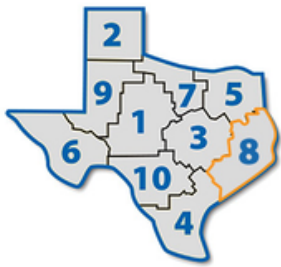


Texas Library Association



DISTRICT 8

Fall Conference

Find Your Voice, Tell Your Story

NOVEMBER 4, 2023

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
ELIZABETH D. ROCKWELL PAVILION
MD ANDERSON LIBRARY





Program Overview

9:30 AM Check-in & Refreshments

10:00 AM Opening Program: Kate McNally Carter, TLA District 8 Chair
Christina Gola, UH Libraries Associate Dean,
Organizational Development, Learning, and Talent
Elizabeth A.M. Howard, TLA President-Elect
Julie Marshall, TLA Director of Education

10:30 AM Keynote Speaker: Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton

11:00 AM Book Signing with Kindred Stories & Visit with Exhibitors

11:30 AM BREAK

11:50 AM Breakout Session 1

Breakout 1A
Making the
Leap

Breakout 1B
Burn, Baby,
Burn(out)

Breakout 1C
Uncensoring
Gender

12:40 PM Lunch & Visit with Exhibitors

2:00 PM Breakout Session 2

Breakout 2A
Libraries,
Democracy, and
FREADom

Breakout 2B
Uncover Your
Educational Journey
Through Crafting Your
Personal Narrative

Breakout 2C
The Story of
Our Work

2:50 PM BREAK

3:00 PM Breakout Session 3

Breakout 3A
Unpacking
"Journal Club"

Breakout 3B
First Generation
Librarian

Breakout 3C
Hope > Hate

3:50 PM BREAK

4:00 PM Closing Program & Door Prize Giveaway

Kate McNally Carter & Celeste Bleu, TLA District 8 Chair & Chair-Elect

Keynote Speaker

Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton

Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton is an internationally-known writer, educator, activist, performer, and the first Black Poet Laureate of Houston, Texas. Formerly ranked the #2 Best Female Performance Poet in the World (PSI), her poetry collection, *Newsworthy*, garnered her a Pushcart nomination, was named a finalist for the 2019 Writer's League of Texas Book Award, and received honorable mention for the Summerlee Book Prize. Its German translation, under the title "Berichtenswert," was released in Summer 2021 by Elif Verlag. The opera, *Marian's Song*, for which she wrote the libretto, debuted in 2020 to roaring reviews.



Honored by Houston Business Journal as a part of their 2021 40 Under 40 class, D.E.E.P. has been a finalist for Texas State Poet Laureate, a Kennedy Center Citizen fellowship, and the prestigious Breadloaf Retreat. Her work has been highlighted and studied in Canada, England, New Zealand, and Germany. She performed as a part of the Kennedy Center's Arts Across America event. Named a Houston Artist Commissioning Project award winner by the Society for the Performing Arts Houston, her second book, *Black Chameleon: Memory, Womanhood, and Myth*, was released in March 2023 by Henry Holt & Co. A storybook opera, entitled "Lula, the Mighty Griot," which reinterprets one of the stories from *Black Chameleon* debuted in Spring 2022 with the Houston Grand Opera. Currently, she is a Resident Artist at the American Lyric Theater and Rice University. She lives and creates in Houston, TX. For more information visit www.LiveLifeDeep.com

Preorder D.E.E.P.'s books for pickup at the book signing: bit.ly/482zAVw

About Kindred Stories

Kindred Stories is a bookstore born of a love for reading and a passion for community.

2304 Stuart St, Houston, TX | <https://kindredstorieshtx.com>



We believe reading is one of the most vital acts of self-care. When we read, we can take a step back from our day-to-day stresses and fall into new worlds — and when that book is **written by someone who looks like us**, grew up in a similar environment to ours, and understands what we're going through, we can return from our momentary escape with new knowledge that helps us live more beautiful and authentic lives.

Kindred Stories is a community space and bookstore that doesn't just highlight Black literature but celebrates our stories in all their diverse and genre-spanning glory. Every book on the shelves is written by a Black author or other marginalized voice, and every display can spotlight a unique aspect of Black storytelling and craft.

