

Association for Library Service to Children

The Pura Belpré Award

Committee Manual

August 2005

## **FOREWORD**

### **Pura Belpré**

The Pura Belpré award is named after Pura Belpré, the first Latina librarian from The New York Public Library. As a children's librarian, storyteller, puppeteer and distinguished author, she delighted children and adults with stories in a career that spanned over sixty years. She was born in Cidra, Puerto Rico in 1899, moved to New York in the 1930's and attended the Library School of The New York Public Library and Columbia University. Pura Belpré captured the charm and spirit of her homeland in her children's books and in her performances. She told stories throughout New York City and appeared on radio and television. She enriched the lives of Puerto Rican children in the USA through her pioneering work of preserving and disseminating Puerto Rican folklore. She died in 1982.

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This manual attempts to outline the practices, procedures and principles to follow in the selection and presentation of the Belpré Award. While as complete as possible, it cannot be exhaustive. Therefore, it is important to use the manual as a guide and to go further for guidance as needed.

## **PART I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### History

The Pura Belpré Award is presented every two years to a Latino writer and to a Latino illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children. It is co-sponsored by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA) and the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking (REFORMA), an ALA Affiliate.

Inspired by the desire to encourage Latino authors and illustrators in their efforts to produce children's works celebrating the Latino experience in the United States, Oralia Garza de Cortés, Sandra Ríos Balderrama and Toni Bissessar of REFORMA and Linda Perkins, President of ALSC appeared before the ALSC Board at the 1993 Midwinter Conference. They requested the establishment of a joint task force to discuss the possibility of a joint book award.

The following summer the ALSC/REFORMA Children's Book Award Task Force was established to develop the terms and criteria of the award. At the 1994 Annual Conference the terms and criteria were accepted. Due to a moratorium on new awards, however, final approval for the award was postponed, conditional on the procurement of funding.

At the 1995 Annual Conference the American Library Association Awards Committee agreed to approve the award the following Midwinter if funding was assured by that time. During the 1996 Midwinter Conference, ALSC voted to provide seed money to establish the Pura Belpré Award to be presented biennially by ALSC and REFORMA. Following approval by the ALA Awards Committee it was initially agreed that the award was to consist of a medal (to be struck at a later date) and no monetary award.

The first award recipients were announced at the ALSC membership meeting during the 1996 Annual Conference in New York City. The awards were given the following August at the REFORMA First National Conference in Austin, Texas. It was announced that for the first award only, the winners would receive \$1000. In the absence of a medal, certificates were presented to the award winners and to the honor winners.

At Midwinter of 1998 the Second Biennial Pura Belpré Award winners were announced during the ALSC Monday morning Press Conference and the award certificates were presented the following summer at a program at the ALA 1998 Annual Conference. This was the pattern to be followed for the subsequent Pura Belpré Awards.

In 2000 the first Spanish and English announcements of the award winners were made at the Midwinter Press Conference. Caroline Ward, President of ALSC was instrumental in forwarding the cause of the award by her outstanding and persevering support.

In preparation for the 2000 Pura Belpré Award, a search was initiated for an artist to design a medal for the two categories of author and illustrator. Emanuel Martinez, a Colorado artist produced a design approved by both ALSC and REFORMA. Using photographs of Pura Belpré obtained from her papers housed at the Puerto Rican Institute at Hunter College in NYC, he portrayed Pura Belpré with two children, capturing her true likeness and spirit.

#### Committee Function Statement

To select biennially (every other year) children's books published in the United States or Puerto Rico which recognize outstanding original works written or illustrated by a Latino/Latina author or illustrator, that portrays, affirms and celebrates the Latino/Latina cultural experience.

#### The Committee

Appointments of committee members will begin at the end of alternate American Library Association Midwinter Meetings for a term of two years, with the first terms starting after Midwinter. The committee consists of six members plus a chair. The ALSC President appoints three members of the committee and the REFORMA President appoints three members of the committee. The chair of the committee alternates between ALSC and REFORMA according to the following schedule: 2004 REFORMA, 2006 ALSC, etc. and is appointed by the President of the organization whose turn it is to chair the committee. *Committee members may serve more than one term, but not consecutively.*

#### Terms, Definitions and Criteria

Available at

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/belpremedal/belpreterms/belpremedalterms.htm>

#### Terms

1. Two medals shall be awarded biennially at the Annual Conference of the American Library Association, one to a Latino author of an outstanding children's book and one to a Latino illustrator for creating an outstanding children's picture book. Each of these must be an original work that portrays, affirms and celebrates the Latino cultural experience.
2. The award-winning books must be published in the United States or Puerto Rico during the preceding two years.
3. Recipients of the Pura Belpré medal must be residents or citizens of the United States or Puerto Rico.
4. The committee in its deliberations is to consider only the books eligible for the award, as

specified in the terms.

