belonging, Kelsie knew that she could send kids to the library and they would be cared for, no matter what they needed. One example of their teamwork was



an occasion when a student had spiraled because they were struggling with an English essay. Kelsie told the student to go to the library and while they were on their way, she quickly called and explained the situation to Rachael. When the student arrived, they were still upset but because Kelsie had told them to come to the library, they trusted Rachael to help, regardless of what their anxiety told them. Not only were they able to work on the essay, when they turned it in and got the grade back, the student shared the good news! While this might not seem like anything out of the ordinary — a librarian helping with an essay — what Kelsie didn't tell Rachael was that the stress caused by this essay was leading to suicidal thoughts by the student.

Kelsie was able to provide the mental health support to manage those thoughts while partnering with and trusting Rachael to meet the student's educational needs and to handle the situation that was causing the suicidal thoughts. This was the beauty of their working relationship and the importance of the LPC/librarian partnership.

Over the years that Kelsie and Rachael worked together at Brazoswood, the number of students the campus LPCs worked with increased, but the number of crises decreased. When the LPC program began, the projection was that the campus LPCs would work with 5-10% of the student population; their



# 5

## MAIN SKILLS OF SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

- Self-awareness
- Social awareness
- Responsible decision-making
- Self-management
- Relationship skills

Left: (l-r) Rachael Welsh and Kelsie McLeod will be presenting a session on Social Emotional Learning at TLA 2025 in Dallas.

regular caseload eventually became 25% of the student body. However, as the number of student interventions went up, the number of suicide ideations went down: in the 2022-23 school year, the suicide ideation average on a school campus in Texas was approximately 20%, while Brazoswood's was 1.8%. Library programs also benefited from the SEL focus — students came to the library in higher numbers and circulation increased from 1,660 books checked out in 2020-2021 to 5,374 in the 2022-2023 school year.

When students feel supported and safe and have their mental health needs met, they no longer exist in survival mode and are able to focus on educational successes and the things that make school fun!

*Rachael Welsh is the librarian at Sablatura Middle School in Pearland, Texas. She can be found on Instagram at @rachaelreads*

*Kelsie McLeod is an experienced Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), National Board Certified Counselor (NCC), and a child and adolescent mental health specialist with many years of clinical practice in providing individual and group therapy to diverse populations. She can be found on Instagram at @kelsiemcleodcounseling or through her website [www.kelsiemcleodcounseling.com](http://www.kelsiemcleodcounseling.com).*

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# Applying Ecosystem Concepts

By Dorcas Hand

The ALA Ecosystem Initiative has been active since 2018, initially as a Task Group to craft the Ecosystem Toolkit and later as a subcommittee of the ALA Committee on Library Advocacy, playing a significant role in promoting library collaboration and advocacy. As the original chair of the Task Group, I have been involved since the beginning and, together with Michelle Robertson, who served with me on the ALA Ecosystem Subcommittee, have presented on the ecosystem concepts at webinars and conferences. Our most recent project is a book, *Strengthening Library Ecosystems: Collaborate for Advocacy and Impact*, recently [published](#) by ALA.

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A library ecosystem is [defined](#) as:

The interconnected network of all types of libraries, library workers, volunteers, and associations that provide and facilitate library services for community members; families; K-20 learners; college and university communities; local, state, and federal legislatures and government offices; businesses; nonprofits; and other organizations with specific information needs. A patron of one library is the potential patron of any other library at a different time of life or location. No library exists independent of the library ecosystem. When we stand together in mutual support using common messaging themes that demonstrate this interconnectedness, every library is stronger.

While the impetus behind development of an Ecosystem Toolkit was to encourage all types of libraries to collaborate on advocacy planning and actions to strengthen legislative relationships, in the intervening years, ecosystem initiatives have become

more broadly applicable. [States Working on Ecosystem Initiatives](#)

When an ecosystem initiative is started, participants aren't limited to libraries. Recognizing that other organizations such as arts nonprofits, businesses, community service organizations, and parent and educator groups, also are impacted by issues affecting libraries, the ecosystem tools provide a roadmap for connecting disparate organizations for maximum impact.