Through visiting our space or attending one of our many events, we hope our supporters can unite over our shared love of these books; delve into the ways we see ourselves reflected in their stories; learn about new and upcoming Black writers, artists, creators, and changemakers; and find **connection** at a time when we need it more than ever — all while working to create change, and spread access for those who've been systematically cut off from literature for far too long.

It's been a wild ride since launching in 2021 during a global pandemic and time of steep social change, but our community members unceasingly remind us that our work is vital and the **spaces we're creating are needed**. Our physical store is located in Third Ward in partnership with Project Row Houses. We hope to edify our community's swelling appetite for authentic stories — as told by those who have lived them. Follow us on Instagram, shop online, or visit the store to keep up with all the fun happening at Kindred Stories.

Session Descriptions

Breakout Session 1

11:50 AM - 12:40 PM

Session A: Making the Leap: Our Experiences in Career Transitions Between Public, Academic and Other Libraries

Presenters – Angela Morse, Michael Hanson, Dianna Kim, and Susan Strickland, Sam Houston State University

Location: Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion

Thinking about a change in career? Join us for this panel where we will discuss our experiences working at and transitioning between different types of libraries, including public libraries of varying sizes, public and private academic institutions of varying sizes, as well as law and medical libraries. Our discussion will focus on the differences in communities served, the differences in working environments, and the different skill sets needed for these roles. This panel will provide practical advice for transitioning between different types of libraries, how to seek opportunities for advancement, and how to find the courage to make the leap.

Session B: Burn, Baby, Burn(out): What You Need to Know about Burnout in Library Settings

Presenter – Nyla Vela, Harris County Public Library - Aldine Branch

Location: Training Room 10-G

The function of libraries has dramatically shifted in the last two decades. We live in a world where libraries have become first-responders to increasing poverty, homelessness, and literacy issues in communities. The profession itself has now even become a buzzword in political commentary. This has led to increased feelings of hopelessness, stagnation, and job dissatisfaction for individuals who work in libraries as they try to adapt to an ever-evolving profession, a phenomenon known as burnout. While more specialized training and workshops can help keep best practices on dealing with these growing problems, we must also put energy into preserving the emotional and mental well-being of our fellow library workers in these newfound roles. Informed by my extensive background in psychological research, this presentation will discuss the history of burnout amongst librarians, the lofty amount of literature behind it, stories and examples from real world libraries, and what we can do to decrease this sense of burnout in our profession.

Session C: Uncensoring Gender: Navigating Gender Identity and Censorship in Modern Libraries

Presenter – Amelia Morris, Harris County Public Library - Parker Williams Branch

Location: Training Room 10-F

This presentation will cover the topic of the changing landscape of gender identities and the role public libraries and librarians can play in it. It will be covering the inclusion and fight for recognition by patrons, staff, and authors of all backgrounds and how to move forward as professionals to create an inclusive library for individuals outside of the traditional social binary. This presentation will cover the topics of gender identity vs expression, inclusive language, and the experiences of non-traditional gender confirming librarians and authors during the present push of censorship being faced by many libraries. Part of this discussion will include handling the current social divide while also creating an inclusive collection and environment. Information will be given on the timeline of gender identities as well as the current backlash many are facing for their identities, as well as the history libraries have played in social advocacy and how to continue that legacy without alienating any viewpoints.

Session Descriptions

Breakout Session 2

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM

Session A: Libraries, Democracy, and FREADom: A Program Model to Empower Students and Communities

Presenters – Regina Vitolo, Lone Star College-CyFair Library, and Marlene Lobberecht, League of Women Voters

Location: Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion

Hailed as cornerstones of democracy and as the last truly democratic institutions, Libraries and library workers are uniquely positioned to empower the communities they serve with civic education, media literacy skills, and library advocacy tools. Book bans and censorship issues have placed Libraries front and center in the latest culture wars. Presenters Regina Vitolo, LSC-CyFair Librarian, and retired educator and League of Women Voters-CyFair President, Marlene Lobberecht, will discuss the interconnected issues library workers are uniquely situated to affect such as voter education, intellectual freedom, and media literacy, and discuss the benefits of libraries collaborating with nonpartisan and nonprofit community partners like the League of Women Voters to “inoculate” communities against the mis- and disinformation circulating about libraries and library workers. This presentation will provide library workers with a program model and toolkit for hosting a “Democracy Rocks” treasure hunt at their library prior to the upcoming 2024 presidential election while incorporating these interconnected issues.

