

# REACHING FORWARD / SOUTH

Friday, April 19, 2024

Doubletree Hotel Collinsville/St. Louis in Collinsville, IL

REACHING FORWARD SOUTH IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF:

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**Betsy Mahoney [Chair]**

Assistant Director  
Six Mile Regional Library

**Michael Baumann**

Director  
Toulon Public Library

**Loretta Broomfield**

Director  
Marion Carnegie Library

**Devin Eyster**

Development & Outreach Librarian  
East Alton Public Library District

**Ryan A. Franklin**

Reference Department  
Illinois State Library

**Larisa Good**

Director  
Warren County Public Library

**Erica Hanke-Young**

Youth Services Manager  
Six Mile Regional Library

**Bobbi Perryman**

Director  
Vespasian Warner Public  
Library District

**Terry Pierson**

Marketing Coordinator  
Mississippi Valley Library District

**Devin Scott**

Programming Coordinator  
Salem Township Public Library

**Beth Smilack**

Social Media/Communications  
Specialist  
Jerseyville Public Library

**Cassandra Thompson**

SHARE Director  
Illinois Heartland Library System



## Total Eclipse of the Heart

Every now and then we need a burst of inspiration, a community to lean on, and a day away from the library! The conference will celebrate another year of eclipse programming, help you find your people, and reinvigorate your library's programs and services. Our communities and libraries need you more than ever.

The Reaching Forward South committee members "just wanna have fun" with the conference theme. Each room name has flashbacked to the eighties with a nod to a pop diva that has stolen our hearts.

At 8:45, join Betsy Mahoney, Reaching Forward South Committee Chair for a brief welcome with additional conference information in the Flashdance Ballroom before the first Breakout Sessions start.

## Badges

Conference badges must be worn at all times to gain admission to programs and exhibits.

## Coffee

Morning coffee, sponsored by the Illinois State Treasurer's Office, will be available from 8:00 to 10:30 A.M.

## Exhibit Hours

8:15 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

## Handouts

Handouts are available on the PheedLoop conference website if speakers have made them available. You can browse through the sessions or search for specific sessions in the search field. If handouts are available, they will be linked underneath the session's description.

## Hashtag

#RFSouth2024

## Lanyards

Before you leave, be sure to stop by the Help Desk to recycle your lanyard. We'll reuse them for future conferences and prevent them from ending up in a landfill.

## Lost and Found

Articles may be turned in and reclaimed at the Help Desk.

## Lunch

Lunch, sponsored by the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS), will be served from 12:30 to 1:30 PM in the Flashdance Ballroom.

## Mothers' Room

A Mothers' Room is located in the Paula Abdul Room.

