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February 12, 2025



WLA Announces New Executive Director

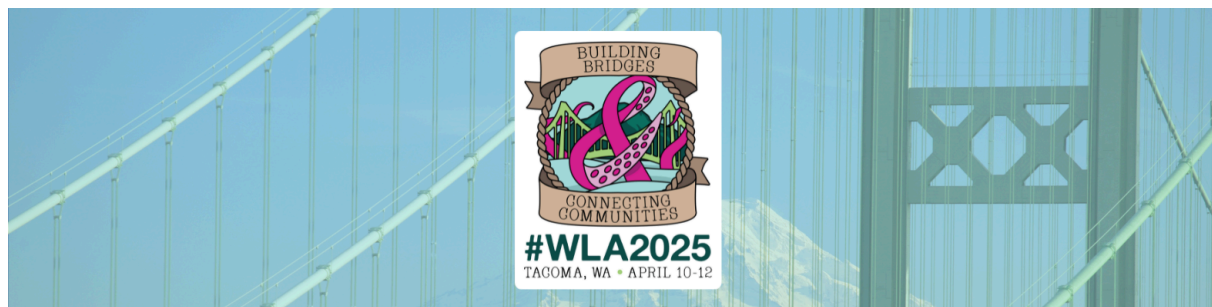
The Washington Library Association is excited to welcome Ainsley Nobara as its new executive director, beginning Feb. 10! Prior to this role, Nobara worked for Washington's Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries and for Oregon's Ledding Library. She received her Master of Library Science degree from Emporia State University, with a concentration in outreach.

"As the new executive director of the Washington Library Association, I am honored to be part of a community that supports librarianship throughout the state, and recognizes the value libraries bring to every Washingtonian," Nobara said.



The WLA executive director position was previously held by Brianna Hoffman from 2020-2024 and Kate Laughlin from 2016-2020. Lesley Bourne has been serving as WLA's interim executive director since July 2024.

Help us welcome Ainsley by connecting at info@wla.org!



Don't Miss Early-Bird Registration for #WLA2025!

We're excited to announce that [Early-Bird Registration](#) is now open. Register early to take advantage of discounted rates and be among the first to confirm your attendance at the WLA Conference. Early-Bird rates end **March 10**.

Don't forget to book at our [conference hotel](#) by **March 9** to lock in a special discounted rate!

Start planning your conference experience today—we can't wait to see you there!

Become an Exhibitor or Sponsor at #WLA2025!

Vendor registration is open for the 2025 Washington Library Association Conference! Don't miss your chance to engage with WLA attendees as they gather this spring in Tacoma. The conference will bring together library professionals from academic, public, school, and special libraries!

When: April 11-12

Where: Greater Tacoma Convention Center, Tacoma, WA.

Why sponsor/exhibit at the 2025 WLA Conference?

- **Meet many new prospects** from all around Washington's academic, public, school, and special libraries.
- **Talk to buyers.** Many attendees control buying or influence purchasing decisions.
- **Find new customers** who do not attend national conferences.
- **Enjoy an active show schedule** with at least 15 hours of exhibit time – with refreshments, receptions, and raffles.
- **Connect with virtual attendees** and generate leads through our conference app.

You can [download our prospectus here](#) and visit the conference site for information on pricing and opportunities for engagement. The registration deadline to be recognized in the printed program is **Wednesday, March 12**.

[Register here](#) to join us in Tacoma as an exhibitor, sponsor, or advertiser.



Applications Open for WLA 2025 Conference Scholarship

The Washington Library Association is pleased to offer the Primary Source Scholarship for Small & Rural Libraries to attend the 2025 WLA Conference, April

10-12 at the Tacoma Convention Center. The application deadline is **Monday, February 24.**

The scholarship recipient will be awarded up to \$1,200 to cover the costs of full conference registration, attendance at up to two preconference workshops, up to three nights of lodging, and travel reimbursement.

[Click here for more information and to apply!](#)



Take Advantage of NEW WLA Individual Member Rates!

