



# WLA News

Information from the Wisconsin Library Association  
Fall 2020

## WLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2020

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## Correction in WLA Summer Newsletter

After the release of the WLA Summer Newsletter, it was brought to my attention that an error was made in the spelling of Viridiana Rocha's name on the article that was authored for the "Inclusive Services Insight" column. The mistake has been corrected and the edited newsletter can be found on the [WLA website](#). I greatly apologize for this oversight and error and appreciate your continued support of the newsletter.

## WLA Response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is a rapidly evolving situation. The Wisconsin Library Association has compiled fact-based information from a variety of sources to make them readily available to Wisconsin libraries. As more information is produced and distributed, WLA will continue to update [this page](#). If you have resources that you find useful and would like to share them, please email us. We are stronger together.

## President's Message

*By Sherry Machones, 2020 WLA Board President*

Greetings All,

As I write this, Wisconsin is testing positive for COVID-19 at one of the highest rates in the nation. I have been struggling to find a sunny, optimistic message for easier days ahead. I find it challenging - feeling disconnected from the meaningful work that we do. How do we as library workers, libraries, and systems, work through all of this? We work through it together.

While we are working our way through this time, we are all living with various amounts of grief and chaos. No one has all the answers, and we must sit with that uncomfortableness because librarians really like being able to find the answers. As we look into the faces of those we work with and those we serve, we can be brave and go beyond the superficial pleasantries and really listen and connect, putting the human first. Take a deep breath, share one another's fear and anxiety, feel all the feelings. The shared bond of this traumatic time should bring us closer together. We do not have to go through this alone.

The library's mission of bringing people and information together to enrich and nurture self and community has never been more needed than now. As we use this time to investigate the services, and policies of our libraries, I am hopeful that libraries will take this "new normal" and realize that we can create a "new normal" together. This will require taking care of ourselves and caring for others. It will take hard work, empathy, and humility. Our professional community shares these qualities, which I know will keep our libraries thriving into the future.



What we are experiencing is unprecedented, something none of us have ever been through before. I for one never thought something like this would happen during my presidential year. I will never take for granted the value of working together face to face. I miss seeing all of you at our events throughout the year. Even though we are not able to meet in person this year, I want you to know how important every one of you are to me and to our organization. WLA needs our members now, more than ever, to keep us all in a better state.

Let's keep moving forward together.

Sherry Machones

## Wisconsin Library Association

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## HELLO FROM THE EDITOR!

**Colleen Hallfrisch,**  
WLA Newsletter  
Editor

Hello, everyone! My name is Colleen Hallfrisch and I am the editor of the WLA Newsletter. I currently work at UW-Oshkosh as the Metadata Librarian. I have been in this position since October 2019.

Before this position, I worked at the Beaver Dam



Community Library as the Technology and Public Services Librarian. Becoming a librarian has been my dream since I was in eighth grade. I am passionate about helping people in the community and love learning about what other libraries are accomplishing. In my spare time, I enjoy running every day, reading, and spending time outdoors. I love to go camping, hiking, and backpacking as well.

I am very excited to continue the legacy of the WLA newsletter through meeting new people and sharing about library initiatives around the state. You can contact me at [hallfrischc@uwosh.edu](mailto:hallfrischc@uwosh.edu).

# Director's Message

*By Plumer Lovelace, Executive Director of WLA*



Leaves are changing colors, temperatures dropping, Monday Night Football is on TV, pumpkin spice is on everything that can be eaten – fall is here. And while it is not the fall that any of us imagined or longed for, I am hopeful that you, your families, and your colleagues remain healthy and in good spirits.

Throughout the last several months, the WLA Board and I have attempted to keep you all updated on plans, projects, changes, and initiatives executed as we navigate the ever changing COVID-19 landscape. While the updates have not always been cheerful, we have always sought to err on the side of honesty and transparency. I sincerely hope that you have found these communications to be informative and reassuring.

