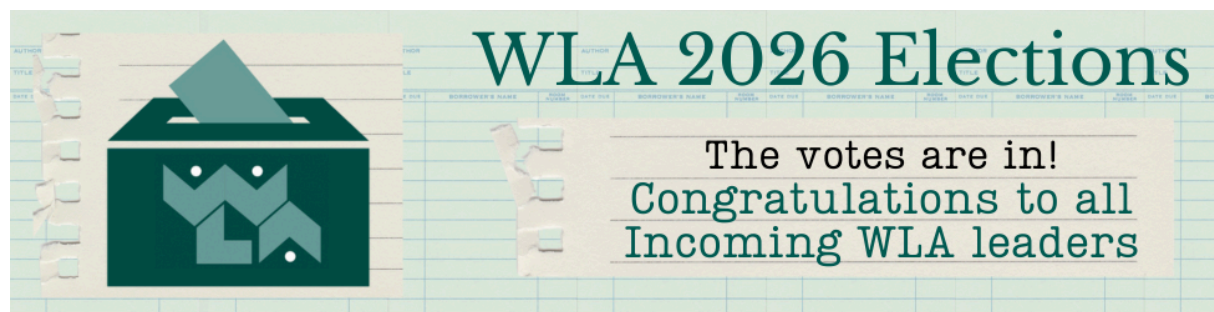




September 24, 2025



Congratulations to the 2026 Election Winners!

The polls have closed for the [2026 WLA Elections](#), and we have a fantastic group of incoming leaders. Thank you to all of the candidates who ran and the WLA members who voted. Let's give a warm WLA welcome to the newly elected 2026 leaders!

Incoming Board Leaders

- Vice President/President-Elect: **Sara Jones**
- Board Director, Academic Libraries Representative: **Ahniwa Ferrari**
- Board Director, Public Libraries Representative: **Erin Atwater**
- Board Director, School Libraries Representative: **Elizabeth Roberts**

Incoming Division Leaders

- [Academic Library Division/ACRL-WA](#)

- Chair: **Greg Bem**
- Secretary/Communications: **Heidi Hetzel**
- Communications Manager: **Natalie Brown**
- Member-at-Large: **Sarah Pine**
- [Public Library Division](#)
 - Vice Chair/Chair-Elect: **Carol Ellison**
- [School Library Division](#)
 - Chair: **Rachel Peters**
 - Vice Chair/Chair-Elect: **Mia Roberts**
- [Special Library Division](#)
 - Chair: **Crystal Hicks**

Incoming Section Leaders

- [CAYAS](#)
 - Chair: **Anna Morrow**
 - Secretary/Communications: **Amelia Lincoln Ecevedo**
- [CLAWS](#)
 - Co-Chairs: **Linda Keys & Heather Newcomer**
 - Vice Chair/Chair-Elect: **Hunter Hobbs**
- [WALT](#)
 - Vice Chair/Chair-Elect: **Kate Dunphy**
- [WLFFTA](#)
 - Chair: **Craig Seasholes**

New leadership terms will begin January 1, 2026. Thank you, again, to all of the candidates who ran and the WLA members who voted.

Didn't have a chance to run in the elections, but still interested in a [leadership position](#)? Contact the Office at info@wla.org for more information on how to get involved.



The WLA community extends heartfelt gratitude to our longtime WLA office team as they conclude their final day of service to the association on Tuesday, September 30. Ainsley, Shamim, Rhea, and Kate of Primary Source will be missed

but will remain active within the WA library community. If you have a moment, please send a note to info@wla.org to recognize and appreciate the dedication and service they have shown over the years.

Beginning October 1, WLA's operations will transition to Association Management Inc. (AMI). Watch for additional information about WLA's new staff and office in the coming days.



WLA Membership Meeting Postponed

The WLA Membership Meeting has been **postponed** as we continue work on the association's long-term sustainability plan. This additional time will allow us to share more meaningful updates with members.

A new date and registration details will be shared soon. The meeting will be recorded and made available to all members. You'll also have the opportunity to submit questions in advance through a Google Form, and an FAQ will be provided.

For any questions, contact the WLA office at info@wla.org.



ALD/ACRL-WA & OR Conference Early-Bird Registration Closes Today!

