The Utah Library Association advocates for libraries and cultivates leadership development to promote library excellence for the Utah library community.

We hope you find the Utah Library Association to be an organization that makes a difference for you, for Utah librarians, for Utah Libraries, and for the citizens of Utah.

Utah Library Association
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A 501(c)3 non-profit organization. www.ula.org

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What if we were able to act according to the best version of ourselves? There is so much latent potential in all of us. Because we are not doing well in a certain area, we often just assume it will always be so. We discount ourselves, opt out, or refrain from opportunities out of fear. If we could understand the full potential we truly have, what would we do to grow?

At our upcoming conference, I hope you will consider how you can Grow with Intention and view yourself in terms of your progress and your incredible potential. We have some wonderful invited speakers coming, including a pre-conference with several professors from Utah State University who will talk about mindset and happiness, and another pre-conference on growing in empathy. A panel of amazing Utah library leaders will talk about growing in leadership. Tracie Hall, the ALA Executive Director, will speak on intentional librarianship and confronting the opportunities and challenges in libraries. Carmen Agra Deedy, a children’s author and storyteller, will deliver our lunch keynote. We are so grateful to all of you who are presenting and are willing to share your knowledge and skills with us. This conference will give us plenty of opportunities to learn, grow and connect with colleagues.

This year in ULA has been a wonderful growing experience for me, apropos of the theme. I am very grateful to Rita Christensen, Patrick Hoecherl, and Mindy Hale, who have worked tirelessly this year and and sacrificed for ULA. Jenn McKague, Dory Rosenberg, Elizabeth King, Nena Schvaneveldt and the entire Conference Committee have worked so hard to put this conference together. Thank you so much for your work and dedication. It’s been a privilege to serve with all of you and the board.
2023 Legislative Session
Holding the Line

The 2023 Legislative session concluded on March 3rd without the passage of any significant anti-library bills. We're happy to report that HB464 and HB138, the two most egregious bills that would have amplified the damage of 2022's “Sensitive Materials” bill (HB374), didn't make it across the finish line. HB464 ("School Materials Amendments"), sponsored by Representative Ken Ivory, would have created civil penalties for school districts and forced the implementation of a rating system like ratedbooks.org. HB138 ("Sensitive Material Requirements"), sponsored by Representative Ballard and Senator Lincoln Fillmore, would have allowed for canceling contracts with education publishers/vendors "without any penalty or any further financial obligation."

We were able to keep these bills from moving forward as a result of excellent lobbying efforts provided by the Utah Cultural Alliance (ULA is a UCA Member), as well as coalition support of our “Let Utah Read” partners, PEN America, and the ACLU of Utah. The Let Utah Read “Read-In” at the State Capitol, and the “Freadom Forum”, which was led by our partners at the Utah Alliance Coalition, were key in generating press, building awareness, and positioning Utahns to reach out to their representatives to voice their opposition to censorship bills.

In addition to the bills that we helped to kill, two library-related bills passed, and in both cases the sponsors worked collaboratively with librarians to improve them and mitigate negative impact to librarians. Advocacy Co-Chair Rebekah Cummings, in her capacity as Chair of the State Library Board, worked with Representative Dan Johnson over the last year on his “Public Library Background Check Requirements” bill (HB284) to ensure that it did not create any undue burdens on public libraries. In the end, the bill passed with a fiscal note that provided funding to help smaller rural libraries implement pre-employment background checks if they are not already conducting them. Likewise, we worked with Representative Welton to greatly improve his “Public School Library Transparency Amendments” bill (HB465), and Senator Fillmore made changes to his “Public School Instructional Material Requirements” bill (SB55) to shield library database vendors from onerous reporting requirements.

While we were successful in preventing the most egregious of bills moving forward, there was a loss of $765,000 of designated funds for school library materials. Early in the session the Public Education Appropriations SubCommittee redesignated the funds, which had previously been restricted to spending on “School Library Books & Electronic Resources”, into a general fund. While these funds were not eliminated, the requirement to use them exclusively for school library resources has been lifted. LEAs (Local Education Authorities, AKA School Districts) now have the discretion to spend these funds in other areas.
**Summary of Library-Related Bills**

**2023 Legislative Session**

### Passed

**HB284 Public Library Background Check Requirements**
- ULA Supported this bill
- Librarians worked hand in hand with Rep. Johnson over the last year to craft it.
- Almost all public libraries (except some small rural) already do background checks
- This bill provides $$ for those small rural libraries to implement.

