

**Committee on Library Advocacy  
Report to Council  
December 2021**

Below is a brief summary of COLA's work since July 1, 2021.

- Continuing work started in the previous year, past chair Justin de la Cruz presented at ALISE's September conference with past member Anthony Chow and staff liaison Megan Cusick about advocacy internships.
- Committee members provided facilitation and support for October Legislative Summit.
- Presented at AASL Conference:
  - COLA chair Steven Yates facilitated panel on federal legislation and funding for libraries.
  - COLA member Kathy Lester and staff liaison Megan Cusick presented an Advocacy 101 session.
  - Ecosystem subcommittee chair Sara Kelly Johns and members Eryn Duffee, Kathy Lester, and Michelle Robertson presented the ecosystem toolkit and examples of implementation.
- Members of COLA's Ecosystem subcommittee presented in a variety of places, both virtual and in person, on how to use the Ecosystem Toolkit, including:
  - Webinars for LIS students at University of Kentucky and the Texas Association of School Library Administrators;
  - Webinar for LIS instructors in partnership with ALISE;
  - Live presentation at the Tennessee Association of School Librarians;
  - Virtual presentation at the New Mexico Library Association conference;
  - Second annual webinar featuring speakers from Virginia Library Association, the Freedom to Read Foundation, and San Jose State University.
- Met with PLA Advocacy and Strategic Interest group to discuss priorities for action and opportunities for collaboration.
- Committee chair Steven Yates meets regularly with the chairs of the Chapter Relations Committee and Committee on Legislation.

Upcoming projects during the first half of 2022 include:

- Managing ALA's National Voter Registration Day 2022 initiative
- Updating the Advocacy Action Workbook
- Co-hosting Legislative Summit joint follow-up meeting with Intellectual Freedom Committee.
- Coordinating presentations for LibLearnX and Annual conference featuring multiple ALA units working together.

COLA committee members work side-by-side with a network of liaisons representing groups across ALA to keep apprised of other advocacy efforts and to identify and implement opportunities for coordination. The committee also works closely with its sister committee, COL.

Contact COLA chair Steven Yates ([steven.d.yates@ua.edu](mailto:steven.d.yates@ua.edu)) or COLA staff liaison Megan Cusick ([mcusick@ala.org](mailto:mcusick@ala.org)) for more information on these projects.