2026 Member Annual Meeting

Massachusetts LIBRARY SYSTEM

November 4, 2026
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Leominster, MA

Agenda

8:45 a.m. – Registration and Breakfast

9:30 a.m. – Welcome and Introductions
- Dr. Shannon Compton, MLS Executive Board President
- Sarah Sogigian, MLS Executive Director

9:35 a.m. – MLS Business Meeting, Presided by Dr. Shannon Compton
- Presentation and Vote of November 2025 Member Annual Meeting Minutes
- Presentation and Vote of the FY28 Plan of Service and Budget
- Presentation and Vote of 2027 Slate of Candidates for the MLS Executive Board

10 a.m. – Dr. Michaela Kerrissey, Keynote Speaker

11 a.m. – Opening Activity with CultureAlly
- “What can I have influence over at my library?”

11:30 a.m. – Breakouts with CultureAlly
- Cultural Competence – With Diana Montero
- Inclusive Hiring – With Makeda Crane

12:30 p.m. – Lunch

1:30 p.m. – Updates from Our Colleagues
- Dr. Maria McCauley, ALA President
- Maureen Solomon, MBLC Director
- Debby Conrad, MLA Legislative Committee Member
- Reba Tierney, MSLA President

1:45 p.m. – Facilitated Table Discussions

2:45 p.m. – Reflection Activity

3:15 p.m. – Closing Remarks
- Incoming MLS Executive Board Vice President

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Michaela Kerrissey

Professor Michaela Kerrissey, PhD, MS, is on the faculty at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. She conducts research on how teams and organizations innovate, integrate, and perform, with a focus on team climates and psychological experiences at work.

Dr. Kerrissey has authored over 30 publications on team and organizational topics. She publishes in leading academic journals, such as Administrative Science Quarterly, and in popular outlets, such as Harvard Business Review, Stanford Social Innovation Review, and NEJM Catalyst. She has received numerous Best Paper awards, including from the Academy of Management and the Interdisciplinary Network for Group Research. She is listed on Thinkers50 Radar, a global listing of top management thinkers, and was shortlisted in 2023 for their top award.

CultureAlly Facilitators

Diana Montero

Diana Montero (she/her/ella) is a seasoned DEI professional with over 10 years of experience in DEI. She has served as a senior consultant for the Department of Defense at the Pentagon and is currently an EEO and DEI consultant at the Government Publishing Office. Diana has a passion for advocacy and policy development and brings incredible perspective through her lived experience as an Afro-Cuban/Dominican woman. A captivating training facilitator, Diana holds an MBA in human resources management and is working towards a doctorate in public policy and administration.

Makeda Crane

Makeda Crane (she/her/hers) is an attorney with over 10 years of experience in legal advocacy, public service, and civil rights work. She has helped people navigate workplace discrimination issues, supported fair treatment in schools, and worked with public agencies on complex legal and communication matters. Makeda holds a law degree from the University of the District of Columbia and a bachelor’s in political science from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.