

ED GARCIA

FOR

ALA PRESIDENT

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Library Director at Cranston (RI) Public Library · ALA Executive Board · REFORMA member

We are at a pivotal point in time at ALA. Our association is facing challenges both internally and externally that need strong leadership and a collaborative effort to overcome. I will bring proven leadership and experience to help navigate these challenges. On the ALA Executive Board I helped guide our Association through important and difficult decisions including hiring a new Executive Director, the sale of the ALA Office building and moving the 2020 Annual Conference & 2021 Midwinter meeting from in-person to virtual. As ALA President, I will continue our work of transforming ALA into a more responsive and sustainable association. I will focus on these key areas.

Advocacy

I have significant experience in legislative advocacy and have worked extensively with members of Congress. At the state level as the Legislative Advocacy Chair for the Rhode Island Library Association, I have fought for increased state funding for libraries and for statewide adoption of the AASL standards for school librarians. With the continued threats to federal funding for libraries and increased strain on local budgets due to the pandemic, now more than ever, our advocacy efforts need to be foremost in our work. As libraries reopen, the safety, job security and mental wellness of library workers should be at the top of our advocacy efforts.

Diversity

We need to continue promoting diversity not only in our profession but in all levels of leadership in ALA. I have had a strong commitment to diversity throughout my career. I served on the Committee on Diversity, served two terms on the Spectrum Scholar selection jury, and have been a member of the Diversity Caucus of ALA Council since 2011. While on the Executive Board I supported the formation of the EDI Assembly and helped craft several statements on EDI and anti-racism. In Cranston I serve on the city's Diversity Commission helped create a partnership of community groups & residents to work on EDI and anti-racism in our city. I lead the effort to change the illegal aliens subject heading to undocumented immigrants at all Rhode Island public libraries.

Sustainability

ALA can be a model for our profession around sustainability. On the Executive Board, I moved to add a carbon offset to the registration for all ALA events and I have worked to create a Sustainability Committee and have worked with the ALA Endowment Trustees to increase ESG investments.

I believe in bringing people together. I have a track record in ALA and in my community of working with varied groups to bring about positive change. I have a passion for public service that my work within the association has nurtured. I will bring that passion and commitment as your ALA President. I respectfully ask for your vote and endorsement.