As a long-time, active member of the Texas Library Association (TLA), I have leveraged the ecosystem concept in my roles on the TLA Executive Board, and as the coordinator of the TLA Intellectual Freedom Helpline. Michelle and I have presented on the Ecosystem twice at the TLA Annual Conference, and facilitated a half-day workshop for the association's volunteer leaders. TLA's membership includes all library types, from urban, suburban and rural areas, with wide disparities in financial and staff resources, and differing priorities. Connecting these diverse organizations and providing a framework for collaboration has been extremely rewarding. Ecosystem vocabulary and thinking are slowly becoming common among people who have attended one or more programs.

The most valuable aspect of our in-person presentations is the opportunity for attendees to break out into small groups with a mix of library types to discuss issues impacting their libraries, and how to talk about those issues with individuals from other types of libraries, or external organizations to engage their support.

The chart below is an example of an exercise where individuals from different library types posted their questions about the real-life scenario described.

As participants entered their questions about these issues, it became clear that the vocabulary used by various library types is nuanced and not always understood by others not working in that type of library. For example, school and public librarians did not know what tenure is, academic librarians didn't know

the difference between a library board and a school board.

For us to all work together well towards our common goal of strong libraries for all, we need to be aware that not everyone, even in the library community, has the same understanding of the issues.

When we speak to legislators and others outside of the library community about these issues, we are speaking for all types of libraries and should be ready to field basic questions about why and how issues impact different libraries – whether the difference is type, size, or geography.

Libraries of all types are constantly advocating for themselves by doing great work for patrons daily. Voters in our communities will support us better when they understand all that we do, and we share that knowledge frequently to remind them that libraries matter. We are also community members who can speak for libraries other than those that employ us. As a school librarian, I might have an opportunity to speak on behalf of a budget increase for the local community college by writing to a board member. I might have spoken on behalf of Texas A&M librarians when they were under fire if I had a better understanding of the issue, and the language to effectively communicate concerns.

Texas libraries are many and varied. We work with patrons of all ages—from birth to seniors—in rural and urban communities. Our common goal is to offer every community solid information and educational opportunities to support its needs and enrich lives. When we work together and speak with ONE VOICE, we are stronger. Ecosystem thinking encourages us to work more collaboratively and to better understand what our colleagues elsewhere do and how to support them while we advocate for our own needs at the same time. Who will be on your Ecosystem team? How will you support the broad TLA statewide Ecosystem?

*Dorcas Hand is a retired school librarian, full-time school library advocate, and the co-chair of the grassroots advocacy organization, Students Need Libraries in Houston ISD.*

	Houston librarians are uniting to support HISD (public school district) librarians as the state-appointed superintendent rapidly closes libraries. What information do you need to effectively engage with the community and legislators when issues like this arise?	Librarians across Texas oppose the replacement of the Llano Public Library Board with members who support censorship. What must you know to address this issue in Llano and potentially your own town?	Librarians at Texas A&M with faculty status were removed from the tenure track. Why does this matter to the university, and why should the faculty and students be upset? How could the library community have spoken up if they had realized what was happening?
SCHOOL LIBRARIAN QUESTIONS			
PUBLIC LIBRARIAN QUESTIONS			
ACADEMIC LIBRARIAN QUESTIONS			

# *Building a Culture of Reading with the Texas Library Association Reading Lists*

## A GUIDE FOR LIBRARIANS

By Terri Harkey

In the ever-evolving landscape of education and literacy, one resource stands out as a beacon for librarians across the Lone Star State: the Texas Library Association (TLA) Reading Lists. These carefully curated lists offer a treasure trove of literary gems tailored to engage and inspire readers of all ages. As librarians, we have a unique opportunity to harness the power of the TLA Reading Lists to build a reading culture and foster a love for reading in our communities. Here's how we can make the most of these invaluable resources.

### **WHAT ARE THE TLA READING LISTS?**

The [TLA Reading Lists](#) are a comprehensive collection of recommended books across various genres and age groups, selected by dedicated committees of librarians and educators. The expertly curated lists include books for the youngest and oldest readers, from fiction, nonfiction, and graphic novels to picture books, and bilingual and multicultural titles. Each list is designed to cater to different reading levels, ages, and interests, ensuring that there is something for everyone.

### **WHY USE THE TLA READING LISTS?**

#### **Diverse and High-Quality Selections:**

The books on the TLA Reading Lists are chosen for their literary quality,

diversity, and ability to captivate readers. This ensures that the titles that are recommended are both engaging and educational.

**Encouraging Lifelong Reading:** By promoting the TLA Reading Lists, we can introduce students to a wide range of genres and authors, helping them discover their own reading preferences and develop a lifelong love of reading.

