TO: ALA Executive Board

RE: Joint Council of Librarians of Color (JCLC) application for affiliate status

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:
The ALA Executive Board is requested to review the application and forward to the ALA Constitution & Bylaws Committee for review at the 2016 Midwinter Meeting.

ACTION REQUESTED BY:
1. Dr. Jerome Offord, Jr., President (BCALA Immediate Past President)
2. Dr. Kenneth Yamashita, Vice-President (APALA Past President)
3. Dora Ho, Treasurer (CALA Past President)
4. Heather Devine-Hardy, Secretary (AILA Immediate Past President)
5. Isabel Espinal, Director-At-Large (REFORMA Immediate Past President)

CONTACT PERSON:
Dr. Jerome Offord, Jr., President, (202) 607-8534

DRAFT OF MOTION:
Move that the ALA Executive Board approve and forward the JCLC Application for ALA Affiliate Status to the ALA Constitution and Bylaws Committee for review at the 2016 Midwinter Meeting.

DATE: October 1, 2015

BACKGROUND:
Coming together through JCLC Inc. are the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), the American Indian Library Association (AILA), the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), and REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-speaking. These five organizations each have a decades-long tradition of promoting the library and information needs of their constituent communities through various endeavors, including providing scholarships for students, awarding grants to libraries for cultural programming, acquiring and donating relevant library materials and advising ALA and other professional organizations of constituent concerns.

Attachments:
1. Letter to Keith Michael Fields
2. Answers to questions posed in the affiliation guidelines
3. JCLC Constitution and Bylaws
October 1, 2015

Keith Michael Fields  
Executive Director  
American Library Association  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Keith:

Thank you for your continued support of the JCLC. We are delighted to have not only your unwavering support, but that of the American Library Association as well. As you know, the five ethnic affiliates of ALA have joined together to create the Joint Council of Librarians of Color (JCLC). JCLC was formed under the non-profit laws of the State of Missouri and has received the IRS Tax Exemption under section 501(c) (3) of the United States tax code.

Now that we have formed our entity, I am ecstatic to share that the Board of Directors unanimously voted on Thursday, June 25, 2015, to apply for affiliate status with the American Library Association. We are firmly committed to the tenants and principles embodied by ALA and we support the organization as a premier association focused on library issues impacting all patrons. Attached you will find the supporting document with the prescribed information requested in the affiliate application process.

If there are any questions, comments, and/or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at jeromeoffordjr@gmail.com or by telephone at 202.607.8534. Thank you and have a great day.

Sincerely,

Jerome Offord, Jr., Ph.D.  
President
Joint Council of Librarians of Color
Affiliate Application

1. The organization should be national or international in scope.

Coming together through JCLC Inc. is the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), the American Indian Library Association (AILA), the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), and REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-speaking. These five organizations each have a decades-long tradition of promoting the library and information needs of their constituent communities through various endeavors, including providing scholarships for students, awarding grants to libraries for cultural programing, acquiring and donating relevant library materials and advising ALA and other professional organizations of constituent concerns.

2. The organization should be nonprofit.

The JCLC, Inc. was incorporated under the non-profit laws of the State of Missouri and is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c) (3) of the U.S. tax code.

3. The organization should have interest consistent with those of ALA.

JCLC Inc.’s official purpose statement is: To promote librarianship within communities of color, support literacy and the preservation of history and cultural heritage, collaborate on common issues, and to host the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color every four to five years. The JCLC, Inc. plans to continue working with ALA and its member organization by collaborating on programs, increasing awareness about the profession, and promoting library services to all communities. Becoming an affiliate to ALA further supports the JCLC’s intent to work with ALA and other organizations.

4. Membership of the organization.

The Joint Council of Librarians of Color was born out of the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color. The first joint conference was held in Dallas, TX in 2006 and the second joint conference was held in Kansas City, MO in 2012. The success of both conferences and the collaborative work happening between the five ethnic affiliates sparked the legal formation of the Joint Council of Librarians of Color. This formal collaboration was purposeful and intentional. Though the JCLC was founded in 2015, the member organizations have been affiliated with ALA for 45 years. The organization and found years are: BCALA (1970), CALA (1973), AILA (1979), APALA (1980), and REFORMA (1987). Combined, the aforementioned organizations have more than 2,000 individual, corporate, and institutional members.
5. The organization does not discriminate in its members on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disabilities, or national origin.