Register today for the 2026 Academic Libraries Conference, held on October 17 at Lower Columbia College in Longview, WA. **Early-bird pricing runs from September 3-24**, so make sure to register now to receive a lower rate!

Please [visit our website](#) for our program schedule, pricing information, and to register.



WLA Summit State-Wide Access Registration is NOW OPEN!

We are excited to once again allow state libraries or state library associations to purchase a pass to grant all library staff in their state online access to our virtual [Trauma-Informed Libraries Summit](#)!

This all-access pass will allow staff from all levels, roles, and career stages to attend for a flat fee, based on the average number of library employees in your state. With recordings of sessions available beyond the live event, this is an easy and affordable opportunity to provide valuable, flexible training to all library employees in your state at an affordable price!

[Registration for state-wide access](#) will be open September 9-October 3.



***Alki* Call for Papers: Winter Issue - "Resiliency"**

Libraries large and small continue to face threats to services and programs, attempts to ban books, and the loss of autonomy. Libraries are facing reduced workforces and, in some cases, threats to their very existence. Library workers are confronting exceptional challenges by modeling resourcefulness and resilience. The winter issue of *Alki* focuses on "resiliency," a theme this journal has

revisited on several occasions. Consider this theme broadly. **Deadline is Friday, November 14th!**

Possible topics might include:

- How your library has adapted to the current social/political climate
- Responses to vocational awe, burnout, and your own mental health
- Your own activism
- How you deal with pressures and responsibilities in this ever-evolving profession
- Programs you've created to address tough issues
- Ways you've cared for or supported your community; or ways you've been supported
- Art that responds to or shines a light on the reality of our time

We're also doing a special section on what gives you strength: We are asking library workers to share what keeps you going, what gives you hope or strength right now? **Share a brief paragraph and we'll compile these together.** Include your name, pronouns, position title, organization, and put "resiliency paragraph" in the subject line. Send these to Traci Timmons, Editor-in-Chief, at alkieditor@wla.org by **November 14, 2025**.

Need help working through a potential article concept? Reach out to alkieditor@wla.org.



WLA Mentorship Program- Applications Now Open!

Interested in participating in the 2025-2026 WLA Mentorship Program as a mentor or a mentee?

Are you a library worker who wants to grow your skills alongside another library professional? Do you have experience and insight to share with your peers? We invite you to join our 2025-2026 mentorship community as a mentor or mentee!

You can learn more about the mentorship program in last year's [Alki article](#).

Applications are now open until **Friday, September 26**. Visit our [mentorship program page](#) for more information and to apply!

2026 Towner Award-nominated books

The Washington Library Association's (WLA) award
for the top nonfiction picture books from grade 2-6



2026 Towner Award Choice Boards Now Available!

View the 2026 choice boards and updated teaching resources on their [webpage](#).

In addition, the Towner Award Committee has heard from many librarians that they are having a challenge getting copies of Towner-Award-nominee *School of Magic: More Than 50 Mind-Blowing Magic Tricks* by Althea Villa.

They have received word that both [Libraria](#) (rep: [Jennifer Maydoye](#)) and [Follett](#) (rep: [Lisa Swan](#)) have the book back in stock. Both offer free processing.



WLA is excited to announce the launch of the [WLA Bookend Collective](#), a new opportunity for corporate and nonprofit partners to make a meaningful impact on the future of libraries across Washington State.

The Bookend Collective offers organizations a meaningful way to contribute to the strength and sustainability of libraries and the dedicated professionals who

serve their communities. Through this initiative, WLA aims to foster long-term resilience, connection, and support for Washington’s library ecosystem.

We thank you for sharing this with your network and communities to support the future of Washington’s libraries.

WLA Community Happenings

Please [visit our webpage](#) for more information!

Calling All Public Library Champions!

The WLA Public Library Division (PLD) is putting together the next edition of our quarterly newsletter, and we want to spotlight *you*!

- Is your library doing something innovative?
- Launching a new service or program?
- Achieving something you're proud of?

We’d love to share your story and celebrate your success across the PLD community. Let’s throw some sunlight on the incredible work happening in Washington's Public Libraries!

