

Christopher Stewart

As we close in on the end of a second year of Covid, the resilience of libraries remains one of society's most compelling (and surely needed) examples of institutional response to community need in the face of financial constraints, political noise, and seemingly deepening cultural divides. While articles in this issue cover a range of topics, the common themes of advocacy and action run through them. Paige Harris provides some intriguing insights on the role public libraries can play in partnering with stewards of Little Free Libraries (LFLs). Harris's suggestions are intriguing, especially as they concern leveraging public library-LFL partnerships in underserved areas. Pun and Bustos's exploratory study of barriers and experiences in library advocacy by library workers of color outlines first steps in filling this wide research gap in the field. Their study provides a CRT-based framework based on the direct experiences and counter-narratives of librarians of color engaged in advocacy work and is an invaluable resource for the profession. Dickenson and Jaeger's timely piece reminds us of libraries' history of activism, political engagement, and social justice. It is a solid primer, and one that compels us to live our legacy in response to an increasingly restrictive and often cruel immigration climate. DeLooper's analysis provides a detailed and useful account of the challenges and opportunities for libraries in the participatory budgeting (PB) process. DeLooper's discussion of the library's role in supporting the information needs of PB initiative organizers is particularly instructive. Celic and Delwhiche's detailed review of a successful library finding referendum provides a toolbox of strategies and steps for the process. Their focus on managing the message in social media environments, securing endorsements, and responding to naysayers is especially relevant in these politically divisive times.

Enjoy the issue.