5. Fiction and nonfiction books for children published in Spanish, English, or bilingual formats are eligible.

6. Honor books may be named.

7. If suitable candidates are not found, the awards will not be presented in that year.

### Definitions

1. Author of an outstanding children's book indicates the creator of the text of a book. It also implies that the committee shall consider all forms of writing -- fiction, non-fiction, and poetry -- that have the Latino cultural experience as a theme. Reprints and compilations are not eligible.

2. A "children's book" shall be a book for which children are a potential audience. The book must display respect for children's understandings, abilities and appreciations. Children are defined as persons of ages up to and including fourteen, and books for this entire age range are to be considered.

3. A "children's picture book," as distinguished from other books with illustrations, is one that essentially provides the child with a visual experience. A picture book has a collective unity of story line, theme, or concept, developed through the series of pictures of which the book is comprised.

4. "Outstanding" is defined as

- marked by eminence and distinction; noted for significant achievement.
- marked by excellence in quality.
- marked by conspicuous excellence or eminence.
- individually distinct.

5. Author may include co-authors. The author(s) may be awarded the medal posthumously.

6. Illustrator may include co-illustrators. The artist(s) may be awarded the medal posthumously.

7. One person may be selected to receive the awards in both categories.

8. In defining the term, "original work," the committee may consider books that are traditional in origin, if the book is the result of original research and the retelling and interpretation are the writer's own.

9. Children's book "published in the United States or Puerto Rico," means that books originally published in other countries are not eligible.

10. "Published... during the preceding two years" means that the book has a publication date in one of those two years, was available for purchase in those years, and has a copyright date no later than those years. A book might have a copyright date prior to the years under consideration but, for various reasons, was not published until one of the years under consideration. If a book is published prior to its year of copyright as stated in the book, it should be considered as if it were published in its year of copyright as stated in the book. The intent of the definition is that every appropriate book is eligible for consideration, but that no book be considered in more than one two-year span.

11. "Resident" specifies that author has established and maintained residence in the United States, or Puerto Rico, as distinct from being a casual or occasional visitor.

12. For purposes of this award, Latino is defined as people whose heritage emanates from any of the Spanish-speaking cultures of the Western Hemisphere.

13. The term "only the books eligible for the award" specifies that the committee is not to consider the entire body of work by an author or whether the author has previously won the award. The committee's decision is to be made following deliberation about books of the specified two calendar years.

#### Criteria For Text

1. In identifying the author of an "outstanding " book for children, in addition to looking for an accurate and positive portrayal of the Latino culture, the committee members need to consider the following:

- Interpretation of the theme or concept
- Presentation of information including accuracy, clarity, and organization
- Development of a plot
- Delineation of characters
- Delineation of setting
- Appropriateness of style
- Note: Because the literary qualities to be considered will vary depending on content, the committee need not expect to find excellence in each of the above named elements. The book should, however, have distinguished qualities in all of the elements pertinent.
- Excellence of presentation for a child audience.

2. In considering a book, the committee is to make its decision primarily on the text. Other aspects of a book are to be considered only if they distract from the text. Such other aspects might include illustrations, overall design of the book, etc.

3. The book must be a self-contained entity, not dependent on other media (i.e., digital, sound or film or film equipment) for its enjoyment.

4. The committee should keep in mind that the award is for both literary quality and presentation for children, as well as for its portrayal of the Latino cultural experience.

5. Particular attention will be paid to cultural authenticity.

#### Criteria For Illustrations

1. In identifying the illustrator of an outstanding picture book for children, committee members need to consider the following:

- Excellence of execution in the artistic technique employed,
- Excellence of pictorial interpretation of story, theme, or concept,
- Appropriateness of style of illustration to the story, theme or concept,
- Delineation of plot, theme, characters, setting mood or information through the pictures,
- Positive and authentic portrayal of Latino culture.
- Excellence of presentation for a child audience.

2. The only limitation to graphic form is that the form must be one, which may be used in a picture book. The book must be a self-contained entity, not dependent on other media (i.e., digital, sound or film equipment) for its enjoyment.

3. Each book is to be considered as a picture book. The committee is to make its decision primarily on the illustrations. Other components of a book are to be considered, especially when they make a book less effective as a children's picture book. Such other components might include the written text, the overall design of the book, etc.

4. The committee should keep in mind that the award is for both distinguished illustrations in picture book and for excellence of pictorial presentation for children, and for the positive portrayal of the Latino cultural heritage.

5. Particular attention will be paid to cultural authenticity.

#### Priority Group Consultant

A Priority Group Consultant from Priority Group VI (Awards) is assigned to the committee to deal with questions from the Chair and the committee regarding procedure, personnel, and the eligibility of books.