As 2020 draws to a gradual close, I wanted to take this opportunity to fill in updates for the association's fourth quarter and provide some tentative operational strategies for 2021.

**Financial** – With the absence of revenues from spring and fall conferences, the primary sources of income have been membership dues, a low interest (2%) disaster recovery loan, and several significant tax credits. The actions taken earlier this year to reduce overall expenses have helped tremendously to reduce overhead and extend the value of every dollar received. The transition to a “work from home” office is complete. However, we continue to search for a tenant to occupy our old office space.

**Membership** - Over the last six months we have had a slight drop in membership. Our membership level normally hovers at slightly above 1,400. Currently, WLA membership is at 1,280. One contributing factor is the absence of the spring and fall conferences. Our programs often serve as a better reminder to renew membership than email marketing. Of course, the economic instability faced by everyone in the

U.S. cannot be overstated as well.

**Volunteer / Unit Activity** - After about a 60-day lull in March and April, the level of activity for Divisions, Sections, Round Tables, Committees, and Special Interest Groups has gradually increased over the last five months. The association has several metrics in place to monitor volunteer activities, including liaisons that attend unit meetings and provide updates to the board. I also serve as an Ex Officio member of many of our units. I have been both pleased and humbled by how quickly the level of activity has bounced back

**Looking Toward the Future** - Like all of you, the primary focus, as we look toward the immediate future, is adjusting our business operation to function within a COVID-19 environment. Many of the steps taken to date were initiated for that reason. Still, there is more to be done. Several weeks ago, we assembled a “Virtual Conference Work Group.” The goal was to put together a small, support team to help with the transition of in-person programs to a virtual format. By the time that you read this article, evidence of this transition will be apparent as promotions and call for proposals for spring conferences begin to land in your inbox. My objective is to better position our association to function within the new normal, while providing improvements that will serve us well once the Coronavirus is a memory. I believe that the technology infrastructure that we are putting in place now will allow us to connect with members across Wisconsin for years to come.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your patience and continued support over the last several months. Even as you have faced your own unprecedented challenges, your support for the association has never wavered. It continues to be my greatest honor to serve your needs and continue the work that has been the mission of WLA for its 129 year history.

Be safe and be well,

Plumer  
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(608) 235-8887

# Ideas to Action 2020 Recipients

*By Andi Coffin, WiLS*

[WiLS](#) is excited to share the recipients of the 2020 Ideas to Action (I2A) funds! We drive innovative and collaborative services forward by supporting these projects, through dollars and project guidance, and fuel libraries to take their work further.



During this exceptional year, we received a record number of outstanding proposals to the I2A fund. We could unfortunately choose only seven, but we believe these projects will have the most impact on their communities and on library service in the state.

WiLS is honored to provide the support to move these ideas into action!

## **Appleton Public Library – The Piano Project: Community Engagement through Music and Art**

[Appleton Public Library](#) is partnering with local artists and community members to install interactive displays throughout the city that use music to engage the public in a community read while also raising awareness of the Hmong American experience through stories such as [“The Latehomecomer”](#) by Kao Kalia Yang.

## **Dane County Library Service – Ripple Project: Equity Teams**

[Dane County Library Service](#) is supporting the sustainable development of four regional equity teams throughout Dane County libraries.

## **Kenosha Public Library – Mind and Body Challenge**

[Kenosha Public Library](#) is helping keep patrons physically active and entertained while waiting outside the Bookmobile and Book Truck for their turn to board.

## **Madison Trust for Historic Preservation – Madison Trust Archive Digitization Project**

The [Madison Trust for Historic Preservation](#) is digitizing their archives and making them accessible to the public through [Recollection Wisconsin](#).

## **School District of Belleville – Documenting a Historic Time: COVID19 and Opening a New Library....and Beyond!**

The [School District of Belleville](#) is providing opportunities for school and village community members to record experiences from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as record segments or interviews to air as podcasts as Belleville opens a [new public library](#) in March of 2021.

