

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE LIBRARY BOARD

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

The Maryland State Library Board met in regular session on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. The following members were in attendance: Nicholas Brown, Kimberly Cowles, Mychelle Farmer (Vice Chair), Bea Hardy, Al Martin, Irene Padilla, Wilson Parran, Kristen Pironis (Chair), Dr. Mega Subramanian, Tif Sutherland, Brittany Tignor and Melissa Riccobono.

Lynae Polk, Office of the Attorney General, Morgan Miller, incoming Maryland State Librarian, and the following staff members were also present: Dr. Tamar Sarnoff, John Owen and Timothy Pratt.

Darcell Graham and Lynn Wheeler were absent.

Call to Order

Ms. Pironis called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Pironis greeted the Board and noted it was good to see so many Board members in attendance at the Maryland Library Association/Delaware Library Association Conference in May. Ms. Pironis noted this is the last Board meeting for Maryland State Librarian Irene Padilla and the first Board meeting for incoming Maryland State Librarian Morgan Miller.

Ms. Pironis also gave brief introductions for Bea Hardy and Kimberly Cowles.

- Bea Hardy is the incoming President of the Congress of Academic Library Directors (CALD) and serves as the new library director at Goucher College. Bea previously served as Dean of Libraries at Salisbury University for the past 12 years.
- Kimberly Cowles is the new Director of School Library Media for the Maryland State Department of Education.

The Board, MSLA staff and Ms. Polk introduced themselves. Ms. Miller also introduced herself and stated she is wrapping up her time as Executive Director of Cecil County Public Library and “very happy and very honored” to start her new role of Maryland State Librarian on June 26.

Ms. Pironis stated she is rearranging the agenda to move the executive session to the end of the Board meeting.

Approval of March 11, 2024 Minutes

The minutes of the State Library Board of March 11, 2024 were considered. Mr. Martin moved to approve the minutes as presented; Ms. Farmer seconded. The motion received unanimous approval.

COMAR 14.38.02.01 Freedom to Read Act - Permission to Publish

Ms. Pironis requested the Board’s approval of COMAR 14.38.02.01 Freedom to Read Act. No public comments were received.

Mr. Martin moved to approve the request to publish the COMAR 14.38.02.01 Freedom to Read Act and return the amendment to the Board if it receives any substantive changes before publication; Mr. Parran seconded. The motion received unanimous approval.

State Library Board Media Policy

Ms. Pironis requested adoption of the State Library Board Media Policy. This is a companion piece to the Ethics Policy adopted by the Board in 2022 and updated in 2023.

Ms. Farmer moved to approve the policy as presented; Mr. Parran seconded. The motion received unanimous approval.

State Library Board Ethics Policy

Ms. Pironis requested adoption of the revised State Library Board Ethics Policy. Upon approval of the Board Media Policy, the language of the Ethics Policy was amended to include this reference. The Ethics Policy is sent out to each Board Member annually for acknowledgement and signature.

Ms. Hardy moved to approve the policy as presented; Dr. Subramanian seconded. The motion received unanimous approval.

Update on Library Legislation FY 2024 - Ms. Padilla and Ms. Miller

The Maryland General Assembly: **HB 208/SB 250 § 23-409. Restrictions on Fines on Minor's Overdue Library Materials – Revision (HB 208)**

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0208>

In addition to prohibiting a county public library from charging a minor a fine or replacement fee for overdue library materials borrowed by a minor, the Building Lifelong Library Learners Act of 2021 was amended to include:

1. Materials intended for children or teens. This requires all Maryland public libraries to make J and YA materials fine-free in addition to any materials borrowed on J and YA cards.
2. Additionally, if overdue library materials borrowed by a minor or intended for children or teens are returned in a non-damaged condition within six months after a replacement fee has been paid, the public library shall refund the replacement fee.

HB 825/SB 248 § 23-202. Libraries – Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements– Proposed Revision

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0825>

This amendment to § 23-202. Libraries – Regional Resource Centers – Governance arose from a misunderstanding of the regionals' responsibilities and the public board members' ability to impact regional policy. It reinstates previously amended bill language for Regional Resource Center governing boards to include a library trustee from each participating library system and up to two members of the public from each area served by the participating library systems.

Public Library Legislation

The following Public Library Legislation was approved during the 2024 session of the The Maryland General Assembly:

HB 785/SB 738 Freedom to Read Act

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0785>

This bill lays the groundwork for any public library, school library, academic library, resource center or other library that receives funding from the State to adopt and follow a written policy consistent with state standards for libraries. The bill establishes these state standards, along with principles for curating a responsible library collection. It also protects libraries and library staff from being penalized for doing their work within the policies and procedures outlined by their organization, and will codify Maryland's values of access for all people.

HB 489/SB 434 Education – State Library Resource Center – Funding

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0489>

This bill increases funding for the State Library Resource Center (SLRC), the Central Library of the Enoch Pratt Free Library system, created in 1971 under State law 23-201. This funding will allow current services to be maintained and improved. This bill also alters the mandated amount for the Maryland Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD). The bill increased funds for FY25.