#### **Building Community and**

**Engagement:** Utilizing the TLA Reading Lists fosters a sense of community among students, teachers, and parents. It creates opportunities for shared reading experiences, book discussions, and collaborative activities that enhance the overall reading culture within the school and community.

## STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING THE TLA READING LISTS

**Create Attractive Displays:** Set up eye-catching displays in your library featuring books from the TLA Reading Lists. Several of the TLA reading list committees create promotional materials, publishers frequently produce posters highlighting their books on TLA reading lists, or you can create your own resources to draw attention to the selections.

### **Explore the wide range of activities created by the TLA Reading**

**List committees.** From engaging Makerspace projects to thought-provoking discussion questions and carefully curated read-alike recommendations, there's something to captivate every reader. Dive in and discover the perfect activity to enhance your reading experience!

### **Host Reading Challenges and**

**Contests:** Organize reading challenges or contests based on the TLA Reading Lists. Encourage students to read a certain number of books from the list and reward them with certificates, prizes, or special recognition events.

**Book Talks and Read-Alouds:** Conduct book talks and read-aloud sessions featuring titles from the TLA Reading Lists. Share exciting excerpts and discuss why these books are worth reading, sparking curiosity and interest among students.

**Book Club Reads:** Looking for your next book club read or visiting author? Consider reading a book from one of the TLA Reading Lists and invite the author to visit in-person or virtually.

**Collaborate with Teachers:** Work with teachers to incorporate TLA Reading Lists titles into classroom activities and assignments. Provide lesson plans, discussion questions, and other resources to help integrate these books into the curriculum.

### **Engage Parents and Guardians:**

Inform parents and guardians about the TLA Reading Lists and encourage them to support their children's reading at home. Provide them with a list of recommended titles and tips for fostering a reading-friendly environment.

### **Utilize Social Media and Library**

**Websites:** Promote the TLA Reading Lists on your library's social media platforms and website. Share reviews, student testimonials, and updates about reading challenges to keep the community engaged.

The TLA Reading Lists are an invaluable resource that can significantly enhance our efforts to promote reading and literacy. By incorporating these high-quality, diverse books into our libraries and programs, we can inspire a new generation of readers. Let's take full advantage of the TLA Reading Lists to create vibrant, reading-centric communities and foster a love of literature that will last a lifetime.

Explore the TLA Reading List today and discover the many ways you can integrate these fantastic books into your library programs. Together, we can make a lasting impact on our students and communities through the joy of reading.

## INTERESTED IN GETTING MORE INVOLVED?

Are you passionate about promoting literacy and discovering new books? Volunteer to serve on one of the TLA Reading List committees and help shape the future of reading in Texas! As a committee member, you will have the opportunity to read and evaluate a diverse range of books, collaborate with fellow librarians, and contribute to curated lists that inspire readers of all ages. Share your love of literature and make a lasting impact on our community by becoming a part of this dynamic team. [Volunteer today](#) and be a driving force in fostering a love for reading!

Visit the [TLA Reading List website](#) and discover how you can contribute to the literary landscape of Texas.

*Terri Harkey is a retired school librarian and the coordinator of the Texas Library Association Texas Bluebonnet Award program.*



Ana Frade (left) at Memorial Assistance Ministries in Houston

# Houston Mayor's Office Expands Digital Literacy Efforts

By Warren Davis

The numbers are bleak. One in every three adults in Harris County functions at the lowest levels of literacy. That means they don't have the basic reading and digital skills necessary to function on the job, in the family, and across society. Harris County, with 28% of adults reading at or below level one (out of 6), performs worse than the state average of 32%.

Ana Frade, Project Coordinator at the [Houston Mayor's Office for Adult Literacy \(MOAL\)](#), wants to change those numbers. Ana has been part of the Houston Public Library system for over ten years. She has made it her mission to help Houstonians bridge the digital divide.

Oversight of MOAL and its operations is entrusted to the Houston Public Library (HPL), whose mission is centered on service equity and promoting reading and literacy. It's HPL's commitment to ensure that everyone has the digital skills they need to thrive in today's world. Through the Digital Literacy Equity Project,

HPL offers a variety of free computer classes designed to educate adults of all backgrounds, from basic computer skills, introduction to the Internet, to online job searching strategies.

"I like to think that through these classes, we empower our community, one click at a time," Ana said.

