



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: 5/9/2023

Activities underway or completed since the last report:

- Our final Zoom meeting pre-conference took place on April 21. As of the day of that meeting, registration totals surpassed last year’s numbers.
- Day of conference duties have been assigned to all Forum members; this year we will have a member assigned to the beginning of each session so that we can be available to provide more direct, and faster support to speakers throughout the day.
- We have 48 vendors/exhibitors registered for the Conference.
- The Performers’ Showcase is fully planned out; we received more proposals than there were spots available, so the subcommittee was able to be more selective.
- The Awards subcommittee selected Joshua Wirth of Downers Grove Public Library as the recipient of the Oberman-Rich Award, and Annette DeLuna of Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library District as the recipient of the Robert P. Doyle Award. Award recipients, nominators, and other nominees have all been notified. Press releases have been written and published.
- Social media promotions have been ongoing; posts have been very engaging – kudos to the social media subcommittee!
- Registration for the Conference concluded on May 1.
- The Forum met at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center on May 4 for final preparations pre-conference. The Forum was invited to attend a dinner in the local area following.
- The Conference took place on May 5, with 577 registrants (excluding exhibitors)! It was a successful event and attendees seemed to be enjoying themselves. Following the event, all attendees received a survey via email to provide feedback about the sessions and the event in general.

Projected activities during the upcoming months:

- The Forum will be recruiting for an Incoming Chair for the 2023-2024 planning season. Members will fill out a form to express their interest.
- The Forum will meet on Friday, June 2 for the season's final meeting. We will review survey responses from attendee evaluations of the Conference, and discuss member observations during the event. Action items to consider for the 2024 Conference will be discussed.
- Transition to the Chair for the 2024 Conference, Rosie Camargo, will occur.
- As the Reaching Forward Forum prepares to transition to a Committee, all members will fill out the Committee Interest Form. Resignations of outgoing members and selection of new members will occur during this time.

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

None.