

February 26, 2025



Congratulations to the 2025 WLA Merit Award Winners!

The WLA Merit Awards offer the opportunity to recognize and highlight the outstanding work ongoing in Washington libraries. On behalf of the 2025 WLA Awards Committee, we're honored to recognize this year's Merit Awards recipients:

President's Award:

• 2024 Olympic Library Leadership Incubator (OLLI) Project Team: Eryn Duffee, Gavin Downing, Sam Harris, Mahlon Landis, Jamie Moffett, & Elizabeth Roberts

Awarded by 2024 WLA President Sarah Logan

Candace Morgan Intellectual Freedom Award:

Mary Kinser, Emma Radosevich, Hana Boxberger, & Jonathan Jakobitz
Nominated by Maggie Mae Nase

CAYAS Award for Visionary Library Services to Youth:

• Mason Neil; Nominated by Denise Neujahr

Outstanding Service Awards:

- Samantha Carterby; *Nominated by Michelle Sams*
- Kathleen Collins & Emilie Vrbancic; Nominated by Reed Garber-Pearson
- Buffy Jackson; Nominated by Jas Templet
- Jackie Little; *Nominated by Jamie Bair*
- Nathan Sun-Kleinberger; Nominated by Vaudery Frelix Brown
- Jessica Varang; Nominated by Amanda Six

Volunteer Leadership Award:

• Friends of Woodland Library; Nominated by Jennifer Hauan, Judy Musa, Sherry Braga, Jennifer Giltrop

Elementary Teacher-Librarian of the Year:

• Candace Ranney; Nominated by Mary Boone

Secondary Teacher-Librarian of the Year:

• Heidi Bush; Nominated by JJ Higgins, Catherine Schaeffer

School Library Paraprofessional of the Year:

• Kim Knorr; Nominated by Alicia Wilson

Congratulations to this year's recipients, and thank you to all who participated in the nomination process! Winners will be celebrated on Saturday, April 12 at the WLA Conference Awards Lunch in Tacoma.

If you have any questions, please contact the WLA Office at <u>info@wla.org</u> or (206) 823-1138.



Don's Miss Early-Bird Registration for #WLA2025!

We're excited to announce that <u>Early-Bird Registration</u> 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 <u>conference hotel</u> 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**.

<u>Register here</u> to join us in Tacoma as an exhibitor, sponsor, or advertiser.



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!



Take Advantage of NEW WLA Individual Member Rates! WLA Community Happenings Consider joining WLA in the new year! We're happy to announce the rollout of

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WLA members gain access to our <u>Divisions</u> and interest-based <u>Sections</u>, are *II WLA Meeting Zoom links are available on the WLA Member calendar*, eligible for leadership opportunities and involvement, **receive members-only discounts for Annual ConferLook Who's Hiring** much more!

If you have any questions about determining your individual member rate, please rFort Vancouver Regional Libraries is seeking a <u>Branch Manager 3</u> and a <u>Public</u> <u>Services Area Director</u>.

Highline College Library is seeking a Reference and Instruction Librarian.

Jefferson County Library District is seeking a <u>Library Director</u> and an <u>LA-III -</u> <u>Programming Coordinator</u>.

NCW Libraries is seeking a <u>Bilingual Branch Librarian</u> and multiple <u>Library</u> <u>Assistants</u>.

Seattle Public Library is seeking an <u>Adult Services Librarian</u>.

Sno-Isle Libraries is seeking a <u>Facilities Specialist</u> and an <u>Administrative</u> <u>Assistant</u>.

Tigard Public Library is seeking <u>On Call Librarians</u>.

The Washington State Library is seeking a **Branch Librarian** (Prison Libraries).

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 <u>newsletter@wla.org</u> and indicate "Look Who's <i>Hiring" in the subject line.

News & Notes

iSchool Connect: MLIS and M.Lib

Today, February 26 | 4:30pm - 6:30pm

Calling all University of Washington iSchool MLIS and M.Lib alums! Join your peers tonight for networking, light appetizers, and drinks in the UW Tower's Mezzanine floor North Cafeteria.

Register at: <u>https://events.uw.edu/drvqzb</u>



Trial By Flavor: Culinary Literacy at Mount Vernon City Library

March 4 | 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: <u>https://washstatelib.libcal.com/event/13504855</u>

Lilac City Book Festival

<u>The Lilac City Book Festival for Writers and Illustrators of Children's Books</u> 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.

Fahrenheit 451 Concert: The Bushwick Book Club Seattle

March 8 | 7:30pm - 10:00pm | Hugo House on Capitol Hill

Join The Bushwick Book Club Seattle for a concert presentation of original music inspired by Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451.* This classic book about censorship has been banned throughout the years for a variety of reasons, but The Bushwick Book Club Seattle is ready to light some inspirational fires through song! This performance will also be livestreamed.

Heads Up: There are references to drug use, a frightening look into how television may be taking over our lives... and there will be some "dirty language."