## **Sun Prairie Public Library – Story Walks**

[Sun Prairie Public Library](#) is providing an opportunity for the entire community to engage in literary walks that promote literacy, community and family engagement, physical health, and mental wellbeing.

## **Tomahawk School District – Making Connections One Game at a Time**

The Tomahawk School District is connecting community, schools, teachers, and students in a virtual gaming world, collaborating with [Northcentral Technical College](#) to establish a high school eSports team.

The next anticipated application period for WiLS' Ideas to Action funds will open in spring 2021 and we encourage proposals from all kinds of libraries and cultural institutions. Comments or questions about a project you're dreaming of? Contact us at [information@wils.org](mailto:information@wils.org).



# La Crosse History Unbound: Making History Materials Accessible for Researchers

*By Jenny DeRocher, La Crosse Public Library Archives*

The La Crosse Public Library is lucky to be one of two public libraries in the state to have an Archives & Local History Department (LPLA) staffed by professional archivists. The LPLA actively collects materials that relate to the history of the La Crosse area and is the repository for City records. Researchers include a wide array of demographics, skills, and interests. The LPLA assists patrons looking to learn the history of their house, National History Day students (NHD) interested in incorporating local ties into their national-level research topic, undergraduate history students doing intensive archival research on a local organization, as well as genealogists looking for the obituary of an ancestor.

## Background

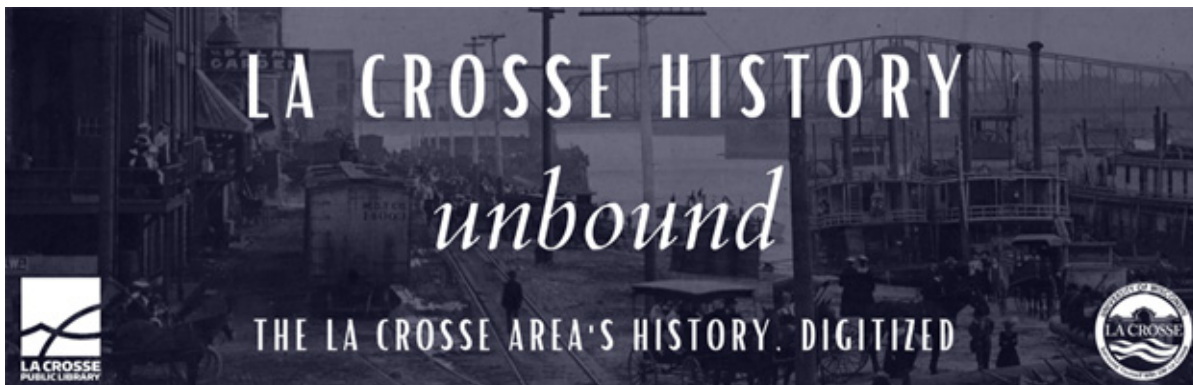
In collaboration with University of Wisconsin–La Crosse Murphy Library Special Collection & Area Research Center (UWL MLSC/ARC) the LPLA created a website called La Crosse History Unbound in 2008. Unbound offers a single platform where digitized materials relating to the history of La Crosse are curated for users by subject area. The mission of LPLA includes providing public access to primary and secondary resources relating to the history of La Crosse, which is something that Unbound aides in accomplishing.

In the summer of 2020, LPLA staff worked hard to finish a 3-year project updating Unbound in an effort to provide greater public access during a time when patrons are not allowed into the Archives Reading Room to conduct their own research, due to ongoing COVID-19 safety policies. Thanks to the hard work from staff, Unbound launched in August 2020 and is now available for patrons interested in researching from home and students needing access to materials for virtual learning.