Session B: Uncover Your Educational Journey Through Crafting Your Personal Narrative

Presenters – Juliana Espinosa and Beth Fridrick, University of Houston-Clear Lake

Location: Training Room 10-G

As librarians, our stories are valuable assets for personal and professional growth. Join us in this interactive workshop to harness the power of your narrative, enabling you to become a more empathetic and confident librarian while enhancing the quality of service you provide to your communities. We will provide participants with resources for crafting personal educational narratives. As facilitators, we will share our own educational journey mind maps to inspire participants and practice active slow learning. Participants will be encouraged to create their own mind maps, visually representing their unique educational experiences. We will facilitate a group discussion to help participants process their insights and further develop their professional identities. This workshop is not just about storytelling; it is a journey of personal transformation with far-reaching impacts on your professional practice. This workshop is designed for librarians of all backgrounds.

Session C: The Story of Our Work: Communicating through Assessment and Evaluation

Presenters – Natalia Kapacinskas, Edward Gloor, and Erica Lopez, University of Houston Libraries

Location: Training Room 10-F

After an organizational restructure, the UH Libraries Teaching & Learning department was in the unique position to define our values and the focus of our work. The restructure resulted in several Teaching & Learning Librarians with wide-ranging expertise and experiences sharing the same title. Over time, we have each used our individual values and priorities to shape unique professional identities, finding our voices within our department and organization. We shared an interest in cultivating more authentic practices to evaluate our instruction and professional development. We established individual goals that support our departmental aspirations to engage in more meaningful assessment and evaluation. For many, assessment in the classroom serves as a numbers game to prove the worth of library instruction and engagement. Instead, we have begun to conceive of evaluation as a tool for communicating our individual and departmental values, transforming it into a means of telling the story of our work. In this session, participants will have time to reflect upon how they might balance individual goals and values with organizational priorities to tell genuine stories about who they are, what they value, and the impact of their work.

Session Descriptions

Breakout Session 3

3:00 PM - 3:50 PM

Session A: Unpacking “Journal Club”: Supporting Scholarship, Research, and Each Other

Presenters – Elizabeth Sanders, Taylor Xiao, and Poornima Gunasekaran, Lamar University

Location: Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion

Creating supportive professional communities can start small. A chat about research goals over coffee grew into three librarians meeting every two weeks for “Journal Club.” Despite the name, participants do not discuss literature. Meetings are safe places to explore unique topics, like maintaining work-home balance, working with neurotypical individuals, and discussing professional fears. They provide informal accountability, motivating scholarly pursuits without hard deadlines or consequences. This DIY approach is flexible and adaptable, lacking formal requirements. Attendees will learn how informal support groups can help them personally and professionally, receive suggestions for starting and sustaining such groups, and hear lessons learned.

Session B: First-Generation Librarian: Dealing with Challenges to Develop a Professional Librarian Identity

Presenter – Perla Camacho-Cedillo, Brazoria County Library System

Location: Training Room 10-G

How does one build a professional librarian identity when you are not part of the dominant culture or are not descended from a lineage of librarians? How do you take the next steps from student to early career librarian while balancing your professional identity with your personal one? In this session, the presenter will share her experiences as a first-generation, immigrant Latina including: managing with impostor syndrome, responding to external challenges, and noting insights between her time as a dual graduate student and library staff member to becoming a professional librarian. This session will provide examples that show the importance of being part of a mentorship program, involvement in a professional organization, and networking beyond a LinkedIn connection. This session is aimed at participants in the early stages of their professional librarian career. Participants are invited to share their own experiences and challenges and encouraged to connect with each other by the end of the session.