HB 609/SB 591 Education – Public Libraries – Collective Bargaining (Library Workers Empowerment Act)

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0609>

This bill authorizes employees of public libraries to form, join, and participate in an employee organization and engage in other activities related to collective bargaining; requires employers and certified exclusive representatives to engage in good faith bargaining; establishes a collective bargaining process for employees of certain public libraries; establishes a process for resolving impasses during collective bargaining; prohibits employers and employee organizations from engaging in certain actions regarding the exercise of an employee's rights under this Act; prohibits employers, employees, and employee organizations from engaging in certain actions related to strikes, work stoppages, boycotts, and lockouts; repeals certain provisions of law rendered obsolete by certain provisions of this Act; and generally relates to collective bargaining for employees of public libraries.

Report of Nominating Committee

Mr. Martin stated he met earlier this month with Maryland State Library Board Nominating Committee members Mr. Brown, Ms. Padilla and Ms. Pironis. The Nominating Committee unanimously agreed to nominate Ms. Pironis to continue serving as Board Chair and Ms. Farmer to serve as Vice Chair. Both agreed to continue serving another year.

Election of FY 2025 Officers

Mr. Martin moved to elect Ms. Pironis as Chair and Ms. Farmer as Vice Chair. Mr. Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MSLA Proposed Departmental Legislation FY 2025

Ms. Padilla provided an update on proposed MSLA departmental legislation for FY 2025, due September 1, including legislation that would provide additional funding for the Deaf Culture Digital Library. Ms. Miller stated she is willing to reach out to former Delegate Eric Luedtke, who sponsored legislation forming the Deaf Culture Digital Library in 2014 and now works in the Governor's Legislative Office, to discuss the Library's funding needs. Ms. Padilla agreed with

that approach. Mr Martin moved for Ms. Miller to explore the issue further; Mr. Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took a brief recess at 11:04 a.m. Mr. Martin stated he had to leave the meeting due to another obligation. The Board reconvened at 11:11 a.m.

State Librarian's Report

PERSONNEL

Positions pending hire:

- Administrative Officer III, Contractual Conversion to Full-Time PIN

Positions filled:

- Maryland State Librarian, Morgan Miller
- Administrator I, Amanda Hutchison

State FY 2025 Operating Budget

- The FY 2025 Operating Budget includes additional funds to support the increases to the Public Libraries-Aid to Education program, the State Library Resource Center and the Regionals.
- This budget also includes \$3,974,312 for LBPDP, an increase of \$449,936 (8.87%) over FY24 to reflect 25% of the amount budgeted for the State Library Resource Center, \$235,000 for the Deaf Culture Digital Library, \$3 million to continue the increased operating hours at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, funding for the Library Associate Training Institute (LATI) program and funding for the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) program through the University of Maryland, College Park.
- The FY 2025 final state aid calculations will be issued to the library systems in June 2024. The public libraries will receive an additional 40 cents per capita for an increase to \$18.30 per resident, totaling \$46,475,612 and SLRC will receive an additional 10 cents per capita for an increase to \$2.07 per resident, totaling \$12,760,846. The Regional Resource Centers will receive an additional 20 cents per capita for an increase to \$9.59 per resident, totaling \$9,486,294.
- MSLA's Operating Budget includes funding for the conversion of a contractual PIN to a State full-time regular PIN for the Administrative Officer III. This position supports public library services, with a focus on the organization and management of the Young Readers program.

Federal 2024 Budget

- On April 2, MSLA received its planned FFY 2024 allotment from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). MSLA will receive \$3,332,465, a decrease of \$21,786 (0.6%).

National Book Festival

- The **National Book Festival** will be held on Saturday, August 24, 2024. This has been an annual event for Maryland libraries since 2002, when IMLS's Pavilion of States first presented an opportunity for thousands of festival goers to get a first-hand glimpse into the critical work State Libraries and State Centers for the Book (Maryland Humanities represents Maryland in this capacity) do to support and preserve literary heritage. Maryland's presence at the festival affords us the opportunity to connect with hundreds of

thousands of book lovers, as we help them connect their love of reading with the critical work Maryland libraries do to help literacy thrive in their communities.

- Agency representatives from MSLA, in coordination with Maryland Humanities and volunteers from around the state will staff the Maryland booth. Information about the Festival can be found on the [Library of Congress National Book Festival website](#).

Capital Grants Program/Facilities Development

Current Projects

- The recent dedication of three new libraries brings the total number of new facilities funded since the inception of the program in FY 2008 to 21: Calvert County's Twin Beaches Library (April 16th), Anne Arundel County's Riviera Beach Library (April 25th), and Frederick County's Middletown Library (May 4th).
- A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on May 18th to celebrate the completed renovations at Caroline County's main library in Denton.
- Construction is ongoing in Baltimore County for the Catonsville Branch renovation currently at 90% completion.
- Design is underway in Garrett (new Friendsville Library) and Talbot (St. Michael's Branch renovation) Counties.
- Anne Arundel County has delayed the start of design for a new Glen Burnie Library while it completes a feasibility study to renovate leased space.

