



MINNESOTA LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION

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**Renee Grassi honored by the Minnesota Library Association  
in recognition of service Above & Beyond**

August 22, 2019 – Renee Grassi was awarded the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) Above & Beyond Award at the Association’s annual conference, held this year at Mystic Lake Center in Prior Lake, Minn. This award is given in recognition of a recent contribution significant to the Minnesota library community.

Renee goes above and beyond every day to advocate for accessibility, diversity and inclusion in libraries. Renee served as the 2019 Children and Young People's Section Chair. During her tenure, she oversaw a successful and diverse CYP Unconference. Renee has contributed numerous presentations for the Minnesota and national Library communities on creating inclusive, sensory-friendly spaces and services and supporting people with disabilities. In her current role as the Youth Services Manager for Dakota County Library, Renee has championed inclusion-focused initiatives such as the Student Card program, the Sensory-Friendly Early Open program and ASL Celebrations. In addition to Renee’s excellent project management and presentation skills, Renee regularly goes above and beyond to support and encourage co-workers and community members. Renee carries kindness and empathy in the world and is a superlative ambassador for the transformative power of libraries.

Renee was honored at the 2019 Minnesota Library Association Annual Conference on September 19-20, 2019.

**About MLA:** The Minnesota Library Association is an association of library supporters, representing all types of libraries by helping them accomplish together what none can do alone. MLA provides opportunities to meet library peers and associates, and meets the interests of its more than 730 members by facilitating educational opportunities, supporting strong ethical standards, and fostering connections between the library community and various constituencies. In addition to the annual conference, programs are planned and sponsored year-round by MLA divisions, sections, roundtables, and committees. Find out more at [www.mnllibraryassociation.org](http://www.mnllibraryassociation.org).