

I am Julius C. Jefferson Jr., section head for the Foreign Affairs and Trade division at the Congressional Research Division, Library of Congress. I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for the Regional Council chair that will also serve as a member of the IFLA Governing Board. I ask for your support and vote.

This is a pivotal election as IFLA approaches 100 years of serving the global library community. Over the past year, IFLA has experienced challenges with governance and staffing. With this election, IFLA members have the opportunity to choose leaders that are transparent and have association governance experience.

Over the past two years I was elected to serve as the first North American Regional Division Committee (NARDC) chair. As chair, I have developed collaborative working relationships with the regional divisions by advocating for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG's) at the UN, presented at regional conferences with regional council colleagues and represented the NARDC on the Regional Council, including meeting with regional council chairs at IFLA headquarters. My focus as NARDC chair has been on building a viable North American action plan highlighting library issues and building awareness of the importance of IFLA membership; with a focus on digital inclusion and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, I focused on building inclusive relationships with all regional council chairs.

I believe that IFLA members who have led at the national association level and have significant governance experience are best suited to lead IFLA now.

I have served on many high level boards, including the American Library Association (ALA) as a member, and as ALA president, I presided over a complex association. I have demonstrated my active engagement advocating for library issues and highlighting the important role libraries have on our daily lives, with a focus on under-represented groups. As the current chair of the ALA International Relations Committee, I provide guidance to the governing body on issues of importance, advocating for the global library community. My proven advocacy experience will be invaluable as RC chair and as an IFLA board member.

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As the 2020-2021 ALA president, I led ALA during the Covid pandemic, focusing on transparency, inclusion and regular communications to members. In addition, IFLA will be onboarding a new Secretary General, I led the ALA Executive Board onboard a new executive director.

As RC chair my priority would be:

- to coordinate, build and strengthen relationships within the six regional divisions, sharing my vast advocacy experience with the regional chairs, with the goal of building a regional council that is inclusive, cohesive and promotes IFLA values in all regions,
- to listen to the issues and challenges of the six regions and communicate to the GB with the purpose of developing strategies for successful advocacy for libraries in all regions, and
- to support IFLA's impact on advocating and illuminating the global voice of libraries.

As RC chair and a GB member, I will successfully help lead IFLA towards 100 years as the global voice for library associations and institutions.

Thank you for consideration and please vote for Julius C. Jefferson Jr for Regional Council chair.



Julius C. Jefferson Jr.

A white handwritten signature of Julius C. Jefferson Jr. on a dark blue background. The signature is fluid and cursive, starting with a large 'J' and ending with a long, sweeping flourish.

Candidate's Motivation Statement



www.juliusjefferson.com