The Priority Group Consultant works with the Chair to review annually the procedures of the committee and to make recommendations for improving the process. The recommendations range from those that can be implemented easily to those requiring action by the ALSC Board. The Priority Group Consultant also works with the Chair to resolve procedural and personnel issues as they come up and questions about the eligibility of books.

Committee members consult the Priority Group Consultant should there be unusual issues that the Chair cannot resolve, particularly issues regarding the Chair.

### ALSC Policies

#### Membership on Awards and Media Evaluation Committees

##### Conflict of Interest

ALSC affirms its confidence in the integrity of members who are invited to be nominated or appointed to serve on award and media evaluation committees, and in the integrity of the officers or nominating committees responsible for selecting candidates. However, because of the nature of the work of such committees, those who serve on them must be especially sensitive to conflict of interest situations and the appearance of impropriety. The purpose of this policy is to clarify the eligibility and responsibility of candidates asked to serve on such committees.

- I. The following situations disqualify a candidate:
  - A. Persons may not accept nomination or appointment who are employed by or advisory to any trade publishing house or any company that produces children's films, filmstrips, recordings, software, and/or other types of non-print media to be evaluated by a committee; or are the author or illustrator of a children's book or creator of other materials to be published or evaluated in the year of committee service.
  - B. A member may not serve simultaneously on an ALSC award or media evaluation committee and an Association Board.
- II. All other persons are eligible for nomination or appointment. The following situations do not normally disqualify a candidate:
  - A. Serving as a professional reviewer of children's books or of non-print materials.
  - B. Involvement in the selection of materials for professional tools, such as *Children's Catalog*.
  - C. Serving as a writer or editor of professional books in the field of children's literature.

All candidates for nomination or appointment have an affirmative duty to notify the nominating committee or the appointing officer of any circumstance or event which would disqualify him/her under this policy or which would otherwise affect, or give the appearance of tending to affect, his/her ability to carry out assigned responsibilities fairly and without self-interest of any kind. A committee member must resign immediately upon the development of any circumstance

or event which disqualifies him/her from committee service under this policy or which would otherwise affect, or give the appearance of tending to affect, his/her ability to carry out assigned responsibilities fairly and without self-interest of any kind.

The president of ALSA shall immediately accept such resignations when tendered. In the event a committee member violates this policy, the Executive Committee shall request the committee member to tender his/her resignation. If a committee member refuses, the Executive Committee shall remove the member and inform the Board of its action. The president shall then appoint a new committee member. The final decision rests with the Executive Committee.

#### Resignation

All candidates for nomination or appointment have an affirmative duty to notify the nominating committee or appointing officer of any circumstance or event which would disqualify him/her under this policy or which would otherwise effect, or give the appearance of tending to effect, his/her ability to carry out assigned responsibilities fairly and without self-interest of any kind. A committee member must resign immediately upon the development of any circumstance or event which disqualifies him/her from committee service under this policy or which would otherwise effect, or give the appearance of tending to effect, his/her ability to carry out assigned responsibilities fairly and without self-interest of any kind.

The President of the appointing organization (ALSA or REFORMA) immediately accepts such resignations when tendered. In the event a committee member violates this policy, the Executive Committee of the appointed organization shall request the committee member to tender his/her resignation. If a committee member refuses, the Executive Committee of the appointing organization removes the member and informs both Board of its action. The President then appoints a new committee member. Final decision rests with the Executive Committee of the appointing organization.

#### Committee Participation

To make wise selections, the committee depends on the full participation of all committee members.

#### Confidentiality

(Please see "Preparing for Selection." Page 15)

#### Relationship to Publishers

All communications with publishers shall be through the chair of the committee or through the appropriate ALSA office staff. Individual committee members shall not contact publishers regarding review copies or other issues regarding the award or award process. An exception to this is when the committee chair assigns committee members to contact specific publishers during a convention.

#### Electronic Communication

The Belpre Committee adheres to the “Guidelines for Electronic Communication for the ALSC Committees.” It may be found on the ALSC Web site at

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/boardcomm/guidelineselec/guidelineselectronic.htm>

Adopted by ALSC Board on January 18, 2000.

#### 1. Access issues.

A considerable amount of routine committee communication can be handled electronically if all members have convenient access to email. Before and/or during the Midwinter meeting, committee chairs should gather the following information:

Preferred email addresses of all members.

Software information: i.e., word processing programs in use, capability for "attachments," etc.

How often members check their email.

If one or more members do NOT have convenient access to email, it will be necessary to use alternate means of communication so that no one member is excluded from full participation in committee business.

#### 2. Protocols.

2.1. All committee business should be clearly identifiable on the subject line; i.e., cat.com. conference or massmedia.2000 program.

2.2. If messages require a response, the sender should indicate a response deadline. All members should acknowledge receipt of the message to the sender, whether or not they have a substantive response.

