

**22 May 2026**

Dear PLG members (past and present), progressive library workers, and fellow travelers,

We are writing to open the door to a new chapter for the Progressive Librarians Guild. After a bit of a hiatus, a new group of library workers has come together to reanimate the guild and carry forward the critical tradition that PLG has represented for over three decades. For those of us who are new, we want to express deep gratitude to the PLG members who held together the threads of PLG's organizational life during the hiatus and for their many years of commitment to the guild and our profession. What follows builds on the foundation they and so many others laid.

The PLG's mission to "expose and call out librarianship's active and passive complicity and acceptance of those systems" has not ended, and neither have those systems. Indeed, while perhaps the library has shifted away from being understood as 'neutral,' its history and underlying shape have been and remain hidden—and we can still see the many ways the profession and our institutions nevertheless claim objectivity and benevolence. The dominant discourses of the profession, even its more critical tendencies, continue to fall short of the clarity and structural analysis our moment demands. We believe the need for a space where library and information workers can develop political consciousness, sharpen collective analysis, and build toward organized action is as urgent and necessary as it ever has been.

To that end, we will be launching a political education program through the Guild, the first part of which will be a four-week online course for library and information workers that lays the analytical foundations for understanding the history and political economy of libraries, librarianship, and the systems in which they operate. The course will be grounded in close reading and collective study of our histories, and is the first offering of what we envision as a sustained and growing educational project within PLG, one that will flow into ongoing reading groups, collective knowledge production, and the broader intellectual and political life of the guild.

Our hope is that doing so will help library and information workers develop the political consciousness and analytical tools necessary to act on the understanding that emerges through shared study. PLG has a history as one of the few spaces in the profession where critical political thought has been welcome, where questions about libraries and power, capitalism, and so on have been asked seriously. We seek to continue that work through the political education program, alongside rebuilding and maintaining the organizing, writing, and analyzing that have been at the heart of PLG. While we don't know exactly where this

work will lead us—what the guild becomes from here will be shaped by the people who show up—we are committed to reviving PLG and are excited to think about what comes next alongside others so we can create something we all need.

More information about the political education program, including how to join, will be shared soon. In the meantime, reach out to us at [plg@progressivelibrariansguild.org](mailto:plg@progressivelibrariansguild.org) if you have thoughts or questions.

In solidarity,

nicholae cline & jaime ding