FY 2025 Capital Budget & Grant Cycle

- The General Assembly reduced the Governor's proposed budget for the grant program which included \$4,500,000 in supplemental funding in addition to the mandated annual amount of \$7,500,000. The reduction was equivalent to the prior awards totaling \$5,007,000 for Harford County's Bel Air Library renovation, suspended by the County Executive since 2023. Therefore, the total allocation for FY 2025 is \$7,954,000.
- This authorization enables MSLA to fully fund all requests with an additional \$1,000,000 allocated to Baltimore City's Forest Park Library renovation and expansion. The following projects were taken to the Board of Public Works for final approval on June 5, 2024:

• Anne Arundel (new Glen Burnie Library)	\$ 1,398,000
• Baltimore City (Forest Park renovation & expansion)	\$ 3,218,000
• Garrett (new Friendsville Library)	\$ 2,655,000
• Montgomery (Damascus renovation)	\$ 957,000
• Talbot (St. Michael's renovation & expansion)	\$ 2,803,000
• Wicomico (Salisbury HVAC replacement)	\$ 131,000
• Worcester (new Pocomoke Library)	\$ 3,999,000
TOTAL Awards	\$15,161,000
- The General Assembly included bond funding outside the grant program totaling \$29,725,000 for the following projects in the final Capital Budget for FY 2025:
 - Baltimore County (new Randallstown Library & Recreation Center) \$27,975,000
 - Baltimore City (no specific project at EPFL) \$1,000,000
 - Washington County (Williamsport Library) \$750,000. This funding was awarded to the Town and Mayor, not the library system.

FY 2026 Capital Grant Cycle

- The application deadline was May 24, 2024.
- 10 library systems requested State funding for 10 projects totaling \$14,183,000.
- The MSLA reviewers will meet June 24, 2024. The final recommendation will be discussed

at the September meeting.

Communications

Programs and Events

- With the conclusion of the 2024 Maryland General Assembly session, the communications office has stayed busy working on the **draft regulation** that will help guide public libraries moving forward. Communications also attended the bill signing on April 25 in Annapolis.
- The communications team continues to work on a **Strategic Communications Plan**, with the help of the Communications Work Group and Research and Evaluation Coordinator Laura Hicks, who assisted in a recent survey to help analyze MSLA's communications practices. The group plans to complete a draft Strategic Communications Plan by late June.
- Communications drafted and helped distribute the announcement for **new Maryland State Librarian** Morgan Lehr Miller.
- Communications distributed a press release to highlight \$350,000 in additional **Governor's Young Readers Program** matching funds for 16 public library systems and affiliate organizations across the state.
- Communications developed the presentation for Maryland State Librarian Irene Padilla and provided support for the **MLA/DLA Conference 2024** in Cambridge.
- A press release is set to be distributed to highlight more than \$15.1 million in **County Library Capital Grant** funding for FY 2025 that will support much needed projects in six counties and Baltimore City.
- The Communications and Marketing team is working on updates to the MSLA website, including a **revamped Capital Grants page** and the addition of a **staff directory**.
- Communications created content, including press releases and social media posts, in support of several recent programs and events, including **Maryland Libraries Together**, **Month of the Young Child** and nearly a half dozen **Military Families Reading Programs**, among other efforts.
- The communications team distributed a press release and created social media content to highlight LBPD Youth Services Librarian LaShawn Myles being named a **2024 Mover and Shaker** by Library Journal. The social media posts quickly became some of MSLA's most popular content of the year.
- Communications attended and produced a video and social media content highlighting the grand opening of the new **Twin Beaches Branch of the Calvert Library**. Watch the [video here](#). Communications also attended and took photos to highlight the newly renovated **Central Branch of the Caroline County Public Library** in Denton. View the [photos here](#).
- With the kickoff of **Summer Reading**, Communications has been highlighting the theme "Adventure Begins at Your Library" and the opportunities to participate on social media.
- **National Library Week** took place from April 7-13, with Communications posting a series of graphics produced by ALA and PLA to highlight different themes throughout the week.
- Communications worked on revisions to the Agency's **social media policy for Board members and staff**.
- Following the successful MLA/DLA 2024 Conference this spring in Cambridge, Communications Manager Tim Pratt is set to attend the **ALA Annual Conference** in San Diego from June 27-July 1 and the **Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference** August 14-17 in Ocean City.

Library For the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPd)

Programs and Events

- A **big announcement** is coming for LBPD on July 18, but right now the Library of Congress has asked that we embargo news about it.
- **Youth Librarian LaShawn Myles** was named a 2024 Library Journal Mover and Shaker. [*Library Journal's 2024 Movers & Shakers.*](#)
- The **Clyde Shallenberger Recording Studio** has uploaded 328 books to BARD, with 309 approved by NLS and available to patrons. In-person and remote recording continues. The studio currently has 20 projects in process.
- The **Technology User Group (TUG)** hosted a session on Artificial Intelligence and its application in software and devices for the blind. *It was the highest-attended TUG ever with 65 people participating on Zoom.*
- **Outreach events** have taken LBPD staff to:
 - Garrett County, Baltimore County, Talbot County libraries
 - National Nursing Home Convention
 - MD Works/Department of Rehabilitation Services Vendor Fair
 - Maryland Optometric Association Convention
 - Foundation for Fighting Blindness 5K
- **Summer Reading** began with a celebration on June 1 with the Tactile Art Club making treasure maps and outdoor company REI doing a camping demonstration. Other activities through the summer include a “Hike the Appalachian Trail in Maryland” game which includes speakers and a tactile tour.
- Network libraries for the blind, including LBPD, will transition to distributing **Magazines on Cartridge** which was formerly centralized at the National Library Service.
- LBPD met with Grimm + Parker, the architecture firm that will be completing drawings for **the renovation of the Patron Area and Technical Services Area**. Under the leadership of Mary Ramos, LBPD is discussing shelving and furniture with Maryland Correctional Enterprises and their subcontractors including StorageLogic, a vendor that provides high-density storage solutions.
- MSLA is currently working on procuring a **new contract for Comprehensive Maintenance/Housekeeping through MD Works** and a **new contract for Unarmed Security Guards** through a state contract.
- A project to **replace lighting at LBPD** with new energy efficient lighting kicked off June 3. Contractors should be onsite by the end of July and complete the work by September 30.
- A scope of work for completing the **modernization of the elevators** at LBPD is being completed by Atlantic Consulting.
- LBPD currently serves **over 5,690 Active Patrons** in every county in the State of Maryland

