Collaborate

MLA collaborates with and engages individuals and organizations of the Maryland library community to strengthen Maryland libraries.

Objective 1
Engage existing, new, and potential MLA members in organizational activities, including participating in working groups; pursuing leadership opportunities; incorporating strategies to enhance equity, diversity, and inclusion; and onboarding and succession planning.

Objective 2
Partner with other state- and nation-wide organizations in initiatives that further MLA’s values and mission.
Advocate

MLA advocates tirelessly for libraries, library staff, and library values.

Objective 1
Empower MLA members with advocacy skills, and equip members with knowledge of Maryland and federal legislation, and aspects of government that affect libraries and their future.

Objective 2
Support library leaders and members in upholding and advocating for the core values of libraries including access to information, confidentiality/privacy; democracy; equity, diversity and inclusion; intellectual freedom; social responsibility; and workplace wellness.

Objective 3
Ensure MLA’s Legislative Panel monitors legislation impacting libraries; attends hearings and gives testimony in support of libraries; maintains frequent contact with elected officials; and keeps MLA membership informed of legislative issues impacting libraries.
MLA provides accessible, diverse, and high-quality educational opportunities to members of the Maryland library community.

**Objective 1**
Increase the convenience, affordability, diversity, and accessibility of MLA’s professional development and training opportunities and initiatives, including the annual Conference, through regular evaluation using an equity, diversity, and inclusion lens.

**Objective 2**
Demonstrate the value of MLA membership and participation to potential members, including support staff, part-time staff, students, retirees, and trustees through enhanced marketing efforts.

**Objective 3**
Educate existing, new, and potential members on successfully navigating MLA involvement.

**Objective 4**
Prepare MLA members for roles as MLA officers through training and mentorship.

**Objective 5**
Provide training to develop skills Maryland library workers may use to advocate for and empower themselves to best serve their communities.
What we value:

Equity, diversity, and inclusion, ensuring all members feel they belong and can be active contributors.

A spirit of collaboration, transparency, and empowerment.

Supporting Maryland library users according to the Library Bill of Rights.

Seeking out information and striving for continuous improvement.