2.3. If the message requests discussion of an issue, each respondent should reply to all members of the committee.

2.4. Committee members are expected to participate in electronic discussions, just as they would participate in discussions at conference meetings.

2.5. The chair should copy the priority consultant on all relevant correspondence.

#### 3. Record-keeping

3.1. Routine correspondence between conferences does not need to be saved. The chair should keep a record of any decisions made, however, and report to ALSC headquarters with the appropriate conference report.

3.2. Where appropriate, committees may establish an electronic archive for their records.

#### 4. Privacy and confidentiality issues.

4.1. Committees with "sensitive" business such as awards, should be aware of the increased possibility of inadvertent leaks with electronic communications media. Committee members should decide what kinds of information it is safe to transmit electronically and limit their communications accordingly.

4.2. Personal information about individuals (addresses, phone numbers, etc.) should not be posted on websites unless they are protected from general public access by secure passwords.

#### 5. Use of electronic discussion lists.

5.1. Committees are encouraged to use the ALSC electronic discussion list to communicate with membership at large about their activities and to generate discussion about relevant issues. Agendas should be posted 4 weeks in advance of conference.

5.2. Committees with the capability of establishing electronic discussion lists may choose to conduct their committee business through a dedicated discussion list.

5.3. The ALSC electronic discussion list should not be used for the transmittal of routine information intended for members of a particular committee.

## **PART II. COMMITTEE WORK**

### Welcome

Serving on the Pura Belpré Committee is a rare professional experience. Once the committee is complete, it is recommended that the Chair send a letter of welcome to the membership. The letter might include an outline of the year's work and up-coming issues. It is usually accompanied by relevant enclosures (e.g., the year's calendar, the roster, guidelines for book discussion, etc).

### ALSC/REFORMA Policy For Membership

- A person must be an active member of the Association that he or she represents on the committee at the time of appointment and service.
- No person shall concurrently serve in more than three separate positions in the American Library Association and its Divisions. A person cannot serve on the Pura Belpré Award Committee and serve on the ALSC Board simultaneously. In the event of being seated on the ALSC Board, the member must resign one or the other of the positions.
- Persons who are under contract with a publisher for a book to be published during the years under consideration for the award may not serve on the Pura Belpré Award Committee, whether or not the book is eligible for the award. Members must be aware of any other conflict of interest and shall not accept an appointment if such conflict exists.
- Publishers of books for youth may not be members of the Pura Belpré Award Committee.
- Committee members with a self-declared fluent reading knowledge of Spanish are to be actively sought for appointment to the committee. If necessary, Spanish-reading members, particularly those with a knowledge of children's literature, are to be recruited to join the associations. All other things being equal, preference in appointment shall be given to members who can, in their own estimation, read Spanish fluently.

### Attendance at Meetings

Members of the Pura Belpré Committee are expected to attend all meetings. Failure to attend two consecutive meetings or groups of meetings (defined as all meetings of a committee that take place at one Midwinter Meeting or Annual Conference) without an explanation acceptable to the committee chair, constitutes grounds for removal upon request by the chair to and approval of the appropriate appointing official or governing board. If a committee member cannot attend the final Midwinter selection meeting, it is necessary to resign immediately so that the selection of a replacement may be made as soon as possible. Resignations, in writing, are addressed to the president of the appointing organization with copies to the other organization president, the committee chair, the Priority Group Consultant, and the ALSC executive director.

### Work of the Committee

Each member has the responsibility to read eligible materials and to take full part in corresponding with the committee through the chair. A committee member who finds it impossible to do this should resign as soon as possible. If the chair does not hear from a

committee member, the chair is responsible for contacting the committee member to ascertain if there is a potential on-going problem that prevents the member from full participation. If there is such a continuing problem, the chair, after consultation with the Priority Group Consultant, must request that the member resign for the good of the committee. The president of the member's appointing organization shall immediately accept such resignations when tendered. If the chair cannot contact the committee member or feels that the lack of participation will continue, and the member has not resigned, the chair must request the president of the member's appointing organization to consider the situation. In the event that a committee member has not resigned and is not taking an active part in the committee's work, the ALSC Executive Committee or the REFORMA Board (whichever organization has appointed the member) shall request that committee member tender his/her resignation. If a committee member refuses, the Executive Committee shall remove the member and inform the board of its action. The president of the member's appointing organization shall then appoint a new committee member. The final decision rests with the ALSC Executive Committee or the REFORMA Board.

### Preparing for Selection

#### Confidentiality of Discussion and of Selection

Committee members are urged to discuss books under consideration with others throughout the year to obtain a variety of critical opinions. The purpose of such discussion is to help the committee member refine his/her own critical judgment about the books. This does not mean that the committee member's vote in the selection procedure should reflect the consensus of those consulted. Committee members are selected with the understanding that each will exercise independent critical judgment.