Public Libraries and State Networking Branch (PLSNB)

Programs and Events

- The newest cohort of the **Library Associate Training Institute (LATI)** graduated on Wednesday, June 5th.
- Tamar Sarnoff led a training for board members from Western Maryland libraries on **Communication and Storytelling in Advocacy**.

Grants

- The **FFY 2023 LSTA Grant cycle** began July 1, 2023, and ends June 30, 2024.
- PLSNB is currently managing 62 grants totaling over \$1.8 million in FFY 2023.

- MSLA hosted a LSTA Competitive Grants Showcase for the Maryland Association Of Public Library Administrators (MAPLA) on Friday, March 15, 2024, featuring 18 grants awarded to 17 library systems statewide.
- The **FFY 2024 LSTA Grant cycle** will begin July 1, 2024 and end June 30, 2025. Grant fund distribution is finalized and will be announced in the coming weeks.
- MSLA is proposing a **suite of changes** to the LSTA grants program. The plan includes capping single-system awards at \$30,000, sunseting several pandemic-era pilot programs (including Zoom and Knowbe4), and scaling back on some statewide programs.
- MSLA has distributed more than \$400,000 through the **Young Readers Program Expansion Act** funds that will:
 - Distribute resources to support successful Young Reader Programs (YRP) across the state with base funding awards to existing affiliate programs.
 - Encourage expansion of affiliate programs serving high-poverty zip codes through enhanced funding.
 - Encourage the creation of new affiliates in counties without this opportunity already in place through partial funding of a new program. Priority will be given to those covering high-poverty zip codes (according to 2020 5-Year estimate data from the American Community Survey).

Statistics

- The specifications for the **FY24 Public Libraries Survey** have been released by IMLS. Laura Hicks conducted a training on May 23, 2024 to share the changes in the survey questions with library system representatives.
- The **FY23 Maryland Public Library Statistics Tables** are being compiled and will be shared with stakeholders when they are complete. The target date for distribution is July 1, 2024.

Youth Services

- The **Youth Services Coordinators Spring Meeting** occurred on April 25. All Maryland libraries received information to prepare for summer 2024 youth services and updates regarding STEM, early literacy, and teen services initiatives.
- Library summer services are launching with the **2024 theme, “Adventure Begins at your Library.”** Statewide partners supporting Maryland public library summer services include the Maryland State Fair, which will host the **Reading Ceremony on August 24**; the Baltimore Orioles; the Maryland Science Center; and the National Aquarium. These partners are providing tickets, bookmarks, and other incentive materials to all Maryland public libraries to include in their summer programs for youth and families. The Maryland State Fair, in partnership with Baltimore County Public Library and MSLA, will once again host this summer, **Barnyard Bedtime Tales**, a program for readers of all ages who delight in reading a bedtime story to the animals. This program was awarded a first place and division champion award (Agricultural Program/Exhibit Category) by the International Association of Fairs and Expositions in 2023. Libraries have received a flyer to help promote this program to families. Barnyard Bedtime Tales events will take place every Saturday night of the Fair, from 7:00-8:00pm, in the ULearn Barn.
- Carrie Sanders and LaShawn Myles concluded the statewide study of the [Project Enable](#) curriculum with a final Monthly Discussion in April about Module 6: Targeting Autism and a study Wrap-up session on May 2. LaShawn and Carrie held an optional “Next Steps” training on Thursday, May 16, to provide tips and guidance for cohort members in their next steps to bring their learning back to their colleagues and organization about inclusive/accessible services.
- Maryland libraries continue to participate in **national IMLS projects** centering youth. The Year 3 Maryland Cohort of the [Building Equity-Based Summers \(BEBS\)](#) project will launch this fall. Carrie and a team from MCPL just completed eight co-design sessions as participants in the [ReadyNow: Supporting Youth and Families During Crisis](#), a national project, with a goal of strengthening community collaborations to meet community needs.
- Carrie is working with a statewide **Teen Connect** Board in the planning of the 2024 Teen Connect Conference, taking place on September 25, 2024 at the Elkridge Branch, Howard County Library System.
- PLSNB is in the process of making the Day-by-Day Calendar more accessible. The calendar will be translated into Spanish and a certain amount will be distributed to public library systems.

Organizational Learning & Innovation

- The calendar software MSLA used, Evanced, is shutting down. Staff have been working to identify and launch a new calendar software product to share information about MSLA and statewide programs. MSLA has purchased A **new statewide training and events calendar** from Springshare (which also hosts the LibGuides) that was launched on June 1.

Training has prepared staff in key contributing organizations, such as MLA, and programming and staff development coordinators across the state. The Merlin website will close down this summer and there will be a redirect to the MSLA Professional Development & Continuing Education guide.

