

Partnership for Shared Book Collections & Rosemont Shared Print Alliance Merger Plan

April 2024

The Partnership for Shared Book Collections and the Rosemont Shared Print Alliance have been in discussion for more than two years about the prospect of merging our organizations. Members of both programs identified several motivating factors for the merger:

- They have closely linked missions.
 - both specialize in shared print, one for books, one for serials
- There is a desire to eliminate duplication of efforts and to leverage efficiencies of scale.
- There is a desire to coordinate the work of regional shared print initiatives in the U.S. and Canada; many of these initiatives work with both books and serials.

Background

While there are now many well-established local and regional shared print initiatives in the U.S. and Canada, coordination of their efforts is lacking. This merger will facilitate the development and management of a coherent bi-national strategy to address outstanding challenges with shared print. These challenges include community-controlled infrastructure for tracking retention commitments, allowing for retention data that is open to all, and an understanding of the universe of unarchived print materials, especially the development and implementation of plans to preserve and provide access to this material. Background documentation on the merger includes

- The [Report of the Joint Rosemont–Partnership Task Force](#) for Future Strategic Consolidation (April 2023)
- The [Report of the June 2023 Summit](#) on the proposed merger. NOTE: The decision of the 2023 Summit was to proceed with the merger and create an implementation plan.

Merger Plan

The Merger Implementation Task Force was formed in August 2023 to identify plans and concerns for merging the two organizations. Representatives from the Executive and Operations Committees of both Rosemont and the Partnership were included in the Task Force membership. In December 2023, we retained the services of consultant Sarah Cohen, of Big Questions Collaborative (BQC), to facilitate the Task Force’s work, particularly the need to engage with a wide number and variety of stakeholders to gather their input on the merger implementation.

Sarah Cohen/BQC and the Task Force identified governance, membership, and financing as strategic priorities. It identified an overarching statement of purpose for the newly merged organization: **“Together, we’re ensuring that vital print collections will be maintained responsibly, with an emphasis on resiliency and accessibility, now and in the future.”**

There were a variety of views among Task Force members about immediate next steps and how

much, if any, growth is appropriate. While it saw the merger as an opportunity to “think big” and create a larger merged organization with more staff capacity, potentially broader membership and a more expansive mandate, the group concluded that the immediate task is to merge the two organizations, establish governance, and then undertake strategic planning to map out the future of the group.

Name: For the Bridge-Year, the new merged organization will be called the “Rosemont-Partnership for Shared Print Library Collections.” A different name may be created in the future.

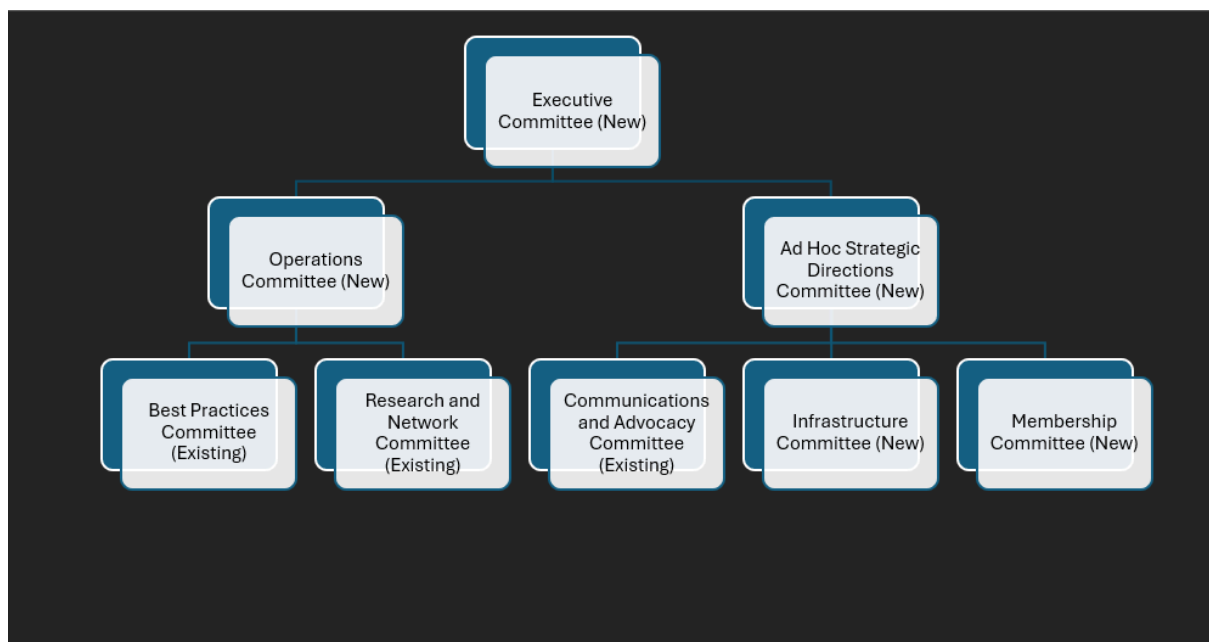
Governance: At the suggestion of BQC and the Task Force, rather than combine the two executive committees, members of the two Executive Committees will form a Bridge-Year Executive Committee made up of members of both Rosemont and the Partnership.

Financing: The Bridge-Year Executive Committee will vote on a \$3000/year membership fee per shared print program. This is based on the annual fee that Partnership members have been paying since its inception. Its members are aware that Rosemont members have not had to pay membership fees, but stress that the fee is needed to cover the salary of a part time Program Coordinator, who would take on roughly the same tasks as the Partnership's current Program Coordinator.

Strategic Vision: The Rosemont-Partnership for Shared Print Library Collections’ strategic priorities will be established by the Bridge-Year Executive Committee. It will consider BQC and the Task Force’s suggestion of expanding types of memberships and clarifying the benefits of membership.

Proposed Governance Model

NOTE: This is the proposed Governance Model following the Bridge-Year. It is to be implemented in 2025 if approved by the Bridge-Year Executive Committee. Every committee listed in this hierarchy will consist of members of both Rosemont and the Partnership.



Next Steps

BQC and the Task Force suggest the following priorities be addressed:

1. At the May 9, 2024 meeting of the Joint Executive Committees, EC members will vote on approval of the merger implementation plan. Feedback on the current version of the plan should be submitted to Gwen Bird and Greg Eow by end of business May 8.
1. By the end of May/early June 2024, the two Executive Committees will appoint a Bridge-Year Executive Committee, which will include both Rosemont and Partnership members.
2. By the end of May/early June 2024, the two Executive Committees will create three committees: Strategic Planning, Membership, and Infrastructure. All will include members from the legacy Rosemont and Partnership programs. The ECs should determine whether they are Ad Hoc or Standing.
3. On July 1, 2024, the Bridge-Year Executive Committee should assume governance of the merged organization. **NOTE:** CRL has agreed to continue as fiscal sponsor during the Bridge-Year.
4. In July 2024, the Bridge-Year EC should consider the Open Data Advisory Group's proposal.
5. In July 2024, the Bridge-Year EC should determine the staffing needs of the merged organization.
6. In July 2024, the Bridge-Year EC should determine the makeup of the Bridge-Year Operations Committee.
7. In Spring 2025, the Bridge-Year EC should set up elections for the new Executive Committee and the new Operations Committee.