

FMRT Executive Board Meeting

Monday, October 28, 2-3pm ET (11-12 PT)

Meeting recording:

Present: Andrea Battleground, Debbie Benrubi, Brian Boling, Jenifer Carter, Ben Franz, Athina Livanos-Propst, Melanie Lorraine, Michele McKenzie, Steve Milewski, Leigh Rockey, Gisele Tanasse, Laine Theilstrom, Lorraine Wochna

1. Announcements (Gisele, 5 minutes)

- Please keep recruiting for Secretary and Chair-Elect
- The deg farrelly memorial scholarship is up:
<http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/awards/37157/apply><http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/awards/37157/apply> -- features a nice photo of deg. We are working on promotion. The team will draft a press release.
- Awaiting confirmation from Danielle on minor stylistic Bylaw revisions
- Update from scholarship winner, Regina Aaron
She is looking for academic jobs, so hook her up!

2. Committee Updates (Various, 2-7 minutes each)

- **Vice-Chair (Steven)**
Due to technical difficulties, Secretary missed what Steven had to say.
- **Communications Committee (Jen)**
Due to technical difficulties, Secretary missed what Jen had to say.
- **Programs (Laine & Lorraine)**
No news.
- **Scholarship update (Gisele)**
Please see above.
- **Notables (Bryan M.)**
No update.
- **Membership (Athina)**
There's a 15% steady uptick in membership each year.
- **Gala (Ben)**
Ben is getting a team of scouts together, looking for locations. He has a couple of ideas and will float them at the next meeting. He's not sure of venue. Ben should connect with Programs to make sure there isn't a conflict—this is for Annual 2021.
- **Bylaws (Gisele for Michele?)**
We haven't heard back from Danielle yet regarding the proposed changes.
- **ALA Councilor Report (Brian B.)**
No news.
- **IFLA (Mo / Debbie)**
IFLA Audiovisual and Multimedia Section (AVMS) had a successful open session in August that highlighted projects to preserve audiovisual cultural heritage in the Philippines, Ecuador, France, Singapore, and Australia. The papers are published online in the IFLA Digital Library. Debbie Benrubi was reelected Section Standing Committee Chair and Monique Threatt was elected Secretary for two-year terms. So FMRT is well-represented internationally!

AVMS has submitted an action plan to IFLA that details several new initiatives planned for the year ahead. They include developing webinars on different topics such as digitizing small video collections and video cataloging. We will post recommendations on social media channels on tools and best practices. And we are planning a project in coordination with UNESCO that will create dossiers on UNESCO Memory of the World collections and develop web pages with short articles that highlight the collections and the need for a-v heritage preservation.

Debbie and Mo: Thank you for repping up so well!

- **Treasurer**

No report (per Melanie who is out today)

3. American Library Association has delivered a written report to the House Judiciary Committee telling lawmakers that ‘abuse’ by ‘dominant actors in digital markets’ is impeding essential library activities (15 minutes)

- **ALA is exploring ‘next steps’** – Gisele intends to write to Past President Loida Garcia-Febo to encourage her to expand her critique of Amazon’s exclusive content to include video content, as well as Netflix, and Kanopy.

Background info: Last week Jen sent to the listserv a press release from Garcia-Febo about a report that ALA wrote and submitted to the U.S Congress House Judiciary Committee. The focus was mostly on ebook predatory practices, and ALA is exploring their next steps. Gisele would like for the FMRT Executive Board to draft something about predatory practices among dominant streaming providers.

Good use of time? Jen says she supports reaching out about streaming practices. The amount of people at our last forum who wanted to talk about the effects of PDA platforms on their budgets was high.

Brian Boling: We should write something about the PDA issue, but it shouldn’t be a part of the ALA report to the Judiciary Committee.

Gisele: There is the parallel issue of exclusive agreements, such as on Netflix, that exclude educational and library markets. So there are really two sections to what we want to draft—unavailability and predatory practices.

Any interest in drafting this? Should Gisele do it and then we can discuss next month?

Brian B. and Jen will help her—anybody else, let her know.

- **Kanopy has approached ALA administration about sponsorships**

Gisele wrote a quick response to Danielle but would like to check with the Board.

Background info: Gisele got an email from Danielle that someone in ALA was asking for details about our membership numbers and programs and events because Kanopy wanted to sponsor things. Gisele gave Danielle a run-down on why we haven’t asked Kanopy to sponsor galas, etc.

Gisele wanted to let us know that it happened and to try to get a sense of whether everyone shares the opinion of not being interested in events sponsored by Kanopy.

This is not being forced on us, but Gisele worries that ALA won’t turn them down for sponsorship on other things. Gisele is opposed because our rise in membership and turn-out at programs is linked to our demonstrated history of looking critically at PDA.

Steve: Wasn’t a vendor miffed when they sponsored one of our events, but it wasn’t well-attended?

Michele and Brian: After a program, Roco Films and Film Platform had food and tried to get people to stay but nobody did. Brian had to do some damage control. If they sponsor food, they

will want people there. Roco was also speaking at some other FMRT programming, so it made it seem like we were endorsing them.

Do vendor-sponsored events look like we are endorsing the sponsor, like we're joining with them somehow?

We need to continue to talk critically about sponsorship models in our meetings.

Debbie: There's a difference between sponsoring our events and sponsoring ALA events; if ALA does do something with them, then we should not be associated.

Ben: CUNY and Kanopy were in a recent fracas over what Kanopy wanted to charge them.

Gisele and others: The Executive Board of FMRT is not interested in sponsorship or gifts in kind from Kanopy. Gisele will continue to advance why access to ALA should be at a premium.

If you want to speak with Gisele one-on-one about this, please contact her. Please speak up if you disagree.

Michele: Are we consistent in terms of sponsorship? Do we have anything to document what is OK and what's not OK? Should we have such a document? We do have a draft of a vendor relations document that we never adopted. Brian and Jen and Gisele are drafting the statement on of lack of availability of educational access to some videos—will this group also look at this document? Yes.

- **New webinar on 'predatory digital practices'?** We've done 3 webinars and had decent attendance. There's new attention now on exclusive content or restrictive terms or even predatory practices, so do we want to try to do a webinar on this? Interest in trying to host another? Lorraine suggests maybe NMM should do this webinar.

4. **NMM Retreat Update (5 minutes)**

Gisele and Lorraine participated in the NMM retreat in Kansas City. They did some identity and vision work on what a new NMM might look like. They were asked to not share too much. NMM's next step is to do impact assessments.

5. **New Business**

None