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OLA Board – Member At Large (3 Year Term – Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Voice and Representation)

Two Candidates (Kanta Kapoor, Shelby McEachern)

Candidate 1:

Kanta Kapoor

I am writing to express my strong interest in joining the OLA Board. As a dedicated advocate for libraries and a passionate supporter of their vital role in our communities, I am committed to contributing my expertise, vision, and energy to further the OLA's mission and objectives. With over 20 years of leadership experience in diverse library settings, I have actively participated in library advocacy efforts.



If elected, I will enhance public awareness, promote engagement and advocate for policies that empower the association to thrive. Promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion is a core priority for me. If elected, I will actively support initiatives that expand outreach to diverse professionals to attract them to engage in OLA and have their voice in decision-making. In addition, I have a strong record of building partnerships, working with stakeholders, and forging connections that enhance library services and extend their reach. I will bring this spirit of collaboration to the OLA Board.

I look forward to using my experience in library advocacy, my commitment to diversity and inclusion, and my expertise in innovation to advance the association's mission and ensure that libraries remain vital, vibrant, and accessible.

Shelby McEachern

My name is Shelby McEachern and I am hoping to be one of the OLA Members at Large. In particular, I am hoping to be on the three year term for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion voice representation. I am in my third year of working as an Elementary Library Technician and I love it a lot! In fact, it is in school libraries where I feel it is really important to have books that represent equity, diversity and inclusion. I am seeking this position because I know I have a lot to bring to the table in terms of equity, diversity and inclusion. In fact, one of my two elementary schools is in a very diverse community and I can see firsthand how excited the students get when they borrow books with diverse characters.



These are my priorities for if I am elected the OLA Member at Large (three year term - Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion voice representation) position:



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- To show examples of how important diverse representation in the books we read is important to the students.
- To fight for the right of diverse representation in public and school libraries.
- To show why diverse representation in books is important.

I am super excited to help out in this area as being an Autistic student growing up, there were no books with Autistic characters and that made me feel unheard. So I believe in showcasing books with diverse characters to make minority communities feel heard.