MOAL supports the city's adult literacy providers who directly serve learners and their families by providing technology and free professional development training. The professional development opportunities come from their partnerships with various organizations.





### HOW MOAL WORKS

The Greater Houston Area's adult literacy needs are met by a vast network of community-based organizations. Working with individual providers as well as groups such as the Houston Area Adult Literacy Collective (HAALC), MOAL serves as an advocate for adult literacy needs and success and presents opportunities for advancing the field of adult education in Houston. Some of the things they provide for them are:

- No cost professional development training through a partnership with the Texas Center for the Advancement of Literacy and Learning (TCALL) and other PD organizations nationwide.
- Pilot project and literacy event participation opportunities through partnerships with the Houston Public Library, Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation, Houston Galveston Area Council, Burlington English, Learning Upgrade and other federally funded projects.

The Digital Literacy Equity Program, led by MOAL, is funded by The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The City of Houston approved this project in 2021 to address an issue that existed before the pandemic but was brought to the forefront: poor under-resourced communities were ill-prepared to move their education and training efforts to virtual spaces. Too many adults lacked the digital skills needed to succeed in this economy and were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The overall objective was to make digital technology available to the most under-resourced communities.

MOAL selected five providers to

participate in the Digital Literacy Equity Project. The overall objective of the project is to make digital technology available in the [Complete Communities of Houston](#) by “bringing the technology” to the people, so these providers are located in five different complete communities.

### THE LABS INCLUDE:

- [Memorial Assistance Ministries \(MAM\)](#)
- [Wesley Community Center](#)
- [Aldine Family and Community University](#)
- [Mission Milby Community Development Corporation](#)

MOAL will also utilize two mobile units (buses) to provide services to under-resourced communities and are planned to be activated by September. These state-of-the-art mobile units contain the latest technology and will travel around Houston offering a dynamic upskilling experience for educators to enhance adult literacy instruction.

While the program has been very successful, it has not come without challenges. Ana says there is a need for more Digital Navigators and instructors. MOAL is working on the development of a partnership with UHD (University Houston Downtown) to put together a consistent volunteer program. Students seeking degrees in Information Technology and related fields get on the job training as well as college credit for their volunteer efforts, and the literacy programs get instructors in a win-win scenario.

It can be an uphill battle at times, but the efforts of Ana and her team at MOAL display an unflagging determination to prioritize access to literacy training for Houston and Harris County.

If you want to learn more about the adult literacy program, contact the [MOAL team](#). To learn more about digital literacy programs in your area, [email](#) TSLAC's Library Digital Opportunity office.

*Warren Davis is the Community Engagement and Outreach Coordinator at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission*

*Originally published July 11, 2024, [Library Developments Blog](#), TSLAC. Reprinted with permission.*

## Texas Bluebonnet Award Resources

Texas Bluebonnet Award (TBA) programming and participation are ramping up as children in grades 3 through 6 read five books and then vote for their favorite. The TBA committee has developed [free](#) resources such as readers' theatres, activities, projects, and read-alouds to help librarians engage their students.

When students are ready to vote for their favorite books, librarians will enter their votes using our new, user-friendly [online system](#) and pay a \$20 fee to submit their ballots. There's no longer a separate registration and voting process. Votes must be submitted by the January 21, 2025 deadline.



### VOLUNTEER WITH TLA

Enhance your leadership skills by volunteering with TLA. There are many opportunities to get involved in a variety of roles. The TLA president-elect will begin making appointments to TLA Standing Committees this fall, and elections for Unit officer positions will be held after the first of the year.

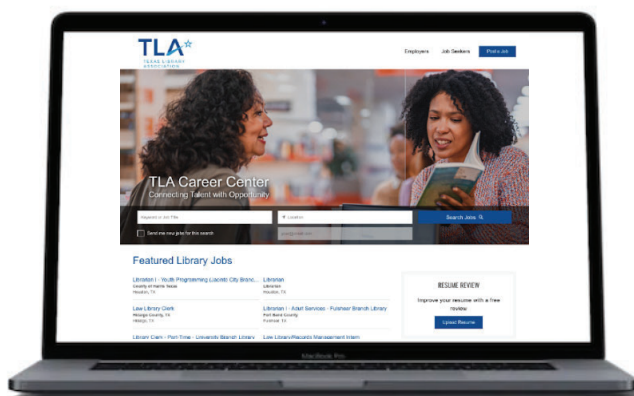
[Learn more](#)

[Complete the Volunteer Interest Form](#)

### INTRODUCING THE NEW TLA CAREER CENTER

The new TLA Career Center is a specialized resource for job seekers and employers in the library industry. It is your one-stop platform dedicated to supporting your career journey or building your new team.

