

DPLA Board of Directors Call

July 15, 2013 | 1:00 PM EDT

Participating Board members: Cathy Casserly, Robert Darnton, Luis Herrera, Jamie Hollier, John Palfrey (President) [*absent:* Paul Courant, Laura DeBonis, Amy Ryan, Siva Vaidhyanathan]

Additional Participants: Dan Cohen (DPLA), Emily Gore (DPLA), Amy Rudersdorf (DPLA), Kenny Whitebloom (DPLA), members of the public

INTRODUCTION

John Palfrey, President of the DPLA Board of Directors, commenced the call at 1:02 PM EDT.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Palfrey said that this item served largely as a reminder to Board members that he would like to nail down committee assignments in the next week. Palfrey hopes that Board members would serve on the Board committees and associate themselves with the operational committees as a convener, if interested. Palfrey will be assigning and populating these committees in the weeks to come.

Executive Director Dan Cohen noted that the organization has begun to get its sea legs and is interested in reengaging the Board and the committees. His staff is working on a series of efforts to jumpstart an engagement strategy.

Each Board member was asked to send their committee preferences to Palfrey by the end of the week.

BOARD AND DPLA STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

From the beginning, the DPLA has committed itself to operating as openly and inclusively as possible. The open Board calls and meetings serve as excellent ways to stay true to that commitment. Palfrey asked if the Board might have suggestions for ways in which the Board could help develop a more robust line of communication between the Board and DPLA staff.

Cohen said that, in reference to the committees, he envisions they would focus on longer-term and strategic issues, such as a business plan for the DPLA. He is working to set up a regularly scheduled call with the committees, which would be open to the public.

Darnton asked if the entire Board could meet in-person before the [October 24-25 DPLAfest](#) celebration for what he described as a “jam session.” While Cohen said that a big Board meeting may not be logistically feasible at this point, he did

recognize the need for a space at DPLAfest for the Board to meet and brainstorm. Hollier agreed, saying that she would appreciate an in-person meeting directly before the DPLAfest. Herrera noted that he would prefer a meeting after the DPLAfest.

Palfrey and staff will look into the idea of having a Board “jam session” before DPLAfest starts, potentially on Thursday (10/24) morning or afternoon prior to the evening reception.

Hollier relayed her experience with another organization, where she often connected staff with potential external partners. She asked if this type of networking would be useful. Cohen said that he always appreciates referrals, with the caveat that his responses may be delayed given his busy schedule.

Director for Content Emily Gore reminded folks to send content inquiries along to her (emily(at)dp.la, or content(at)dp.la).

UPDATE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On the last call, Cohen mentioned the Boston Public Library’s gracious offer of hosting DPLA staff. DPLA has in hand a first draft of a contract, and they tentatively plan to move into the new office space by mid-August if everything goes according to plan.

At the American Library Association’s (ALA) Annual Conference in Chicago, IL, the DPLA convened an open house that was well received and fruitful. Cohen had the chance to give a plenary talk with ALA President Maureen Sullivan that was attended by hundreds of librarians. Cohen highlighted the [DPLA’s recent announcement](#) that it will ingest some 3.5 million books from HathiTrust.

The entire DPLA staff is going to Atlanta, GA this week to meet with the DPLA Service Hubs. Assistant Director for Content Amy Rudersdorf is currently working with library and information science graduate school professors on the development of curatorial pilot project to seed compelling exhibitions for the DPLA virtual exhibition page.

DPLA recently added its fifth employee, Frances Abbott, who will start on September 1, 2013. Abbott is an American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Public Fellow, and she will join the DPLA as a Project Manager. Abbott is well-regarded for her experience in open access publishing and digitally curated content.

Herrera complimented Dan on his presentation at ALA and asked him about current grant activity. Cohen mentioned that two grant applications have been submitted in the past few weeks. DPLA staff expects comments on one of the proposals this week. Given the general level of confidentiality expected of grant

proposals early in the submission process, Cohen said that he would up with the Board via email.

Hollier asked if there was a calendar or aggregated list of DPLA speaking engagements on the website. Cohen said that they do not presently have a page on the site for public appearances, but that someone on staff could create one.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

A public librarian from Orange County, FL asked where she could direct content inquiries. Director for Content Gore chimed in and said that all content inquiries should be directed to her, emily(at)dp.la. Gore also pointed her to the DPLA's "get involved" page as well.

She also requested a generic DPLA slidedeck for public speaking engagements. DPLA staff is currently working on a public slidedeck and is eager to share it with the community in the next couple of weeks.

Palfrey adjourned the call at 1:42 PM EDT.