There is a need to maintain a high degree of confidentiality regarding the committee's discussions, both oral and written. There are several reasons for this. Among them are ensuring the privacy rights of others and of presenting each year's Medal winner and Honor Books in a fashion appropriate to the awards.

Members must remember that the following items are not for public discussion at any time--prior to, during, or following the selection of the awards:

- a. Reasons (other than your own) given by individual committee members for nominating, supporting, or removing a book from consideration.
- b. Specific titles or lists of titles under consideration.  
Remember that *all* eligible books are under consideration prior to the Midwinter selection meeting.
- c. The number of ballots necessary for any decision or the vote in any balloting.

The committee's reasons for selection of the medallist and honor books will be given by the committee chair or a designate who prepares the press release or the announcement articles.

None of the above is intended to limit a committee member's right to speak as an individual. It is meant, instead, to preserve the privacy of other committee members who thus will feel free to speak frankly in a closed session and who should have the right to speak for themselves outside the closed session. It is also meant to preserve and protect the intent in awarding the Medal and naming of Honor Books.

Another aspect of confidentiality about which there is concern is the need to preserve secrecy between the selection and the public announcement of the winners. One prime reason is publicity. Another is to ensure that winners are informed before the public. Other reasons for maintaining secrecy about the winners prior to the public announcement include misinformation, which has occasionally been leaked, and poor relationship with ALSC or REFORMA members when some non-committee members are "in on" the information and others are not.

Committee members should be aware that employees of the winning books' publishing companies are informed (of the medallist and honor books) at the same time the author and illustrators are informed. They, and the Children's Book Council Offices in New York, work with ALSC's executive director and the ALA Public Information Office to assure that all press releases, wire releases, and TV/radio announcements are made simultaneously. While we all understand that some "leakage" is possible because so many people are involved, as long as the committee members and publishing company personnel avoid unnecessary discussion of the winners prior to the announcement, the integrity of the announcement is assured insofar as possible.

#### Background Preparation

In the course of one's professional life, the book selection process takes into account many things: current holdings in a collection, children's interest, special needs for special materials, curriculum, contemporary interests, local community concerns, and quality. From the terms of the Pura Belpré Medal, it is obvious that the focus of the Pura Belpré Committee is different from the selection concerns in the library. Therefore it is recommended that in the year preceding the actual committee work, that committee member begin to focus on the terms, criteria, and definitions of the Pura Belpré Award. Some suggestions for activities in which committee members might engage follow.

- a. Take part in book discussions of several kinds. These might be regular selection meetings, workshops or classes, or professional association meetings. Try to discuss books with persons other than those with whom you regularly discuss books. Not only will you gain new perspectives, but you will be engaging in an activity similar to your first meeting with the Pura Belpré Award Committee, where you will need to present your ideas more clearly and succinctly and listen more carefully than you do in the kind of "shorthand" discussion that often takes place in a group with which you meet regularly.
- b. Refresh your ideas about considerations important in selecting the Pura Belpré Medal

winners. A bibliography of suggested readings is found in the final section of this manual. Among the pieces included are different and comparative perspectives or ideas. There probably will be several pieces in the bibliography, which you have read. If you have not read them for some time, you might read them again. There probably will be pieces that you have not read previously.

c. You may wish to try to write down your own critical viewpoint. If you do this, examine it in light of the terms and criteria for the Pura Belpré Medal. Have you taken account of the factors to be considered? Are there extraneous terms in your thinking when you consider the terms and criteria for the Pura Belpré Award?

d. If most of the writing you do about children's books in your professional work has a focus different from the terms and criteria of the Pura Belpré Medal, try writing some critical analyses of children's books structured around the Pura Belpré medal terms and criteria. For example, review and read the Medal and Honor Books of a previous year and write critical analyses of each in relation to the terms and criteria.

### Reading

The ALSC office, and often the committee members, will begin to receive books for consideration in February. Eligible books will also be announced in catalogs and reviews and may appear in libraries and bookstores. Begin immediately to read eligible books. The pace of publication increases throughout each year, with only a few slow periods. It is important to keep up with the eligible books at all times.

Members might develop some convenient system for taking notes about each book read. Some will keep complete bibliographic information on each book, a short summary, and a critical statement, noting both strengths and weaknesses with some specificity. Notes about books that do not seem to be serious contenders will probably become briefer as each year progresses. It is probably a mistake; however, not to make notes about each book. A book that at first reading does not seem a serious contender may prove to be a good possibility on further consideration. Committee members will need to re-read some books. Personal notes will help in the recollection of first impressions and further thinking about the book. However, there are committee members who find it better not to take notes; they feel that those titles that fade from memory are not distinguished.

