What About Us?
Breaking the Stereotype:
Moving the Diversity Needle

Beverly Murphy, MLS, AHIP, FMLA
MLA Immediate Past President
“You don't look like a librarian”

“What does a librarian look like?”
Librarian stereotypes could “take the focus away from the actual value of the work” that we do.

Jennifer A. Bartlett (2014). "Coming to Terms with Librarian Stereotypes and Self-Image"
The librarian is one of the most visible yet most misunderstood professionals in the world.

Ashanti White (2012). "Not Your Ordinary Librarian: Debunking the Popular Perceptions of Librarians."

Jennifer A. Bartlett (2014). "Coming to Terms with Librarian Stereotypes and Self-Image"
According to American Library Association’s Diversity Counts study, our profession remains predominantly female (82%) and white (88%).

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ALA’s Diversity Counts study (conducted in 2006, released in 2007, and updated in 2012)
Social Justice Implications

✓ False perceptions and Feminization

✓ Wage inequality between genders (pay gap)

✓ Unequal proportion of men in leadership roles (leadership bias)
TIME FOR A VISION QUEST

LUV Librarians’ United Vision

Break the Stereotype!

Open Hearts
Open Minds
thank you!