



To: Kaukauna Public Library Board of Trustees
From: Library Director Ashley Thiem-Menning
Date: 3/21/24
Re: Public Library Association

On Tuesday April 2, Sarah, James and I will be flying to Columbus, Ohio for the biennial national PLA conference, along with Board member Schneider. The conference is three full days..

I am extremely excited about the conference this year. The program line up looks very promising. I am most excited that Ta-Nehisi Coats, author of Between the World and Me, The Water Dancer, We Were Eight Years in Power and The Beautiful Struggle, will be presenting as part of the Big Idea Series.

Some of the sessions I am excited to attend include:

Employee Resource Groups and Why They Matter: I am currently a leader in the City's new Belonging & Inclusion Resource Group and am excited to increase my knowledge on ERG's.

Black Men in Public Libraries: This panel addresses the fact that Black men hold less than 1% of all MLIS degrees. The session will discuss workplace diversity initiatives, workplace culture, climates, and the value that Black men bring to public libraries and beyond.

Leadership by Design: A Human-Centered Approach for Library Leaders: Discusses how service design can clarify strategic objectives, and align staff roles to help solve community problems.

Indigenizing the Library: How Idaho Created a Statewide Training for Indigenous Inclusion: Discusses the 2022 statewide training course for all state librarians on how to make inclusive spaces for Indigenous peoples and improve foundational knowledge of library staff about Indigenous peoples.

Changing Subject Headings for a More Inclusive Library: There is outdated language in the standardize subject headings in many library catalogs. This session will explore using the language people choose for themselves in an effort to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Breaking Barriers: Engaging Immigrants and Building More Inclusive Communities: This session aims to provide actionable ideas and strategies for developing and sustaining relationships with immigrant communities.

Amplifying Programming around Culture, Faith, and Diversity: This session explores how LA County libraries expanded their library programming around culture, faith, and diverse experiences.

Three Must-Have Activities for New Employee Training: Discusses intentional training plans: This I hope will be helpful as we curate our new onboarding and training process and procedures.

African American Isn't a Genre: Collecting and Promoting Black Books: This session focuses on anti-racist practices in reader's advisory conversations as well as collection development processes.

Increase Religious Equity by Reclassifying Dewey 200's: In 2019, OCLC provided an alternate arrangement for DDS's religion section, which organizes subjects more equitably by chronology and geography, rather than centering on Christianity.

Spanish for Library Staff: Bridging the Language Barrier: This session includes program overviews, information on how to get to know your community's Latinx members and engage in outreach.

