

DPLA Board of Directors Call

April 14, 2014: 2:00 PM Eastern

Present: Paul Courant, Amy Ryan, Laura DeBonis, John Palfrey, Siva Vaidhyanathan, DPLA staff, members of the public

Absent: Cathy Casserly, Luis Herrera, Jamie Hollier

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John Palfrey, President of the Board, commenced the call at 2:06 PM Eastern.

DPLA at 1-year: April 18, 2014

Palfrey invited the Board to reflect on DPLA's 1-year anniversary, taking place on April 18, 2014. Robert Darnton congratulated the staff and said that he looks forward to a larger staff and increased capacity. Amy Ryan commended the speed by which the collection has tripled, reaching 7 million items this week. Palfrey echoed these remarks and encouraged the Board to be thoughtful about strategic priorities, since the staff remains small. Palfrey led a congratulatory huzzah for Executive Director Dan Cohen's leadership during the first year.

Update from Executive Director

Executive Director Dan Cohen confirmed the 7 million-item mark before providing his general update. In particular, Cohen thanked Mark Breedlove, DPLA Technical Specialist, for his work in achieving this milestone. Cohen noted that DPLA staff is finishing up a handful of legal agreements with new partners, to be announced later in the week.¹

Looking towards the coming year, Cohen said that the open Board and Committee calls have been tremendously helpful, and that ideas discussed during these calls, such as the idea of "meta-hubs," or hubs designed to aggregated specific types of materials,

¹ See: <http://dp.la/info/2014/04/17/dpla-1st-birthday-announcement/>

are on the table at DPLA in part because of interest/discussion from these calls.² Cohen asked the Board to help the staff “complete the map” and to reach those institutions that don’t have a clear onramp to DPLA because there isn’t a hub in their state or region.

Palfrey asked Cohen to elaborate on the Community Reps program. Cohen said that through the volunteer Community Reps program,³ DPLA is looking for people to evangelize for DPLA in their communities through a variety of outreach activities. DPLA launched another round of applications, due on April 30, and Cohen encouraged the Board to help spread the word.

Cohen noted that the “Public Library Partnership Project” is in full-swing, with DPLA staff prepared to convene the first set of training workshops later in the week. The Public Library Partnerships Project, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, works with existing DPLA Service Hubs to provide digital skills training for public librarians and connect them sustainably with state and regional resources for digitizing, describing, and exhibiting their cultural heritage content. The goal is to have public librarians trained in essential digital skills and to seed new items for eventual inclusion in DPLA’s collections, among other outcomes.

The Committees have been helpful to Cohen and staff. The Board’s Governance Subcommittee is scheduled to discuss improvements to the committee structure and participation later in the week.

Cohen announced that DPLA recently hired Audrey Altman as the third member of the organization’s in-house technical team. There are two additional openings which Cohen encouraged the Board to share widely:

Business Development Director

- o <http://dp.la/info/2014/04/08/job-opportunity-business-development-director/>

Content Specialist: Metadata Coordinator

- o <http://dp.la/info/2014/03/31/dpla-job-opportunity-content-specialist/>

² See: <https://docs.google.com/a/dp.la/document/d/1dgsdrMYtx0CDc9AEacVffBlzot2iWhGD7WfkhLKezqk/edit>

³ See: <http://dp.la/info/get-involved/reps/>

Since last month's Board call, DPLA announced that the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded them a grant to explore sustainability options. This two-year grant will allow DPLA to expand its staff to target opportunities for further development and revenue, without compromising its mission of open access to the riches of America's libraries, archives, and museums. The project, which will proceed in a series of phases, is designed to first comprehensively flesh out an emerging set of sustainability pathways for the young organization. In the following phases, DPLA will narrow down those options in concert with its partners and through additional technical and content work. The grant will allow DPLA to hire two new employees, mentioned above.

Cohen noted that DPLA filed a full proposal to the FCC under their E-rate modernization program. It is potentially a way for DPLA to augment its infrastructure for the benefit of public libraries. Cohen and Legal Committee member Dave Hansen also filed a comment with the United States Copyright Office on their study of the "Right of Making Available."⁴ This proposed right, which would be an explicit addition to existing copyright law in the U.S., strongly restricts the ability to link to materials on the open web, reserving for copyright holders "communication to the public" of the existence of works on the Internet. An excerpt from this filing is available at <http://dp.la/info/2014/04/04/on-the-right-to-link/>.

Palfrey asked if incorporating partner content from all 50 states by the end of DPLA's second year was a reasonable timeline. Cohen responded that such a predication is hard to make given the staff's previous experience negotiating other contracts, which can vary greatly in length. Director for Content Emily Gore said that she is trying to encourage state or regional self-organization so as to reduce wholly DPLA-led organization.

Palfrey asked if the Board could help clarify the DPLA's content strategy. For instance, he said, one approach to content acquisition/partnership would be to continue to fill out the map of hubs. Paul Courant asked how the relationships between DPLA and potential partners start. Gore responded that in the past she has heard from interested

⁴ See: http://www.copyright.gov/docs/making_available/

institutions in a given state or region, though that has begun to change as she has targeted particular institutions, which she plans to do more of in the coming year. For instance, Gore and Assistant Director for Content Amy Rudersdorf completed a survey to identify likely partners across the US. Gore said that she has 4 – 6 conversations a week with potential partners.

Palfrey asked Courant to share his opinion on the 50 states target a good near- to medium-term strategy. Courant replied that it would be best to make progress in all states: some will reach a terminal point, others will not. Amy Ryan highlighted the need to have a diverse body of states and regions represented on the map, and Palfrey echoed her statement by encouraging DPLA to potentially incorporate international partners. Besides the Europeana countries represented in Europeana, Robert Darnton suggested Canada.

Cohen said that it was an intriguing idea, and that, in fact, Europeana's new WWI exhibition is using DPLA's collections via its API and is receiving a sizable number of hits. Cohen said that the foundation for the interweaving of the world's national digital library is coalescing. Darnton asked whether a sub-committee devoted to international collaboration would be useful. Palfrey added that, if formed, the subcommittee would require a number of volunteers to lead this work.

Questions/comments from the public

Palfrey opened the call to the public at 2:40 PM EDT. There were no questions or comments from the public.

The Board entered executive session at 2:45 PM EDT.