## How to Utilize Unbound

Unbound is designed similar to Recollection Wisconsin or the Digital Public Library of America, but it is hyper-local to the La Crosse area. The site has digitized materials organized by subject area so researchers who are new to their topic can find primary and secondary resources with ease. There are also research guides for users new to archival research, NHD students, undergraduate students, and educators. With so many parents teaching their children from home, there are also lesson plans for local and state history that could be adapted for home education.

Though this is local to the La Crosse area, it is a resource that patrons and librarians all over the state of Wisconsin can make use of with its vast amount of materials. To go and explore the site yourself, go to [www.lacrossehistory.org](http://www.lacrossehistory.org).



# 2021 Library Legislative Day- We're Going Virtual!

Taking place on February 16-18, 2021

Next year we are making our annual Library Legislative Day even easier to attend - we're going virtual!

In making this change, we listened to many members who wanted to plan for the event as early as possible. Others have always wanted to attend but could not because of distance or scheduling.

Our traditional morning agenda will be held via video conference on February 16th. Virtual appointments with legislators will be spread out during the week. We'll miss seeing all of you in person, but we are very excited that we can still gather together online.

Please keep these dates on your calendar and watch for more details on the [WLA website](#) to follow!

2021 Library Legislative Day Subcommittee  
Peter Loeffel, Chair

## Support WLA with Your Time

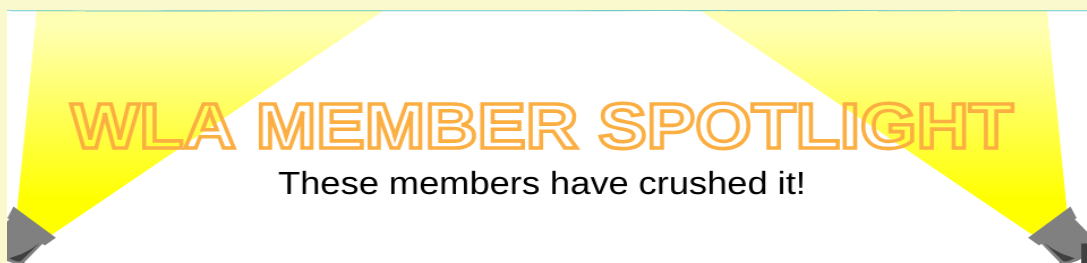
*By Vince Mussehl, WLA Nomination Committee*

Becoming involved with WLA not only supports the organization, your efforts also help your colleagues in Wisconsin libraries. Whether you are able to serve on one of our numerous committees, sections, or special interest groups, or volunteer a bit of your time at one of our conferences, you are furthering Wisconsin libraries and your colleagues.

This summer, the Nomination Committee launched a Member Spotlight blog to highlight the work you are doing as members and to talk about how being involved with WLA has impacted your careers. Visit the blog to hear stories of members from all over Wisconsin and how WLA has helped to shape who they are today.

As you read, consider getting involved. Let us know what type of work you might be interested in by completing the short "[Lead with WLA](#)" form. Andrew Prellwitz from Lane Library at Ripon College says, "WLA has connected me with great librarians and rad human beings who inspire me to push the envelope at my own library."

Read more about Andrew's story and others by visiting the [Member Spotlight blog](#).



# Census 2020 Window Art Beautifies MPL Spaces

*By Kristina Gómez, Mark Zimmerman, and Fawn Siemsen-Fuchs, Milwaukee Public Library*

In September, four branches of the Milwaukee Public Library were graced with the artwork of four Milwaukee artists. As the recipient of an American Library Association's Library Census Equity Fund mini-grant, MPL partnered with artists Adwoa Asentu, Nicole Acosta, Rozalia Singh, and Audrey Moore at the Center Street, Martin Luther King, Mitchell Street, and Washington Park branches, respectively. Understanding both the urgency and community needs of the project, they took time out of their busy schedules to get the Census message out.

This project was inspired by the Tippecanoe Branch, a crew of staff-turned-artists who has been using window art at their branch to engage with the community during the pandemic. The muralists were selected based on recommendations from community organizations and their previous work around the city. Currently, Milwaukee lags behind the state in completing the Census.

