

OPL Board - Continuing Education Plan (2021)

The OPL Board 2021 Continuing Education Plan includes three components: Board educationals, structured external learning (webinars / seminars, meetings / conferences), and internal ongoing learning (field opportunities).

Board Educationals

OPL Board Educationals serve to provide Trustees with insights on OPL's programs, services, and activities. Educationals are offered four per year. These educationals are provided as presentations at the beginning of the regular Board meeting.

The 2021 Board Educational topics are:

Q1 2021	Accessibility Services (not conducted in 2020)
Q2 2021	Service OPL (not conducted in 2020)
Q2 2021	Planning
Q3 2021	Creating Leadership (not conducted in 2020)
Q4 2021	Inclusion Services update

Structured External Learning – Webinars / Seminars, Meetings / Conferences

Webinars / Seminars

Throughout the year, various library groups (e.g. Southern Ontario Library Service, Federation of Ontario Public Libraries) and associations offer webinars and seminars on a variety of subjects including governance, library trends, and advocacy. Staff monitor these opportunities and share them with the Board via email to gauge interest and coordinate participation, where applicable. The recommended opportunity for 2021 is:

“Governance Hub”

The Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS) offers a suite of online learning geared to trustees regarding governance. This program is designed to help all Public Library Board Members in Ontario to understand the roles and responsibilities of their positions.

<https://www.librarygovernance.ca/>

“Education Institute” (EI)

A professional development and continuing education program for the library community developed by the Partnership of Provincial and Territorial Library Associations of

Canada. The program offers a wide variety of webinars.

<https://thepartnership.ca/education-institute/>.

“Urban Libraries Congress” (ULC)

ULC webinars leverage the knowledge, tools, experience and perspectives of ULC members. In addition to showcasing members, webinars also engage leaders and innovators from other fields to shed light on issues relevant to the needs of urban libraries today and tomorrow.

<https://www.urbanlibraries.org/resources/webinars>

Meetings / Conferences

Each year, Library Associations across Canada, the U.S., and the World hold meetings and conferences to help advance libraries into the future. Most associations include program offerings for all types of libraries, including public libraries. These opportunities will provide Trustees with access to best practices among larger public libraries globally.

The 2021 list of meetings / conferences which may be of interest to Trustees are:

Conference	Location	Dates
Ontario Library Association (OLA) Super Conference (Virtual Participation) https://www.olasuperconference.ca/	Virtual Participation	February 3-6, 2021
American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting https://2021.alamidwinter.org/	Virtual Participation	January 22-26, 2021
Urban Libraries Council (ULC) – Annual or Partner’s Forum	TBD (U.S.A.)	TBD (October)

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ALA) MIDWINTER MEETING – Virtual participation

Date: January 22-26, 2021

Highlights include: Symposium on the Future of Libraries, “News You Can Use” with updates that highlight new research, innovations, and advances in libraries, interactive author events, awards celebrations, a virtual Library Marketplace, live chats, networking opportunities and more!

ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (OLA) SUPER CONFERENCE – Virtual participation

Date: February 3-6, 2021

Theme: Clever Minds and Human Hearts.

The Super Conference has been re-imagined as a virtual event that will brighten your cold February and will not require you to put on any winter wear. It will include an incredible program with access to all conference keynote sessions, divisional spotlight talks, over 100 interactive and engaging sessions, live conversations and opportunities to engage in meaningful dialogue, and an exciting Virtual Expo floor full of products and demonstrations from vendors across library land.

URBAN LIBRARIES COUNCIL (ULC) ANNUAL or PARTNER'S FORUM

Date: March and October

Location: (TBD - U.S.A.)

The Urban Libraries Council Annual Forum is an opportunity for library leaders from the United States and Canada to share and discuss ideas, strategies, and innovations that have energized the library field over the course of the year.

Internal Ongoing Learning – Field Opportunities

Field Opportunities and Walkalongs with OPL Employees

Every quarter, OPL will provide Board members with two to three monthly field/walkalong opportunities where board members will be able to “walk alongside” an OPL employee. These opportunities will provide Board members greater knowledge about the programs and services offered in the community.

Potential field opportunities for 2021 include:

- A virtual branch tour to learn how our locations are staying COVID-safe
- Participate in a virtual storytime or babytime
- Participate in a virtual outreach presentation by library staff to a community group
- Learn more about our Homebound Services team by taking a virtual tour of their offices at Main branch, as they select for a variety of customer tastes
- Join the bookmobile at an outdoor event in Q2-Q3