Take advantage of the new career center to simplify your recruitment process or to discover library job opportunities today! Visit [careers.tsla.org](https://careers.tsla.org)



### TLA AWARDS OPEN SEPTEMBER 15

TLA's awards honor excellence in, and contributions to, the library profession.

[Nominate](#) a deserving librarian today!

Application deadline is January 15, 2025.

### TLA SCHOLARSHIPS, STIPENDS AND GRANTS OPEN OCTOBER 7

TLA offers [scholarships](#) to support library education and encourage future librarians. Many TLA districts, divisions, and round tables offer [stipends](#) to help defray the cost of attending TLA events, and [awards and scholarships](#) to support and celebrate librarians. TLA [grants](#) support collection development.

### TLA 2025 MEMBERSHIP OPENS EARLY OCTOBER

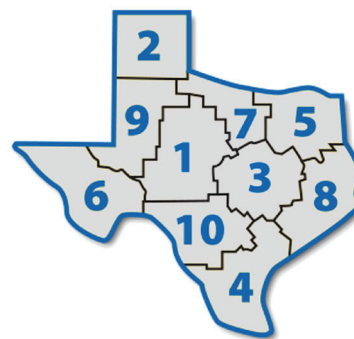
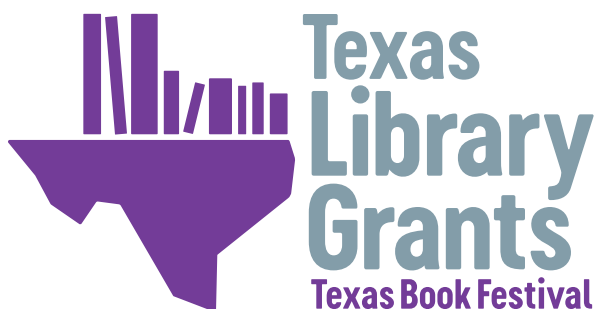
Whether you're a seasoned librarian or just starting your journey, TLA membership connects you to a community of fellow professionals who share your passion and face similar challenges. Membership renewal for 2025 begins the first week of October. Join the TLA community at [tsla.org/join](https://tsla.org/join).



## TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL 2024 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the public libraries that received collection development grants from the Texas Book Festival. This year more than 100 grant applications were received and a total of \$112,500 was awarded to 45 libraries.

Allan Shivers Library	Mt. Pleasant Public Library
Allen Public Library	New Waverly Public Library
Arlington Public Library	Nueces County Keach Family Library
Burleson Public Library	Pasadena Public Library
Caprock Public Library	Pioneer Memorial Library
Carrollton Public Library	Quemado Public Library
Cleburne Public Library	Real County Public Library
Coldspring Area Public Library	Rio Grande City Public Library
Cooke County Library	Rockwall County Library
Depot Public Library	Rosenberg Library
Eastland Centennial Memorial Library	Round Rock Public Library
El Paso Public Library	Rylander Memorial Library
Ferris Public Library	Saginaw Public Library
Giddings Public Library	Sammy Brown Library
Houston Public Library	Sanger Public Library
Judy B. McDonald Public Library	Speer Memorial Library
Lake Travis Community Library	Taft Public Library
Lakehills Area Library	Tawakoni Area Public Library
Mae S. Bruce Library	Temple Public Library
Malcolm Purvis Branch Library	Virgil & Josephine Gordon Memorial Library
Marathon Public Library	Weatherford Public Library
Moore Memorial Public Library	White Oak Community Library
	Wolfe City Public Library



## Register for Your District Meeting

Registration for the District Fall Meetings opened on September 1st. District meetings offer regional opportunities for continuing education, legislative activities, and member networking. The annual fall meetings provide a platform for local librarians, paraprofessionals, and trustees from all types of libraries to connect, network, and set a foundation for collaborative efforts.

