Transformation

Digital Literacy

Powered by a contribution from AT&T, PLA awarded $1.27 million to more than 200 public libraries across 45 states to host digital literacy and Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) workshops. The PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentives, supported by AT&T, support public libraries in their work improving digital skills, closing the digital divide, and promoting broadband adoption among families and communities. The workshops leverage online digital literacy courses, created by PLA in collaboration with AT&T, that are freely available to anyone through DigitalLearn.org and AT&T ScreenReady. DigitalLearn.org online courses and training materials were developed with and for library staff and their patrons.

The second cohort was part of an expanded national initiative and collaboration between PLA and AT&T. In 2022, 160 libraries were selected to be part of the PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentive, supported by AT&T. The initial group of libraries held more than 1,500 workshops which helped over 8,000 learners build skills and confidence using technology. This new cohort increased the number of learners libraries can reach, while teaching basic technology skills such as internet use, video conferencing, cybersecurity, and ACP basics. PLA is planning to launch the third round of incentives in July.

PLA also partnered with Heartland Forward to create a four-part training module on DigitalLearn.org. The new course, Getting Started with Telehealth, is designed to help

number of qualifying categories for applicants. More than 100 scholarship recipients were awarded complimentary conference registration, one year of ALA/PLA membership, and a travel stipend of $750 for those attending the conference in-person. Recipients also took advantage of special networking opportunities including meeting with and learning from TikTok sensation and library advocate Mychal Threets.

Online Learning

PLA continued to offer the best online learning for public library staff and supporters, with 33 webinars (12 paid, 21 free) presented to over 8,500 people. Highlights included a focus on accessible programming, inclusive services, and supportive staffing in our most popular paid

happening in public libraries today and offers a great opportunity to get involved.

strategies for helping people develop information literacy skills. Hosted by DC Public Library, speakers explored topics such as how to make information literacy skills training more compelling for communities, what collaboration is needed across stakeholder groups, as well as the role of libraries and library professionals in this vital work.

PLA expanded our work with AT&T to provide media and marketing templates to support

o bimonthly magazine, *Public Libraries*, continues to serve as a crucial resource to more than 8,000 members and 500 subscribers, covering topics from library leadership to data-driven decision making to powerful partnerships.

Public Libraries *Public Libraries*

PL

PLA continues to provide valuable resources to enhance family engagement in libraries. Released in spring 2024, PLA and ALSC published the new digital edition of the Every Child Ready to Read® (ECRR) toolkit, which enables public libraries and other early literacy centers to present workshops that help prepare parents/caregivers for their critical role as their child's first teacher. The workshops demonstrate how parents, grandparents, childcare providers, and preschool teachers can use five simple research-based practices talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing to develop language and pre-reading skills in children from birth to age five. Early Literacy Calendar continues to be a popular tool for libraries. It is available in both English and Spanish versions and caters to a diverse range of libraries and communities.

PLA has also been working on a new publication titled *Navigating Crises in Public Libraries - Trauma-Informed De-Escalation Tips*. This forthcoming book aims to provide practical guidance for library workers on responding in a trauma-informed manner, de-escalation techniques, and effective responses to verbal altercations and crisis situations, promoting a safe and supportive library environment.

Organizational Excellence

columnist for *Public Libraries* magazine, and the recipient of the 2017 Library Journal Movers and Shakers Award. Also elected to the PLA board as directors-at-large were Laura McGrath, Deputy Director, Skokie (IL) Public Library, and Padma Polepeddi, A