**SB55 Public School Instructional Material Requirements**
- This bill as written could have had an unintended consequence of requiring library research databases that contain current periodical/newspaper articles to notify LEAs every time there was a new article.
- The sponsors were willing to make a small language change in a substitute bill to address this issue.

**HB465 Public School Library Transparency Amendments**
- Initially, a very problematic bill, but in the end we did not oppose it because the problematic parts were struck in the First Substitute.
  - **Requires Online Platform for Parents to see what's checked out** (School librarians report that this is already possible.)
  - **ADDED**: Longer timeline for schools to comply; a commitment by Rep. Welton to do future funding “request for appropriations” (RFA) if needed.
  - **STRUCK in FIRST SUB**: Requires parental notification if student checks out a book that is “subject of a review under this section”: This functionality is not built into current systems; don’t know of any systems that have it; the cost of moving to a new platform is not insignificant in staff time, migration, documentation, training.
  - **STRUCK in FIRST SUB**: Requires Immediate Removal of books w/o evaluation: “immediately remove the material from the library, classroom, or other location where students may access the material until the LEA completes the review and makes the determination”
This bill went through many iterations (seven substitutes) and all versions had problematic content for libraries including language that would have led to increase in materials being pulled from shelves of school libraries, the censoring of specific sections/chapters of books, and the canceling of contracts with library vendors for providing educational materials.

- Requires Eliminating the chapter or section of the instructional material containing the sensitive material from the LEA’s curriculum (92-93)

**HB138: Sensitive Material Requirements** (originally: DIGITAL SCHOOL CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS)

- Would have required Immediate Removal of books, upon any complaint, w/o an evaluation
- Created a legal status of materials that are of “serious concern” (without a full evaluation of the value of those materials)
- Required parental consent for access for anything that has been rated of “serious concern” by State School Board (based on the rating system that they establish)
- Prevented the acquisition of “sensitive materials” by LEAs and schools;
- Created New Ratings Requirements to Include: “at least language, criminal activity, self-harm, drug use, suicidal ideation and sexual content, including sexuality and gender identity;” How will these ratings be arrived at, and how will they be used in the future to restrict access? This will require an incredible amount of staff time and resources.

**HB464: School Materials Amendments**

Peter Bromberg
Advocacy Committee Co-Chair
Hello ULA Members,

I am your chapter councilor to the American Library Association (ALA).

What is ALA, you might be asking? It is the largest and oldest library association in the world. Founded in 1876 during the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, ALA's mission is “to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.”

ALA Council in 2015 adopted a new strategic plan (updated in 2017) that has the following four strategic directions:

- Advocacy
- Information Policy
- Professional and Leadership Development
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

To read more, please go to: www.ALA.org/aboutala/

So what does this mean for you and me?

It means that we have representation through ULA as a Chapter of the American Library Association and have a seat on the decision making body. It also means we can access resources of the association, such as the Office for Intellectual Freedom when we have book challenges and need legal advice. We can invite an ALA affiliated speaker to deliver an address at one of our conferences. We have had ALA presidents speak at our conferences, most recently Patty Wong last year.

It also means we have representatives of ALA working in the US Congress to help pass legislation and funding for us, like LSTA grants. ALA also helps us fight legislation that would harm libraries, library workers or the freedom to read.

We also have access to a myriad of pamphlets, books, programs and opportunities. Attending an ALA conference, or participating in one of its many divisions and roundtables gives us networking and educational opportunities. And that is just to name a few benefits.

Like any association, you get what you put into it. The more we participate as a state or individual, the more we benefit. We can submit names and institutions for awards, participate on many, many committees (ALA even has a committee on committees) or get involved in a division of ALA, like PLA, ACRL, etc... They have more acronyms than any organization I am a part of!