Ready to share? Email us at plouthan@gmail.com

Not yet a PLD member? No problem! [Add the Public Library Division to your WLA membership here](#)

Let’s inspire each other—one story at a time.

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

Look Who's Hiring

Washington State

Antioch University is seeking an [Adjunct Faculty- Library Endorsement Program](#).

Kitsap Regional Library is seeking a [Collection and Technical Services Manager](#) (Bremerton).

Liberty Lake Library is seeking a [Children's Librarian](#).

NCW Libraries is seeking a [Bilingual Branch Librarian](#) (Mattawa), a [Finance Manager](#) (Wenatchee), and a [Branch Librarian](#) (Tonasket).

Seattle Public Library is seeking a [Regional Manager](#).

Yakima Valley Libraries is seeking an [Accounting Assistant Manager](#), a [Community Library Supervisor IV](#), and an [IT Systems Analyst](#).

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

Latinx Kidlit Book Festival

September 2025

The Latinx KidLit Book Festival (LKBF), starting Sept. 1, streams through the festival's YouTube channel. Event links can be found on the [2025 LKBF schedule site](#). Sessions can be safely streamed into the classroom and shared with students using an educator's account. Sign up for the [newsletter](#) to receive links to all the panels directly to your inbox.

[More Information Here](#)

PLIX Facilitating Creative Learning Workshop Series

Deadline September 25 | Online

The [Public Library Innovation Exchange \(PLIX\)](#) at pK-12 at MIT Open Learning opened applications our fall 2025 workshop series on Facilitating Creative STEAM Learning! This series is designed to connect people, to learn practical pedagogical practices in a playful space, and to inspire each other in joyful community.

About the workshop series:

- **Application deadline: Thu Sept 25th**
- **Especially perfect for libraries interested in strengthening their library programs with STEM concepts while maintaining fun hands-on open-exploration. It's free, open to public, school, and academic libraries.**
- Workshop dates are:
 - Thu Oct 16th, 1-2pm ET (12pm CT / 11am MT / 10am PT)
 - Thu Oct 30th, 1-2pm ET
 - Thu Nov 13th, 1-2pm ET
 - Learn more: <https://plix.mit.edu/news-updates/plix-facilitating-creative-learning-workshop-series>

- About PLIX:
 - PLIX co-designs creative STEAM activities with public library professionals and MIT researchers, and offers professional development in facilitating creative learning to support STEM confidence.
 - Learn more: <https://plix.mit.edu/news-updates/transforming-how-local-communities-engage-with-creativity-and-steam-in-libraries>

Please email any questions to Ada Ren-Mitchell, Learning Programs Designer, at heyplix@mit.edu

Assessing the Needs of Public Libraries and Librarians

Closes September 26 | Online Survey

[Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered \(FORCE\)](#) is conducting a survey to better understand the needs and practices of public libraries and librarians related to information about hereditary breast cancer risk, screening, prevention and treatment.

FORCE is a national non-profit dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families facing hereditary cancer, and received funding from CDC to develop resources that address the unmet needs of breast cancer survivors and people at high risk.

[You can take the survey by clicking here.](#)

Please take time to respond before the survey closes on **Friday, September 26**. The survey only takes a few minutes to complete.

If you have any questions, please email: suefriedman@facingourrisk.org.



The Bushwick Book Club Seattle: A Concert of Original Music Inspired by Ross Gay's *The Book of Delights*

September 27 | 7:30-10pm | Seattle, WA

[The Bushwick Book Club Seattle](#) presents a concert of original music inspired by **Ross Gay's *The Book of Delights*** on **Saturday, September 27**, at Hugo House on Capitol Hill ([1634 11th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122](#)) and livestreaming concurrently. Performers include [Peter Donovan](#), [K Van Petten](#), [Amber Flame](#), [Mark Ippolito](#) & [J Oso Boogie](#), [Connor Cash Colbert](#), [Karen Laura Peters](#), [Where's Beth](#), [Ben Mish](#), and [Asha Neely](#).

What happens if we pay attention? That's the quiet dare at the heart of *The Book of Delights*, Ross Gay's dazzling collection of daily essays that touch on everything from palm readings to Lisa Loeb. Funny, strange, and full of questions, these kaleidoscopic observations invite you to pause and look closer: not to escape from the world, but to escape from distraction.