JCLC, Inc. does not discriminate based on race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disabilities or national origin.

6. Officers contact information:
   a. Dr. Jerome Offord, Jr., President; 2415 Hartford Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109
   b. Dr. Kenneth Yamashita, Vice-President; 1209 W. Downs Street, Stockton, CA 95207
   c. Dora Ho, Treasurer; 13611 Clark Street, Baldwin Park, CA 91706
   d. Heather Devine-Hardy, Secretary; 6158 McAbee Rd, San Jose, CA 95120
Constitution and Bylaws
of the
Joint Council of Librarians of Color, Inc.

Article I
Name

The name of the Corporation is the Joint Council of Librarians of Color, Inc. (JCLC Inc.), hereafter referred to as “the Council.”

Article II
Purposes of the Council

The Council shall be organized in compliance with the requirements of Missouri Nonprofit Corporation Law. The Vision Statement of the Council shall be: To address the professional and personal development, continuing education, and collegial networking needs/requirements of library professionals of color and to promote library and information services to communities of color through targeted national conferences, programs and events.

The Purposes (“the Mission”) of the Council shall be:
1. To bring together librarians, library staff, students, educators, trustees and advocates throughout the country who are, or who serve, persons and communities of color.
2. To organize, plan, promote and present programs and events on a regular basis, in collaborative partnerships with the five (5) national associations of librarians of color:
   a. American Indian Library Association (AILA)
   b. Asian / Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA)
   c. Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA)
   d. Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA)
   e. REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos & the Spanish-Speaking (REFORMA)
3. To consider presenting and/or co-sponsoring joint programs and events at American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter and/or Annual Conferences, BCALA and REFORMA national conferences, and other appropriate venues.

Article III
Offices and Registered Agent

Section 1. Offices
The Council shall continuously maintain, in the State of Missouri, a registered office at such place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The principle office of the Council and such other offices as it may establish shall be located at such place(s), either within or without the State of Missouri, as may be designated by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Agent
The Council shall continuously maintain, in the State of Missouri, a registered Agent, who shall be designated by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Changes
Any change in the registered office or registered Agent of the Council shall be accomplished in compliance with Missouri Nonprofit Corporation Law.

Article IV
Members

The Joint Council of Librarians of Color Board of Directors and any designated committees shall accept the designees from the five (5) national associations of librarians of color (AILA, APALA, BCALA, CALA and REFORMA) to serve as members.

Each of the five (5) national associations of librarians of color (AILA, APALA, BCALA, CALA and REFORMA) shall be eligible to apply for institutional membership. Membership dues, paid annually, shall be determined by the Board of Directors and be used for Council operating expenses.

Article V
Board of Directors

Section 1. Council
The property, affairs, business, and concerns of the Council and the oversight of the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color shall be managed and provided by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Directors and Officers
Each of the five (5) national associations of librarians of color (AILA, APALA, BCALA, CALA and REFORMA) shall designate one (1) of its members to serve on the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Official Year and Terms of Office
The fiscal year of the Council shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December. The terms of office for all Directors and Officers shall commence at the first official meeting of the Board of Directors held after the Council’s incorporation and shall continue through the period of planning years prior to the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color, the Conference year, and the year after the Conference; or until a Director resigns or is removed. The terms of office for all directors and officers shall be automatically renewed at the end of the year after the Conference.

Section 4. Removal and Resignation of Directors
Any one (1) or more of the Directors may be removed with cause, at any of time, by a majority of the members of the Board present at any meeting of the Directors, providing there is a majority of the entire Board present at the meeting of Directors at which such action is taken.
Any member of the Board of Directors may resign at any time by tendering a resignation in writing to the Secretary with a copy to the President. Such resignation shall be effective upon receipt by the Secretary.

The removed or resigning Director shall be replaced by a designee from the same national association of librarians of color as the removed or resigning Director’s, prior to the next meeting of the Board.

Section 5. Quorum
A majority (3 Directors) of the Board shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at Board meetings. Except as otherwise provided, the vote of the majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board.