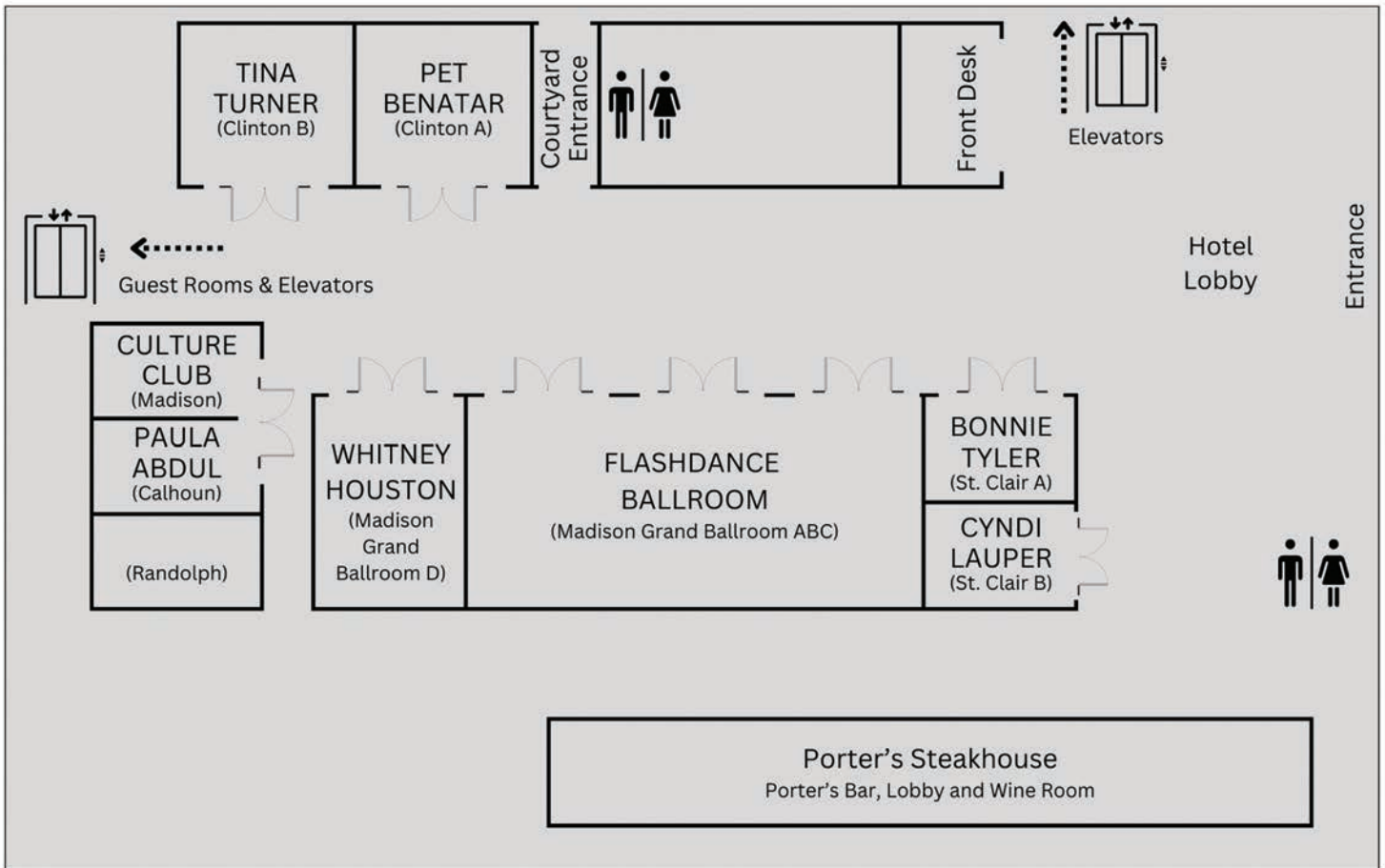
## Quiet Room

Need to take a break? The Culture Club Room will give you a place to relax and refresh.

## WiFi

Wireless internet is complementary. The WiFi network is "Doubletree Meeting" and the password is "DTCV21".

# Floorplan



# Schedule

8:30 – 8:45 A.M	Morning Coffee, Exhibits, and Networking
8:45 – 9:00 A.M.	Welcome
9:00 – 10:00 A.M.	Breakout Session 1
10:15 – 11:15 A.M.	Breakout Session 2
11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	Breakout Session 3
12:30 – 1:30 P.M.	Lunch
1:30 – 2:30 P.M.	Breakout Session 4
2:45 – 3:45 P.M.	Breakout Session 5

# Program Schedule

**8:45 – 9:00 A.M.**

## ***Welcome to Reaching Forward South***

Join Betsy Mahoney, Reaching Forward South Committee Chair, for a brief welcome with additional conference information before the first Breakout Sessions starts.

**Speaker:** Betsy Mahoney, Six Mile Regional Library District

**Location:** Flashdance Ballroom

**9:00 – 10:00 A.M.**

## ***Cybersecurity Tips for Libraries***

For libraries without dedicated IT departments, this session can assist with what to concentrate on in order to make your library secure from bad actors looking to cause harm to your network and devices, and what to do in a worst-case scenario such as a ransomware attack.

**Speaker:** Tallin Curran, Six Mile Regional Library District

**Location:** Bonnie Tyler Room

## ***Aspen Discovery: SHARE's New PAC Discovery Layer***

Learn the ins and outs of SHARE's new, optional, discovery layer Aspen Discovery. Learn how your library can maximize the user experience, make changes to customize your library's Aspen look, learn about integrated e-resources, and so much more. At the end of the session participants will: 1) have a better understanding of how Aspen works 2) learn how your library can customize Aspen and 3) learn how to maximize your patrons' experience with Aspen.

**Speakers:** Danielle Beasley, Illinois Heartland Library System; Dena Porter, Illinois Heartland Library System; Zach Henderson, Illinois Heartland Library System

**Location:** Cyndi Lauper Room

## ***Listening is Reading!***

We all know patrons who rely heavily on the audio or Large Print collections at the library due to loss of vision or mobility difficulties. Perhaps there is a student who struggles in class due to a reading disability. In this session, Talking Book and Braille Outreach Librarian Sheri Bay will talk about the free services available to individuals who struggle to read standard print books and materials. There will be a short presentation and demonstration of the equipment that is offered to patrons as well as an extensive Q&A portion.

