

DPLA Board of Directors Call December 17, 2012

Participating:

DPLA Board Members: Paul Courant, Laura DeBonis (Secretary), Luis Herrera, John Palfrey (President) [*absent: Cathy Casserly (Treasurer)*]

DPLA Secretariat Members: Maura Marx, Kenny Whitebloom

INTRODUCTION

John Palfrey commenced the call at 11:05 AM and announced that the Board would go into executive session for the final 20 minutes to discuss matters of finance and personnel.

DPLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

The Board has prioritized continuing the deep and broad engagement of members of the [Steering Committee](#). During its [November 2012 call](#), the Board of Directors approved a proposal to create a formal advisory committee composed of Steering Committee members who have opted in to serve. The DPLA Secretariat was asked to prepare a proposal¹ outlining the purpose and structure of this new Advisory Committee, which the Board reviewed.

The goal of the committee will be to provide advice to the Board from the broadest possible stakeholder group (including libraries, museums, archives, technologists, educators, attorneys, state and local government, foundations, and other innovators), and to maintain the momentum and deep interest sustained by the Steering Committee over the course of the planning initiative.

The Board approved the proposal but asked that the Secretariat, in preparing a final document, change the term limits for Advisory Committee members from one year, with unlimited renewals, to three years, renewable once, and to make these terms staggered.

DPLA COMMITTEES PROPOSAL

The Board reviewed a draft document² prepared by the Secretariat that proposes a suite of recommendations concerning the creation of DPLA Committees.

¹ See: "Proposal for purpose and structure of new DPLA Advisory Committee," December 2012, http://dp.la/files/2012/12/DPLA_AdvisoryCommitteeProposal_12111212-FINAL_DRAFT.pdf

² See: "Digital Public Library of America [DRAFT] Committees Proposal," December 2012, http://dp.la/files/2012/12/DPLA_CommitteesProposal_121412_DRAFT.pdf.

The Board agreed that having *Ad Hoc* committees, such as a search committee and nominating committee, was a good idea. Board members said that a standing governance and finance committee ought to first start as an operational committee reporting to the Executive Director, and then, once the DPLA, Inc. has set up an organizational structure, it would flip over to become a more policy-oriented committee reporting to the Board of Directors.

The Board agreed to leave the question of committee membership size to the Executive Director.

The Secretariat will work with Board Secretary Laura DeBonis to prepare a more formal document outlining these new committees in advance of the January 2013 call.

CONTENT PARTNERSHIPS

Palfrey encouraged the Board to assist the DPLA Director for Content, Emily Gore, and the Secretariat to identify future [Service](#) and [Content](#) Hubs. Palfrey stated that the DPLA will have a mixture of public-private institutions already on board in time for the [April 2013 launch](#), as well as a number of others that have signed on to serve as hubs in the future.

CCo METADATA POLICY

The DPLA is committed to asserting no new rights—and will claim no rights—over the metadata that it aggregates from its various data-providing partners. It has also pledged to make all of this metadata freely available under a [Creative Commons 0 license](#) (public domain dedication).

Board member Paul Courant expressed his strong interest in the topic. Courant described how the metadata that the DPLA will be aggregating is essentially data, or, in other words, facts about certain objects. Under US copyright law, one is not allowed to copyright facts, and Courant expressed concern that, by instituting a CCo metadata policy, the DPLA might be suggesting that copyright does in fact apply to metadata. Toward that end, he asked the group if there was a way to institute a metadata policy that doesn't imply copyright in this way.

The Board agreed that the DPLA might want to pursue a strategy that doesn't perceive copyright in its metadata, and Palfrey and Courant agreed to move forward with spearheading the mechanics of such a policy.

DPLA LAUNCH: APRIL 18 OPEN BOARD MEETING

The DPLA will officially [launch](#) on April 18-19, 2013 at the Boston Public Library, the first municipally funded library in the United States. The two-day event will include a brief working day on Thursday, April 18th, including an open Board meeting and an open [Digital Hubs](#) meeting, followed by a formal reception featuring presentations and a series of interactive exhibits showcasing content from the DPLA's many partners, including the Digital Hubs and Europeana. On Friday, April 19th, the DPLA will convene a focused half-day plenary meeting highlighting the DPLA's progress and potential.

Maura Marx, Director of the DPLA Secretariat, said that the DPLA is looking at fundable proposals moving forward and is therefore aiming to highlight past progress and to seek tangible feedback on shovel-ready initiatives.

The Board was encouraged to send recommendations and feedback on the substance of this April 2013 meeting to the Secretariat.

UPDATE ON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH

A [search committee was established](#) to review a slate of candidates suggested by Spencer Stuart, an executive search firm, and other promising candidates for the role of DPLA Executive Director. The members of the Search Committee include:

- Robert Darnton, *DPLA Steering Committee, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the Harvard University Library*
- Laura DeBonis, *DPLA Board of Directors (Secretary)*
- Carla Hayden, *DPLA Steering Committee, Chief Executive Officer of the Enoch Pratt Free Library (Baltimore, Maryland)*
- Maura Marx, *DPLA Steering Committee, Director of the DPLA Secretariat*
- John Palfrey, *DPLA Board of Directors (President), Head of School at Phillips Academy, Andover, MA*
- Doron Weber, *DPLA Steering Committee, Vice President of Programs at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation*

The Search Committee will meet in Boston, MA in early 2013 to interview promising candidates. Once a critical mass of finalists has been decided upon, the Search Committee will turn to the Board for review and approval.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

David Rothman expressed his opinion that the DPLA is not sufficiently responding to the needs of public libraries and K-12 schools. Rothman recommended that the DPLA pursue

development of an all-purpose creation tool, such as a sophisticated blogging platform, rather than simply focusing its attention on metadata aggregation.

CM! Winters-Palacio pointed out that presently the DPLA talks quite a bit about metadata in its general community engagement strategy. Winters-Palacio thinks that the DPLA should now begin to pivot toward thinking more about ways to present the utility of the actual DPLA service to end-users. Winters-Palacio recommended that the DPLA transition from a technical focus to a more end-user focus in its marketing strategy.

The Board went into Executive session at 11:40 AM EST to discuss the search for an Executive Director, DPLA funding activity, and the recruitment of two additional members to the Board.