



ULC Executive Board Statement Going Forward from the Pandemic

The coronavirus outbreak is rapidly transforming 21st-century life and the strong community leadership of our libraries is more essential now than ever.

The ULC Executive Board takes great pride in the inspiring ways that ULC libraries are stepping up during this crisis to help community members safeguard their health, stay connected and maintain stability in their lives. These efforts are a true testament to our membership's enduring creativity, agility and deep dedication to the citizens we serve. However, the challenges of addressing COVID-19 and its impact on our communities are too great for any of our libraries to take on independently.

There is an immediate and urgent need for our libraries to join forces, share ideas and resources and coordinate our actions to catalyze our collective ability to support every individual during this crisis and on the path ahead. Fortunately, this is what ULC libraries do best. Our membership includes North America's most innovative libraries, and for nearly 50 years we have united as a think and action tank to take on the most pressing issues of our times.

We are now asking each of you to join ULC and your peers in a new collaborative effort designed to mobilize our membership's capacity at a greater scope and scale than ever before. Starting this month, ULC will begin launching member working groups to tackle key issues and challenges, including:

- **Implementing the Leaders Library Card Challenge** to ensure library support for local students and educators.
- **Partnering with schools** to creatively provide resources, services and programming for students' virtual learning.
- Aggressively addressing the **digital divide** by developing strategies to ensure community-wide access to the internet and technology.
- Helping **small businesses and entrepreneurs** navigate and apply for newly available federal, state/province and local resources while identifying new online business opportunities.
- Identifying the impact of COVID-19 on **race and social equity** and developing means for addressing that impact.
- **Redefining the library's role** in the post-pandemic world and raising awareness of that role with the public, school, business and government leaders.

The leadership and active engagement of every ULC member has never been more vital. This is our time to work together to elevate the impact of public libraries as essential and transformative community institutions.

Thank you for your continued dedication to ULC's mission. Your work is making a real difference in shaping a brighter future for millions of North Americans.

Sincerely,

Members of the ULC Executive Board

Vickery Bowles, Chair
City Librarian, Toronto Public Library

Richard Reyes-Gavilan, Vice Chair/Chair Elect
Executive Director, DC Public Library

Dr. Rhea Brown Lawson, Immediate Past Chair
Director of Libraries, Houston Public Library

Brandon Neal, Secretary/Treasurer
Senior Vice President and Deputy Chief Legal Officer, Novant Health

Dr. Mary J. Wardell-Ghirarduzzi, Board Member-at-Large
President, San Francisco Public Library Commission

Jill Bourne
City Librarian, San José, California

Karl Dean
Former Mayor, Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

Janet Hutchinson
*Past Chair, Calgary Public Library Board
Member, Calgary Public Library Foundation Board*

John W. Laney
Board of Trustees, Mid-Continent Public Library

Michael Meyer
Operating Partner, McCarthy Capital

C. Mary Okoye
Board Member, Pima County Library Foundation

Skye Patrick
Director, LA County Library

Mary Blankenship Pointer
CFO, Council of International Neonatal Nurses

Jesus Salas
Trustee, Toledo Lucas County Public Library

Rebecca Stavick
Executive Director, Do Space

Michelle VonderHaar
Deputy General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer, Global Legal Affairs Team, HP, Inc.