- A new initiative, **Leadership, Innovation, Management & Supervision Academy**, aka “**Project LIMA**”, is starting this summer with a planning team of staff development and management representatives. The goal is to identify and develop core competencies and resources to provide regularly scheduled evergreen offerings for library staff on these topics.
- Nini Beegan has completed an Executive Certificate in Leadership Coaching and an Executive Certificate in Organizational Development & Change Leadership Consulting at Georgetown University. In Fall 2024, she will pilot **Leadership Coaching Circles** to introduce a leadership coaching method in small groups.
- The **Future Ready Optimism** series was completed with 268 participants in 3 programs. Evaluations from library staff indicated influenced mindsets, resilience, and ideas about sharing future thinking with library staff and the public. Libraries can continue to use the activities in Jane McGonigal’s book, Imaginable: How to See the Future Coming and Feel Ready for Anything - Even Things That Seem Impossible Today. Special thanks to Harford County Public Library and Enoch Pratt Free Library for their leadership in bringing these programs forward.
- **MD Tech Connect Extended Spring** series is almost complete with 253 participants in 6 webinars. Topics included: artificial intelligence, Consumer Electronics Show, metaverse, robotics, and cybersecurity. The last webinar, Internet of Things, will be held in June. Webinar recordings are posted in the [Maryland Libraries Training Academy on Niche](#) (login required).
- The **Workforce, Business & Career Community of Practice** held an in-person meeting in April to celebrate the success of 89 public programs in Career Success Month 2024 and to begin planning **Career Success Month (CSM) 2025**. Rebecca Hass, Anne Arundel County Public Library, presented *Working in Joy*. ALA will publish her new book on this topic.
- The **Branch Managers Summit Spring 2024** was held on April 24 on the topic, “Make Your Meetings Matter”. Evaluations were extremely positive. **Zoom Lunch for Branch Managers** will be held in June. The new group discussion board on MLA Connect has grown to 74 members.
- Three of four **Everyone Leads** workshops have been held so far with 47 participants so far. This program provides leadership training delivered by trained staff facilitators for all public library staff.
- MSLA continues to support the **Maryland Library Leadership Institute (MLLI)**, which is organized by MLA Planning for the next MLLI programs is ongoing.
- MSLA provides a statewide membership to [WebJunction](#), which has delivered ongoing courses and live webinars. During the first quarter of 2024, five live webinars were offered with 150 participants from all types of Maryland libraries. The most popular webinars were “**Building Authentic Relationships with Underserved Communities**” and “**Creating a Person-Centered Library**”.
- **AI Guardrails: Write Your Commonsense AI Policy** with popular emerging technology presenter Beth Z will be offered statewide in June by SMRLA to support the continuation

of the Statewide Webinar grant project, which provides training and webinars statewide on important topics such as this one. Most webinars are recorded and posted on the **Maryland Libraries Training Academy on Niche site**. Topics are selected based on the results of the statewide training needs assessment coordinated by the Statewide Staff Development Community of Practice. Special thanks to Jennifer Hopwood, Southern Maryland Regional Library Association (SMRLA) and Alicia Blake, Eastern Shore Regional Library (ESRL) for managing these statewide offerings.

Ms. Padilla added that she included her letter of resignation with the Board packet. She stated it has been a pleasure to work with the Board. She is pleased to have been able to accomplish one of her main goals by transforming the MSDE Division of Libraries into the State Library Agency that we have today. Ms. Padilla thanked the Board members and staff, and stated she is excited to turn the leadership role over to Ms. Miller. Ms. Pironis thanked Ms. Padilla for her service, praised MSLA staff and stated it's an exciting time to be part of the organization.

Updates

Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML)

- CML is working on developing its membership to include more paying members. Additionally, CML is looking to migrate to a new membership database system.
- At the time of the Board meeting, the date and location of the CML annual conference had not been determined.

College of Information Studies

Upcoming LIS Events

- UMD INFO Alumni Gathering at ALA Annual in San Diego (6/ 29/2024, 5-7 pm PT) If you are attending the ALA Annual Conference in San Diego, please join us for the UMD alumni reception.

Location: The Whiskey House, 420 3rd Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

Registration required: Please complete this [form](#) by 9/16/2024.

- Graduate Student Orientation (8/21/24)
- Welcome Back Event (8/29/24)

MLIS Program Updates

- **MLIS Admissions and Enrollment:**

- Fall 2024

Applied: 252
Admitted: 231
Acceptance Rate: 91.67%
Committed Fall 2024: 103*‡
Yield Rate: 44.59%

Citizenship status: 98 domestic, 5 international
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- *The Graduate School has approved 22 students pre-dating their Fall enrollment and those students have enrolled in Summer 2024 courses.
- ‡ 7 who have enrolled or accepted were deferred from previous admissions cycles, they have been removed from the Yield Rate Calculation
- 1 Combined Bachelors/ Masters student has matriculated into the MLIS Program

- **MLIS Student Body: Spring 2024**

- 289 students
- 217 female, 62 male, 10 nonbinary or other
- 65% White, 35% underrepresented groups (5% Black, 5% Asian, 4% Hispanic/Latino, 3% biracial, 17% other)
- The MLIS Program graduated 60 students during commencement on May 22 (7 dual degree HiLS students and 53 MLIS students)

- **MLIS Curriculum: Hands-On Learning Highlights**

- The UMD INFO College continues to be a leader in hands-on learning for MLIS students, with a staffed internship placement program. Grace Burke, MLIS Student, shares how beneficial these internships were for her in this [news article](#).
- The UMD Center for Archival Futures (CAFe) launched a new CAFe writing group, organized by faculty members Diana Marsh and Irene Pasquetto. This group encourages MLIS students to join and meets bi-weekly to share and provide feedback about articles, grant proposals, or other work.

