



Illinois Library Association

ILA Forum and Committee Reports

This form is to be completed by committee chairs/forum managers in collaboration with board liaisons. The ILA Executive Board will have meetings on the following dates in 2022-23: 9/22/22, 11/17/22, 1/12/23 (mid-year “mini meeting;” no report necessary unless you are requesting board action), 3/9/23, 5/25/23. Reports should be submitted two weeks before each board meeting to the board liaison, the ILA staff liaison, and emailed to ila@ila.org.

Forum or Committee: Reaching Forward Forum

Report completed by: Sara Horn

Date: 2/23/2023

Activities underway or completed since the last report:

- Reaching Forward participated in the ILA Forum Open House on November 10, held on Zoom. Unfortunately, we did not have any outside attendees join our “room”, but it was a nice opportunity and I was more than happy to represent the Reaching Forward Forum.
- In late November 2022, all Forum members independently reviewed the program proposals for the conference. The Forum then met as a group on December 9, 2022 to determine which programs will be accepted. We ultimately accepted 17 programs with 11 more slots to fill. In an effort to fill the empty slots in a short amount of time, while keeping the mission of Reaching Forward at our core, the Forum members recruited local library workers to submit proposals by December 23. This enabled us to fill all 28 sessions, covering the objectives of Reaching Forward.
- Our most recent meeting took place on February 3, 2023. The Forum was informed about Reaching Forward possibly changing to a Committee. There were no concerns presented by the members.
- The committee members reviewed a draft schedule for the Conference on May 5, developed by Kristin Pekoll. Registration is live.
- Social media promotion has been going well on all platforms.
- Exhibitor applications are currently being accepted, with a deadline of February 28.
- Performers’ Showcase applications are currently being accepted, with a deadline of March 3.
- The call for Awards has been sent out. We are currently accepting nominations for the Oberman and Rich Reaching Forward Conference Grant and Robert P. Doyle ILA Conference Grant for Support Staff. The deadline for both awards is March 31.

Projected activities during the upcoming months:

- The next meeting will take place on March 10 to check-in on subcommittee work.

- Subcommittees will meet as needed in between full membership meetings, to finalize Performers' Showcase presenters, Exhibitors, and Award winners.
- Our final meeting pre-conference will take place on April 21. By this time, we will have day-of conference duties assigned.
- Members will meet on May 4, the day before the Conference, for bag stuffing at the convention center in Rosemont.

Questions or concerns that need to be addressed by the ILA Board:

None.