**Speaker:** Sheri Bay, Illinois State Library

**Location:** Tina Turner Room

## ***Go BIG: How to Put on Large Scale Library Family Events***

Litchfield Library has ditched story hour for large scale library events like Seusstacular, Harry Potter's Birthday, Grinchmas, and more. Events are two hours long, have 10 – 12 "stations" of crafts, games, photo booths, etc. Finding the "right" time for story hour is hard. Between school, work, naps, and other obligations, it's hard to pick that prime time for weekly or monthly story hours. Families are more likely to attend one singular event, held evenings or on weekends, with a fun theme. Litchfield's largest event hosted nearly 350 people, and events are held quarterly (or as Sara comes up with another "brilliant idea" for one!). Learn what is involved in these large scale events, and what you may be able to borrow from Litchfield for your own BIG EVENTS!

**Speaker:** Sara Zumwalt, Litchfield Public Library District

**Location:** Whitney Houston Room

## ***Safety and Security at the Library***

Detective Sam Luna from the Collinsville Police Department presents on safety and security concerns at the library, followed by a Q&A. (This is the first of two duplicated programs.)

**Speaker:** Sam Luna, Collinsville Police Department

**Location:** Pat Benatar Room

**10:15 A.M. – 11:15 A.M.**

### ***Full STEAM Ahead!***

Are you just starting a STEM/STEAM Club? Have you run out of ideas? Do you want some fresh new ideas to incorporate STEAM activities in a variety of programs? Becky and Larissa are not scientists but have discovered new and fun ways to explore STEAM at the library. Learn how to start a STEAM Club, find new ideas, and partner with the community in advancing STEAM experiences for children of all ages.

**Speakers:** Becky Long, O'Fallon Public Library; Larissa Couto Rogoski, O'Fallon Public Library

**Location:** Pat Benatar Room

### ***Billion-Dollar Broadband in the Heartland: Digital Equity Opportunities for Libraries with the Illinois Office of Broadband***

Learn about how the Illinois Office of Broadband can help with upcoming funding opportunities, programming, and partnerships. Boost broadband access, affordability, and digital skill building in your community. Whether you are a frontline staff member or a system administrator, new to the world of digital equity or a seasoned professional, we can help!

**Speakers:** Hillary Rains, Illinois Office of Broadband; Troy Brown, Illinois Heartland Library System

**Location:** Cyndi Lauper Room

### ***Running an Art Show for Your Community***

In 2023, the Mascoutah Public Library partnered with the Leu Civic Center to put on the Metro East Youth Art Show. The show displayed over 100 pieces of art made by students ranging from preschool through Grade 12, and attracted over 200 attendees. Join Mascoutah Public Library Director Joel Pikora and Youth Services Librarian Ivy Cowen as they recount how the Metro East Youth Art Show went from a wild idea to a full-fledged program, what worked and what didn't, and how they are turning the program into a yearly community event.

**Speakers:** Ivy Cowen, Mascoutah Public Library; Jenna Smith, Leu Civic Center; Joel Pikora, Mascoutah Public Library

**Location:** Bonnie Tyler Room

### ***Revealing the Past: The Cataloging Maintenance Center Shines a Light on Local Authors and Places in Illinois***

Do you have local items that need to be cataloged and are wondering where to go for assistance? Today, Barb Scoby and Mary Cornell are sharing how they and their fellow Cataloging Maintenance Center (CMC) catalogers have been helping Illinois libraries in cataloging local authors, artists, about local places, etc., revealing the past and more – and how they might help yours, too.

**Speakers:** Barb Scoby, Illinois Heartland Library System: Cataloging Maintenance Center; Mary Cornell, Illinois Heartland Library System: Cataloging Maintenance Center

**Location:** Tina Turner Room

### ***Bringing Vinyl Record Fans Back to the Library***

Vinyl is making a comeback and the library can play a part in encouraging people to either pick up the habit again or introduce new fans to the hobby. For decades the record collecting hobby has been declared dead and buried first by CDs and then MP3s and streaming services. Astonishingly in the last several years vinyl has made a comeback. In the midst of this, some libraries have begun to replenish their vinyl collections and offer not only vinyl to check out but clubs for enthusiasts and turntables for new enthusiasts to check out and see how they like spinning vinyl. We will talk about how the Edwardsville Public Library started rebuilding our vinyl collection, decades after disposing of it in the face of technological changes, and how we are attempting to engage fans, young and old, with our selection and programming. We can discuss selection of material, hardware, and our in-house Nothing but Vinyl Club. If you enjoy vinyl or are looking for a new direction for your collection come and join the discussion.

