

EDI Assembly June Panelist Bios

Bonnie Fong: I am the Physical Sciences Librarian and Graduate Student Services coordinator at the John Cotton Dana Library on the Rutgers University-Newark campus. In ALA, I currently serve as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of the ACRL Science and Technology Section (STS) and as a member of the ACRL Appointments Committee. As a Chinese-American female who grew up in NYC, I believe diversity makes us stronger and better. It is important that we ensure equitable access to programming and other opportunities, are inclusive of diverse groups of people and perspectives, and create an environment where everyone feels as if they belong.

Carla Davis-Castro: I am incoming chair of ALA's Committee on Diversity. I am Salvadoran American and a 2011 Spectrum Scholar. I work as a senior research librarian in the Congressional Research Service in the Library of Congress.

Jennifer Shimada: Jennifer Shimada is the chair of ALA's Office of Diversity and Literacy Outreach Advisory Committee, and therefore also the chair of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Assembly. She works as the Senior Director of Library and Instructional Media at the Relay Graduate School of Education.

Jo Schofield: Jo Schofield is the Senior Main Library Manager at the Stark County District Library in Canton, Ohio. She is the co-chair of the ALSC Operational Effectiveness committee, the Secretary of the RUSA CODES Executive Board, and a member of the CODES Notable Book Council and the ALA Training, Orientation and Leadership Development (TOLDS) Committee. She has always been active in EDI work out of a desire to learn more about her community; however, she became more active in accessibility after developing a chronic health condition.

Julie Ann Winkelstein: Julie Ann Winkelstein, MLIS, PhD, is the co-editor of the SRRT newsletter and the co-coordinator of the SRRT Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty Task Force. Previously a public librarian, Julie's current work and teaching focus on the relationships between libraries and social justice, including adult and LGBTQ+ youth homelessness, public health, and the role of libraries in addressing the impact of social inequities on communities. Julie has presented internationally, and her publications include book chapters, journal articles and her 2021 book: Libraries and Homelessness: An Action Guide. Julie believes social justice is the backbone of responsive and responsible library services.

LaKeshia Darden: LaKeshia is the Associate Librarian for Reference/Instruction for Warren Library at Palm Beach Atlantic University. LaKeshia is a member of the Coretta Scott King (CSK) Book Awards Committee, currently serving on CSK's Book Awards Grant committee and CSK's Publications Standing Committee. LaKeshia has served as Chair of the CSK Jury, 2019-2021. She is currently serving a two-year term on the American Library Association's Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Assembly and was recently elected as an executive board member for the BCALA. LaKeshia holds degrees from Fayetteville State University (English,

B.S. and Educational Leadership, Ed.D) and North Carolina Central University (MLS).

Padma Polepeddi: This is my 2nd year serving on the ALA Diversity Committee as a committee member. As Assistant Director of Public Services, Community Outreach at Jefferson County Public Library, Colorado, I oversee outreach to the community, offsite services such as the bookmobile, holds lockers, lending machine etc. I am also responsible for strategies for services, operational details, direct implementation of strategic initiatives at library locations related to diversity and inclusion, services geared towards serving children and families, teens, adults, seniors, and underserved populations. I have a doctorate degree from Emporia State University and my dissertation was on library hesitancy and information seeking behavior of English speaking immigrants using public libraries.

Robert (Jay) Malone: I joined the Assoc. of College and Research Libraries in Sept 2021. Trained as a historian of science, I was the first executive director of the History of Science Society (HSS), a non profit established in 1925 with an international membership of 3,000. At HSS I was involved in all aspects of non-profit management. The primary reason I wanted to join ALA and ACRL was due to their EDI efforts and the potential impact of these efforts. Having been born and raised in Mississippi and having studied southern history, I am acutely aware of the hope of EDI.