I have learned so much in the past 2 years and appreciate the time, effort, genuine concern and care that our ALA leadership has for us. The council meetings are forums where everyone can speak and share their opinions. Changes are coming to the makeup and organization but I believe Chapter Councilors will always have a voice. I have one more year left in my term as a councilor and hope to continue to represent you well. I sit on the PBA, Planning and Budget Assembly, and as a representative to the Freedom to Read Foundation. I also serve as chair of the RUSA BRASS (Business Reference in Public Libraries) Committee for a few more months.

If anyone wants to serve on a committee or be more involved you can go to:

Committees, Volunteer Resources & Opportunities | About ALA

Trish Hull
ALA Chapter Councilor
Kearns Library
I have the pleasure of introducing you to Erin Warnick, ULA’s new President Elect. Erin is the Children’s Librarian at the American Fork Library, where she has worked since 2012. She has a BS in English Lit from UVU and an MLS from Emporia State University. Let’s jump into my conversation with Erin, so you can all learn more about my new BFF (and maybe make a new BFF yourself).

Where are you from? (Where did you grow up and where have you lived?)
I grew up in Orem, Utah. I remember when I was younger there were apple orchards everywhere. I currently live in Pleasant Grove.

What are some of your favorite things?
I love to travel. I just got back from a 9-day road trip with my sister where we visited 4 National Parks and 2 National Monuments. I have a goal to visit every National Park in the United States. I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, and trying new places to eat. One of my favorite things that I’ve done is give my kids a year of experiences for their Christmas present. We went to a bunch of different events, took short trips, and made a lot of fun memories.

I have the same goal! Will you tell me about your favorite National Park and why you like it?
Zion. I used to visit every year. I love the rock formations, and the diversity of landscape. One morning I went with my daughter. It was lightly raining and the park was almost empty. It was so magical; there was just this sense of serenity.
I want to hear more about the type of restaurants you like as well.
I like to try new sushi places. Tsunami is one of my favorites. The first time I went there I ordered the cococabana roll. I didn't realize the sauce it came with was habanero so I dunked it right in. My husband said my face looked just like a cartoon where the steam comes out of the character's ears!

How did you become a librarian?
I was working at Public Works when the Children's Librarian position opened up. I didn't have any experience in libraries, but I have always been passionate about reading and libraries so I decided to take a chance and apply for it. For part of my interview I was asked to do a storytime for a group of preschoolers on the first day of class. It was chaotic. I thought that there was no way I would get the position after that. Two days later, the Library Director came to my office and offered me the job. Later, she encouraged me to go back to school to get my MLS. I've been here ever since.

Tell me about a funny experience from your job.
During summer reading we would challenge the kids to meet a certain reading goal during one week of the program. When they met that goal, Lori Bonner and I would do something ridiculous to reward them. One year, we decided that it would be funny if we threw a pie in each other's faces. So, we put on plastic garbage bags and shower caps and we each threw a chocolate pudding pie in each other's face.

What do you enjoy most about your job?
It's hard to choose. I love connecting with the patrons and getting to know them and their families. I also love helping a new reader find a book that they are excited to read. Especially kids– seeing their face light up when you tell them about a book that they might be interested in and seeing them immediately open it and start reading because they just can’t wait. I also really enjoy programming. I have fun planning and implementing family programs, storytimes, and afterschool programs.

What are some highlights from your library experience?
My assistant and I were the recipients of the Utah Valley University’s Engaged Reader Award for our improvements to our summer reading program.
When I first started working at the library, there was a boy that did not like reading. It was the middle of summer reading, you know, when you're in deep and you can't see the light at the end of the tunnel, and this boy's mom came up to me and told me that because of our program it motivated her son to read. It made me so happy. After summer reading I would see him ride his bike to the library to get more books. He's now 18 years old and is still an avid reader.

Do you have a favorite program you've done?
We did an Alice and Wonderland Down the Rabbit Hole Program. We made a rabbit hole that went from upstairs all the way down to the basement and covered the lights so it was all purple and gave the illusion of floating. We even attached furniture to walls.