Session C: Hope > Hate: Collaborations with the Holocaust Museum Houston

Presenter – Joel Bangilan, Boniuk Library at Holocaust Museum Houston

Location: Training Room 10-F

Did you know that the Boniuk Library at Holocaust Museum Houston has an abundance of resources to share with local libraries? Let's explore some of the ways the Boniuk Library can collaborate with your local public, school, or academic library. It is through stories, both fictional and factual, that one can learn from the lessons of the Holocaust and other human rights events through time and around the world. Libraries and librarians need to be aware of the stories that are slowly being censored either by withdrawal of titles or complete elimination of libraries. The Boniuk Library can help you fill in the gaps. This presentation will discuss children's library services in Holocaust education, as well as high school and university viewings of the USC/Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive and the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale University. Holocaust, human rights, and genocide studies are lessons for a lifetime of learning.

Driving Directions & Parking

Directions to Park in Welcome Center Garage

For GPS, use the address: 4800 Martin Luther King Blvd., Houston, TX 77204

From all directions and main arteries in the city of Houston and its surrounding areas **north** of the University of Houston campus:

- Merge onto I-45 headed south
- Exit State Route 5S (44B) and merge onto TX-5 SPUR S
- Turn right onto University Drive into the UH campus
- Continue on University Drive
- Turn left at Martin Luther King Blvd
- Turn right into the Welcome Center; visitor parking is located on the third and fourth floors



From all directions and main arteries in the city of Houston and its surrounding areas **south** of the University of Houston campus:

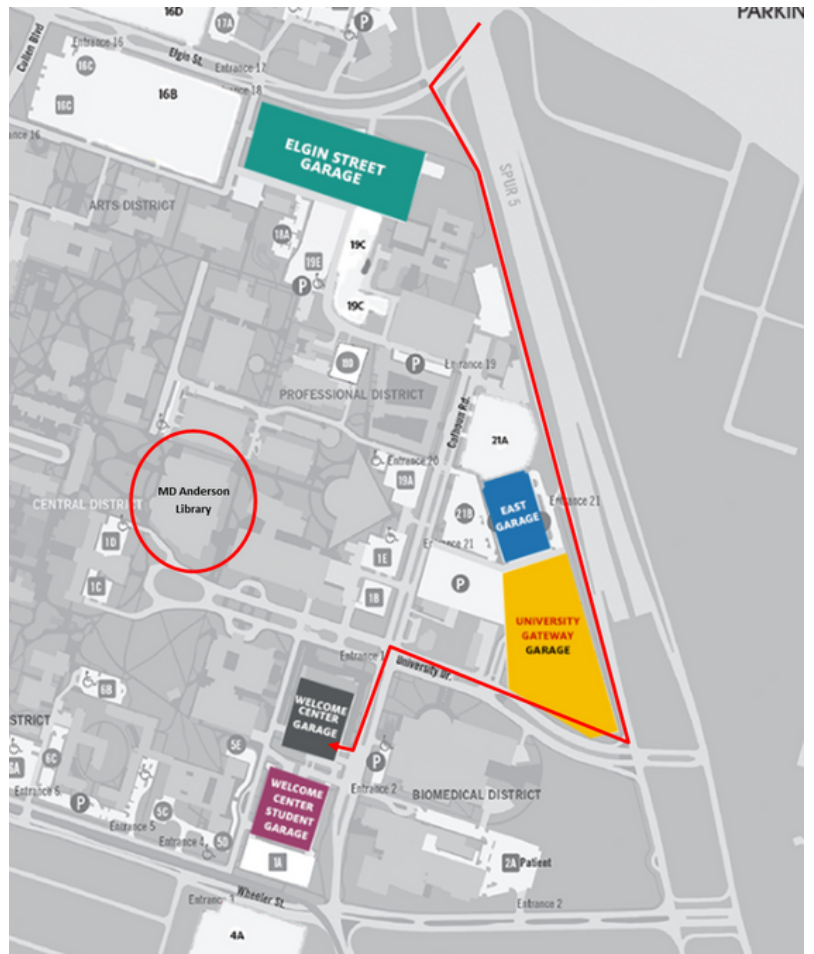
- Merge onto I-45 headed north
- Exit Elgin-Lockwood Cullen (44A)
- Go under overpass, turn left at stoplight onto TX-5 Spur S
- Turn right onto University Drive into the University of Houston campus
- Continue on University Drive
- Turn left at Martin Luther King Blvd
- Turn right into the Welcome Center; visitor parking is located on the third and fourth floors

Parking Rates and Other Locations

Please see the [UH Parking website](#) for a complete list of parking rates and locations. Saturday parking is \$10.