**Speaker:** Greg Kessler, Edwardsville Public Library

**Location:** Whitney Houston Room

# Program Schedule

**11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

## ***Is This the End of Social Media? Break Your Reliance on the Algorithm and Promote Your Library on Your Own Terms***

It's time to face it: the social media landscape is in chaos. Between the upheaval at Twitter, allegations of espionage by TikTok, and never-ending algorithm changes, the future of social media seems very uncertain. Platforms are losing followers and even if you have built a large follower base, it's likely that most of those users aren't even seeing your posts. But don't despair! In this session, you'll learn how to harness the power of more effective library marketing tools: email, blogs, and your staff. Get practical, up-to-the-minute advice for building an audience using your owned properties. Find out how to deliver irresistible content to maximize your reach without spending all day on promotions (unless you want to!).

**Speaker:** Angela Hursh, NoveList

**Location:** Cyndi Lauper Room

## ***Cataloging: The Heart of the Library***

Do you have an item to be cataloged that is weird, wacky, strange, or just plain frustrating? Bring us a couple of your most puzzling items and SHARE catalogers will help answer your questions.

**Speakers:** Anna Wiegand, Illinois Heartland Library System; Jennifer Baugh, Illinois Heartland Library System; Linda Johnson, Illinois Heartland Library System; Sue Pearson, Illinois Heartland Library System; Hanan Jaber, Illinois Heartland Library System

**Location:** Tina Turner Room

## ***Littles in the Library – Program Ideas for Babies & Toddlers***

From Story Time to 1000 Books Before Kindergarten and everything in between, libraries are finding ways to engage babies and toddlers with words, music, and sensory activities that not only entertain them, but provide much-needed mental stimulation. Join youth services librarians to talk about programs for little ones and share some tried and true ideas that are doable at any library.

**Speakers:** Erica Hanke-Young, Six Mile Regional Library District; Megan Prueter, Edwardsville Public Library

**Location:** Bonnie Tyler Room

## ***Top News at Illinois State Library***

The Illinois State Library is more than just a fabulous crew of staff to help your library succeed. We are also a fully functioning library open to other libraries, state staff, and the public. We are a great source for primary documents both current and historical. Need a map? We probably have it. Want to try out different tech or programming kits? We have you covered. Want to know more about upcoming statewide resources from the State Library? We are here to help. Come learn about all these things and more, as well as ask any questions about current or upcoming programs.

**Speaker:** Ryan Franklin, Illinois State Library

**Location:** Whitney Houston Room

## ***Safety and Security at the Library***

Detective Sam Luna from the Collinsville Police Department presents on safety and security concerns at the library, followed by a Q&A. (This is the second of two duplicated programs.)

**Speaker:** Sam Luna, Collinsville Police Department

**Location:** Pat Benatar Room

**11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

## ***Lunch***

Join ILA President Ryan Johnson and Vice President Amy Byers for a brief update on the Illinois Library Association and Reaching Forward South. Included in registration for Reaching Forward South is a light luncheon buffet.

**Speakers:** Ryan Johnson, O'Fallon Public Library; Amy Byers, Chatham Area Public Library District

**Location:** Flashdance Ballroom

**1:30 – 2:30 P.M.**

### ***AI-Powered Productivity: Unleashing the Potential of Artificial Intelligence in Your Everyday Life***

Have you ever wished you had a personal assistant who could help you make meal plans, draft emails, or pick out something new to read? Learn how new freely available AI tools can help you stay organized and make your life easier at home and at the library. We'll discuss appropriate and ethical uses for these technologies and how to apply your own personal and professional judgment to improving the output. Bring your smartphone, tablet, or laptop if you would like to try out new tools and prompt engineering techniques together.

**Speakers:** Henry Rodrigues, Chicago State University & Steger-South Chicago Heights Public Library; Jessica Rodrigues, Joliet Junior College & Steger-South Chicago Heights Public Library

**Location:** Cyndi Lauper Room

### ***System Services 101***

Join a group of Illinois Heartland Library System staff as they highlight system services that you may not be aware of. We'll cover all the system benefits and services that your membership makes your library eligible for, and you'll get to meet a lot of system staff.

