

Happy September, Oregon Library Community!

It is hard to believe that fall is almost upon us. While so much has happened over the last month, a lot has remained unchanged. Many of my conversations with library staff in Oregon about engaging community continue to loop back to safety: how to create safe spaces, services and work cultures, and how to protect this mission at times when many things feel out of our control.

While there are various considerations for what safety in library service can look like, I want to highlight two recent resources specifically for immigration support in library spaces:

- The [Oregon Reference Summit](#) held a webinar session in early August called [Welcoming Communities: Immigration Resources and Legal Advocacy in Oregon Libraries](#). You can also find a resource toolkit shared during this webinar at this same link.
- The [Library Freedom Project](#) (LFP) Higher Education Committee released a resource list for academic library workers entitled [ICE Response Protocols for Higher Education Workers](#). LFP says they are working on a similar resource list for public libraries, which they hope to share soon.

These resources and more can be found on my [Community Engagement for Libraries: Immigration Resources](#) LibGuide, which I will continue to update as resources emerge.

Please reach out if you have any questions, concerns or community engagement topics you could use support with. As always, thank you for all you continue to do to create welcoming libraries in Oregon!

Warm Regards,



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State Library of Oregon

Library Support and Development Services

Work Schedule: Monday-Thursday

[Community Engagement LibGuide](#)

VIRTUAL MEETUPS

All virtual meetup groups are for individuals employed, volunteering, or looking for work in Oregon libraries. Managers and supervisors are permitted to join. **Confidentiality of attendees, conversations and information shared in these meetups is required.**

AFFINITY MEETUPS:

Disability & Neurodivergence Affinity Meetup (First Tuesday of every month)

For people who identify as neurodivergent, have a disability, or hold intersecting identities falling into both these groups---to include those with diagnosed, self-diagnosed, or suspected conditions.

Tuesday, **September 2**, noon-1p | [Meeting details and link](#)

2SLGBTQIA+ Virtual Affinity Meetup (Third Tuesday of every month)

For Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and/or not listed as it pertains to sexual orientation, romantic orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression.

Tuesday, **September 16**, noon-1pm | [Meeting details and link](#)

BIPOC Virtual Affinity Meetup (Fourth Tuesday of every month)

For Black, Indigenous, and other people of color.

Tuesday, **September 23**, noon-1p | [Meeting details and link](#)

GENERAL MEETUP:

DEI Virtual Meetup for Oregon Libraries (Second Wednesday of every month)

For anyone engaged in diversity, equity, inclusion & belonging work in Oregon libraries.

Wednesday, **September 10**, 3:30-4:30p | [Meetup Link](#)

You can join us via computer (with or without video) or via phone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81502980247?pwd=fpjomcb21US548fuDgTaavCoo6dllt.1>

One tap mobile

+16694449171,,81502980247# US

+16699006833,,81502980247# US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 815 0298 0247

Passcode: 598104

FUNDING/ GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Grant information provided by [*The Association for Rural & Small Libraries \(ARSL\)*](#)

Foundation for Rural Service Community Grant Program

Grants designed to provide support to a variety of local efforts to build and sustain a high quality of life in rural America.

Applications due September 5

Jerry Kline Community Impact Prize for Public Libraries

The Jerry Kline Community Impact Prize, developed in partnership between Gerald M. Kline Family Foundation and Library Journal, was created in 2019 to recognize the public library as a vital community asset. When libraries, civic entities, organizations, and the people they serve become close partners, their communities thrive.

Applications due September 15

Believe in Reading Grants

For provably successful literacy programs that have been established for 2+ years. Programs that serve any age or aspect of supporting reading and literacy will be considered, including adult literacy, English as a second language projects, or Braille related projects for the blind or visually impaired.

Applications reviewed as they are received

The Pilcrow Foundation's Children's Book Project Program Grants

The Pilcrow Foundation, a national non-profit public charity, provides a 2-to-1 match to rural public libraries that receive a grant through its Children's Book Project and contribute \$200-\$400 through a local sponsor for the purchase of up to \$1,200 worth (at retail value) of new, quality, hardcover children's books.

Annual application deadlines for grant cycles are April 1 & October 1 (postmark date)

Nasdaq Foundation Financial Literacy Grants

Grants will be given in this area to organizations and programs that deliver impact in one or more of the following ways:

- Enhancing financial literacy among under-resourced communities, with an element of teaching participants how to invest
- Improving access to knowledge and tools for investing and wealth creation among under-resourced communities

Applications due October 24, 2025

T-Mobile Hometown Grants

T-Mobile is committing up to \$25 million through 2026 to support small towns, villages, and territories across America by funding community projects to jumpstart projects and build stronger communities. [FAQ's](#)

Applications open Fall: July–September; Winter: October–December

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Free Virtual

Find additional trainings: State Library of Oregon's [Continuing Education Calendar](#)