It is also important to keep the other committee members informed of books you think they should read. The chair will establish procedures for informing members of books being read and considered by others. The committee may communicate with an occasional report early in each year and more frequent reports later. You may use e-mail or a postcard system, sending a message whenever you find a book not yet on the committee's working list. Or, you may develop some other form. Whatever the form, providing information to other committee members is every member's responsibility. Furthermore, the books to be

considered at the selection meeting at Midwinter (Year 2), must have been recommended or suggested prior to the selection meeting.

If you read a book that you think should be considered, but are unsure about its eligibility, send a note to the committee chair with the bibliographic citation and your question. The chair and the priority consultant will check on the eligibility and inform the committee.

### Suggested Reading List

Dresang, Eliza T. "Radical Change in Award Winning Books for Youth," in *Library Services to Youth of Hispanic Heritage*, ed. by Barbara Immorth and Kathleen de la Peña Mc Cook. McFarland, 2000. (An analysis of the Pura Belpré and Américas Award books)

Horning, Kathleen T. *From Cover to Cover : Evaluating and Reviewing Children' Books*. HarperCollins, 1997.

Italiano, Graciela. "Reading Latin America: Issues in the Evaluation of Latino Children Books in Spanish and English," in *Evaluating children's books : a critical look : aesthetic, social and political aspects of analyzing and using children's books*, ed. by Betsy Hearne and Roger Sutton (Allerton Park Institute). University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 1993.

Pura Belpré Awards.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/belpremedal/belprmedal.htm>

Schon, Isabel. *The Best of the Latino Heritage: A Guide to the Best Juvenile Books about Latino People and Cultures*. Scarecrow Press, 1997. See also article in Immorth and de la Peña Mc Cook.

### Note-Taking

From the outset, committee members need to develop some convenient system for taking notes about each book that is read. Some prefer a file card system; others keep a binder with notes, sometimes organized with tabs.

No matter what system is used, the notes themselves need to speak to the Belpré Award criteria. Succinct and specific notes clarify thinking and aid in the Midwinter Selection Meeting discussion. In addition, some committee members keep complete bibliographic information on each book, a short summary, and a critical statement, noting both strengths and weaknesses based on the award criteria. As the year's work begins, the Chair sometimes asks committee members to share ideas on taking notes with the whole committee.

It is recommended that notes be taken on each book that is read. Notes about books not thought to be serious contenders may shorten as the year progresses. It is important to remember that a book not impressive on first reading may prove more interesting later on. Re-reading is frequently required. Notes record first impressions and measure changes in thinking.

Committee members do not usually bring a personal copy of every book under consideration to the Midwinter Selection Meeting. Therefore, notes need to include references to specific page numbers and/or quoted passages to justify specific points to be made during discussion.

Many committee members collect professional reviews of titles under consideration. Although reviews are not to be quoted during discussion, they raise questions and clarify opinion.

#### Participation of ALSC and REFORMA Membership

Suggestions from the ALSC and REFORMA membership-at-large are an important source of titles.

It may not be apparent to ALSC and REFORMA members that their suggestions are given careful consideration by the Pura Belpré Award Committee. The committee members should request suggestions from ALSC and REFORMA members each year.

The Committee Chair places a brief ad-like paragraph inviting members to communicate with the committee in *Children and Libraries*, the *Journal of the Association for Library Service to Children*, the *ALSC Newsletter* and the REFORMA newsletter. As a member of the Pura Belpré Award Committee, part of your responsibility is to encourage ALSC and REFORMA members to suggest books for its consideration. This is important because only books nominated or suggested by the committee or other ALSC or REFORMA members are discussed at the Midwinter selection meeting. Committee members might do any of the following:

- encourage ALSC and REFORMA members to submit titles to the committee throughout the year.
- promote discussion of eligible books in local communities by such means as organizing and taking part in mock Pura Belpré discussions and sending the results to the committee.
- take part in other types of book discussions and invite persons attending to submit suggestions (e.g., state library organizations, etc.)
- speak with individuals about currently published books.

In any of these methods of encouraging ALSC and REFORMA members to suggest books, *remember that the nominations made by committee members are confidential information.*

### Nominating Ballots

Twice before the second Midwinter the chair will request nominations from committee members. Each time committee members will be asked to nominate three books and to provide justification for each book. The chair will distribute the results and the justifications.

These nominations serve several functions. They serve as a focus for all suggestions made during the year. The written discussions serve as preparation for oral discussion at Midwinter (Year Two), and provide practice in stating ideas about books that seem distinguished clearly and succinctly. Finally, they provide guidance as to which books to consider further and probably reread.

To avoid making commitments prior to the Midwinter (Year Two) discussions, ranked preferences are not given on the nominating ballots. Although books nominated on these two ballots will probably be the ones the committee will discuss most fully, all the books suggested by committee members and others will be discussed at Midwinter.