**Speakers:** Colleen Dettenmeier, Illinois Heartland Library System; Leah Gregory, Illinois Heartland Library System

**Location:** Tina Turner Room

### ***Librarian Olympics***

Ready. Set. Library! Bring your team of 4 librarians to see who can be the best at library title knowledge, bookcart athleticism, Dewey decimal denominations, book balancing (not the financial kind!), book stacking, hold request fulfillment, and shelving accuracies. Sign your team up before the start of the day. The winners will receive a trophy AND bragging rights! Also, this could be a program that you might want to host at your library in the future.

**Speaker:** Nichole Lauko, Millstadt Library District

**Location:** Bonnie Tyler Room

### ***So You Want to Start a StoryWalk® ...?***

Jerseyville Public Library has provided a monthly StoryWalk® for our community since May 2018—that's over 60 stories! We are eager to share with you our experiences with launching and maintaining this initiative, some of our favorite anecdotes as our patrons have interacted with our StoryWalk® through the years, and some lessons we've learned along the way. You will leave our session feeling confident that you, too, can start a StoryWalk® in your community!

**Speakers:** Judy Pruitt, Jerseyville Public Library; Laurie Ingram, Jerseyville Public Library

**Location:** Pat Benatar Room

### ***Trauma-Informed Library Service for Frontline Staff***

It is not uncommon for library workers to be exposed to primary or vicarious trauma over the course of their careers. According to the recent Urban Library Trauma Study, nearly 70% of respondents shared that they had experienced violent or aggressive behavior from patrons, while 22% indicated that they experienced similar behavior from their own coworkers.

By understanding trauma-informed practices, library staff can better support one another and patrons in their service to the public. They can also foster an organizational culture of safety, trust, and inclusion culture. In this session, participants will learn various trauma-informed approaches and explore how to apply these concepts within their own library. (This is the first of two duplicated programs.)

**Speaker:** Brandy Sanchez, SoulFire Collective

**Location:** Whitney Houston Room

# Program Schedule

2:45 – 3:45 P.M.

## ***Rooted in YOUR Community!***

The Rochester Public Library District has hosted the Community Farmers Market for the past 7 years. Patrons can use their SNAP benefits at our Library Market. The Library received a Link Up matching funds grant for EBT/ SNAP funds from the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. This year we added two new beneficial programs to the Farmers Market. With donated funds we created “Take a Plant, Leaf a Plant,” which is a community-based plant exchange initiative. It’s a platform for sharing gardening tips and plant care advice. Participants can learn from one another and enhance their gardening skills. So that the youth have a fun experience at the Farmers Market we added a new program, “The Power of Produce,” which provides a fun opportunity for children to engage in the local food system through conversations directly with farmers, educational games and demonstrations, and exposure to new fruits and vegetables.

**Speakers:** Janet McAllister, Rochester Public Library District; Lorachelle Eck, Rochester Public Library District

**Location:** Pat Benatar Room

## ***The Not-So-Scary Guide to Teen Programming in the Library***

Teen Services has long been treated as a no-man’s land in Libraryland, but it doesn’t have to be so scary! Come learn how fellow teen service library workers have managed to bring ‘em in and keep ‘em coming back.

**Speakers:** Charessa Sistik, Centralia Regional Library District; Kristen Reno, Edwardsville Public Library; Samantha Lego, Glen Carbon Centennial Library

**Location:** Bonnie Tyler Room

## ***Using Data to Tell the Story of Your Library Use***

The Chatham Area Public Library wanted to learn more about how it was being used after the COVID-19 closures of 2020. The door counts each night only told part of the story. What were people doing once they traveled through the library doors? Did their habits change since the COVID-19 closures? Were they spending time in the library or were they in and out right away? Did they browse the collections or did they request their items for pickup? Did programming cause higher circulation and space use? In order to figure out those questions, the Chatham Area Public Library staff had to dig a little deeper. They collected data on a quarterly basis throughout 2023, which turned into usage reports that were presented to the Library Board. These reports allowed the staff and the Board to make decisions on budgeting, staffing, security, space needs, and much more. They also revamped how they presented statistical information to their Board of Trustees. They transformed 10 pages of numbers into easy-to-understand (and to create) charts. All libraries, no matter the budget or staff size, can gather better data that will guide them and their stakeholders into making decisions that will better serve their evolving communities.

