

MLA/DLA Conference Meeting Notes
MLA Office, Baltimore
Wednesday, July 18 – 1pm- 3pm

Cathay, Michelle, and I participated in the joint planning meeting with MLA on July 18th. Here are some things we learned from that meeting that our committee should consider:

1. Theme – while the theme hasn't been determined yet, it will be something space related. This is due to the moonwalk anniversary and also the theme of summer reading next year.
2. # of programs – The number of workshops offered will be reduced from last year. This is due to MLA not splitting rooms in half to make smaller conference rooms. Last year some rooms were split but that didn't work very well for noise as well as having enough seating for all.
 - a. This means that almost all programs need to be one hour in length. There will be very few, if any, 2 hour programs.
 - b. Preconference – there will be 6 full day or 8/9 half day. Again owing to room size.
 - c. We need to collaborate with others on workshops. Collaborate among Divisions/Committees and also with MLA. Maybe broaden a topic to be more inclusive of a group – such as a workshop that may initially be thought of as for Children's Services may also work for Youth / Young Adult Services, and maybe this one is not just for public libraries but also affects academic libraries since it addresses young adults (this is an example).
 - d. All conference rooms will be large this year. Rooms should be able to easily fit 75 people.
3. An idea of having preconference workshops be half-day and then tie in a social event that is pertinent to that group's interests was brought up. For example, if there was a program on history, maybe include an optional field trip to the Harriet Tubman Museum? We can look into a shuttle from the hotel and arrange things.

We received the conference forms at the joint meeting and are currently working on adapting the forms and due dates for DLA. Once we have those set, the website will be updated with the 2019 conference forms. You do not need to bring a completed form with you to the August meeting. We will go over the forms and explain how to fill them out. However, please bring with you detailed notes on what programs you are working on, which ones didn't work out, which ones you are struggling to find a local speaker for, etc.

We look forward to seeing you all on August 9th from 10:00 – 12:00 at the Dover Public Library for our next meeting.