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Leadership:
Dayna Holz will continue as the Coordinator for the Public Librarians SIG.

Activities and Plans:
The Public Librarians SIG met at the 2016 Annual Conference in Seattle. Seven members attended, three of whom were new to the group. Members gave Round Robin updates, and discussed the need for continued support for art librarians working in public libraries as their numbers dwindle.

Addressing ARLIS/NA Strategic Directions:

Leadership and Advocacy
The Society shall speak and act on behalf of its members to advance, validate, sustain, and advocate for the profession and the value of art libraries.

Art subject specialists in public libraries are being phased out in favor of generalists at libraries all over the U.S. This is a critical time for professional advocacy and collaboration among art librarians in public libraries and the Public Librarians SIG seeks to remain a nexus for the exchange of information and ideas among professionals in this specialized area of art librarianship.

Our ongoing action plan is to: 1) maintain the Public Librarians SIG listserv (arlis_publiclib@arlisna.org) as a way to communicate with colleagues for support, idea-sharing, and outreach; 2) meet as a group at the annual conference; and 3) act as a resource for librarians new to the area of art librarianship in public libraries to learn about this specialized field from colleagues.

Diversity and Inclusion
The Society shall promote diversity and inclusion within the profession including the makeup of its workforce, the design of services and programming, the development of intercultural fluency skills and competencies, and the practice of inclusive collections building.

Public librarians constitute only a small number of total ARLIS/NA members, yet lend to ARLIS/NA’s representation of a diverse range of institution types and specialized areas of art librarianship.

Because art subject specialists and art collection selectors in public libraries do not often identify professionally with ARLIS/NA, it is the intent of the Public Librarians SIG to identify potential members at institutions in North America, to inform them of our group within
ARLIS/NA, and to invite them to join a list of institutional contacts for the Public Librarians SIG to enhance our professional network. The idea for this action item was proposed at the 2015 Public Librarians SIG meeting at the Annual Conference, and reaffirmed at the 2016 SIG meeting, and is a pending action item for 2017.