Section 6. Meetings of the Board
Official meetings of the Board may be held within or without the State of Missouri. The means for holding meetings of the Board shall be fixed by the Board. Board meetings shall be held at ALA Midwinter and Annual Conferences, and may be held in other venues or via conference calls at any time between the ALA Conferences.

Section 7. Duties of the Directors and Officers
The Directors and Officers shall discharge the duties of their respective positions in good faith and with that degree of diligence, care, skill and expertise which ordinarily prudent persons would exercise under similar circumstances in like positions.

In discharging their duties, Directors and Officers, when acting in good faith, may rely upon financial statements of the Council represented to them to be correct by the President or the Treasurer having charge of its books of account.

Section 8. Affiliations
The Joint Council of Librarians of Color, Inc. may seek affiliation with the American Library Association (ALA) and other associations/organizations upon such action by the Board of Directors. After such affiliation, the ALA’s or other association/organization’s liaison may become an ex-officio non-voting member of the Board of Directors.

Article VI
Officers

The five (5) Director designees shall select a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Director-At-Large, from their group.

Section 1. Terms of Office
SEE Article V—Board of Directors, Section 3. Official Year and Terms of Office.

Section 2. Authority
The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or other persons may be authorized by the Board of Directors, to individually enter into and execute on behalf of the Council contracts, leases, debt obligations and all other forms of agreements or instruments, whether permitted by law, the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws; except where such documents are required by law to be otherwise signed and executed, or where the signing and execution thereof shall be exclusively delegated to some other Officer or Agent of the Council.

Section 3. Duties
The duties and powers of the Officers of the Council shall be as provided in these Bylaws, or as provided pursuant to these Bylaws or (except to the extent they are inconsistent with these Bylaws or with any provisions made pursuant hereto) shall be those customarily exercised by corporate officers holding such offices.

Section 4. The President
The President shall be the Chief Operating Officer of the Council and, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, shall perform all duties customary to that office, and shall supervise and control all of the affairs of the Council in accordance with any policies and directives approved by the Board of Directors. The President shall chair the meetings of the Council Board of Directors.

Section 5. The Vice President
In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice President shall perform the duties and exercise the power of the President. The Vice President shall also assist the President and perform such other duties and have such other powers as are prescribed in these Bylaws, and as from time to time may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. The Secretary
The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping an accurate record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Board of Directors, and other such actions of the Council as the Board of Directors shall direct. The Secretary shall give or cause to be given all notices in accordance with these Bylaws or as required by law, and, in general, perform all duties customary to the office of Secretary.

Section 7. The Treasurer
a. The Treasurer shall perform all duties customary to that Office, shall have custody of, and be responsible for, all Council and Joint Conference of Librarians of Color funds and securities, and shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in the books of the Council and the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color. The Treasurer shall deposit or cause to be deposited all monies or other valuable effects in the name of the Council and the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color in such depositories as shall be selected by the Board of Directors.

b. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the Council and the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color as may be ordered by the Board of Directors, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements, and shall render to the President and the Board of Directors and designated committees at their regular meetings or when those bodies so require, an
account of all his or her transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the Council and the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color.

Section 8. The Director-At-Large
The Director-At-Large shall represent the interests of the four (4) other national associations of librarians of color, in addition to those of his or her own national association and perform other such duties as are prescribed in these Bylaws, and from time to time may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Article VII
Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 1. Checks
All checks, drafts, or other orders for payment shall be signed by the Board Treasurer or such person or persons as the Board of Directors may from time to time designate.

Section 2. Logos
The Joint Council of Librarians of Color, Inc. shall have a logo designed for permanent display and branding.

Each Joint Conference of Librarian of Color may have a logo specifically designed for that conference.

Article VIII
Amendments

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed, or new Bylaws may be adopted, at any meeting of the Board of Directors by a vote of a majority of the Directors in office, if at least ten (10) days written notice is given to Members of the intention to take such action at such meeting.

This document and the bylaws it contain were approved unanimously by the Board of Directors of Thursday, June 25, 2015, during the Annual Convention of the American Library Association in San Francisco, CA.