Performers: Jess Pillay, Fae Wiedenhoeft, Leanna Keith, Sheryl Wiser, Rob Anderson, Kristin Chambers, Polybanderous, and more.

Get Tickets and Membership Here

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 <u>SustainRT Citation for Wellness</u> 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 <u>call for nominations</u> is open now through **March 17.**

For more information, visit the <u>SustainRT Citation for Wellness in the</u> <u>Workplace</u> page.

SustainRT also offers a <u>New Voices in Sustainability Conference Stipend</u>. 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 <u>Sustainability Round Table</u> will offer a \$250 conference stipend in addition to paying the full registration cost to a SustainRT member attending the <u>2025 ALA Annual Conference</u>. 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 <u>Tera Ray</u> or <u>Lynne Lambdin</u> with any questions.

Clock Hours Available: Enhancing Media Literacy Through Picture Books

3rd Monday of March, April, and May | 6pm - 7:15pm

Identify and select a variety of picture books related to a guiding question, unit of study, literary theme, or book award you'd like to pursue. Consider giving titles from current and previous WCCPBA titles, Towner Award books, nationally recognized titles, or SLJ starred review picture books extra consideration, since they will be more accessible to school libraries.

Hosted By: Action 4 Media Education

Total Clock Hours Available: 4 hours for attending paired with independent work for a total of 12 clock hours maximum.

Register at this link.

Clock Hours Available: Researching Current Trends in Media Literacy and AI Education

Independent Work Time | March - June

Develop a research plan on current trends in media literacy education, conduct research using a time log, create a bibliography, and write a reflective summary.

Hosted By: Action 4 Media Education

Total Clock Hours Available: 3-10

<u>Register at this link.</u>



Registration Open for nErDcamp Bellingham

Registration is open for <u>nErDcamp Bellingham</u>, which will take place on **Saturday**, **March 22**, at Whatcom Middle School!

nErDcamp is an "unconference," based on the <u>EDcamp</u> model, but with a focus on literacy in learning. It is dubbed "nErDcamp" in a nod to the online movement known as <u>#nerdybookclub</u> 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 — <u>register here</u>!

Evergreen Teen Book Award Voting Open

Teens at your library can now vote for their favorite 2025 Evergreen Nominee! Voting will be open for high school students and middle school students until **March 31**. The 2025 Evergreen Teen Book Award Winners and upcoming 2026 nominees will be announced at the <u>2025 WLA Conference</u>.

- <u>High School 2025 Evergreen Teen Book Awards Voting Link</u>
- Middle School 2025 Evergreen Teen Book Awards Voting Link

If you would like to collect votes from students and input the votes all at once, use the following links:

- <u>High School 2025 Evergreen Teen Book Award Library Tally Link</u>
- Middle School 2025 Evergreen Teen Book Award Library Tally Link



Freedom Lifted: Shared Power in Supervision Workshop

<u>Freedom Lifted</u> is now offering a new workshop: <u>Shared Power in</u> <u>Supervision</u> specific for libraries and non-profits. This live, virtual 4-hour training is for managers who want to share power with their teams. It addresses the constant question:

"With limited time and so much to do, how can I be a better supervisor for a diverse team?"

<u>Mia Henry</u> and <u>JoLyn Reisdorf</u> will facilitate the training which will include on.strategies, resources, and small group discussion. Supervisors will learn:

- how to understand power in the management role
- how managers can build relationships with employees by helping them identify their expertise, problem solve, and build leadership skills
- how to share decision making and authority with employees while concurrently providing clear expectations and support.

Are you ready to invest in your ability to lead?

<u>Sign up</u> to attend on one of the upcoming dates: March 26 or April 17.

If you're a Washington Library Association member, you can receive \$100 off! Simply note you are a Washington Library Association member in the registration form - your membership will be verified.

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 <u>Transformation for Libraries: The</u> <u>Futures School</u>, 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 are due **April 29.**

Statewide Database Licensing Survey

We need your help! It's time to evaluate the <u>Statewide Database Licensing (SDL)</u> 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

The survey will close Friday, February 28.

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 <u>America's Field Trip - America250</u>



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 <u>link</u>.

Lorraine Ralston, the state America 250 coordinator, will be working with partners to the state of the state

For more information about Washington State plans, visit <u>America250WA.org</u>. *It's a great time to become a member of the Washington Library Association. Join or <u>Renew</u> <i>your membership today!*



The 10th Annual Washington State Zine Contest is now open!

You can find downloadable posters and double-sided entry forms and submission guidelines to share with your community at the <u>Washington Center for the Book</u> <u>website</u>.

If you have questions or want to share zine programming you are doing in your library, please email Sara Peté at <u>sara.pete@sos.wa.gov</u>.

Thank you to Tien Triggs, WLA's Special Library Division Vice Chair and Advocacy Committee Chair, for this year's beautiful poster design!