MLA Conference Travel Grants Committee
(Formerly known as the Kevin Freeman Travel Grant Committee)
January 2022 Report for the MLA Board


Board Action Required: None

Brief Summary of Activities:

After reviewing all of the applications submitted for both the Kevin Freeman Travel Grant Committee and the MLA Paraprofessional/Public Librarian Travel Grant, the MLA Conference Travel Grants Committee made recommendations for both awards to MLA President Liza Vick and the MLA Board on October 8th, 2021.

Kevin Freeman Travel Grant
The Committee received four eligible applications for funds from the $2400 total and each were approved for funding. Those eligible applicants are:

1. George Flores
   Baylor University

2. Margaret (Margot) Cuddihy
   University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

3. Jackson Harmeyer
   Indiana University

4. Mia Watts
   Indiana University – Bloomington

MLA Paraprofessional/Public Librarian Travel Grant
The Committee received 5 eligible applications for funds from the $2500 total and each were approved for funding. Those eligible applicants are:

1. Amanda Steadman
   American University

2. Jennifer Eltringham
   Pikes Peak Library District

3. Abigail Bass
   Seattle Public Library
4. Rita Alfaro  
Fort Worth Public Library

5. Kathryn Kuntz  
Davenport Public Library

- After explaining to the MLA Board how the recommended amounts were determined and after receiving the approval of the MLA Board, Chris Durman notified each of the recipients of the sums they would be awarded and to expect further registration and grant information from MLA Assistant Administrative Officer Elizabeth Hille Cribbs and a formal congratulatory award letter from MLA President Liza Vick. Chris Durman also verified a preferred physical mailing address for each of the recipients and supplied those to President Vick and Assistant Administrative Officer Elizabeth Hille Cribbs.

- In light of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the MLA Board has asked the MLA Conference Travel Grants Committee to assist the Board in determining which of the recipients are unable to attend the 2022 Meeting in person.

- During their October meeting, the MLA Board proposed and passed two motions related to the MLA Conference Travel Grants Committee:

  Move that in the event that MLA cancels the 2022 Salt Lake City in-person annual meeting (and meets virtually only), the Paraprofessional/Public Librarian Travel Grants will be handled as follows:
  * gratis conference registrations for the online 2022 annual meeting will be offered to all recipients;
  * gratis membership will be offered to all recipients for the FY23 year, as originally planned.
  * MLA will retain the 2022 travel funds and offer both the approved 2022 travel funds and gratis conference registration for the 2022 recipients for the 2023 annual meeting.
  PASSED

  Move that in the event that MLA cancels the 2022 Salt Lake City in-person annual meeting (and meets virtually only), the Kevin Freeman Travel Grants will be handled as follows:
  * gratis conference registrations for the online 2022 annual meeting will be offered to all recipients
  * MLA will retain the 2022 travel funds and offer both the approved 2022 travel funds and gratis conference registration for the 2022 recipients for the 2023 annual meeting.
  PASSED