Advance tickets [HERE](#); more information [HERE](#).



Connecting Communities: Washington Law Library Resources for Public Libraries

October 7 | 9:00am | Online

Join Washington State Law Librarian, Rob Mead, Deputy State Law Librarian Laura Edmonston for an informative webinar highlighting the resources and services the State Law Library offers to support public libraries across Washington. From answering legal reference questions to providing access to specialized collections, the State Law Library is a valuable partner in connecting your patrons with reliable legal information.

This session will introduce you to the Law Library's collections, online tools, and referral services, and demonstrate how these resources can complement the work you do in your community. You'll also learn how to connect with the law librarian for guidance and support when handling complex legal information needs at the public service desk.

Whether you're new to library work or a seasoned staff member looking to expand your toolkit, this webinar will give you practical knowledge and strategies to better serve patrons seeking legal information.

Registration: <https://washstatelib.libcal.com/event/15338204>

Screening & Panel: 'Freedom to Read: The Librarians'

October 10 | 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Calling all librarians! Please join us for an evening of conversation and community this October at the William D. Harvey Theatre at Olympic College, 1110 16th St., Bremerton, WA 98337.

This collaboration between Olympic College Libraries and Kitsap Regional Library serves as a grand finale to Banned Book Week and a celebration of KRL's 80-year anniversary. The event will explore personal stories of how the freedom to read impacts library work and seeks to educate and inspire the Kitsap community on the importance of literacy. A panel comprised of librarians and library-adjacent people with first-hand experience or interest in access to literacy will speak, followed by a free screening of "The Librarians," a movie that focuses on the experience and challenges of librarianship.

Details can be found [on the Kitsap Regional Library's event page](#).

Leap Into the Future of School Libraries

October 15 | St. Louis, MI

In the spirit of the former Treasure Mountain Research Retreats, this new series, [*Leap into the Future of School Libraries*](#), seeks to build a shared research agenda and promote initiatives, best practices, action proposals, and resilience among professionals who are determined to move our field forward.

Register here to think, present, create, invent, and build the future: [Leap into the Future of School Libraries No. 2 Registration Form](#)

2026 OLA/PLNA Conference RFP Now Open!

Deadline October 20 | Portland, OR

[Submissions for the 2026 joint Oregon Library Association \(OLA\) / Pacific Northwest Library Association \(PNLA\) Conference sessions](#) are now open!

This year's theme is "Get Loud for Libraries," a galvanizing call to action to unify libraries for mutual support and deep collaboration.

Proposals from all library types are encouraged.

Great sessions inform, inspire, and empower. Great proposals identify the target audience and expected takeaways. We will prioritize providing a wide variety of learning opportunities, including sessions that model a flipped-classroom approach, offer opportunities for sharing experiences, and encourage participants to tell their stories. Note there will be no pre-conference sessions. Consider the following categories when submitting your proposal:

- Digital Innovation and Emerging Technologies in Libraries
- Building Inclusive and Diverse Communities
- Collaborative Strategies for Lifelong Learning
- Strengthening Library Partnerships: Local to Global
- Sustainability, Advocacy, and the Future of Libraries
- Mutual Aid for Libraries and Library Communities
- Legislative and Social Activism and Advocacy
- Have an out-of-the-box idea? Let us know!

Sessions will be reviewed by a committee using an EDIA (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism) lens. Presenters who submit similar proposals may be asked to combine sessions. Session reviewers may reach out for clarifications or requests regarding proposals.

Lead presenters will be notified of their session's status by January 6.

[Tips for a great program proposal.](#)

The 2026 OLA/PNLA Conference will be held in Portland from Wednesday, April 22 through Friday, April 24.

Core Forum Registration is now open! Register today!

November 12-14 | Denver, CO

Join your colleagues at [Core Forum 2025](#), November 12-14, in Denver, CO, at the [Hilton Denver City Center](#)! Gather with old friends and make new connections while celebrating the intersection and overlap of the core work we do. Learn more about Forum and register for the main event and preconferences at www.coreforum.org.