- **Latinx Kidlit Book Festival** (created by members of [Las Musas Books](#))
Streams via the festivals [YouTube channel](#)| Various dates in September
- **Right To Be**- September training offerings (For full calendar, check [here](#)):
 - **Bystander Intervention to Stop Anti-Asian/American & Xenophobic Harassment** | Tuesday, **September 2**, 10-11a| Register [here](#)
 - **Emotional Intelligence for Culture Change: Awareness, Accountability & Impact** | Tuesday, **September 2**, 1-2p| Register [here](#)
 - **Bystander Intervention to Support the Immigrant Community** | Thursday, **September 4**, 11a-noon| Register [here](#)
 - **Targeted Violence Prevention: A Community Centered Approach** | Tuesday, **September 9**, 10-11a | Register [here](#)
 - **Bystander Intervention: Support the Latine Community in Public Spaces** | Thursday, **September 25**, noon-1p | Register [here](#)
- **A Pura Belpré Picture Book Celebration!** ([Booklist](#))
Author-Illustrator panel webinar | Monday, **September 15** |12:30-1:30p
- **Lead with Empathy: Connecting Equity and Emotional Safety in the Workplace** ([Non-Profit Learning Lab](#); facilitated by Adrienne Wise | Wise Choice Counseling)
Webinar| Monday, **September 29**, 9:00a | Register [here](#)
- **Meaningful Library Gatherings: Bringing Purpose to Every meeting & Event** ([WebJunction](#))
Webinar | Tuesday, **September 30**, noon-1p | Register [here](#)

On-Demand

- **Building Community Connections by Hiring for Cultural Knowledge** ([WebJunction](#))| On-Demand Webinar | Recorded January 2025
- **Advocacy in a Polarized World** ([EveryLibrary Institute](#))| On-Demand Webinar

Fee-based Virtual*(see information below about scholarship opportunities)

- **Creating Dementia Friendly Services for the Public Library** | ([Library Juice Academy](#))| 4-week asynchronous courses | **Sept. 1-28** | **Cost: *\$250**
- **Beyond Basic Spanish for Library Staff** ([Infopeople](#))
4-week course w/two online sessions| **Oct. 7- Nov. 3** | **Cost: *\$200**
- **De-escalation Strategies in the Library: Creating Safe & Positive Interactions** ([Infopeople](#)) 4-week course w/two online sessions| **Oct. 14-Nov. 10** | **Cost: *\$200**

In-Person Learning **(see information below about scholarship opportunities)*

OREGON MOCK PURA BELPRÉ SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, October 18
Happy Valley Library
11 am–4 pm

Join us for a special day of events honoring outstanding works of children's literature that celebrate the Latine cultural experience featuring a Mock Pura Belpré, a presentation from author/illustrator Duncan Tonatiuh, and more!



OREGON:

REFORMA, OR: Mock Pura Belpre
October 18 | Happy Valley Library |
11a-4p | Free

Oregon Association of School Libraries (OASL) Pre-Conference:
OASL Legendary School Library Bus Tour
October 3 | Eugene | **Cost: *\$50**

Oregon Association of School Libraries (OASL) Fall Conference
October 4 | Eugene | Various Pricing, *\$140-200
Early Bird Registration ends
September 12

Oregon Humanities- Beyond 250: Reflective Conversation
October 22-23 | Corvallis-Benton Public Library | Free

NATIONAL:

REFORMA National Conference VIII
September 18-21 | Long Beach, CA | *Various Pricing

Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) 2025 Conference
September 17-20 | Albuquerque | *Various Pricing
Radically Rural Summit
October 7-9 | Keene, NH | *Various Pricing

AASL (American Association of School Librarians) National Conference
October 16-18 | St. Louis, MO | *Various Pricing

Washington Association for Bilingual Education- Dual Language Institute
October 24-25 | Tacoma, WA | *Various Pricing, \$225-325+

*** OLA EDI & Antiracism Committee's Professional Development Scholarships**
Scholarships to support EDI & Antiracism professional development for library staff, volunteers, and library-job seekers in Oregon. For more information and link to application, visit [here](#)

INDEPENDENT EXPLORATION



Read:

(Blog Post) Carli Spina and Rebecca Albrecht Oling, authors of [*The Digital Accessibility Handbook for Libraries*](#), discuss their book in an interview on the [Think Clearly Blog](#) (July 15, 2025).

(Article) [AI Misreads Black Women's Hairstyles – And It Could Cost Them Jobs](#) (Dr. Janice Gassam Asare, Ph.D.; *LinkedIn*, August 18, 2025)



Watch:

(Short docu-film) [The Elaine Massacre of 1919: A Small Town Grapples with a Painful Past](#) (7 mins; PBS, America Outdoors). More about the Elaine Massacre can be found in the “reflect” section below.

(Short segment) [Defining Latino: Young People Talk Identity, Belonging](#) (<4min; Sept 2018 *NBC Latino*, *NBC News*, YouTube)



Listen:

(Podcast) [The Art of Being Seen | Alberto Ferreras, Award-Winning Director, Author & Multimedia Artist](#) (56min, June 2025; S4: E3 [Fritanga](#) podcast by the [Hispanic Heritage Foundation](#) (HHF))You can also [watch](#) on the HHF YouTube Channel.

(Video Podcast) [Information Gone Wild w/ Dr. Nicole A. Cooke](#) on her book published last spring, [The Legacy of Black Women in Librarianship: When They Dared to Be Powerful](#). (54min; [Information Gone Wild podcast](#) from the San José State University iSchool)



Reflect:

- **Hispanic Heritage Month**, which ranges from **September 15 through October 15**, celebrates the history, culture, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino people.
- **September 15** is **World Afro Day**. This year is the ninth anniversary of this global celebration of Afro hair aiming to educate about this hairstyle's cultural significance.
- **International Day of Peace** is observed around the world on **September 21**. This 1981 UN-created globally shared date intends for “all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace”.
- **September 30** marks 106 years since the horrific **Elaine Massacre of 1919**, where hundreds of Black sharecroppers were murdered in Elaine, Arkansas for organizing against unfair low wages and exploitive tenant farming practices