

Happy October, Oregon Library Community!

There is so much happening in October. While I can't fit everything into one monthly email, there is still plenty to keep you busy and learning throughout the entire month and beyond. I do want to draw special attention to a couple of things happening this month, so they are not missed:

**Banned Books Week/ Freedom to Read Week** is October 5-11. This year's theme is "*Censorship is so 1984. Read For Your Rights.*". The [week of celebrating banned books](#) culminates with Unite Against Book Bans' [Let Freedom Read Day of Action](#) on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Learn more about promoting and celebrating Banned Books Week by visiting [OLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee](#) (OIFC)'s [Freedom to Read + Raffle Tuesday Topic](#) memo. The [American Library Association](#) (ALA) also has free downloads and supplemental resources available.

I also want to highlight [REFORMA Oregon](#)'s Mock Pura Belpré event featuring author/illustrator Duncan Tonatiuh, followed by the division's quarterly meeting, happening Saturday, 10/18 from 11a-4:30p at the [Happy Valley Library](#). More information can be found [here](#).

As always, please reach out with any questions, concerns or needs. Happy learning!

Warm Regards,



**Ericka Brunson-Rochette (she/her/hers)**

Community Engagement Consultant

State Library of Oregon

[ericka.brunson-rochette@slo.oregon.gov](mailto:ericka.brunson-rochette@slo.oregon.gov) | 971-375-5126

[www.oregon.gov/library/libraries](http://www.oregon.gov/library/libraries)



**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, **October 7<sup>th</sup>**, 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, **October 21<sup>st</sup>** noon-1pm | [Meeting details and link](#)

#### **BIPOC Virtual Affinity Meetup** *(Fourth Tuesday of every month)*

*For Black, Indigenous, and other people of color.*

Tuesday, **October 28<sup>th</sup>**, 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, **October 8<sup>th</sup>**, 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/ SCHOLARSHIPS

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

### [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 Winter: October–December 2025**

### [Walmart Spark Good Local Grants](#)^

Grants ranging from \$250 to \$5,000 are awarded to address specific community needs. The project should align w/ Creating Opportunity, Advancing Sustainability, Strengthening Community, and/or Centering Racial Equity. Must be located within the service area of a Walmart store, Sam's Club, or distribution center. | **Applications open until Oct. 15, 2025**

### [Teen Dialogue Accelerator for \(Public\) Libraries](#) ([Cortico](#), in collaboration with the [MIT Center for Constructive Communication](#) (MIT CCC) and [PBS FRONTLINE](#))

A grant opportunity for public libraries to become hubs of youth-led civic dialogue. 10 public libraries across the U.S. will be selected to pilot this innovative program, and will receive: \$14,000 grant funding for staff, fellows, and programming; training, coaching, and tools to support **youth-led** dialogue, and national storytelling amplification through PBS FRONTLINE. **Applications close Oct. 13, 2025 @ 11:59 ET**

### [Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small & Rural Communities Round 4](#)^

More than \$14 million in grants will be offered to small and rural libraries to increase the accessibility of facilities, services, and programs to better serve people with disabilities. Libraries must serve a population of 25,000 or less and be located at least five miles from an urbanized area. Individual grants range from \$10,000 to \$20,000, distributed across four rounds over four years. | **Round 4 Applications are open until December 11, 2025**

---

## Current [Oregon Library Association](#) (OLA) Scholarships

### [OLA Leadership Development Scholarships](#)

Apply for a scholarship up to \$1000 from OLA's [Leadership Committee](#). Scholarships are awarded 3x/year; **next application deadline is October 31**. Priority for at least one scholarship is given to individuals from diverse cultural/ethnic backgrounds and/or historically underrepresented groups. Visit the [FAQ](#) to learn more. (*OLA membership required*)

### [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. Application reviewed on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. **For more information and link to application, visit [here](#).** (*OLA membership is not required*)

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### Free Virtual

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

#### **Creative Aging in Action: Practical Strategies for Libraries** (*Infopeople*)

Tuesdays, **Oct 7, 14 & 21** | 9-10a | Register [here](#) for one or all three:

- *Why Creative Aging? A Practical Guide for Libraries*
- *Creative Aging in Rural & Small Libraries: Models & Solutions*
- *Building Buy-In: Gaining Support for Creative Aging at Local & State Levels*

#### **Strategy-Culture Connection: How Culture Powers Strategic Change** (*Nonprofit Learning Lab*) | Monday, **October 27**, 8a | Register [here](#)

**edWeb.net** – October webinar offerings (For full calendar, check [here](#)):

- **Dyslexia Awareness Week- 3 Day webinar series** (Sponsor: *Voyager Sopris Learning*) | Tues-Wed, **October 7 & 8**, 10-11a; Thurs. **October 9**, 12-1p
- **Assessing Biliteracy: Understanding Student Performance When Learning in Two Languages** | Wednesday, **October 8**, 11-noon
- **Family Engagement Strategies That Break Barriers and Build Bridges** | Wednesday, **October 22**, 11-noon

