

SENT WITH ALOHA ON DECEMBER 3, 2020

FROM THE DESK OF STACEY ALDRICH

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Aloha REFORMA!



My name is Stacey Aldrich, and I am honored to be on the ballot for ALA President for the 2022-23 term. Little did I know that when I began my career in college as the assistant to the Slavic Cataloger at the University of Pittsburgh that libraries would afford me opportunities and experiences unlike any other career field. I have worked in academic, special, public and state libraries, and each has provided unique opportunities to positively contribute to the communities we serve and our profession.

I have spent the majority of my professional career in state libraries, and have been the State Librarian of California, Pennsylvania and now Hawaii. In between, I worked for a futuring think tank in Washington, DC, and have continued to facilitate, train and present on thinking future forward. At the national level, I've participated in a variety of organizations and projects. I've been president of ASCLA and served on variety of national advisory groups for projects like the Edge Initiative, Project Outcome and Grow with Google. And most recently, I just finished two years as the president of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA).

I believe there are two overarching important responsibilities for the ALA President. The first is stewardship to ensure that there is organizational continuity. It means listening and working with the Executive Board, Executive Director, Council, Units, Chapters and members to focus our energy on the most impactful decisions to support the success of our organization and members.

The second important responsibility is to develop a program of ideas, conversations and actions that help us create the future of our profession. There are four starting questions that I'd like to have real conversations, debate, and futures building sessions around together:

- 1) Are all of our ALA members heard and feel like they have a place in the organization? Do we really understand each other's stories?
- 2) What is the future of collections in libraries? What will be physical? What is our place in the digital world? Let's not wait for publishers and content providers to decide that for us. Let's create the table for discussion.
- 3) What is the role of libraries in the future of digital equity?
- 4) What is the role of libraries in the future of communication, ideas and the social dilemma?

I am curious about the big future questions that REFORMA believes we should be talking about. I think there are many more questions that our members would want to start informal, deep dive discussion, or actions around.

I have always believed that the best way to predict our future is to imagine and build it. I would consider it an extreme privilege to represent our intelligent, passionate, and dedicated profession and work with our community to build a future that will nourish and support our members, libraries, and the places we call home.

Mahalo for your consideration!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacey A. Aldrich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.