- **Other Academic Programs Update**

- The INFO College [announced](#) that the College of Information Studies will officially become the College of Information as of June 1, 2024.
- The dual MLIS/ History Program (HiLS) received this year's "Program Award for Graduate Student Mentorship" from the University's Graduate School. The award recognizes and honors graduate programs on campus that are setting standards of excellence in mentorship.

- **Innovations & Service to the State of Maryland**

- The UMD [Marylanders Online](#) program is working to bring broadband internet access and digital literacy to all Maryland residents. The team, led by the INFO College and the UMD Extension, has developed a partnership with Enoch Pratt Free Library to [host train-the-trainer sessions with library staff](#) to teach digital literacy to residents.

- **Innovations & Service to the Profession**

- Mega Subramaniam, Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty, and Ana Ndumu, Assistant Professor, [shared guidance](#) to current and future LIS professionals about the future of LIS research. They look at the perceptual divergence between LIS practice and research and provide insights valuable to practitioners in the field.
- Victoria Van Hyning, Assistant Professor, is spearheading insightful research and practice into crowdsourcing materials for archives and libraries. Her work had led her to unearth barriers around disability accessibility and to mismatched metadata fields. She is a leader in bringing new innovations in this area to the profession, [read more](#).

- Jason R. Baron, Professor of the Practice and former Director of Litigation at the National Archives and Records Administration, has continued to be a frequent expert for the media speaking to the handling of presidential records. Most recently, he was [quoted](#) in the Washington Post on the jury instructions proposed in the Mar A Lago classified documents case, citing Alice in Wonderland. In a follow up summary piece, the Post chose to adopt Jason's theme to describe the judge's actions.
- Diana Marsh, Assistant Professor, was featured in Discover Magazine in a [story](#) about what the future looks like for natural history museums. The article imagines a future where natural history museums are places of storytelling that teach and safeguard history, without exploiting the sources of that history.
- Jennifer Sturge, Adjunct Lecturer was named as co-chair for the 2025 American Association of School Librarians Conference slated to be held in St. Louis, MO. Read the [press release](#).

Faculty Awards/Recognition

- Mega Subramaniam, Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty, received a UMD Exemplary Research Excellence Award in April 2024. Dr. Subramaniam's research focuses on enhancing the role of libraries in fostering the mastery of emerging digital literacies.
- Jennifer Sturge, Adjunct Lecturer, was named a [2024 Women of the World](#) honoree by Calvert Library. This award celebrates women who have made an impact in their community. Jennifer was celebrated for the positive relationship and impact on school and public library partnership in Calvert County, Maryland.

Faculty/Students Presentations/Workshops

- PhD student Mace Jones and Assistant Professor Victoria Van Hyning attended the European Citizen Science Association conference in Vienna to present the poster "Does Crowdsourced Transcription Data Increase Accessibility for Print-disabled Users?" (a copy is [available on GitHub](#)). Their poster shared preliminary findings from Victoria's early career IMLS-funded project "Crowdsourced Data: Accessibility, Accuracy, Authority," and was well-received by citizen science and cultural heritage crowdsourcing practitioners at ECSA.
- [Marylanders Online](#) team members (INFO PhD students Alison Harding and Jane Behre, and Professor Mega Subramaniam) virtually presented their paper, "Meeting People Where They Are: Customizing Digital Literacy Education," at the [iConference 2024](#).
- Professor Mega Subramaniam and PhD student Nitzan Koren presented their work on the [ReadyNOW](#) project at the Seeds of Change MLA/DLA Conference May 8-10. Ready NOW aims to enhance the capabilities of library staff to serve as proactive community partners before, during, and after times of crisis.
- Professor Mega Subramaniam presented her Marylanders Online work that is anchored in coalition building at the 184th Spring Association of Research Libraries meeting in Boston, in a session titled [Cooperative Approaches to Advance Digital Literacy and Information Access](#).
- Twanna Hodge, PhD Student, co-authored a chapter, "Building Connections, Crucial Conversations & Cross-Cultural Relationships," that has been accepted for inclusion in the soon-to-be-published (June 2024) book, [Cultural Humility in Libraries: A Call to Action and Strategies for Success](#), Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
- Postdoctoral Associate Jasmine L. Garland McKinney presented during the [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's five-part webinar series on maternal health disparities](#). Her presentation, "Leveraging the Role of Doulas to Support Black Maternal Mental Health" was the first in the series.
- Postdoctoral Associate Jasmine L. Garland McKinney presented her research, "Prioritizing

Black Maternal Mental Health: Learning from the Knowledge of Experts,” for the [4th Trimester Project’s Learning Community on Postpartum Care for NC Parents](#).

