

American Library Association President-Elect Report Lessa Kanani opua Pelayo-Lozada Annual Conference 2022

Spring sprung full force for the American Library Association, with in person conferences, meetings, and more ramping up and bringing the library field together again after two years apart. Meeting and listening to the stories of our brave communities and all that they did to survive and even thrive during the continued course of the pandemic has been uplifting as well as heartbreaking. We lost so much during the last two years that as we move forward into the next stage of life with COVID-19, I hope we can take a moment and relish in the times that we have with one another, especially at our first Annual Conference since 2019 in Washington, D.C.

As my year as President-elect comes to a close and I take the helm of the presidency from 2021-2022 ALA President Patty Wong, the goals of 2022-2023 for ALA and the library profession have become clearer as I re-articulate our needs and how I can be most effective over the course of my one year presidency. Taking an iterative approach to this process, my year will still focus on membership revival, partnerships, library workers, all labor having dignity, and the intersectionalities of our identities, in addition to strong ALA governance effectiveness and work towards inclusion throughout the association's silos.

As always, I am thankful to the ALA members, staff, and in particular my advisory committee who have worked through barriers to create open doors of opportunity over the next year with targeted programs, evaluations of committee work and relationships, and supporting our members through very tangible ways such as exploring gifted memberships.

Activities from my time as ALA President-Elect since my April 2022 report include:

Committee on Committees

The Committee on Committees which includes myself, Oscar Baeza, Regina Beard, and KC Boyd, met in May to discuss the election slates for the Committee on Committees and the Planning and Budget Assembly. We were tasked to identify slates of:

Eight (8) Councilors, 4 to be elected for 1-year terms (2022-2023) to the COC

Six (6) Councilors-at-large, 3 to be elected for 2-year terms (2022-2024) on the ALA Planning and Budget Assembly (PBA)

Four (4) Chapter Councilors, 2 to be elected for 2-year terms (2022-2024) on the ALA Planning and Budget Assembly (PBA)

The candidates for these slates can be found in CD #12-12.1 and will be elected during the ALA Annual Conference. Many thanks to Holly Robinson for keeping us on track and helping to identify eligible councilors.

2022-2023 Presidential Planning Work: Our Brave Communities

Work continues with my Presidential Advisory Committee to focus on labor and workers' rights, partnerships, membership growth, and the ALA-Allied Professional Association. The team has been in conversation with the Membership Office and CMO to discuss opportunities around membership and we hope to launch a fun way to help members find

their path in ALA in the fall. We also submitted a program proposal to the Joint Conference

great practices to apply to our work at ALA to make our association stronger, more communicative, and more transparent in fulfilling our shared mission.

Rhode Island Library Association Conference

I had the pleasure of visiting Rhode Island for the Rhode Island Library Association Conference. Past ALA Executive Board Member Ed Garcia and ALA Rhode Island Chapter Councilor created a wonderful two day experience where I was able to visit Park View Middle School, Cranston Public Library, and Providence Public Library in addition to the conference. Each library was so welcoming and the students and staff of Park View Middle School were especially wonderful. The students showed a deep appreciation for their school library and their school librarian, demonstrating the impact librarian staffed school libraries can have on the entire school community and individual students. The support of district and administration was a model for many and the environment school librarian Stephanie Mills set up was one I cannot wait to visit again.

Media & Speaking Engagements

[My Leadership Journey](#), an interview with Martín Gomez as part of the California Library Association leadership development program (April 14)

Virtual participation in the International Conference on Design and Development of Public Library Services; Patterns, Experiences, and Ideas in Shiraz, Iran

Panelist on the future of Public Library Services post-COVID-19 with President of Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) Dr. Naresh Agarwal, IFLA President Ms. Barbara Lison, and PLA President-elect Dr. Maria McCauley (May 16)

Keynote speaker with PLA President-elect Dr. Maria McCauley on “Trends in American Public Libraries & the Importance of Associations and Networks in Professional Development” (May 18)

Joint interview with Patty Wong by Andrew Albanese as part of Publisher’s Weekly’s US Book Show Libraries Are Essential program highlighting the upcoming ALA Annual Conference, Book Challenges in the US, and more. (May)

Rhode Island Library Association conference Keynote Speaker (May 25)