Consider joining WLA in the new year! We're happy to announce the rollout of [updated member rates](#) just in time for [#WLA2025](#)!

WLA members gain access to our [Divisions](#) and interest-based [Sections](#), are eligible for leadership opportunities and involvement, **receive members-only discounts for Annual Conference** and events, and much more!

If you have any questions about determining your individual member rate, please reach out to info@wla.org.



***Alki* Publication "Library in Community"**

This issue of *Alki* addresses the vital roles libraries play in the communities and networks that exist beyond their doors. From institutions like schools and hospitals to local and national publics, this issue captures the entanglements, challenges, and aspirations of libraries' work engaging their communities writ large.

Inside this issue, you'll see the breadth of those roles and networks. From broader school funding to library politics to the role of the librarian-advocate, this issue covers a variety of perspectives on how libraries go above and beyond to meet their communities. You'll also read about under-utilized library networks, like Washington's Network of Health Information Ambassadors, and how readers' broader networks, such as social media and culturally inclusive calendars, can make for great recommendations. Our cover photo, capturing the 1915 librarian founders of the Spokane Mountaineers club, also invites the big questions, such as: "what's in that bucket, anyway?"

[Read the next Issue of Alki Here!](#)

WLA Community Happenings

ALD/ACRL-WA Round Table

Join the Academic Libraries Division for their Winter Round Table **today from 11am-12pm!** If you cannot attend but would like to share thoughts (observations, questions, etc.) please use [this anonymous form](#). You may self-identify in the form if you choose.

All WLA Meeting Zoom links are available on the [WLA Member calendar](#).

Look Who's Hiring

Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries is seeking a [Branch Manager 3](#) and a [Public Services Area Director](#).

Highline College Library is seeking a [Reference and Instruction Librarian](#).

Jefferson County Library District is seeking a [Library Director](#) and an [LA-III - Programming Coordinator](#).

King County Library System is seeking an [Adult Services Librarian](#), a [Library Operations Project Specialist](#), and a [Library Technician II - Cataloging & Processing](#).

NCW Libraries is seeking a [Bilingual Branch Librarian](#) and a [Branch Librarian](#).

Seattle Public Library is seeking an [Adult Services Librarian](#).

Sno-Isle Libraries is seeking a two [Library Associates](#) and a [Library Associate At Large](#).

Tigard Public Library is seeking [On Call Librarians](#).

The Washington State Library is seeking a [Branch Librarian \(Prison Libraries\)](#).

Walla Walla County Rural Library District is seeking a [Supervisor and Outreach Associate](#).

Whitman County Rural Library District is seeking an [Executive Director](#).

If your institution has a posting for libraries in the WLA community you would like to submit, please email newsletter@wla.org and indicate "Look Who's Hiring" in the subject line.

News & Notes



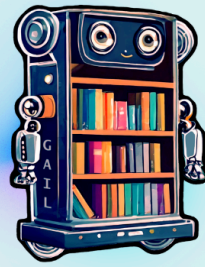
Trial By Flavor: Culinary Literacy at Mount Vernon City Library

March 4, 2025 | 9:00am

This program presents a case study of Mount Vernon City Library's popular "Trial by Flavor" program, which pairs cooking demonstrations with take-home cooking kits so participants will be able to try new recipes and learn about cultures from around the globe. Attendees who are looking for ways to engage adults in their communities in new ways and promote food and nutrition information access would benefit the most from the program. Attendees will learn how to create a culinary literacy program at their own library, where to seek funding for the program, and how to evaluate the success of the program.

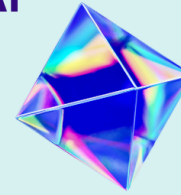
Presented By: Shannon Bowman-Sarkisian, Public Services Librarian, Mount Vernon City Library

Register Today: <https://washstatelib.libcal.com/event/13504855>



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

GENERATIVE AI IN LIBRARIES (GAIL) CONFERENCE



Deadline to submit: February 22, 2025

GAIL 2025 Call for Proposals

You are invited to submit a proposal for the 2nd annual Generative AI in Libraries (GAIL) virtual conference aimed specifically at librarians.