It is important to return ballots on time, prepare statements carefully, and read each packet of nominations and justifications

### First Midwinter and Annual Conference Committee Meetings

The committee meets during the ALA Midwinter Conference (Year One) at the end of the first year in which the books the committee is considering are being published. This is not a selection meeting; but is for information, problem solving, and preparation for the selection meetings at the Midwinter Meeting (Year Two). The meeting agenda includes the following:

- a. Opportunity for committee members to become acquainted.
- b. Discussion of the procedures to be used by the committee during the remainder of the year and at its meeting at Midwinter the following year. Included in this discussion will be such items as method of communicating with the chair and other committee members, review of the procedures as indicated in the committee manual, and discussion of problems or concerns that committee members or the chair have, including difficulty in obtaining books.
- c. Discussion of terms, criteria, and definitions for the medal and honor books. Such discussion will help focus the committee's critical thinking so that at the Midwinter selection meeting members will be familiar with critical standards of each committee member.
- d. Review of the obligations of each member to take an active role in the work of the committee and the expectation those members unable to do so will resign from the committee.

Formal (final decision) discussion of books under consideration does not take place at the annual meeting or at the first Midwinter or second annual meeting; all formal discussion leading to choice of award books takes place at Midwinter (Year Two). However, there will be time for committee members to discuss and review informally (without final decision) the books suggested thus far and to add additional books. Deletions may occur at this meeting only on the suggestion of the suggester. Books deleted at this time may be re-added prior to the Midwinter Meeting (Year Two).

## Selection

### Books To Be Considered At The Midwinter (Year Two) Meeting

It is important for committee members to remember that only books previously nominated or suggested by committee members, ALSC members or REFORMA members may be considered at the Midwinter selection meeting. No books may be added to the list once the Midwinter meeting begins. For this reason it is important to return nominating ballots promptly, suggest books for committee consideration, and urge ALSC and REFORMA members to send in suggestions to the committee.

The terms of the Pura Belpré Award indicate which books are eligible for consideration. There are two other aspects of eligibility which committee members should remember.

- a. No books may be added to the list under consideration once the Midwinter (Year Two) Meetings begin. Any books which are to be considered must have been placed in nomination by a committee member or suggested by a committee member, an ALSC or REFORMA member prior to the Midwinter Meeting. Insofar as possible, committee members should be informed of all late additions to the list no later than one week prior to the beginning of the Midwinter Meeting. If books are not placed in consideration prior to the Midwinter Meeting committee members may not have had the opportunity to read and evaluate them. For this reason, committee members as well as the ALSC and REFORMA membership must take their role seriously in suggesting books to be considered, especially late in the year.
- b. During the committee meetings at Midwinter, once a book has been dropped from consideration for the Pura Belpré Award, that book may NOT be placed back on the list of books under consideration. Therefore, when committee members begin to delete titles, such deletions must be made with care.

For further discussion of eligibility at Midwinter, see the section titled "The Midwinter Selection Meetings," below.

### The Midwinter Selection Meetings

The meeting room set-up should be conducive to discussion. Ordinarily, the room will be used only by the award committee and will be locked between meetings. The committee will be provided with at least one copy of each book nominated by the committee members, by members of ALSC at large or REFORMA, and, upon request, with tally sheets, name cards, and several pads of ballots.

Committee members should bring the following: personal notes about books under consideration; all pertinent committee correspondence, including the final list of books under consideration; and the nomination statements. They may also wish to bring copies of books to supplement the one copy provided for the committee.

Order of Business:

- a. Reintroduction of committee members.
- b. Appointment by the chairperson of a secretary and of two tellers.  
Duties:  
Secretary: Takes minutes of all procedural decisions. No minutes are kept of discussion or ballots (the ballots and number tally sheets are collected by the chairperson who turns them in to the ALSC executive director. The ballots are destroyed and the tally sheet and minutes are placed in the ALSC archives as the record of the committee's actions). The secretary turns in the minutes to the committee chairperson prior to the end of the final committee meeting.  
  
Tellers: Tabulate and double-check all ballots and tallies turn in all ballots and tally sheets to the committee chair.
- c. Determination of who will fill out the award biographical sheet and any other announcement articles. The chair and members of the committee share the responsibility for writing these and for their translation into Spanish. These decisions are made prior to the final selection meeting. The biographical essay must be completed within hours of the final meeting of the committee. **N.B.:** It is imperative that the biographical information be legible and accurate. The news release will be written directly from this sheet -- so check, check, and check again.
- d. Procedural decisions:  
\*How voting is to be handled. (There is a set procedure for the balloting for the medal books, but there are other matters that may require votes.)  
\*Order in which books will be discussed.  
\*How books will be eliminated from consideration prior to the first ballot and after balloting has begun.

e. Review of the terms, criteria, and definitions of the award.

f. Discussion and Balloting.

