



## DPLA Board of Directors Conference Call

Monday, June 15, 2015 - 3:00 PM EDT

### Agenda

#### Public Session

1. Discussion of proposed revisions to [Open Committee calls](#)
2. Discussion of scheduling annual in-person Board meeting in Fall
3. Update from Executive Director
4. Questions/comments from the public

#### Executive Session

1. Update on Nominating Committee
2. Election of new Board Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair
3. Funding and financial update

#### Materials

1. [Internal Document] DPLA Board Dashboard, June 2015
2. DPLAfest 2015 announcements

#### Notes

*In attendance:* Paul Courant, Robert Darnton, Luis Herrera, Jamie Hollier, Jenny Lee, Amy Ryan, Dan Cohen (DPLA staff), Mark Breedlove (DPLA staff), Kenny Whitebloom (DPLA staff), members of the public

*Absent:* Siva Vaidhyanathan, Laura DeBonis

Dan Cohen, DPLA Executive Director, commenced the conference call at 3:04 PM Eastern. Cohen introduced Amy Ryan as the new DPLA Board Chair.

#### **[Public session] Discussion of proposed revisions to Open Committee calls**

Discussions around revising the [Open Committee calls](#) started up at DPLAfest 2015 in April. After two years of open calls it's come to the attention of DPLA staff and Committees that they aren't as productive as they could be, and that a new format would better channel the public's interest and enthusiasm around DPLA and its work.



In place of the current Open Committee calls, Cohen proposed initiating a two-pronged series of webinar conversations: one that would take place once-a-quarter and would be focused on general DPLA topics and updates, and another series that would take place more frequently and would cover a rotating series of focused topics on items related to technology, content, outreach, data, and more.

Darnton said that the Board has had a problem of attendance, and that there is a natural consistency of interest around DPLA's technology and its hub infrastructure. He said it was a good idea to mobilize that constituency.

Herrera agreed and said that broader engagement through targeted sessions would make sense. Hollier seconded the idea. Darnton encouraged the group to circulate materials in advance of these webinars for greater engagement.

Courant suggested that a feedback mechanism be implemented to ensure that the format is successful and is meeting the needs of participants.

Hollier asked if these webinars would be recorded. Cohen said that they would be recorded.

The proposal passed unanimously. DPLA staff will pull together a plan for implementing it over the summer.

### **[Public session] Discussion of scheduling annual in-person Board meeting in Fall**

Cohen proposed an in-person meeting of the DPLA Board in fall 2015 (and beyond). The plan for in-person Board meetings had originally been to host an extended meeting at the annual DPLAfest celebration, but with the success of the event it has proved difficult to convene a concentrated in-person meeting. Cohen proposed a one-day Executive Session each fall, in addition to a more public-facing meeting at the annual DPLAfest in April.

Darnton pointed out the expense of the travel and accommodations, and he encouraged the Board to attempt to cover the cost of their own travel, if possible. DPLA would cover the cost of travel and accommodations for others in need of financial assistance.

Herrera seconded the idea and underlined the importance of in-person meetings at least once a year.

Ryan mentioned the possibility of an "orientation notebook" that would go out once a year, likely in advance of this in-person meeting, containing a series of important documents, updates, and other organizational information.

Courant seconded the proposal.



Hollier said that the shift from monthly Board calls to quarterly calls has made it harder to stay engaged in DPLA. Having in-person meetings twice a year would be very helpful in increasing Board engagement as well. She seconded the proposal.

Lee seconded the proposal. She said the DPLAfest was a whirlwind, and it makes sense to have a more low-key Executive in-person meeting in the fall.

The proposal passed unanimously. Cohen said that he would work with DPLA staff to find the appropriate date (likely in early October) and to initiate the planning process. Lee and Hollier said that October seemed at this stage like a strong option.

### **[Public session] Update from Executive Director**

Cohen said that it was a very busy quarter for DPLA. Key events included:

- [DPLAfest 2015](#) in Indianapolis, which brought together over 350 people, was a success and served as the capstone event of the quarter. DPLA staff is looking for a venue for [DPLAfest 2016](#), ideally somewhere in the West or the South. Cohen encouraged the group to circulate the announcement.
- Following the fest, DPLA announced the [Open eBooks initiative](#), which will bring eBooks to low-income children.
- In May, DPLA released two draft white papers produced by a DPLA-led international working group focused on simplifying and harmonizing rights statements.
- DPLA recently put out a call for new Service Hub applications.
- Next weekend the DPLA will be out in force at ALA Annual in San Francisco. Cohen said that a post containing the DPLA's schedule at ALA Annual would go out over the blog in the coming week.

Cohen opened up the floor to the Board.

Herrera commended DPLA on the Open eBooks initiative and praised it as a potential game-changer. Courant said that the initiative was extremely promising and exciting. Cohen praised the project's partners -- NYPL, First Book, and IMLS -- and the many participating publishers.

### **[Public session] Questions/comments from the public**

Cohen opened up the floor to the public for their questions and comments. Jessica Short and Jamie Awalt called in as representatives from the new Tennessee Service Hub. They praised the idea of quarterly webinars and said they look forward to seeing the list of topics DPLA will cover.

Sunny Pai (Community Rep) also praised the webinar idea and thinks it will allow her to remain up to speed with DPLA.



Carolyn Anthony (ALA Digital Content and Libraries Working Group) said that ALA would like to stay involved with DPLA and its work around eBooks. She asked for clarification around the Open eBooks initiatives and the contemporaneously announced new initiative to increase the number of children with library cards. Cohen said that although these two initiatives were announced by the White House at the same time, they are not necessarily the same thing and that DPLA is not involved in the library card program. Anthony followed up and asked if DPLA was doing anything to increase children's access to the Internet. Cohen said that they are not currently focused on that issue as part of this eBook project.

Cohen concluded the public portion of the call at 3:37 PM Eastern.