This conference seeks to explore the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in libraries. It is also an opportunity for librarians to share their experiences with generative AI technologies and their applications in the library setting.

Scheduled to take place June 9, 10, 11, 12th, 2025 from 1-4pm EDT each day, the GAIL virtual conference aims to promote a deeper understanding of how generative AI can revolutionize library services like instruction, research support, collection management, access services, outreach and collaboration, while also addressing the challenges and ethical considerations this new technology brings to libraries.

Please visit <https://forms.gle/QzvMY9kcuL6jbWLK8> for submission requirements and to apply. **Proposal submissions are due February 22, 2025.**

For inquiries or further information, please contact: GenAlinLibraries@gmail.com



KCLS - Renton to host Distinguished Author Panel for Black History Month

[King County Library System](#) (KCLS) is celebrating Black History Month with a captivating conversation with three emerging authors on **Thursday, February 20 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.** at the Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center. The event is free, and community members may attend in person or online. [Register](#) in advance to reserve your spot or receive a livestream link.

Author Panel

[Kathya Alexander](#), [Chardonnay Beaver](#) and [Luther Hughes](#) are local award-winning authors that write from their unique lived experiences. They have captivated audiences through poetry, fiction and nonfiction storytelling and will share their journey in the literary world. Hear about their latest projects, how their work offers personal and cultural healing, and how it can give rise to social transformation.

The event will be moderated by Emmy Award-winning media professional, [TraeAnna Holiday](#) of Converge Media.

[Emerging Voices Author Panel](#)

Thursday, February 20, 6:00–8:30 p.m.

[Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center](#): 300 SW 7th Street, Renton, WA 98057

This event was made possible with generous support from the [KCLS Foundation](#).

Media Contact: Sarah Thomas, sjthomas@kcls.org, 425.369.3277

Additional Resources: Find author headshots, bios and book covers [here](#).

Lilac City Book Festival

[The Lilac City Book Festival for Writers and Illustrators of Children’s Books](#) will take place on **March 8** at Shadle Park Library.

Whether you are an aspiring writer, an illustrator, or a seasoned author looking to hone your craft, this festival offers a unique opportunity to connect with fellow creators, develop valuable skills, and fuel your passion for storytelling. Organized by the Spokane Public Library and presented in partnership with Wishing Tree Books and the local chapter for the Society for Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), the festival features a full day of workshops, panel discussions, and creative insights from local experts designed to inspire and guide you to take the next step in your writing journey.

Call for the SustainRT Citation for Wellness in the Workplace Nominations

To acknowledge the fact that library staff are our greatest asset in building and supporting sustainable libraries and communities, the **ALA Sustainability Roundtable (SustainRT)** is recognizing libraries that go above and beyond in meeting the wellness needs of their staff with the [SustainRT Citation for Wellness in the Workplace](#). All ALA members are invited to nominate any library who has made efforts to meet the needs of their staff in the areas of continuing education, wellness, positive work environment, unions, salaries, gender equity, pay equity initiatives, and other activities designed to improve the salaries and status of librarians and other library workers.

The [call for nominations](#) is open now through **March 17**.

For more information, visit the [SustainRT Citation for Wellness in the Workplace](#) page.

SustainRT also offers a [New Voices in Sustainability Conference Stipend](#). The stipend recognizes the importance of social equity to SustainRT and ALA, and works to support new and diverse members to overcome barriers to participating in the professional development and networking opportunities presented by ALA conferences and events. The [Sustainability Round Table](#) will offer a \$250 conference stipend in addition to paying the full registration cost to a SustainRT member attending the [2025 ALA Annual Conference](#). Applicants should be new and diverse voices in library sustainability or first-time attendees. The Awards Committee will arrange for disbursement of funds with the recipient ahead of the conference. These can be used for reimbursement of fees associated with housing, meals, travel, or any other costs incurred as a result of attending the conference.