District 2 Fall Meeting | September 24  
Amarillo Public Library, Amarillo

District 3 Fall Meeting | October 22  
Austin Public Library, Austin

District 4 Fall Meeting | November 15  
McAllen Public Library, McAllen

District 5 Fall Meeting | October 19  
Fletcher Warren Civic Center, Greenville

District 6 Fall Meeting | November 9  
El Paso Community College, El Paso

District 7 Fall Meeting | October 11  
Lake Granbury Conference Center, Granbury

District 8 Fall Meeting | November 2  
University of Houston Library Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion, Houston

District 9 Fall Meeting | September 21  
University of Texas Permian Basin, Odessa

District 10 Fall Meeting | October 30  
Region 20 Conference Center, San Antonio

[Full details and links to register are here](#)

# Congratulations to the TALL Texans Class of 2024!

The TALL Texans Leadership Development Institute (TALL Texans) program is designed for library leaders to study and embrace leadership principles and practices. The [program](#) aims to help participants realize their potential to initiate positive changes within their institutions, professions, and for their stakeholders.



## 2024 CLASS

- Ivy Bao**, Houston Public Library
- Morgan Brickey-Jones**, University of Texas at Arlington
- Nina Canales**, Dallas ISD
- Alexandra Cornejo**, Harlingen CISD
- Alissa Cornelius**, Parish Episcopal School
- Callie Dawson**, Hutto ISD
- Jennifer Dean**, Fort Worth Public Library
- Justin Dyer**, Hillsboro City Library
- Kasey Fanucchi**, Denton Public Library
- Patricia Faulkner**, Fort Worth ISD
- Bryce Francis**, Plano Public Library System
- Nancy Garcia**, Fort Worth Public Library
- Gretchen Hardin**, Bee Cave Public Library
- Terri Harkey**, Lightbox Learning
- Jennifer Holland**, University of Houston
- Alejandra Isais**, Richardson ISD
- Jolie Jennings**, Liberty Hill ISD
- Shelly Myers**, Lampasas ISD
- Ashleigh Osborne**, Richardson ISD
- Jillian Pratt**, Comal ISD
- Montana Rindahl**, Mammen Family Public Library
- Yvonne Russell**, Pasadena ISD
- Lauren Scott**, McKinney ISD
- Shweta Shroff**, North American University
- Carolyn Slavin**, Leander ISD
- Karen Storrie**, Lewisville ISD
- Katie Talhelm**, Arlington Public Library
- Rachael Welsh**, Pearland ISD
- Erica White**, Irving ISD
- Celadon Work**, Flower Mound Public Library
- Deborah Zeman**, Lewisville ISD

## 2024 MENTORS

- Mendy Autry**, Midlothian ISD
- Elizabeth A.M. Howard**, TLA president, Texas Wesleyan University
- Lisa Kulka**, Northside ISD
- Christina Nelson**, Austin Public Library
- Valerie Prilop**, TLA president-elect, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

The TALL Texans program will be held in person from November 21 – 23 in Georgetown, Texas. Maureen Sullivan of Sullivan and Associates and Suzanne Haley of Changing the Lens will be the primary instructors.

Thank you to the Tocker Foundation for supporting the TALL Texans program.

## REGISTER TODAY FOR FRONTLINE FUNDAMENTALS



### Enhance Your Customer Service Skills

- Emotional Intelligence
- Communication
- Information Literacy
- Crucial Conversations

### Live Webinar

October 8, 10, 15, 17th 2024

## TLA 2025 REGISTRATION OPENS EARLY OCTOBER

The TLA 2025 Annual Conference theme is “Library Renaissance: Our Quest for Renewal.” This year’s conference aims to bring library workers together to promote individual growth for the benefit of our communities through knowledge, information, and services. The conference also seeks to celebrate the diverse expertise of librarians and embrace the current library renaissance for growth, renewal, and innovation. Conference registration opens on October 1. Visit [txla.org/annual-conference](https://txla.org/annual-conference) for the latest information.