If desired, there are other locations to park on campus. Please refer to this

[Visitor Parking map.](#)

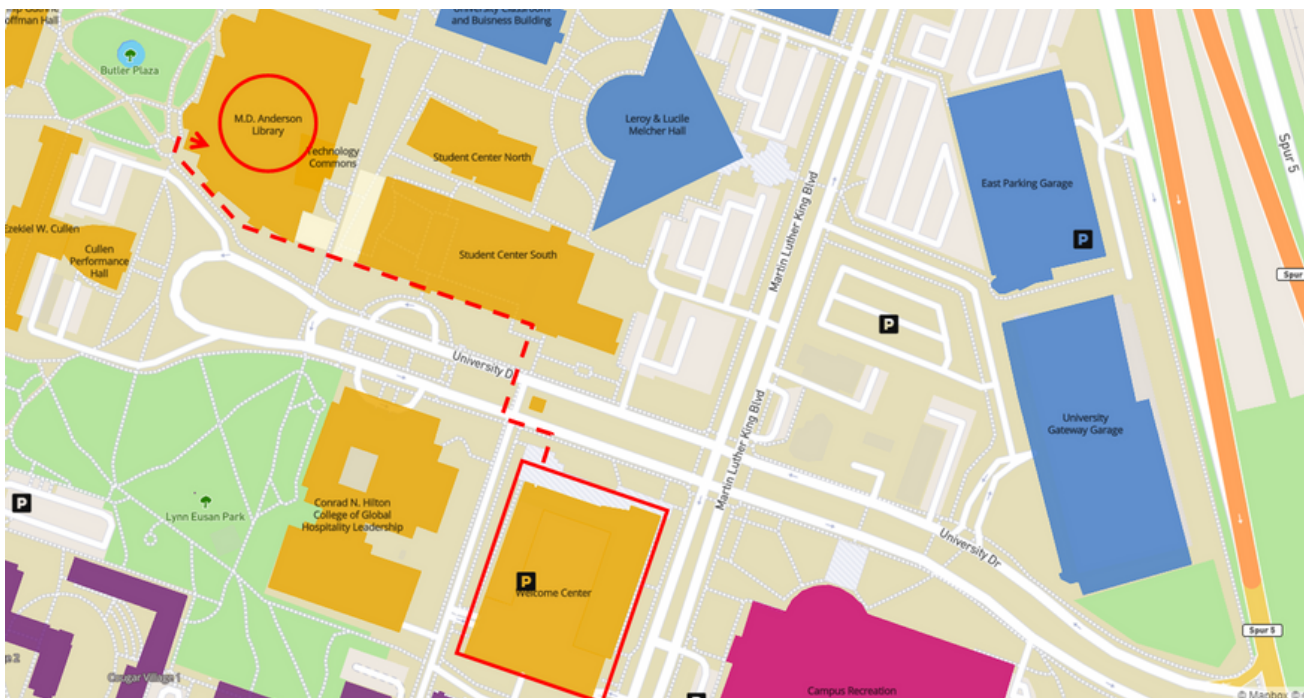


If the Welcome Center Garage is full, the Elgin Street Garage also has visitor parking.

Campus Directions

Directions from the Welcome Center Garage to the MD Anderson Library

- Exiting from the Welcome Center Garage, proceed to the corner of University Dr and Cougar Village Dr.
- Walk northeast, crossing Cougar Village Dr then crossing University Dr toward the Student Center South.
- Proceed northeast past the Student Center South. You will pass a library book drop on your right.
- Continue on the sidewalk, turning northward toward Butler Plaza (the sculpture *Tower of Cheyenne* will be visible, pictured above). The MD Anderson Library is on your right.
- Enter the MD Anderson building using the Honors College entrance, the first door on your right.
- Proceed to the second floor, where you will find the Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion.



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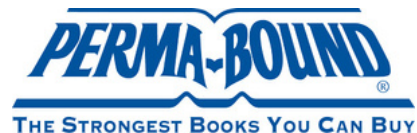


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Please complete our conference evaluation form!
bit.ly/D82023Eval



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As a member of the Texas Library Association, you can connect and share ideas with other professionals, apply for professional development and conference scholarships, and learn about job openings across the state.

Learn more at txla.org