

OPL Board - Continuing Education Plan (2022)

The OPL Board 2022 Continuing Education Plan includes three components: Board educationals, structured external learning (webinars / seminars, meetings / conferences), and internal ongoing learning (field opportunities).

Internal Ongoing Learning: Board Educationals

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

The 2022 Board Educational topics are:

Q1 2022	Community Development at OPL
Q2 2022	Digital Content Advocacy Update
Q3 2022	Development Charges
Q4 2021	Copyright Update

Internal Ongoing Learning: Field Opportunities and Walkalongs

Every quarter, OPL will provide Board members with 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.

Field opportunities for 2022 include:

- Be a ‘maker’ in the Imagine Space
- See how you can digitize your old videos, photos, and historical documents
- Be part of our InfoService Contact Centre
- Learn how the Materials Delivery department sorts and distributes library materials and supplies.

Structured External Learning: Webinars / Seminars

Throughout the year, various library groups (e.g. 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. Recommended opportunities for 2022 include:

- **“Governance Hub”**

The Ontario Library Service (OLS) 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/> and <https://accessola.com/resources-for-library-boards/>

- **“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. [Webinars and Courses - The Partnership.](#)

- **“Urban Libraries Council (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>

- **“Indigenous Canada”**

Indigenous Canada is a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from the [University of Alberta’s Faculty of Native Studies](#) that explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada. From an Indigenous perspective, this course explores key issues facing Indigenous peoples today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations. Indigenous Canada is for students from faculties outside the Faculty of Native Studies with an interest in acquiring a basic familiarity with Indigenous/non-Indigenous relationships. <https://www.ualberta.ca/admissions-programs/online-courses/indigenous-canada/index.html>

Structured External Learning: 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 2022 list of meetings / conferences recommended to Trustees are:

Ontario Library Association (OLA) Super Conference

- Dates: February 1-5, 2022
- Location: Virtual participation
- Website: <https://www.olasuperconference.ca/>
- Theme: Gather – focusing on coming together as a community. The OLA website notes that “to gather is also to harvest, [...] to gather our experiences for sharing with each other, and in turn, with our communities. This is also a time for us to summon resources within ourselves and each other – to gather our strength [...]. Another meaning of “gather” [is] a swelling, a momentum of energy. This is the passion and energy for change we look forward to at the OLA Super Conference.”

The Super Conference include an incredible program; participants will have access to all conference keynote sessions, 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 the library land.

Public Library Association (PLA) Conference

- Dates: March 23-25, 2022
- Location: Either virtual participation and/or in-person participation in Portland, Oregon.
- Website: <https://www.placonference.org/>
- Theme: The PLA 2022 Conference will reflect the innovation, creativity, adaptability, and diversity we’ve seen emerge from the public library field since the pandemic. The conference offers over 100 educational sessions, a dynamic slate of speakers, hundreds of vendors featuring the latest in library technology and solutions, and plenty of opportunities to explore the weirdness of Portland. PLA’s Virtual Conference will also be returning—bigger and better than ever—for attendees who are unable to join us in person. The Virtual Conference will occur in conjunction with the live event and feature top-rated programs, inspiring

speakers, and virtual networking opportunities. Registration for the Virtual Conference will open in December.

International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Congress

- Dates: July 24-28
- Location: Dublin, Ireland
- Website: <https://www.ifla.org/future-congresses/>
- Theme: Details not available at the time of this report. Staff will share updates with trustees via email when they become available.

Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA) National Forum

- Dates: TBD
- Location: Montreal, QC.
- Website: <http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/meetings/>
- Theme: Details not available at the time of this report. Staff will share updates with trustees via email when they become available. Beginning in 2018, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations / Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) holds a national forum which is planned in partnership with a member association's conference.

Urban Libraries Council (ULC) Annual Forum or Partner's Forum

- Date: TBD, typically held in March and October
- Location: (TBD - U.S.A.)
- Website: Not available yet.
- Theme: Details not available at the time of this report. Staff will share updates with trustees via email when they become available. 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.