**Speakers:** Amy Byers, Chatham Area Public Library District; Erica Beeman, Chatham Area Public Library District

**Location:** Cyndi Lauper Room



### ***Get Your Digital Life in Order***

Keeping track of our digital lives has become more complex than tracking paper. From files to photos to passwords, it's hard to keep it all organized and secure. In this session, we'll cover how to easily organize files, how to back up photos, and how to manage passwords securely.

**Speaker:** Jeannie Dilger, Arranging Time

**Location:** Tina Turner Room

### ***Trauma-Informed Library Service for Frontline Staff***

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**Speaker:** Brandy Sanchez, SoulFire Collective

**Location:** Whitney Houston Room

# 2024 Exhibitors

## **Arranging Time**

Jeannie Dilger  
info@arrangingtime.com  
P.O. Box 59059  
Chicago, IL 60659  
www.arrangingtime.com

## **Birth to Five Illinois Region 41**

Adrienne Kaesberg  
akaesberg@birthtofiveil.com  
600 Troy Road  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
www.birthtofiveil.com/region41

## **Cataloging Maintenance Center**

Dr. Pamela Thomas, Manager  
cmc@illinoisheartland.org  
6725 Goshen Road  
Edwardsville, IL 62034  
www.cmcillinois.org

## **Dominican University SOIS**

Emma Schmidt-Swartz  
eschmidtschwartz@dom.edu  
7900 West Division Street  
River Forest, IL 60305  
www.dom.edu

## **DuPage County Health Department – Protect Swimmers 10 Million (PS10M)**

Laura Carlin Cochran  
laura.cochran@dupagehealth.org  
111 N. County Farm Road  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
www.dupagehealth.org/231/Pool-Safely

## **Historical Women of Letters**

Debra Miller  
janeaustenspeaks@gmail.com  
5059 W. Wellington Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60641  
www.historicalwomenofletters.com

## **Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS)**

Leslie Bednar  
membership@illinoisheartland.org  
6725 Goshen Road  
Edwardsville, IL 62034  
www.illinoisheartland.org

## **iLEAD Trustee Learning Portal**

Anna Yackle  
ilead@illinoisheartland.org  
6725 Goshen Road  
Edwardsville, IL 62034  
www.ileadtrustee.org

## **Illinois State Library – Talking Book and Braille Service**

Sheri L.L. Bay  
sbay@ilsos.gov  
200 S. Second Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
www.ilbph.org

**Illinois State Treasurer's Office**

Erin Slone  
eslone@illinoistreasurer.gov  
555 W. Monroe, Ste. 1400S-B  
Chicago, IL 60661  
www.illinoistreasurer.gov

**iREAD**

Becca Boland  
iread@ila.org  
560 W. Washington Boulevard, Ste. 330  
Chicago, IL 60661  
www.ireadprogram.org

**Joliet Junior College Library**

Jessica Rodrigues  
jessica.rodrigues@jjc.edu  
1215 Houbolt Road  
Joliet, IL 60431  
https://library.jjc.edu/about/lta

**Lazerware Inc.**

Mike Nelms  
mnelms@lazerwareinc.com  
2929 Gravois Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63118  
www.lazerwareinc.com

**Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS)**

Dan Bostrom  
dan.bostrom@railslibraries.org  
125 Tower Drive  
Burr Ridge, IL 60527  
https://railslibraries.org

**RMC Imaging/ST Imaging**

Bob Czechowicz  
stviewscan57@gmail.com  
780 Creek Bluff Lane  
Rockford, IL 61114  
www.stimaging.com

**SHARE**

Cassandra Thompson  
share@illinoisheartland.org  
6725 Goshen Road  
Edwardsville, IL 62034  
share.illinoisheartland.org

**Today's Business Solutions, Inc. TBS**

Mickey Smith  
msmith@tbsit360.com  
7820 S. Quincy Street  
Willowbrook, IL 60527  
www.tbsit360.com

**Have your say in ILA's new Strategic Plan. Look around the conference for the QR code. Through it you can share your thoughts on implementing the new Strategic Plan so it serves you and your library well.**





Opening Keynote

**Nick Offerman**

Award-Winning Actor, Best-Selling Author, & Acclaimed Woodworker

President's Program  
**Mychal Threets**  
California Librarian & Viral Sensation for Spreading 'Library Joy'



Youth Services Forum Author Breakfast

**Oge Mora**

Award-Winning Author & Illustrator;  
iREAD 2025 Featured Illustrator



**Annual Conference 2024**

October 8–10 | Peoria, IL

#ILAAC24

[ila.org/conference](http://ila.org/conference)

Registration Opens July 22.



Illinois Library Association