Showing support for achieving a complete count for the United States 2020 Census in four of Milwaukee's Census tracts with the lowest current response rates, these artists created window displays in these libraries to raise awareness of the Census. The U.S. Census is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to be counted in an effort for each area of each city to get its share of \$675 billion per year in federal funding for critical services, including schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and representation in the House of Representatives, and the like.

Additionally the Refugee Committee at MPL, in collaboration with translators provided by community partners, created a series of promotional Census videos in multiple languages. These videos feature local volunteer translators encouraging individuals to complete the Census and to Be Counted! These videos, in [Arabic](#), [French](#), [Karen](#), [Rohingya](#), [Somali](#), and [Spanish](#), can be viewed within the Milwaukee Public Library's 2020 Census International Languages Videos Toolkit or as Google Docs on Milwaukee Public Library's [Facebook](#) page.

For more information on the Census, please visit [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov).





## RECOLLECTION WISCONSIN: AN ONLINE EXTENSION OF YOUR LIBRARY

By Andi Coffin and  
Emily Pfotenhauer, WiLS

As you look for digital resources for your patrons in the face of a closed or restricted physical library, don't forget about the wealth of state and local history available through Recollection Wisconsin!

[Recollection Wisconsin](#) brings together digital cultural heritage resources from Wisconsin libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies and shares them with the world in partnership with the [Digital Public Library of America](#). These primary historical sources are research tools for genealogists and amateur historians as well as social studies teachers and students - and anyone else with an interest in history!

Is a patron looking for past owners of a house or other property? Point them to our rich collection of maps, including [plat maps](#) and [Sanborn maps](#) from cities and counties around the state. Is a student starting a research project on Native Nations of Wisconsin? Try these [collections documenting Indigenous histories](#) as a starting point. Looking for some fun photos while learning a little more about the stories of our state? Check out our [Facebook page](#)! Additionally, consider including Recollection Wisconsin (<https://recollectionwisconsin.org/>) in your online offerings on your website, in your reference work, and on social media.

If you are looking for more information about Recollection Wisconsin, please feel free to [contact us](#) directly, check out our [website](#) and the [collection](#), or subscribe to our [newsletter](#).

## Milton Public Library Friends Group Rises Again

By Ashlee Kunkel, Milton Public Library

I had goals for 2020. But then everyone was slapped in the face with a global pandemic that drop-kicked our plans out the window. Our time was taken up with shutting down libraries, searching for PPE and cleaning supplies, Zoom meetings, worrying about the health of our staff members, and missing our patrons. One of my main goals, that slowly started to develop in 2019, was the relaunch of our Friends of Milton Public Library group. We were making such good progress - had even formed an Executive Board - but that all came to a screeching halt in March when the library's doors locked.

Our Friends group had sadly dwindled to nothing a couple years prior due to poor leadership. Luckily, however, there still remained a comfortable financial base. When I became Director in 2018, I wanted to tackle the project of making it vital again. We had just completed a big, award-winning renovation project and won the 2018 WLA Wisconsin Library of the Year. But to me, we had one noticeable weakness: no Friends group. People wanted to be our Friend, but there was no structure, no leadership, and therefore, no extra financial support. I knew that with a Friends group we could be even better.

What really pushed me to grab the reins again in the middle of a pandemic was the glaring uncertainty of library funding in the years to come. Budgets are most likely going to be cut and difficult decisions will have to be made. I wanted to be able to comfortably rely on an outside funding source for programming (we do A LOT of programming), staff training, and other extras so we can maintain our high level of service and staff enthusiasm for the job. And people have been wanting to support us in a way that makes them feel a part of the library. How could I ignore that?