Project you are most proud of:
We used to charge for storytime and summer reading. While I was in library school, I approached my director with the idea that we shouldn't be charging for these services. At first, there was a little pushback. We tried to have the Friends of the Library supplement the cost of those that couldn’t afford to pay, but that didn’t work. Eventually, I was able to convince my director that we should eliminate the fee for storytime and summer reading.
What do you love about libraries?
That they make a difference in people’s lives. Whether it’s by finding a book that speaks to them, connecting them with a resource, teaching them something new through a program, or by providing a safe space, libraries are the heart of their communities. Also, most people that come to the library are happy to be here.

"... helping a new reader find a book that they are excited to read. Especially kids– seeing their face light up when you tell them about a book that they might be interested in and seeing them immediately open it and start reading because they just can’t wait."

What positions have you held in ULA (if any)?
Member – Youth Services Round Table
Vice Chair – Youth Services Round Table
Chair – Youth Services Round Table
Member – Copyright Committee
Member – Intellectual Freedom Committee
Vice Chair – Public Section
Chair – Public Section

You’ve served in so many positions. What inspired you to get involved and volunteer your time?
I attended several youth services workshops and I was impressed with the camaraderie, the collaboration, and the opportunity to meet other librarians. Just seeing the value I thought, I want to be part of that. I want to help others and make them feel comfortable and help them find what they need. When I first started my job I had a lot of imposter syndrome. I thought I’d made the worst mistake of my life. ULA provided a place I could find support when I needed it and I wanted to provide that for others.

I can’t think of a better endorsement for ULA. Thanks Erin for taking the time to talk to me and thanks for serving as our next President Elect.

Patrick Hoecherl
President-Elect
Salt Lake City Public Library

How has your ULA membership and participation been valuable to you?
My first experience with ULA was when I first started at the library. I had been at my job for two weeks when my director came to me and told me that she had registered me for the Fall Workshop. I had no idea what to expect. Honestly, I was feeling extremely overwhelmed and wondering if I had made a huge mistake. That year, Fall Workshop was held at the Springville Library. I attended a story time presentation and a presentation with Wanda Huffaker on Intellectual Freedom. I was in awe. I learned so much that helped me in my new position and met so many wonderful and supportive people. Over the years, through ULA, I have had an amazing opportunity to collaborate with other librarians, attend multiple conferences and workshops, and be a part of an organization that is supportive of librarians and the libraries they serve.
STORAGE AND ACCESS OPTIONS FOR ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

We are all comfortable with ordering books from an online source, like Amazon, and having them delivered to us. Could a similar model work in an academic library? Is there something important about having books available on open shelves or would it be better to implement a model where resources are discovered and ordered through an online tool and then delivered to a place where the patron picks them up?

If we admit it, perhaps we have a little of the perspective described by Barclay, “that the presence of large numbers of printed books creates something—a vibe, an ambiance, a holiness—that engenders scholarly behavior among the student body” (2010, p. 52).

While there is a certain beauty in displaying many of the wonderful books our libraries have, are we confusing our patrons by mixing the option to physically browse with the fact that other resources are only discoverable through electronic tools?

Of course, there is no one-size-fits-all solution for storing library collections, but thinking through the options may help us to implement the best combination to meet the needs of our patrons and the physical constraints of our facilities. A good description of options can be found here:

Academic libraries of tomorrow: 4 models for storing your collections.

https://www.stantec.com/en/ideas/market/mining/academic-libraries-of-tomorrow-4-models-for-storing-your-collections

Dan Broadbent
BYU Library

Reference

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Learn more at emporia.edu/slim.
Salt Lake City Public Library

Celebrating 125 Years

Salt Lake City Public Library is celebrating 125 years. This year marks the 125th anniversary of the opening of The Salt Lake City Public Library, and the 20th anniversary of the Main Library. All year long, we’ll be celebrating our continued legacy as a citywide institution. From our humble beginnings as a small reading room in 1898, to the present with seven neighborhood branches and the landmark Main Library, to the future as we plan for a new branch. We look forward to many more years serving our friends and neighbors in the Salt Lake City community.

