

Make the Case to Attend

MARCH 29-31, 2026

2026



CULTIVATING COMMUNITY
THRIVING TOGETHER

TLA★**2026**

TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

HOUSTON ★ MARCH 29-31

www.txla.org

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Join us at TLA 2026!

I am so excited to invite each of you to the 2026 TLA Annual Conference.

This annual gathering is a time for library workers from across the state to gather together for professional development, networking, and connection, but those words can't possibly encompass the magic of the TLA conference.

The 2026 theme, "Cultivating Community, Thriving Together," speaks to that magic and what the conference offers to each of you. It was inspired by TLA members and their libraries across the state and all that they bring to the organization and profession: the wide range of ideas, backgrounds, and experiences.

Each of these is valuable and important individually, and when you put them together you see that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. That whole is our incredible library community.

My hope is that when you join us in Houston, no matter the stage of your career or professional development, you will find what you need to help you thrive – whether it be in the education and ideas, the networking and connection, or the support and strength.

I can't wait to welcome you to Houston and the 2026 Annual Conference in March!

Sincerely

Valerie Prilop

TLA President 2025-2026

Join Us at TLA 2026 Where Library Joy Lives!

Brandi Grant, MLS

TLA 2026 Conference Planning Committee Co-Chair



We invite you to the Texas Library Association Conference 2026, a transformative experience that is about library joy—reigniting passion, purpose, and possibility in every corner of our profession. This year, we’re embracing the theme “Cultivating Community, Thriving Together,” a reflection of our commitment to building strong connections and growing as one powerful voice for libraries.

We know the past few years have brought challenges—tight budgets, legislative pressures, and growing demands on your time and energy. TLA 2026 will be a salve for the heart, a place where you can breathe, restore, and remember why you do what you do. It’s more than a conference; it’s a community of support, mentorship, and empowerment—a safe space where librarians from across Texas and beyond unite to share ideas, celebrate victories, and lift one another up.

Expect dynamic keynote speakers, thought-provoking sessions, innovative exhibits, and countless opportunities to connect. Whether you’re a first-time attendee or a seasoned pro, you’ll discover tools, strategies, and friendships that will sustain you long after the conference ends.

TLA 2026 is the ultimate professional learning community—bigger, bolder, and more inspiring than ever before. Let’s come together to learn, laugh, and lead the way into the future of libraries.

Mark your calendar and join us. Because when librarians gather, magic happens.



Welcome to the TLA 2026 Annual Conference

Kate McNally Carter

TLA 2026 Conference Planning Committee Co-Chair



I am so excited to welcome all librarians and library workers to the TLA 2026 Annual Conference! Our theme, “Cultivating Community, Thriving Together,” encourages us to consider ways in which we might foster meaningful connections among each other as well as the various communities we serve. Together, we can collaborate and learn from one another through shared expertise and resources. This year’s conference includes a variety of programs that will introduce you to new knowledge and practical strategies that you can bring back to your library.

TLA Annual Conference is a fantastic place to find support and build a network that will help you thrive in your own library! In addition to the wide array of educational programs, there are many social and networking opportunities for you to find others with similar interests. Annual Conference is also a great place to learn how you can get involved with the Association and get the most out of your TLA membership.

This is the first time in many years that we’ve hosted TLA in my hometown of Houston, and I hope you are as excited as I am to enjoy all that H-Town has to offer! From great food to the beautiful Discovery Green, along with the Theater District and Houston Public Library’s Central Library about a mile down the road, we have a lot to explore!

You won’t want to miss this opportunity to connect with and learn from your colleagues. We hope you can join us as we cultivate our community, nourish our professional growth, and thrive together!



Shaping the Future of Libraries Together

Why Attend TLA 2026 Annual Conference

Thriving libraries and communities depend on connected, empowered professionals. The TLA 2026 Annual Conference returns to Houston with a focused three-day schedule of keynotes, sessions, and events that expand expertise, share ideas, and build lasting connections.

Key Benefits

● Cultivating Community

Attendees expand their professional networks, exchange ideas, and return with fresh perspectives that ignite innovation in their library.

● Cultivating Skills

Hundreds of focused library education sessions offer practical strategies and innovative approaches to align with your library's priorities and professional goals.

● Cultivating Collaboration

Learning alongside colleagues and connecting with industry partners in the exhibit hall fosters solutions that streamline operations and support your library's success.

● Cultivating Value

TLA membership unlocks discounted conference registration, ensuring your staff can grow their skills and connections at a lower cost to your library.



Invest in a focused, purposeful learning experience at TLA 2026 that equips you with the tools, ideas, and best practices that address real challenges in your library today.

Register Today



TLA 2026 Helpful Links

1

Registration

2

Conference FAQ

3

Schedule at a Glance

4

Hotel and Travel

5

Stipends & Scholarships

Letter to Supervisor

Considering registering for TLA 2026 Annual Conference
but need your supervisor's approval?

This letter template will help you make your case. Download it
and modify as needed.

Download Letter



Tips for a Great Conference Experience

1

Expand your horizons

Discover new perspectives, forge unexpected connections, and find inspiration in the most unexpected places.

2

Prepare to be inspired

200+ education sessions featuring expert speakers and inspiring authors will leave you feeling empowered, motivated, and ready to take on new challenges.

3

Explore the future of libraries

The exhibit hall features the latest innovations in technology, resources, and services that can help you elevate your library's impact.

4

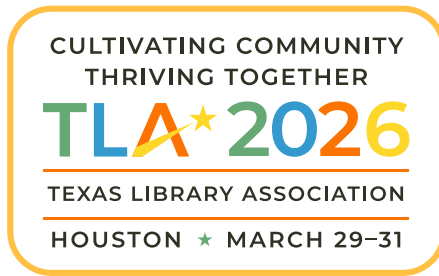
Choose your professional journey

Select the topics and speakers that will equip you, fire your creativity, and reignite your purpose.

Join us in Houston for an unforgettable experience.

Questions? Email tlaconference@txla.org or visit www.txla.org to learn more.





See You in Houston

www.txla.org