In June, I called the Executive Board together - virtually, of course - to get things back on track. We're starting off slow with a membership drive to get the word out and to encourage our community to support their library. They also awarded their first-ever scholarship to a graduating senior and received a COVID-19 Impact grant from a local bank. We're figuring out ways to safely hold book sales with online silent auctions and mystery grab bags. When conditions are better, we'll do bigger events. But right now, even the smallest thing is making the biggest difference.

For more information about our Friends group, please visit: <https://www.als.lib.wi.us/MPL/about-us/make-a-difference/friends-of-milton-public-library/>

## Inclusive Services Insights

by Elkid Alvarez Maldonado, Kenosha Public Library

This year has been taxing. Some of us are risking our health in order to go to work. Here in Kenosha, we are working through the reckoning of racial injustice in this country on a painfully local level as we watch the nation scramble to respond. On top of that, it's an election year. Perhaps you, like most of us, are looking for something to do. Anything. So here is what I have found works for me.

**Learn:** I am challenging us to break out of our literary comfort zones a little and actually read a book about anti-racism. Don't just add it to your "to read" list. Add it to your holds. Check it out. Download the audiobook. Open it. Subscribe to podcasts that look at the world in depth through a different lens. I suggest Code Switch or Throughline. Both are produced by NPR.

**Listen:** In lieu of jumping on social media, take a breath, and listen. Instead of favoring the familiar territory of offence or defence, lean into wonder. Wonder about what experience may lead someone to draw conclusions different than your own. If (and only if) you have trust and rapport, invite someone to engage in a one on one conversation via phone or text. Expand your community to include people who see the world differently and welcome the benefit of diversifying your circles to affect how we make our decisions.

**Love (yourself):** Here in the midwest, our world is in the balance. Literally. The days and nights are of equal length during the season of the equinox. It's an invitation for us to do the same. Work hard and be as relentless as necessary, but make sure you are taking good care of your Self and use the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) if your institution has one. As we prepare to enter a season of longer nights and early darkening days, embrace the figurative practice of walking in the dark. All we can do is take it one step at a time and trust we land on something sure.

Pick something and go for it. Discuss what you learn with your colleagues and administrators and look for suggestions on how to best apply it. Feel free to reach out and connect with me if you have any questions. I am always looking for good anti-racism resources and I do love talking about podcasts and books.

Do good, rest often, and read a lot.

For further conversation, Elkid can be reached using the email: [ealvarez@mykpl.info](mailto:ealvarez@mykpl.info)

To learn more about the group, contact the SIG chair, Mark Jochem, at [mjochem@scls.info](mailto:mjochem@scls.info).

## Menominee Public Library Awarded Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant

By Lori Baumgart, Nicolet Federated Library System

The [Menominee Public Library](#) has been awarded a \$149,889 Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Library Director Maria Escalante said "With this grant, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin will create and self-publish a series of books to encourage fluency in and preserve the Menominee language. Library staff will work with a trained immersion teacher to create eight simple books and four picture books in Menominee language with phonetic pronunciation and English translation for young readers."

In addition a book of short stories will be created from writer's workshops hosted by the library. The books will be highlighted during the Kataes esehcekasiq (Let's Do Things Together) Family Program (KEFP). The project will allow books to be purchased and made available to the library, families with infants attending the immersion rooms at the Menominee Tribal daycare, elementary children attending reservation schools, and families that participate in KEFP.

Read more about IMLS grants here: [IMLS Invests \\$5.2 Million in Library Services for Tribal Communities, Native Hawaiians](#)



# No Shirt, No Mask, No Service

*By Michelle Dennis, Hedberg Public Library*

How quickly a simple piece of cloth has become a symbol of safety for some and rebellion for others! The way you respond can make any situation infinitely better when you use your best security skills with positive intention.