## Upcoming Events

### FRONTLINE FUNDAMENTALS: ENHANCING CUSTOMER SERVICE SKILLS

**October 8, 10, 15, and 17**

This four-part series aims to equip library workers with essential skills to serve their communities and thrive in their roles effectively. The series will explore the following topics: Emotional Intelligence, Communication, Information Literacy, and Crucial Conversations, with opportunities to learn from and practice with leading professionals both outside and inside the library community. [Learn more and register here.](#)

### LAW FOR LIBRARIANS: FIRST AMENDMENT AND YOUR LIBRARY

**October 3 | 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

Learn the basics of how the First Amendment is embedded in what a library is and what librarians do each day. Presenters will share relevant information to ensure you and your library protect the First Amendment rights of the community you serve. [Register here.](#)

### LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ROUND TABLE SUMMIT

**October 11 | 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

This year’s LIRT Summit theme is “Library Instruction Renewal.” This conference is open to all TLA members and non-members, and the fee is \$30 for members and \$45 for non-members. [Register here.](#)

### LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TRAINING AT THE CAPITOL

**October 17 | 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Get ready for a dynamic day at the Texas Capitol focused on learning, engaging, and connecting! Join us for a hands-on legislative advocacy workshop designed to empower you with the skills and confidence you need to stand up for libraries and librarians. [Register here.](#)

### LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY ESSENTIALS: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION ON LIBRARIES

**October 23 | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

Join us for the second installment of a three-part virtual discussion series hosted by the TLA Legislative Committee. This session will concentrate on providing tools and resources to help participants understand the impact of proposed legislation on libraries and to boost confidence in discussing bills. This event is free and open to TLA members only, and space is limited to 100 participants. [Register here.](#)

### COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES DIVISION FALL FORUM

**November 12 | 12 – 2:00 p.m.**

Meet your library neighbors! Explore how academic, school, public, and special librarians can collaborate. Identify launch points for collaboration, hear stories of successful collaborations, and walk away with practical tools and tips for neighborly networking. We CULD be neighbors!

[Register here.](#)

### LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY ESSENTIALS: RESPONDING TO A CALL TO ACTION

**November 13 | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

Join the TLA Legislative Committee for the third and final virtual discussion of Legislative Advocacy Essentials. This session will focus on responding to calls to action. This event is free and open to TLA members only, and space is limited to 100 participants. [Register here.](#)

# Thank You TLA 2024 Corporate Sponsors

## Legacy Partner

### TOCKER FOUNDATION

Executive Board Meetings, Opening Author and Award Session, Leadership Events Champion, Legislative Platform Event, Small Community Libraries Round Table Social

## Double Diamond

### H-E-B READ 3

Texas Bluebonnet Award Author Session, TLA Reception at ALA Annual

### MACKIN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

General Session I, Park Benches and Water Stations, Teacher Day @ TLA, Texas Bluebonnet Award Author Session Travel Stipend

## Diamond

### BOUND TO STAY BOUND

Texas Bluebonnet Award Author Session

### LIBRARY INTERIORS OF TEXAS

Black Caucus Round Table Ashley Bryan Award, Conference Mobile App and Information Center, Officer Governance Training and Workshop, Recharge Lounges and Author Stage Furniture, The Lawn, Selfie Wall

## Platinum

### CAPSTONE

Attendee Badge and Lanyard, Black Caucus Round Table Author Session

### GALE

General Session II, Public Library Division Events and Public Library Pavilion, Teacher Day @ TLA, Officer Governance Training and Workshop

### JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD/MEDIA SOURCE

Aisle x Aisle Coupon Book, Authors Area Signing and Author Interview Stage, Junior Library Guild - Diversity and Inclusion Conference Stipends

## Gold

### BIBLIONIX

Biblionix/Public Library Division Stipend, Biblionix/Small Community Libraries Round Table Travel Stipend, Public Libraries Division Membership Party, Small Community Libraries Round Table Social

### BRODART COMPANY

General Session III

### EBSCO INFORMATION SERVICES

Conference Mobile App and Information Center, Innovation and Technology Round Table Social, Officer Governance Training and Workshop, The Lawn, Selfie Wall

### FOLLETT CONTENT SOLUTIONS

TLA After Hours

## Silver

### MIDWEST TAPE / HOOPLA

Evening with the Authors

### PERMA-BOUND BOOKS

2x2 Reading List and Conference Session, Tejas Star Reading List Session, Topaz Reading List and Conference Sessions

### SIMON & SCHUSTER CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING

Texas Bluebonnet Award Author Session Tabletop Donor

### TEXAS SMARTBUY/TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Conference Mobile App and Information Center



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[engage.txla.org](http://engage.txla.org)



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# Registration Opens

## OCTOBER 1, 2024

LIBRARY RENAISSANCE  
OUR QUEST FOR RENEWAL

**TLA**★ **2025**

TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

DALLAS ★ APRIL 1 - 4

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

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