

The Future of the DPLA

DPLA Midwest

October 11-12, 2012

Chicago Public Library

Inaugural DPLA Board of Directors

Working with the Steering Committee and Governance Workstream, as well as governance consultant Maureen Sullivan, the Secretariat formed a small Nominating Committee in July 2012 to propose a slate of candidates for the inaugural DPLA Board of Directors. The DPLA Nominating Committee convened and proposed a slate of five candidates for an eventual seven-member Board of Directors, which the Steering Committee approved in August 2012. The inaugural Board is tasked with filling the two remaining open seats by April 2013, allowing the Steering Committee and the Board to move ahead with filing documents to create the new nonprofit organization. It was widely agreed that such a strategy would allow the Board to identify, court, and secure high-level Directors.

The inaugural DPLA Board of Directors consists of the following five individuals:

- Cathy Casserly, CEO of Creative Commons (Treasurer)
- Paul Courant, Harold T. Shapiro Professor of Public Policy and Dean of Libraries at the University of Michigan; DPLA Steering Committee
- Laura DeBonis, Former Director for Library Partnerships for Google Book Search (Secretary)
- Luis Herrera, City Librarian for the City and County of San Francisco; DPLA Steering Committee
- John Palfrey, Head of School, Phillips Academy, Andover; DPLA Steering Committee (President)

The Board of Directors will work with the Secretariat and the Governance Workstream to approve foundational documents such as a charter and bylaws, recruit an Executive Director, and establish an initial budget and organizational structure for the new organization.

Independent 501(c)(3) Nonprofit

Over the past year, the Secretariat has made concrete steps to establish the DPLA as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, culminating in its establishment in early 2013 as a new Delaware non-stock corporation.

The Secretariat has engaged the law firm of WilmerHale as pro bono counsel to prepare and file corporation and tax-exempt status documents (IRS Form 1023). WilmerHale, a US law firm with a global reputation, has completed these organizational documents and they have been shared with the Steering Committee, Secretariat, and other key stakeholders for review before they were filed with the State of Delaware in early October 2012. The Board of Directors is presently working with the Secretariat and the Governance Workstream to approve foundational documents such as a charter and bylaws for the new organization.

Executive Director and Staff

The DPLA Secretariat is working closely with the Board of Directors to prepare a job description for an Executive Director, who will lead the new independent organization from a planning initiative to a fully fledged independent organization. The Secretariat and Board are in talks with a search firm to spearhead the recruitment process. The goal is to hire an Executive Director by the beginning of 2013; the new DPLA organization will shortly thereafter recruit and hire a small staff to support the Executive Director.