Two full days of presentations, interactive panel discussions, and activities are guaranteed to be both thought-provoking and highly relevant to participants' current and future career paths. Forum engages the collective expertise of presenters and participants, facilitates enriching conversations, and offers unique learning opportunities. Everyone, including non-Core members, are encouraged to register, bring real-life questions, share experiences, and network to learn new perspectives.

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

5 Preconferences & Public/Academic Library Tour
Evening Welcome Reception

Thursday, November 13 & Friday, November 14, 2025

Event Features:

2 Keynote Presentations* 45+ education programs *30 + Poster sessions
Exhibitor Tabletop Displays Dine-arounds

6 Concurrent Program Tracks:

- * Access & Equity
- * Buildings & Operations
- * Leadership & Management
- * Metadata & Collections
- * Preservation
- * Technology

[2025 Core Forum Schedule](#)

Core members can save \$150 by taking advantage of the Early Bird discount that's available through October 5. Advance registration ends November 12. Tickets to [preconference sessions and tours](#) are available for an additional charge - Space is limited.

Core has secured a room block at the Hilton Denver City Center hotel for registered Core Forum attendees. [Housing reservations](#) must be made prior to October 21.

For more information about other Core events and programs, contact the Core office at corece@ala.org, or visit www.ala.org/core.

WSL 2025 End of Summer Evaluation Survey

Let the Washington State Library know how summer went at your library! Results will be shared with libraries throughout the state.

[Fill Out Survey Here](#)

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2025 Washington State Book Award Winners!



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
CENTER FOR THE BOOK
WASHINGTON AFFILIATE



WASHINGTON
Secretary of State
Washington State Library



Congratulations to the 2025 Washington State Book Award Winners!

The Washington Center for the Book (an affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book administered by Washington State Library) has selected winners in seven categories for the [2025 Washington State Book Awards \(WSBA\)](#) for outstanding books published by Washington authors in 2024. This is the 59th year of the program, formerly called the Governor's Writers Awards.

Creative Nonfiction/Memoir Winner:

[Feeding Ghosts: A Graphic Memoir](#) by Tessa Hulls of Seattle/Port Townsend (MCD)

Fiction Winner:

[*Rough Trade*](#) by Katrina Carrasco of Seattle
(MCD/Farrar, Straus & Giroux)

General Nonfiction/Biography Winner:

[*Be A Revolution*](#) by Ijeoma Oluo of Seattle
(HarperOne)

Poetry Winner:

[*Something About Living*](#) by Lena Khalaf Tuffaha of Redmond
(The University of Akron Press)

Picture Books Winner:

[*Daughter of the Light-Footed People*](#) by Belen Medina of Vancouver and Natalia Rojas Castro
(Atheneum – Simon & Schuster)

Books for Young Readers Winner:

[*Table Titans Club*](#) by Scott Kurtz of Bothell (Holiday House Publishing)

Young Adult Literature Winner:

[*Looking for Smoke*](#) by K.A. Cobell of Olympia (Heartdrum, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)

Washington State Library's [Community Book Project](#)

Did you know that at the Washington State Library, they have a collection of books that have been shared with them from libraries (mostly from Community/One Book programs) to share back out to the Washington Library community?

They have books for all ages, and the only requirement is that books are requested by libraries (for library use), and that you request at least five books at a time. Books must be sent to a library address (please no personal addresses or PO boxes). Feel free to share out with your colleagues who serve all ages, as there are many adult books as well as some youth-focused titles!

An exciting addition in this update -- games! The State Library has received some game donations, and they are available first-come-first-serve to libraries via the Community Book Project.

For more information and to see what books are available, check out the website here: <https://www.communitybookshare.com/>. Click on "bookstore" at the top right to see all available titles. Happy (free) shopping!

Washington State Library Professional Development Grants

The state library is pleased to return to the regular process for Professional Development grants – applicants can apply when registration pricing becomes available. Maximums of \$1,000/individual and \$6,000/system per federal fiscal year (Oct. 1-Sept. 30). These grants are federally funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act and are subject to the availability of funds.