- Jasmine L. Garland McKinney spoke during the Trauma-Informed and Culturally Responsive Wellness Workshop Series at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her presentation was titled, “Redefining Wellness by Setting Realistic Expectations.”
- Associate Professor Susannah Paletz gave a talk on “Emotions in Polish and Lithuanian social media” at the April 2024 Minerva Meeting and Program Review in Arlington, VA.
- Professor Doug Oard with coauthors, including Susannah Paletz, gave the talk “Fearless Steps APOLLO: Operational disconnects in mission control” at the Fearless Steps APOLLO Workshop in Seoul, South Korea.
- Jason R. Baron gave presentations on “The Presidential Records Act, NARA, and Donald Trump” to the ARMA Triangle chapter in North Carolina, and on “The Capstone Approach to Email Archiving” to a group of records officials in the Government of Nova Scotia.

Faculty/Students Projects

- PhD student Ia Bull was awarded the inaugural Ashley Minner Artist Award at the "Fearlessly Seven Generations Forward" Indigenous graduation and blanket ceremony. Ia received the award for her impressive work to support this year's weekly Bead, Weave, and Read series, which has supported artistic and crafting work, scholarly readings, and community-building in the Indigenous Futures Lab this year.
- Twanna Hodge, PhD Student, is the recipient of a 2024 LACS Pop-Up Research Grant, awarded by the UMD [Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center](#) (LACS) to UMD doctoral students to support social justice research focused geographically on Latin American and/or the Caribbean. The tentative title of Twanna’s research project is “Investigating the Mental Health Ecosystem of Black Caribbean Immigrants in Four Locations within the US and the Caribbean Region.” The proposed study investigates mental health ecosystems in four U.S. communities with large Black/Afro-Caribbean populations in order to begin development of a culturally responsive framework for conceptualizing information behavior.
- Alia Reza, PhD Candidate, completed the project [Palestine: A reflection on censorship, intellectual freedom, and disinformation](#) in collaboration with [up//root](#) and [Librarians and Archivists with Palestine \(LAP\)](#). The project surveys LAP-affiliated information professionals on censorship, intellectual freedom and disinformation as it relates to the Palestinian history and resistance. In a combination of personal essays and photographs, the feature analyzes the roles of librarians, archivists and other information professionals in combating misinformation and decolonizing narratives in social justice work.

Faculty/Students Publications

- Eric Hing-Tao Hung, adjunct lecturer, authored a chapter entitled "Toward Socially Responsible Music History Pedagogy: A Rant, Some Theories, and a Few Resources" in the new book [Sound Pedagogy: Radical Care in Music](#), University of Illinois Press.
- Diana Marsh, Ia Bull, PhD students Lydia Curliss and Amanda Sorensen, and recent MLIS graduate Tiffany Chavis are among the co-authors of a new [paper](#), “Piloting Reparative Description and Metadata in SNAC via the Indigenous Description Group,” published by *Descriptive Notes*.
- Victoria Van Hyning, Associate Professor, co-authored the paper “Rewriting the American Library Association *Standards for Library Services for the Incarcerated or*

Detained” published in the ALA *Journal of Intellectual Freedom & Privacy*.

- Jasmine L. Garland McKinney, Postdoctoral Associate, co-authored the paper, “Rural Teacher’s Burnout, Well-Being, and COVID-19 Related Stress During the 2020 Pandemic” in *The Rural Educator* ([link](#)).
- Jason R. Baron co-authored a [paper](#) in the *Artificial Intelligence and Law* journal about applying AI tools to improve the processing of Freedom of Information requests.

Alumni Accolades

- Alumnus Ariel Segal, now archivist for the Library of Congress, completed a years-long project to digitize 230 Hebrew manuscripts, opening up hundreds of years of Hebrew history to the public. [Read more](#).
- Allison Jennings-Roche, PhD candidate and MLIS alumna, was recognized as a 2024 Library Journal Mover & Shaker. [News release](#).

Past LIS Events

March - May 2024

- April 20, 2024: The UMD INFO College Center for Archival Futures (CAFe) hosted a talk, “Equity in Public Access to Research Results; Case Study from National Agriculture Library,” on how federally funded research results can be made accessible to the public. [View talk](#).
- March 22, 2024: The UMD INFO College Center for Archival Futures (CAFe) hosted a talk, “The Ambivalences of the Unfixed,” on queer archival theory. [View talk](#).

Congress of Academic Library Directors (CALD)

- Andrew Pace of USMAI resigned in December to become executive director of the Association of Research Libraries. The search for his replacement is underway.
- The CALD Annual Meeting was held April 26. The focus was on libraries as centers for student success.
- CALD supported staff to attend ALA’s LibLearnX Conference in January. The event was held in Baltimore.
- The CALD professional development scholarship fund was renamed for outgoing Maryland State Librarian Irene Padilla in recognition of her support for academic libraries.

Enoch Pratt Free Library/State Library Resource Center (SLRC)

- The new CEO Search is ongoing and below are the relevant dates:
 - semifinalists selected by July 10th; interviews will be July 25-26th
 - finalist interview August 19-20th
- The new CFO will be starting on July 8th.
 - Sridevi Veeramachaneni will be joining Pratt from the Baltimore City School System.
- The State Library Resource Center Conference took place May 28 and 29. It drew a total of 292 attendees virtually or in person.