Hired

Rita Baguio Christensen: Rita Christensen, ULA Past President, has been hired as Salt Lake City Public Library’s new Staff Development Coordinator. She supports the organizational development, culture, and equity work of the library and champions the City Library’s culture of learning and works to coordinate high quality training and professional development opportunities for staff throughout the organization.
Duchesne County Library

Grand Opening

Duchesne County Library is grand opening its new Roosevelt Branch on Saturday, April 22. A short ceremony will be held at 10:00 AM followed by treats, tours, mementos, and other activities. The library soft-opened for business on January 30, but has still been installing the final touches leading up to the spring season.

This new $6 million, 16,700 square foot project replaces the old 4,350 square foot Roosevelt Library which was constructed in 1986 by Roosevelt City. The library serves the largest city in Duchesne County and some next-door residents of Ballard in Uintah County, around 8,000 total residents. The library broke ground in July 2021 and completed construction at the very end of 2022. The new facility improves greatly on what the library has to offer the community and facilitates a better work environment for the staff.

Many of the new features were ideas that were seen in other great Utah libraries and scaled down to meet the project's budget. They include:

- A community room that can seat 200 at tables and chairs (The room has a partition wall to separate the room in half, facilitating simultaneous events. Each half of the room has a sound system, projector, and screen for presentations. One half also includes a warming kitchenette.)
- An exterior patio with picnic tables and space for events to extend to the exterior of the building
- A conference room seating 10 at a large table with a whiteboard and connections to a large presentation TV
- A study room seating 4 with connections to a large presentation TV
- Small tech lab introducing a 3D printer, Cricut machine, and Meeting Owls for patron use
- Larger children’s space for story time and play space with caregivers
- Mother’s room including toys for small children and a computer
- Teen nook with computers and power connections
- Work tables with power connections scattered around the library
- 50-stall parking lot
- 50% more shelving
- Faux-fireplace
- Lobby with art display infrastructure installed
- Small manager offices
- Larger staff workroom
- Staff break room
- Self-checkout stations
Grand Opening

Many thanks go to Roosevelt City who sold two ball fields for the library’s location and publicly supported the project, to Commissioner Greg Todd who made many efforts to network and help fund the project, to the Roosevelt Branch staff and manager Stephen Moon who worked very hard during the challenging move in the dead of the heavy January 2023 winter, and to the Permanent Community Impact Board which supplied a $3.9 million loan for 30 years at 0.5% and an additional $1.3 million grant for the project. The building was designed by Jones and DeMille Engineering and Campbell Architecture. The construction was overseen by BHI. The grand opening event is also funded by a grant through the Utah State Library Division by Comcast and an additional grant from the Utah Department of Cultural and Community Engagement.

Duchesne County Library invites you to the grand opening or anytime you can come and visit in our neck of the Uintah Basin.

Daniel Mauchley
Duchesne County Library System

NEW from Will Terry, Past ULA Keynote Speaker

These features already led to 5,000 visits in February (the highest ever in a February and the highest since summer 2019’s record months). Homeschool families and other remote working adults have begun using the various study tables and rooms. Community groups and classes are lining up to borrow the community room space including a board game community, a quilting guild, a parenting course, a chess club, service projects, student test prep, local committee and business association meetings, and more. In short, the library has transformed from a collection warehouse to a growing community heart.

[Image of Pickleball Paul]

Pickleball Paul
pickleball-paul.com
10% OFF code:
picklebill

Bill Knopp
Direct Sales Manager
208 481 0312
bknopp@yahoo.com

Ask me about our affiliate program!
New ULA Members!

The ULA community, Executive Board, and staff are pleased to welcome our newest ULA members. We are looking forward to seeing what new ideas and contributions you bring to ULA and hope you thrive here.

Sarah Arnold
Rachel Atkinson
Patrick Bates
Marisa Bell
Rachel Biggerstaff
EJ Cáceres
Noel Case
Melanie Chao
Katie Clark
Molly Cluff
Chris Davis
Sergio De Chazal
Meledie Denhalter
Karlene Eberth
Kelsey Grierson-Long
Tandra Griffiths
Irene Hansen
Rachel Helps
Erika Hill
Alexis Howlett
Rachel Lambourne
Jessica Lancaster
Saia Langi
Shannon Magleby
Tiffany Miller
Lynnette Mills
Shannon Moedl
Anika Nacey
Samantha Nunn
LeGrand Olsen
Emily Perkins
Toni Pilcher
Alexa Powell
Jodi Robinson
Hillary Schmutz
Jacob Siriani
Melissa Snow Prince
Karen Sturtevant
Megan Summers
Go Taira
Tania Taylor
Elaine Thornton
Tyler Thorsted
Ashley Tolman
Taylor Van Roekel
Sadie Webster
Judith Weeks
Terresa Wellborn
Kori Williams
Mackenzie Wood

Renew Your Membership

Remember you can renew and pay for your ULA Membership renewal online by logging in to ula.wildapricot.org.

