PLA Named Partner in Global Libraries Legacy Grant

In May 2014 the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced it would wind-down its Global Libraries (GL) initiative. Since then, GL has been working to identify how to achieve the foundation's goal of leaving the library field stronger and more resilient. As part of its wind-down planning, GL revisited feedback shared by the field as to what aspects of its work have been most valuable. With this guidance in mind, GL considered how its impact could continue through other organizations, particularly those best positioned to provide leadership as the library field continues to adjust to the digital age. GL identified PLA as one of three lead, legacy partners to receive limited-life, project support grants as part of the wind-down. PLA is currently working alongside GL and the other legacy partners to develop a framework for the legacy strategy and an operating model which outlines the process for ongoing interaction and engagement.

PLA Project Outcome

In 2013, PLA formed a Performance Measurement Task Force to identify and develop standardized measures of effectiveness for widely-offered public library programs and to promote the training for implementation and use of the measures across public libraries. Following the task force's successful pilot testing, PLA is expanding the reach of the initiative with funding received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through the development and deployment of Project Outcome. In June 2015, PLA will officially launch Project Outcome during a preconference at the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco. This exciting three-year project will support the development and implementation of outcome measures and also generate communication and training tools to help libraries effectively apply their findings. After the June launch, Project Outcome will offer a variety of ways for libraries to enlist and participate in outcomes-based performance measurement.

PLA Leadership Development

A key strategic goal of PLA is to build a future of transformative leadership education and resources for members. Since establishing a leadership task force in 2008, PLA has consistently offered programs and sought out opportunities that foster public library leadership. PLA received two Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grants for the project, "Navigating Change, Building Community: Outward-focused Public Library Leadership Training." These grants have supplemented PLA funds and allowed PLA to further refine and implement the PLA Leadership Academy and measure the impact on participants and their libraries. With additional support from an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant and in partnership the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), PLA held a successful PLA Leadership Academy in March 2015 and plans to offer it again in spring 2017. In addition, PLA will convene a meeting of leadership training providers in the fall of 2015 to share evaluation results and best practices and raise awareness and understanding of the PLA leadership model.

PLA BIG IDEAS @ ALA Annual

On Friday, June 26, at the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco, PLA will present PLA BIG IDEAS @ ALA Annual, an ideal event for public library directors, deputy directors, and managers. An extension of the popular BIG IDEAS series at PLA Conference, this engaging day will feature dynamic speakers from outside the library world, including leadership expert, Jay Conger; strategy expert, Kyle Mayer; and creativity expert, Tina Seelig. Hosted in the beautiful San Francisco Public Library, PLA BIG IEADS @ ALA Annual will provide attendees with new and big ideas to take back to their libraries and make a difference in how they connect with their colleagues and communities.

PLA Member Breakfast at ALA Annual

For the first time, PLA is hosting an exclusive PLA members-only breakfast in San Francisco. The complimentary event will include recognition of the 15 individuals and libraries that received PLA awards this year. In addition to the awards presentation, PLA will present a special recognition to the Ferguson (Mo.) Public Library and its director Scott Bonner for their response to recent events of civil unrest and school closures in their community. The event will also feature a special appearance by Al Roker, host and weatherman of NBC's *Today Show*. A ticket is required for admittance. Members must have submitted their RSVP by May 27, 2015 to receive a ticket. PLA thanks HarperCollins for its support this event.

DigitalLearn.org Continues its Success

Since launching in March 2013, DigitalLearn.org, a PLA digital literacy initiative funded by IMLS, has exceeded expectations. The site is an online hub for digital literacy support and training. It includes self-directed tutorials for users as well as a community of practice for staff at libraries and community organizations who are working to bridge the digital divide. In its first year, DigitalLearn.org had 36,667 unique visitors and 5,914 class completions, far exceeding its goal of 10,000 unique visitors and 1,000 class completions. DigitalLearn.org's content continues to grow in conjunction with the need. Spanish classes have recently been added and a Spanish version of the site will be live in late 2015. Beyond digital skills, DigitalLearn.org is a champion for lifelong learning, and a place to add higher-level content as audience skill levels rise. Visit the site at www.digitallearn.org.