Before thinking about masks in particular, think about the old rule: “No Shirt, No Shoes, No Service.” How would you respond if a person came into your space wearing only a bathing suit? Or without a shirt? How about barefoot? Would you panic? Would you become outraged or morally offended? (well depending on the size of the bathing suit...) But seriously, does lacking any of those other “pieces of cloth” require an emotional response? Hopefully, you would simply say “Whoa. You really need a shirt to be here.” and encourage the person to come back when they were dressed. Someone in the library without a mask needs no more response than that. Just as we wear shoes to prevent injury, we wear masks to reduce the risk of harm by exposure. Simple, quick, objective. It’s a fact. It’s our new normal. Most libraries have made success and compliance even easier by offering a free mask to anyone without.

What about when patrons don’t agree? As in every interaction with an unhappy patron, your tone makes all the difference! Whatever you are feeling inside, you make your own life easier when you appear calm and detached. What if, instead of getting upset, you simply put on your biggest smile and greeted the bare faced patron with “Hi there. Do you have your mask with you today? Let me get you one. Do you want cloth or paper?” This is a sales tactic that works well with behavior issues. You distract the person from what they were thinking and guide them to your agenda by asking questions. Keeping your tone light and conversational helps move them along the right path. True story: One of our biggest curmudgeons put on a mask without comment because they were busy answering my questions rather than voicing their argument. Once it was on, the former anti-masker said “I don’t even know why I’m wearing this. Oh well.” and proceeded into the stacks. Success!

Not all resistance goes away easily. Remember, once they refuse, it stops being about the mask and starts being about respecting library rules. Now your library’s plan for disciplinary response comes into play. We follow our Incident Flow to enforce mask wearing in the same way we work with all disrespectful behaviors. We tell the person the expectation and walk away (in this case even providing the tool for success – the mask). If they don’t comply or only partially comply, we remind a second time and stand by while they do. If there is still no change they are asked to leave and try again another day. Most of the time, it takes just a reminder or two. Witnesses to these interactions regularly give us positive feedback and thanks for a pleasant library visit.

Hedberg Library staff have helped to normalize masks by acknowledging those who DO have them on. We admire interesting designs and coordinated outfits and praise families for masking up to come to the library. After doing a brief training on the technique of ‘extinction of behavior’ I watched a staff member keep chatting with a family wearing superhero masks while silently handing a paper mask to someone trying to enter without. That patron looked at the staff member, looked at the family, smiled and put the mask on. Perfect!

Using best practices for security keeps your staff, your library and your patrons on the path to positive interactions. We may miss seeing each other’s smiles, but in the long run, being treated well and having library rules followed makes life easier for us all. Be clear and expect the best from both patrons and staff and you will rarely be disappointed!

# Bridges Library System receives 2020 John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award

*By Jill Fuller, Bridges Library System*

The Bridges Library System has been named as one of the recipients of the American Library Association's 2020 John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award for its coordination and implementation of a Library Card Signup Month advertising campaign in September 2019. The multi-library system campaign, which included the Lakeshores and Milwaukee County library systems, encouraged residents to get a library card by highlighting the direct personal benefits that library services and materials provide, such as an enhanced quality of life, convenience, and cost savings. Using radio ads, social media ads, and billboards throughout southeastern Wisconsin, the campaign promoted a library card as "Your Borrow, Don't Buy Card," "Your Read On the Go Card," "Your Learn Something New Card," and more.



**YOUR  
Borrow, Don't Buy  
CARD**

[GetYourLibraryCard.org](http://GetYourLibraryCard.org)

"Bridges Library System is honored to be selected for this award," said Bridges Library System director Karol Kennedy. "The Library Card Sign-up Month campaign helped us raise awareness of the wide array of services and resources available at our libraries, especially to those who may not be regular library users. Receiving the John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award for these efforts is just icing on the cake."