Click on “Join Us”, then select your Membership Category. Your receipt will be sent to the email you list in your membership.

What's On at Your Library?

Utah Libraries is happy to publish announcements of library-related exhibits, lectures, open houses, tours, and other events.

Send announcements to Mindy Hale at mhale@ula.org. We publish issues in September, November, February, and April (Annual Conference Issue).
April Strategic Plan Update

I have a few Strategic plan updates for all of you this month. First you can see some highlights from Unit Reports [here](#). The highlights include information on recent advocacy efforts.

Rita Christensen, Marissa Bischoff, Patrick Hoecherl, and Allison SPEhar presenting a culture award to Rep. Mark Wheatley at Library Day on the Hill.

**For those of you interested in more comprehensive coverage, [click here](#) for all unit updates.**

Finally, we are almost a year into the strategic plan so we have started looking into developing metrics to measure how successful we have been in making progress on our goals. Heidi Fendrick and Molly Cozzens from the Assessment Round Table have generously volunteered their time to look at the post conference survey to see if we can streamline the current questions and then add in a few related to the strategic plan. Look for an updated survey after the conference in May! We will also be implementing some simple post event assessments to track attendance and impact. If you attend a smaller event like a Year of Learning Meet-Up, expect to receive a few follow up questions about it so we know if we are hitting the mark for you.

Patrick Hoecherl
ULA Past-President
Salt Lake City Public Library
Strategic Directions

**MISSION:** ULA Cultivates professional development, connections, and inclusivity to promote strong Utah libraries.

**VISION:** We are the heart of our profession, circulating knowledge and creating connections.

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**STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

**ADVOCACY**
- People who care about libraries are equipped for advocacy work.
- Decision-makers, partners, and residents understand the value of libraries.

**OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT**
- ULA has extended reach throughout the state by engaging new members.
- Current members feel deeply connected to other members and increasingly engaged with ULA.

**EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP**
- Utah library staff members have the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed for job success.
- Utah residents and students look to their libraries for innovation and leadership.

**EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION**
- ULA has diverse membership and leadership.
- Utah libraries are equitable and inclusive.

**ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH**
- ULA has appropriate staffing, membership, and funding to achieve our mission.
- ULA enables their leadership with tools and support for effective governance.

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**SUCCESS MEANS**

**ADVOCACY**
- Empowered library professionals and patrons, greater local and state funding for libraries, better public understanding of the value of libraries.
- Stakeholders seek more ways to support libraries, either through advocacy, funding, volunteering, or usage.

**OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT**
- A larger community of passionate members who are growing together as professionals.
- Idea-sharing, collaborations, friendships, and innovations.

**EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP**
- Confident library professionals enjoying their work and making an impact in their communities.
- Libraries evolve to meet emerging needs in their communities and bring fresh ideas to their stakeholders.

**EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION**
- A ULA community that boasts many cultures and perspectives and strives for equitable opportunities.
- Libraries committed to breaking down barriers between community members and library services.

**ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH**
- Success means ULA has robust operations through growth of staff, funding, members, and services.
- All facets of the organization are aligned and efficient, leading to easier staff on-boarding and decision making.
MAY 17-19, 2023
DAVIS CONFERENCE CENTER
LAYTON, UTAH

2023 Conference Schedule

For more information
2023 Annual Conference

KEYNOTE

Tracie Hall
ALA Executive Director

Carmen Agra Deedy
Author and Storyteller
## 2023 ULA Conference Rates

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Support ULA. Purchase items that include our 2023 Grow with Intention logo. [Shop now!](#)
"Libraries always remind me that there are good things in this world."

Lauren Ward