Maryland Library Association (MLA)

Maryland and Delaware Library Association Annual Conference

In the second week of May, the MLA Conference Committee, led by Anita Crawford and Chelsea Shockley, hosted hundreds of local library workers from all levels of different types of libraries from all around the state at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, Maryland, for the annual Maryland and Delaware Library Association conference. For three

days attendees attended and participated in events featuring exceptional keynote speakers, engaging vendors, a vibrant silent auction, dynamic social events, and a stellar program lineup. The success of this conference is a testament to our members' dedication and hard work. This team was truly outstanding. We are excited to see what Chelsea, her co-chair, Paula Mitchell (State Library Resource Center at Enoch Pratt Free Library), and next year's committee bring us.

MLA Orioles Game Fundraiser

On June 1, MLA held its inaugural fundraiser night at a Baltimore Orioles game, drawing over 30 enthusiastic supporters from Maryland's library community. Attendees relished the game, delighting in both the baseball action and the opportunity to connect and network in the vibrant atmosphere of the ballpark.

American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom Law for Librarians Program

During the first weekend in June, MLA President Tif Sutherland had the privilege of attending the Law for Librarians (L4L) program hosted by the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom. As libraries contend with the unprecedented rise in censorship attempts and attacks on intellectual freedom through adverse legislation and community groups, this training works to ensure a coordinated and strategic approach to counter groups organizing censorship efforts. Using the legal basis of intellectual freedom principles, the L4L program provides training for library professionals so they will have the expertise necessary for deflecting censorship challenges.

The first cohort of Law for Librarians trainers met for a weekend of training in the summer of 2024 to begin their two-year commitment to training and supporting librarians and library workers in their region. The group consists of school and public librarians, and they will work together with local, state, and regional colleagues.

The content shared in the Law for Librarians program is informational and not legal advice. Members of this cohort are not attorneys and will not share legal advice when they provide training.

Freedom to Read Foundation Conable Scholarship

MLA President Tif Sutherland was recently named a Freedom to Read Foundation Conable Scholar. The goal of the Conable Conference Scholarship is to advance two principles: intellectual freedom and mentoring. The Conable Scholarship covers conference registration, transportation, housing (six nights), and a \$300 stipend for meals and other expenses. The recipient will also be granted a one-year membership to the Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF). In return, the recipient is expected to attend various Freedom to Read Foundation and other intellectual freedom meetings and programs at the conference, consult with a mentor, and present a report about their experiences and thoughts.

Nettie B. Taylor Maryland Library Leadership Institute

The Nettie B. Taylor Maryland Library Leadership Institute [MLLI] is a dynamic weeklong program tailored to meet the needs of library workers from libraries of all types who want to develop their confidence in several essential areas of leadership, including DEI-based leadership, communication, advocacy, and emotional intelligence. Selected participants will be a part of a diverse cohort of library workers from different backgrounds and receive mentorship and guidance from experienced library leaders. The next iteration of MLLI is set to happen in 2025. A committee is in the process of interviewing potential individuals and groups to run the week.

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)

- MSDE is working with the Assistant Attorney General to add language to COMAR that reflects the mandates of the Freedom to Read Act. This law gives school library media specialists and LEA's guidelines and protections when facing an objection to a school library material.
- MSDE also is in the middle of its annual school media library survey.
- MSDE is researching artificial intelligence (AI) policies from around the country and is waiting on the Governor's newly formed AI task force to provide guidance before establishing its own guidance policy.

Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL)

- MASL soon will be welcoming new Board members, including three new members at-large.
- The votes have been counted and 25,000 students from across the state have selected their favorite books as part of the Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award program. The student selections are:
 - Picture Book – *There's a Ghost in This House* by Oliver Jeffers
 - Grades 3-5 – *Odder* by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Charles Santoso
 - Graphic Novels Grades 3-5 – *Swim Team* by Johnnie Christmas
 - Grades 6-8 – *Attack of the Black Rectangles* by A.S. King
 - Graphic Novels Grades 6-8 – *Frizzy* by Claribel A. Ortega, illustrated by Rose Bousamra
 - High School – *Eat Your Heart Out* by Kelly DeVos AND *I Must Betray You* by Ruta Sepetys
- MASL has been staying busy with advocacy, including work related to materials challenges in different counties and budget cuts that affect school library positions.
- The 2024 MASL Conference is set for October 18 at Milford Mill Academy. Justice Sonia Sotomayor and poet Nikki Giovanni will be the featured speakers.

Other Business

- None

Public Comment

- None

State Library Board Member Discussion and Updates

- None

Adjourn to Executive Session

Ms. Pironis, Chair of the Maryland State Library Board, asked for a nomination to move the Board meeting into Executive Session pursuant to § 3-305(b)(1)(i) and (ii) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. "To discuss (i) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or (ii) any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals"

Ms. Farmer made a motion to move the Board into executive session at 12:06 p.m.; Mr. Parran seconded. The motion received unanimous approval. All State Library Board members were present except for Mr. Martin, Ms. Graham and Ms. Wheeler.

Ms. Tignor motioned to adjourn the Executive Session; Mr. Brown seconded. The motion received unanimous approval.

The Executive Session ended at 12:15 p.m.

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened in open session at 12:15 p.m.

Ms. Pironis stated that the executive session was used to recap the search for a new Maryland State Librarian and discuss the transition process, along with the Board's role in that process.

Adjournment

Ms. Tignor moved to adjourn; Ms. Farmer seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.