



Mortenson Center Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENDA

March 24, 2026; 1:00-2:00pm

Hybrid meeting:

In person: 428 Main Library, 1408 West Gregory Drive Urbana IL 61801

Zoom link: <https://illinois.zoom.us/j/83843945302?pwd=87aDiz6lbVZl50xq5mQcV37tGjOcG.1&jst=1> | Meeting ID: 838 4394 5302 | Password: 910753

<http://www.library.illinois.edu/mortenson/>

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Approval of November 11, 2025 minutes
4. Unit updates - staff, Library reorganization
5. Training
 - a. Associates Program
 - [2026 Associates Program](#), Theme: *Poised for Impact: Data, User, Strategy-Driven Libraries*, June 1-24, 2026 - Admits, scholarships, partnerships
 - Opportunities for involvement with 2026 Associates were presented to the committee:
 - Library Buddies Program (Lunch meeting with Associate, June 3, 12:15pm)
 - Associates Showcase and Graduation, June 24 - hold the date
6. Professional Development and Other Programs
 - a. SILL Training - conversion to online delivery in progress with support from the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, consulting with creator Susan Schnuer and input from stakeholders
 - b. “Decolonizing African Collections Through Open Access,” virtual brown bag co-sponsored with Center for African Studies, International and Area Studies Library; March 25, 12:00-1:30pm. Registration: <https://go.illinois.edu/DecolonizingAfricanCollection>
 - c. World Refugee Day, June 20 - planning a webinar, date TBD
 - d. 35th Annual Mortenson Distinguished Lecture, well as collaborating with the [Youth Literature Festival](#) (YLF), September 24-26, 2026. Jeff Chiba Stearns <https://www.meditatingbunny.com/about-jeff> - author, illustrator, animator, and documentary filmmaker, as well as educator teaching Japanese Canadian history using <https://japanesecanadianhistory.com/>, a curated collection of teaching materials, reference materials, and source material focused on teaching the history of Japanese Canadians. Jeff’s third graphic novel, *Ojiichan’s Dragon*, a fantasy-based story that takes place during WWII in a Japanese Canadian internment camp, will be published in the fall.
 - ONE BIG HAPA FAMILY (2010 - 85 minutes FULL FEATURE FILM).
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obK72DIHt_c&t=1s
 - MIXED MATCH (2016 - 96 minutes FULL FEATURE FILM).
Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xA8Dmcri2A>
 - e. 35th Anniversary - Film: *Are you a Librarian? The Untold Story of Black Librarians*. Website <https://areyoualibrarian.org/> | video promo <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcuAoj6Mz3k>

7. Partnerships

- Naseej Academy - Naseej Academy Grant to Attend the Mortenson Center Associates Program not awarded in 2026; other collaboration in discussion.
- [JASPUL](#) - sponsoring a 2026 Associate
- The Bulgarian Library and Information Association ([BLIA](#)) - Collaborating during 2025-2027 on leadership training; BLIA will sponsor two librarians for both the 2026 and the 2027 Associates Program.
- School Libraries Collaborative - will now become *Global South Youth, Literacies and Libraries*, a network of learning engaging librarians, educators and stakeholders interested in Global South youth librarianship and literacy to collaboratively share and learn through discussion, idea and resource sharing, teaching how-to, and learning about real-world application.
- Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) - input on online version of SILL training
- [Partners in Literacy Haiti](#) - the development of the [Haiti Libraries Alliance](#) continues to be on hold for new leadership.
- IFLA Building Strong LIS Education (BSLISE) Working Group <https://bslise.org/>: ongoing development of the Resource Guide for the implementation of the [IFLA Guidelines for Professional Library and Information Science \(LIS\) Education Programmes](#); publications, presentations and workshops.

8. Mortenson Center Initiatives, Grants and Staff Activities

- a. Catalyzing African Community Archives for Social Good Project <https://cacasg.library.illinois.edu/> - online training of modules under discussion.
- b. Community Libraries International [Portal \(CLIP\)](#) - Toolkit draft under review and online portal planning
- c. Other projects (e.g., CLIA, L4P, LSD, Engineering for Change) will pick up once our website transition is completed and we have an administrative assistant on staff

9. AOB

10. Thank you. Committee members completing 2024-26 term of service (*=second term). Those available to continue to serve a second term are encouraged to fill out the Committee Volunteer form. <https://www.library.illinois.edu/staff/>

- Steven Anderson, Mandi Arlain, Laila Hussein Moustafa, Qiang Jin, Sarah Park, Ellen Moodie, Scott Schwartz*

11. Next meeting: To be scheduled for Fall 2026

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Mortenson Center Advisory Committee (* = Second Consecutive Term)

<https://www.library.illinois.edu/staff/committee/mortenson-center-advisory-committee-charge-and-membership/>

Clara M. Chu, Chair

Steven Anderson (Aug 2024 - Aug 2026)

Mandi Arlain (Aug 2024 - Aug 2026)

Diana Eynon (Aug 2025 - Aug 2027)

Laila Hussein Moustafa (Aug 2024 - Aug 2026)

Qiang Jin (Aug 2024 - Aug 2026)

Kyungwoh Koh* (Aug 2025 - Aug 2027)

Sarah Park (Aug 2024 - Aug 2026)

Ellen Moodie (Aug 2024 - Aug 2026)

Scott Schwartz* (Aug 2024 - Aug 2026)

Bing Wang* (Aug 2025 - Aug 2027)