[More Information Here](#)

EveryLibrary Survey: Financial Costs of Book Challenges to Public Libraries

[EveryLibrary](#), together with Heather Libby, an Adult Services Librarian at the Knoxville Public Library in Iowa, is researching the financial costs of book challenges to public libraries and the taxpayers. Any time a book is challenged, it obviously results in a great many costs—emotional, cultural, intellectual, etc. For the purposes of this study, the focus is on the specific question of what defending libraries and protecting patrons’ freedom to read is costing the taxpayers in dollars.

Researchers at UCLA recently published a comprehensive report: [Cost of Conflicts Report](#). This survey would gather similar data from public libraries.

If you would like to preview the questions asked in this survey, you may view them here: [Preview Survey Questions Here](#).

Here is a direct link to the survey: [EveryLibrary Survey on the Financial Costs of Book Challenges to Public Libraries](#)

How to Effectively Train Paraprofessionals in Public Libraries: Survey Results

In spring 2024 the User Services in Public Libraries Committee conducted a survey of the reference responsibilities of paraprofessional (non-MLS) workers in public libraries. Using the study's results, we created a practical tool supervisors can use to develop a data-driven training plan for paraprofessional staff. This plan prioritizes the most frequently requested topics in public libraries.

View results here: [Buelow, M, Lapinski, R, & Bounds, K. \(2025\). Ready reference: How to effectively train paraprofessionals in public libraries. *Public Libraries*, 64\(4\), 16-43.](#)

We could not have done this without help from the libraries across the country who took time to fill out our survey and share your thoughts. Thank you all so much!

The User Services in Public Libraries is a subcommittee of the Reference Services Section of RUSA. Our charge is to study, promote, and support the role of reference and user services in public libraries.

If you like asking questions, researching answers, analyzing results and creating useful tools for the library community please consider joining us! You can fill out the volunteer form at <https://www.ala.org/cfapps/committee/volunteerform> and use the pull down menu to select RUSA-RSS. Alternately, you can contact the committee at RSS.USPL@gmail.com or contact me at mbuelow@hedbergpubliclibrary.org

ALA Policy Perspectives: Investing in Prison Libraries Report

A new report released by the American Library Association explores the essential role of prison libraries in lowering recidivism by better preparing incarcerated people for their release and why further investments in prison libraries are essential to reducing the social and economic impacts of incarceration. [*Investing in Prison Libraries: A Cost-Effective Path to Safer Communities and Second Chances*](#), part of the ALA Policy Perspectives series, is co-authored by Erin Boyington, Amelia Bryne and Emily Durkin.

[Read the full article here.](#)



Authors Against Book Bans is Here for Washington

A new state law prohibits schools from banning books used in curriculums solely because they were written by or about members of marginalized groups. Even so, book challenges continue to be a reality and dealing with one can be stressful. Authors Against Book Bans (AABB) in Washington State is dedicated to protecting the intellectual freedom to read and the availability of diverse voices on library shelves.

Comprised of a coalition of writers, illustrators, anthology editors and contributors, AABB offers support to librarians, teachers, and others involved in book challenges. Some of the ways members can help include:

- Writing emails and letters, sending recorded videos, and/or making phone calls to curriculum committees, school boards, and other decision-makers
- Sharing personal experiences demonstrating the importance of diverse books
- Appearing before public meetings in support of diverse books
- Sending personal messages of support (e.g., email or postcards) to individuals embroiled in challenges

For support or more information find AABB at authorsagainstbookbans.com.

Study Abroad Opportunity: Indigenous Librarianship & Youth Literature

January 5-March 13 | Aotearoa/New Zealand

Dr. Michelle H. Martin, Beverly Cleary Professor for Children & Youth Services at the University of Washington in Seattle (USA) and Doctoral Candidate Mandi Harris are planning a 10-week study abroad to Aotearoa/New Zealand for Winter Quarter 2026, from **January 5 to March 13**. They are recruiting students who are interested in studying Māori children's literature and librarianship, spending time in gardens, on and around water, and being a part of a diverse learning community.

Please follow the [link to the flyer](#) and see the QR code on the flyer for more information and to apply. For questions, please email Dr. Martin at mmhmart@uw.edu. 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!



WASHINGTON
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

Contact Info:

Washington Library Association
PO Box 33808 Seattle, WA 98133
(206) 823-1138
info@wa.org

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

July 4, 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.