Please contact Awards Co-Chairs [Tera Ray](#) or [Lynne Lambdin](#) with any questions.



Registration Open for nErDcamp Bellingham

Registration is open for [nErDcamp Bellingham](#), which will take place on **Saturday, March 22**, at Whatcom Middle School!

nErDcamp is an “unconference,” based on the [EDcamp](#) model, but with a focus on literacy in learning. It is dubbed “nErDcamp” in a nod to the online movement known as [#nerdybookclub](#) and to appeal to the book nerds we are all proud to be. An unconference differs from a traditional conference because the topics and sessions are determined and led by the participants. It is an opportunity for attendees to share their expertise and learn from each other. There are no exhibitors or commercial components.

Our attendees include teachers, librarians (public and school), higher ed, published and aspiring authors and illustrators, and more. We’d love to have our event enriched by your voice and experience.

nErDcamp is a free event — [register here!](#)

Applying Strategic Foresight toward Future-Ready Libraries, Archives, and Museums in Washington State

In this time of rapid change, we must explore and chart new pathways toward future success, and foster mindsets and skills to help us discover untapped possibilities. Strategic foresight is a framework to help us create multiple future scenarios, envision outcomes and evaluate current and pending strategies to support decision making and action in the present against a suite of possible futures.

Building on four years of the IMLS-supported [Transformation for Libraries: The Futures School](#), the Connecticut State Library and partner TFSX (formerly Kedge: The Futures School) are now training organizational cohorts—including library systems, archives, museums, associations, and partner networks—across the United States. The initiative is taking a systems perspective, to integrate strategic foresight into operations and infuse futures thinking into institutional capacity, cultural shifts, technological innovation, model processes, and succession planning. Each cohort member works with a team of their colleagues to apply foresight tools to lead their organization to the future.

[Apply Now!](#)

The June 3-5 cohort is eligible only to individuals working in a library, archive, museum or LAM-related organization within Washington state. **When completing the application form, be sure to select the Washington State cohort. Applications due April 29, 2025**

Statewide Database Licensing Survey

We need your help! It’s time to evaluate the [Statewide Database Licensing \(SDL\)](#) program and plan its future direction. For over 25 years, the SDL Program has

provided a cost-share solution for a database package (currently Gale Cengage), supporting libraries of all types across Washington—Academic, K-12, Public, Special, and Tribal.

Your feedback will play a crucial role as we consider **a new direction** tailored to evolving needs, **staying the course** with the current model, or **sunsetting the program** if it no longer meets your needs.

The survey takes just **7–10 minutes**, and your voice matters! Please share this survey with staff and colleagues to ensure we hear from as many perspectives as possible.

SURVEY LINK: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025_SDL_Survey

Thank you for your time and your dedication to Washington libraries. Together, we can make informed decisions that benefit our communities.



America's Field Trip Contest

America's Field Trip is back, as a program of America250! Students in grades 3-12 are invited to participate in this year's contest by sharing their perspective about what America's means to them.

Winners will receive an unforgettable field trip experience to one of our nation's most iconic historic or cultural sites. Written or original artwork answering the question "**What does America mean to you**" are now being accepted; the deadline for submissions is 2 p.m. PT on April 16.

For more information, please visit [America's Field Trip - America250](#)