**Right To Be**- October training offerings (For full calendar, check [here](#)):

- **Calling People in at Work to Build Respectful; & Inclusive Culture** | Wednesday, **October 1**, 12-1p
- **Bystander Intervention to Support the Immigrant Community** | [Thursday, October 2](#), 11a-noon & [Monday, October 20](#), 1-2p
- **Bystander Intervention to Stop Anti-Asian/American & Xenophobic Harassment** | Friday, **October 3**, 1-2p
- **Targeted Violence Prevention: A Community Centered Approach** | [Monday, October 6](#), 12-1p & [Thursday, October 23](#), 1-2p
- **Bystander Intervention to Stop Hate Based Harassment** | Friday, **October 10**, 10-11:30a
- **Bystander Intervention to Stop Antisemitic, Xenophobic, & Islamophobic Harassment** | Tuesday, **October 14**, 12:30-2p
- **Bystander Intervention for Youth: How to Show Up for Others** | Tuesday, **October 21**, 2-3p
- **Bystander Intervention for Educators** | Wednesday, **October 22**, 12-1p

#### **Native Ways of Knowing Virtual Book Club & Webinars** (*California Indian Education for All & San Diego County Office of Education*)

Select Thursdays **through June 2026**, 3:30-5p | Register [here](#)

## On-Demand

### [Building Cultures of Trust in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Organizations](#) (Knology)

On-Demand Webinar | Recorded June 2025

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

[Infopeople](#) Courses | 4-week courses w/two online sessions | **Cost:** \*\$200

- [Beyond Basic Spanish for Library Staff](#) | **Oct. 7- Nov. 3**
- [De-escalation Strategies in the Library: Creating Safe & Positive Interactions](#) | **Oct. 14-Nov. 10**

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

### OREGON:

#### [Oregon Association of School Libraries \(OASL\) Fall Conference](#)

**October 4** | North Eugene High School, Eugene | Various Pricing, \*\$170-200

*Registration open until day of conference. Meals not guaranteed after 9/26*

#### [Oregon Humanities- Beyond 250: Reflective Conversation](#)

**October 22-23** | Corvallis-Benton Public Library | [Free](#)

### NATIONAL:

#### [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+

#### [Othering & Belonging Conference](#) (*[Othering & Belonging Institute at UC Berkley](#)*)

**March 31-April 1, 2026**, | Louisville, KY | \*Prices unknown, Registration [open](#)

### SAVE THE DATE, 2026-2027 (registration not yet open):

#### [American Library Association Annual Conference](#) (ALA Annual)

**June 25-29, 2026** | Chicago, IL | McCormick Place- Chicago

#### [Joint Conference of Librarians of Color](#) (JCLC)

**October 7-11, 2026** | Spokane, WA | Spokane Convention Center

#### [REFORMA National Conference RNC IX](#)

**2027** | Denver, CO

\* *OLA EDI & Antiracism Committee's Professional Development Scholarships. For more information and link to application, visit [here](#)*

## INDEPENDENT EXPLORATION



### Read:

**(Book)** [A Library Worker's Guide to Saying No to White Supremacy Work Culture](#)

(Christina Fuller-Gregory; Bloomsbury, August 2025)

**(Article)** [Autistic Librarians in the Academic Library Hiring Process](#). (R. Cohen, P. Cooke, M. Holt, M. Lounsberry, E. Roga, K. S. Farrell, and J Squires; ACRL, College & Research Libraries; September 2025)

**(Digital Resource Library)** [Narrative Strategies for Belonging: Resources on Narrative, Pluralism and Transformative Change](#) (*Narrative Resource Library* created by a Narrative Community of Practice co-led by the [Othering & Belonging Institute](#) and the [Center for Inclusion and Belonging at the American Immigration Council](#); September 2025)



### Watch:

**(Animated Story)** [A Knock at the Door](#) (2 min; original audio October 2027, [StoryCorps](#))  
*Listen to the original StoryCorps interview audio [here](#)*

**(Short Talk)** [The Crucial Role of Indigenous Elders - Doreen Spence](#) (Cree) (>8 mins; 2017, [WalrusTalks](#), YouTube)



### Listen:

**(Podcast)** [Trauma Informed Care & Cultivating Safety in Libraries w/Nisha Mody](#) (96mins, September 2025; S4: E6 [OVERDUE: Weeding Out Oppression in Libraries](#) from the Oregon Library Association's [EDI & Antiracism Committee](#))

**(Podcast)** [This Filipino American Life: Storytelling with Randy Ribay](#) ( 55mins, July 2025; Episode 236, [This Filipino American Life](#))



**Reflect:**

**October Monthly Observances** (*not a complete list*):

[Attention-Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder \(ADHD\) Awareness Month](#)

[Breast Cancer Awareness Month](#)

[Dyslexia Awareness Month](#)

[Filipino American History Month](#)

[Global Diversity Awareness Month](#)

[National Physical Therapy Month](#)

[Sensory Processing Awareness Month](#)

[World Blindness Awareness Month](#)

**October Daily Observances** (*not a complete list*):

**October 1:** [International Day of Older Persons](#)

**October 2:** [International Day of Non-Violence](#), on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi

**October 6:** [Mid-Autumn Festival](#)

**October 10:** [World Mental Health Day](#)

**October 11:** [National Coming Out Day](#)

**October 13:** [Indigenous Peoples' Day](#) (in the U.S.)

**October 16:** [International Pronouns Day](#)

**October 22:** [International Stuttering Awareness Day](#)