The annual award honors eight outstanding library public relations projects per year. The library system will receive a \$10,000 grant provided by the H.W. Wilson Foundation and be honored, along with fellow 2020 winners, at a reception held by EBSCO Information Services at the 2021 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

## CVTC 2020 Graduates

*By Jennifer Cook, Chippewa Valley Technical College*

The CVTC Library and Information Services program is proud to honor our Spring/Summer 2020 graduates! They finished strong in a semester when everything changed overnight. Several of our newest graduates had a portion of their mentorship cancelled and we had to pivot and provide additional learning opportunities for them. Several of our wonderful Wisconsin library directors helped our students out and provided some virtual mentoring. We are thankful to our library community for stepping in and offering that support. Although CVTC was unable to hold in-person graduations, we honored our graduates virtually and on our social media pages.

Our graduates include:  
April Hopkins-Canada  
Dain Frisby-Dart  
Jenna Champan  
Briah Krueger  
Sarah Fink

Congratulations!  
For more information on the CVTC LIS degree see: <https://www.cvtc.edu/academics/programs/library-information-services>



### WHAT ARE YOUR POST-GRADUATION PLANS?

I am working on finishing my fifth book and planning to further my education with a bachelor's degree in English.

### WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO CHOOSE YOUR PROGRAM?

As a self-published author and a lover of reading books, libraries have always been close to my heart and passions, so when I stumbled upon this program, it felt like a natural fit!

### WHAT HAS COVID-19 TAUGHT YOU?

I have most certainly learned how much we deeply need optimism in this world, especially when it feels like there isn't any. Be the light whenever you can.

### WHAT IS YOUR BEST STUDY HACK?

You can't beat a good cup of coffee!

### HOW DID YOU CELEBRATE BEING A CVTC GRAD?

I think I celebrated by watching some NBC Community on Hulu and decorating the living room with graduation decor (Thanks Mom!).

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**VOLUNTEER  
OPPORTUNITIES**

Get the full experience of being a WLA member... volunteer!

Becoming a volunteer allows library professionals to develop leadership skills, create professional development opportunities, expand career networks, and learn more about your Association. It also plays an important role in advancing the mission of the Association and benefiting libraries throughout the state. If you are interested in volunteering, send your message to [wla@wisconsinlibraries.org](mailto:wla@wisconsinlibraries.org); include in the subject line, "WLA Volunteer." Thanks for your continued support.

**YOU'RE  
NEWSWORTHY!**

Submit news, ideas, updates, and stories for the 2020 Winter WLA Newsletter to editor Colleen Hallfrisch at [hallfrischc@uwosh.edu](mailto:hallfrischc@uwosh.edu).



[edu](mailto:edu) by November 30, 2020.

# Door County Library to Participate in the NEA Big Read

*By Tina Kakuske, Door County Library*

Door County Library is one of 6 libraries in Wisconsin and 84 nationwide to be awarded an NEA Big Read grant for the 2020-2021 season. All eight branches will participate in bringing the book "Station Eleven" by Emily St. John Mandel to the Door County and online community of readers. The National Endowment for the Arts Big Read, a partnership with Arts Midwest, broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.

Door County boasts a rich literary, performing and visual arts community and the book stresses the value of the arts in sustaining the human spirit during trying times. Certainly, this rings true in Door County where we see the value of the arts in sustaining both our seasonal and year-round communities.

Multiple book discussions will anchor the 2-week event which will feature three theater companies performing play readings, presentations and panels with University of Wisconsin Green Bay educators, physical and virtual art installations, art and nature discovery, and writing workshops.

The NEA Big Read: Door County is a collaborative effort with many partners and colleagues from multiple disciplines. We hope, with this variety of offerings, to touch lives and engage the residents of Door County and beyond in a shared experience at a time when the current world situation makes us realize that community is more important than ever, even when we are unable to gather together.

All events will be virtual and will kick off on January 30, 2021. In the upcoming months, be sure to visit the Door County Library website at [doorcountylibrary.org](http://doorcountylibrary.org) or [doorcountytoreads.org](http://doorcountytoreads.org) for more information and how to join us online for this exciting event.

"NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest."