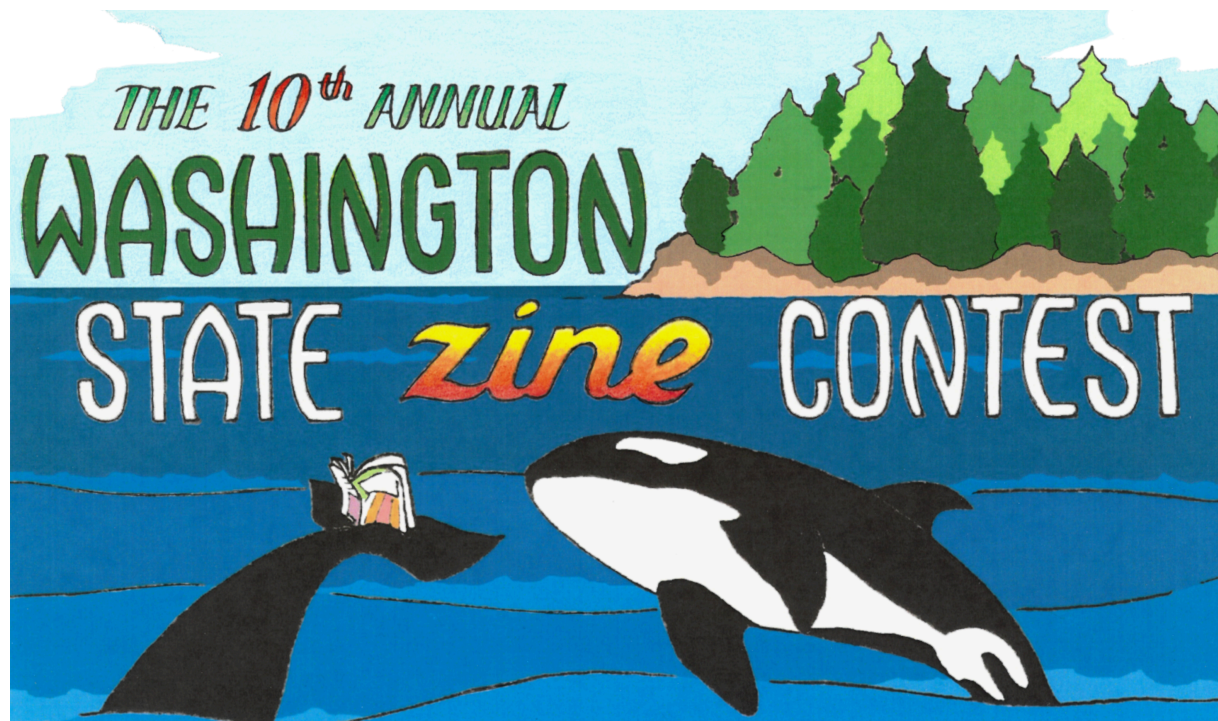
Save the Date: America's 250th Anniversary in 2026

Plans are already underway for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Washington State has established an official state committee to plan events and activities, and recently launched the official America250 WA website.

Libraries are encouraged to partner with America250 WA to help educate and promote semiquincentennial activities. Join the list of partners to help promote activities in your community at this [link](#).

Lorraine Ralston, the state America 250 coordinator, will be working with partners to help ensure this commemoration is a statewide observance. Please feel free to contact her with questions at info@america250wa.org.

For more information about Washington State plans, visit America250WA.org.



[The 10th Annual Washington State Zine Contest is now open!](#)

The Latinx KidLit Book Fest auction is live!

[website](#).

Available items include school visits with authors. If you have questions or want to bid on books, book bundles, and more.

Thank you to Tien Triggs, WLA Committee Chair, for this year's Latinx KidLit Book Festival is a FREE virtual celebration of Latinx KidLit authors, illustrators, and books for all students, educators and book lovers around the globe.

Please visit bit.ly/lkbfauction25 to view items and to bid!

LATINX
KIDLIT
BOOK
FESTIVAL

2025 ANNUAL AUCTION

Auction proceeds benefit the Latinx KidLit Book Festival, a 501(c)3 nonprofit literacy organization



What can you bid on?

Critiques | Portfolio Reviews | Virtual
Coffee Dates | Virtual Book Club
Visits | Virtual School Visits | Signed
books & ARCs | Custom
illustrations
...and so much more!

FEB. 1 - 14 | bit.ly/lkbfauction25

Have news to share? Please send information to the WLA office at newsletter@wla.org by Monday to be included in that week's digest. Please include any relevant graphics, as well as the blurb you would like posted in our newsletter.

It's a great time to become a member of the Washington Library Association. [Join](#) or [Renew](#) your membership today!



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