

About PLA 2026 Conference

Meet Us in Minneapolis!



On behalf of the Public Library Association (PLA), I invite you to join us in Minneapolis, MN, April 1–3, for the PLA 2026 Conference—where ideas flow and libraries flourish.

PLA Conference is the largest public library event in the world, where thousands of public library workers and advocates come together for an unparalleled opportunity to learn, connect, and be seen. These days, being able to connect and learn from each other is more important than ever, and the 2026 Conference's more than 100 educational sessions will help you do just that.

One of my favorite things I've learned about our host city, besides the fact that the Mall of America has over 500 stores (a dream come true for this shopaholic), is the 52-block downtown skyway. It's an amazing system that lets people get where they need to go through the storms that may come and reminds me of how libraries connect people to resources, ideas, and opportunities, no matter what challenges are surrounding us.

That's why the PLA Conference isn't just about what you'll learn; it's about who you'll meet. Connecting with colleagues from around the country, from libraries of all shapes and sizes, expands our perspectives, shapes new ideas, and affirms that we're all in this together.

I would like to thank our generous sponsors, dedicated volunteers, exceptional staff, and our indelible community of public library workers like you. Your commitment and passion for public libraries make this conference possible, and for that, we are immensely grateful.

Dr. Brandy A. McNeil

2025–2026 PLA President

Deputy Director of Branch Programs & Services

New York (NY) Public Library

About PLA Conference

Offered biennially, the PLA Conference is the premier event for public libraries, drawing thousands of library workers, advocates, and vendors from across the country and around the world. This three-day event offers over 100 educational sessions, awe-inspiring speakers, bestselling authors, networking opportunities, and an exhibits hall with vendors offering the best library products and solutions.

The PLA Conference is presented by the [Public Library Association](#) (PLA), the largest association dedicated to supporting the unique and evolving needs of public library professionals. In collaboration with its parent organization, the American Library Association, PLA strives to help its members shape the essential institution of public libraries by serving as an indispensable ally for public library leaders. Please note: PLA Conference is a professional event. It is not open to the public.

Dates to Know

Date	Event/Deadline
October 16, 2025	PLA 2026 Conference registration opens PLA 2026 Conference Scholarship applications open
November 6, 2025	PLA 2026 Conference Scholarship applications close
January 9, 2026	Early bird registration discount ends for PLA members
February 20, 2026	Advanced registration discount ends
March 15, 2026	Housing registration deadline
April 1–3, 2026	PLA 2026 Conference and Virtual Conference take place

A Note About Religious Holidays

PLA is committed to being the most inclusive and effective organization we can be, and we appreciate our members' questions and perspectives as we strive toward this goal. To this end, staff work diligently on every PLA conference planning cycle to avoid all major religious holidays and observances. However, as more states pass discriminatory and/or library-adverse laws and few cities have adequate capacity to host more than 8,000 people, finding locations

and times in our late February to April conference window has become more challenging. Currently, conference planning is even more difficult because there is a backlog of rescheduled conferences from the pandemic.

We regret that the PLA 2026 Conference dates overlap with both Good Friday (April 3, 2026) and Passover (April 1–9, 2026) and recognize this will impact some members' ability to participate fully. Attendees who cannot attend in person are encouraged to take advantage of our Virtual Conference offerings. For those attending in person, PLA is working with the city of Minneapolis to provide as many resources and opportunities to observe these holidays as possible for our attendees. This includes working with our catering partners and venue to provide appropriate food options and identifying local places of worship, and we will continue to provide updates as we have them leading up to April.

This overlap has only happened once in more than 40 years, and we will continue to work diligently to avoid religious holidays, communicate clearly if a conflict is unavoidable, and make accommodations as best we can if this occurs. Thank you for your engagement with PLA as we continue to strive toward our goals for equity, diversity, inclusion, and social justice.

Thank You to Our Volunteers

PLA thanks the members of the 2026 Conference committees for their hard work and dedication. Without them, much of what we do would not be possible. We invite all PLA members to apply to serve on one of our many committees to advance the work of the public library field. [Learn more at our PLA Committees webpage.](#)

2026 Conference Committee

Committee Chair

Isaiah West, Prince George's County (MD) Memorial Library System

Committee Members

Dr. Brandy A. McNeil, New York (NY) Public Library

Michael John Lambert, San Francisco (CA) Public Library

Sonia A. Alcantara-Antoine, Baltimore County (MD) Public Library

Dr. Padma Polepeddi, Jefferson County (CO) Public Library

Angela Monique Bennett, Henrico County (VA) Public Library

2026 Conference Program Subcommittee

Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Angela Monique Bennett, Henrico County (VA) Public Library

Dr. Padma Polepeddi, Jefferson County (CO) Public Library

Subcommittee Members

Pam Brockway, Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County, Youngstown, OH

Trisha Burns, Bay County Library System, Bay City, MI
Jetaun Colbert, Plano (TX) Public Library, Plano, TX
Mallorie DeVilbiss, Suburban Library Cooperative, Sterling Heights, MI
Jolie Duncan, Arlington Heights (IL) Memorial Library
Candice Mack, Los Angeles (CA) Public Library
Maria McCarville, Saginaw, MI
Tim Miller, Western Plains Library System, Clinton, OK
C.A. Mulder, Clinton-Macomb Public Library, Clinton Twp, MI
Asha Norman, Saint Louis County (MO) Library
Amanda Primiano, Monroe Free Library, Monroe, NY
Melvin Racelis, Murrieta (CA) Public Library
Tonya Ryals, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA
Isa Small, L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library, Eau Claire, WI
Laura Tadena, Austin (TX) Public Library
Joan Vigil Boyle, Jackson County Library Services, Medford, OR

2026 Conference Local Arrangements Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair

Scott Duimstra, Hennepin County (MN) Library



[Public Library Association](#) | A division of the [American Library Association](#)

225 N. Michigan Ave, Suite 1300 | Chicago, IL 60611

Copyright © 2025