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TLA Receives \$550,000 Grant from Mellon Foundation

The Texas Library Association has been awarded a two-year grant of \$550,000 from the [Mellon Foundation](#). This grant will support TLA's work in demonstrating the value of Texas libraries and librarians and celebrating their vital roles in our communities through research, education, and outreach. TLA is grateful for this opportunity to partner with the Mellon Foundation in this critical, transformative work. Full announcement [here](#).

Update from the Capitol

The Texas Legislature will adjourn in 25 days, and deadlines in the House of Representatives are starting to come into play. May 12 is the last day House committees can report House bills, May 16 is the last day the full House can consider House bills, and May 24 is the last day House committees can report Senate bills. Four bills impacting libraries are advancing through the process:

- [SB 412](#) amending the penal code to remove affirmative defense language passed both the House and Senate and will go to the Governor for signature.
- [HB 3225](#) restricting minors' access to "sexually explicit" materials in public libraries is scheduled for a vote by the House on May 8.'
- [SB 2101](#), the Senate version of HB 3225, was left pending in the Senate State Affairs

Committee.

- [SB 13](#), establishing Local School Library Advisory Councils, passed the Senate, was heard by the House Public Education Committee on May 6, and left pending.

Thank you for responding to our calls to action and for advocating for libraries! If you have questions about any of these bills, please [contact Wendy Woodland](#).

TLA Officer Governance Training & Workshop

Whether you are new to serving in a TLA leadership role or a seasoned officer, the Officer Governance Training and Workshop will provide opportunities to learn something new and prepare for the coming year. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with other TLA leaders, brainstorm new ideas, and get all your TLA questions answered! This event will be held at the Austin Marriott North from July 10 - 11.

OGTW Keynote Session: "Call BS on Burnout: Swapping Myths and 'Tricks' for Strategies that Work!" by speaker **Rachel Boehm**.

[Learn more](#) and [register](#) today!

Law for Librarians In-Person Workshop on June 11th!

Could your library benefit from expert insights on the current legal issues libraries are facing? Join TLA on **June 11th** in Abilene, Texas for a [one-day workshop](#) on legal issues facing libraries. Hear insights on legal issues embedded in the daily work of libraries, including the First Amendment, privacy and confidentiality, filtering and CIPA, social media, and the internet.

This interactive workshop will feature opportunities to share experiences, ask questions, and connect with librarians from all types of libraries. The deadline to register is June 6th. **Space is limited, [learn more and register today!](#)**

New Episode: Libraries Transform Texas Podcast

In the latest episode of Libraries Transform Texas, guest host Shirley Robinson, Executive Director of TLA, chats with Valerie Prilop, senior librarian at the UT MD Anderson Cancer Center and current TLA president. Together, they kick off a new leadership year by discussing opportunities for member involvement and what's ahead for 2025-2026. Tune in for insights into TLA benefits, event and program updates, and how the refreshed strategic plan positions TLA for a stronger future. Listen [here](#).

LAUNCH Registration Open!

LAUNCH Registration is open! LAUNCH is a TLA leadership program designed for library professionals with less than five years of experience. Participants will learn and expand leadership skills, which will serve them throughout their careers through group work, self-directed learning, and internal reflection. Learn more and apply [here](#).

Applications for TALL Texans 2025 Now Open

The TALL Texans leadership program helps participants embrace their potential to undertake new initiatives for their institutions, profession and stakeholders. TALL Texans 2025 will be held in-person November 20 – 22 at the [Sheraton Georgetown Hotel and Conference Center](#).

If you are a current TLA member with at least five years of experience working in libraries (MLS not required), consider applying for this exciting opportunity. The application deadline is June 9th at midnight. [Learn more and apply today!](#)

Registration Open for TCAL 2025 Annual Conference!

This year's TCAL Annual Conference is where knowledge, innovation, and collaboration come together. Join deans and directors from public and private universities and community and junior colleges across Texas for two days of education and networking. This year's conference will be held in Fort Worth on September 29th and 30th. [Learn more and register today!](#)

TLA 2026 Call for Proposals is Open

TLA is now accepting proposals for the 2026 Annual Conference on March 29-31, 2026, in Houston, TX, at the George R. Brown Convention Center! Submit your proposal by June 23rd for a chance to share your expertise, ideas, and innovations with library professionals from across Texas. To get more information and a link to submit, click [here](#).

TLA 2025 Conference Wrap-Up

Congratulations to the [TLA 2025 Award Winners!](#)

How to Claim CPE Credits: TLA utilizes a self-reporting form for event attendees to claim professional development education (CPE) credit. **Please use [this form](#) as a record of your attendance.** If you need a certificate, you can [download one](#) and provide it to your employer.

Photo Gallery: The TLA 2025 [online photo gallery](#) is available! Visit this website and enter

the password **kbhcc**. Photos are free to download, and TLA has copyright on all images.

TLA Renaissance Quest Game

Winners: Congratulations to the winners of the TLA Renaissance Quest!

- **1st place:** Brandy Clark
- **2nd place:** Callie Dawson
- **3rd place:** Heather Garcia

Upcoming Events

May 20 | 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Volunteer Engagement 101

Building community support through volunteerism is the result of assessing needs, implementing management standards, and ongoing investment. Learn how to plan for success from two Certified Volunteer Administrators who manage volunteers in Plano, engaging over 6,000 citizens annually.

Free for members. \$40 for non-members. [Register here.](#)

June 10 | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

89th Legislative Session Wrap-Up

The regular session of the 89th Texas Legislature ended June 2. Members of the TLA Legislative Committee and staff will recap key library-related legislation.

This session is free, exclusive to TLA Members, and will not be recorded. [Register here.](#)

June 17 | 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

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

Librarians are busy and may lack time to engage patrons in regular active programming. In this session, presenters will share a wide range of passive programs that librarians can do at little to no cost, allowing patrons to feel like active participants in the library space and a part of the larger library community.

Free for members. \$40 for non-members. [Register here.](#)

Names in the News

Kristi Johnson Starr, library media specialist, adjunct professor at the University of North Texas MLS program, and long-time active TLA member passed away in April.

Linda Martinez was recognized by *Library Journal* as one of the [2025 Movers and Shakers](#).

Thank You 2025 Sponsors!

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