Each book nominated or suggested will be considered. Many committees have found it helpful to go through the list once, usually starting with books that committee members have suggested but not nominated. Other committees find that starting with nominated books and then proceeding through the list is more appropriate. In this first inspection of the list, any book that does not seem a serious contender is eliminated by some agreed upon procedure. At this point limited discussion takes place. Once this is completed, full discussion of each book remaining on the list takes place. The reason is that some books suggested no longer seem serious contenders once the output of the entire year has been read. Committee members must always keep in mind, however, that once a book has been eliminated it cannot be reintroduced. When any book is eliminated from consideration, it is removed from the table so that only the books still under consideration remain.

When all books have been fully discussed, the committee proceeds to a ballot, following the procedure for closing discussion as agreed upon in #4 above. (See voting procedures, next section.)

When tellers have completed their tally and have checked it, the chair reads the results. If there is a winner, the committee proceeds to the next step, selection of Honor Books.

If the ballot does not procure a winner, the committee reopens discussion. The committee may not proceed to another ballot without discussion.

The committee may, in its discussion, eliminate additional books before proceeding to another ballot. However, caution must be taken in doing this. No book that has received a vote in the early balloting should be eliminated before a second or third ballot. Later on, books that have received only a few points might be eliminated in order to facilitate choice of a winner. Because of the mathematics of the voting process, the number of books under consideration ought never drop below eight. The committee must remember, also, that once a book is eliminated from consideration, it may not be re-introduced at a later time, either for consideration for the Medal or as an Honor Book.

Once the committee has completed its discussion, it again ballots. If again there is not winner, the above procedures are followed, alternating discussion and balloting until a winner is chosen.

g. Selection of Honor Books

There is no set number of honor books to be named. The committee may name as many or as few as it chooses, or none, keeping in mind that the books should be truly distinguished, not merely general contenders. Following the selection of each Medal winner, the committee, if it chooses to name Honor Books, may ballot again among the books that appeared on the final medal-winning ballot. The committee may choose to name one or more of the books that are highest in this balloting as Honor Books. When Honor books are announced to the public, they are announced in alphabetical order, by author, so as to accord equal honor to all books.

Immediately following determination of the winner of the medal, and following appropriate discussion, the committee will entertain the following:

- Whether Honor Books will be named
- Whether the committee wishes to choose as Honor Books the next highest books on the original winning ballot or to ballot again.
- If the committee votes to use the award winning ballot, the next motion will be one regarding number of books to be named.
- If the committee chooses to ballot for Honor books, only books that received points on the award winning ballot may be included. The same voting procedure is followed as for the award winner.
- If the committee has chosen to ballot for Honor Books, following that ballot, the committee will vote how many books of those receiving the highest number of points are to be named Honor Books.

#### Voting Procedures – Point System

Explanation of the point system used in tabulating votes at Midwinter for the Pura Belpré Award

For the ballots at Midwinter for the Pura Belpré Award, committee members are asked to name a first, second, and third choice.

When the ballots are tabulated, 4 points are assigned to each first choice, 3 points to each second choice, 2 points to each third choice.

To be a medalist, a book must receive 4 first choices at 4 points per vote for a total of 16 points, and it must have a 4 point lead over the book receiving the next highest number of points.

#### Committee Participation

Every attempt will be made to arrange the room to be conducive to discussion. However, committee members may have to overcome some physical obstacles. Discussion is enhanced if committee members keep in mind the following tips.

- Speak loudly enough to be heard.
- Try not to engage in private conversations with individual committee members during the meetings.
- Speak briefly, and allow others an opportunity to speak before speaking again.
- Listen carefully to other committee members.
- Speak only to the terms, criteria, and definitions for this award.
- Avoid generalities such as, "This is a nice book"; "The illustrations are appropriate," etc., without supporting critical analysis.
- Make comparisons, but only in relationship to other books eligible for consideration.

That is, do not compare a book with the author's entire body of work. Likewise, do not compare a book with books published in preceding years unless absolutely necessary to establish a book's individually distinct qualities. Comparisons are to be made only among the books that are eligible for the award.

### Announcements, Publicity and Presentation

#### After Selections Are Made

During the ALA Midwinter Meeting, the following take place:

The chair notifies the Public Information Office (PIO) of the winners and provides copy for press releases in English and in Spanish by the designated time. If the Spanish press release is not ready by the designated time, it will be delivered by the committee as soon as possible. The ALSC staff will obtain the names from the Committee Chair.

The morning of the ALA Media Awards press conference, the chair and committee notify the winners via phone in the PIO office in the convention center that their books have been selected as Pura Belpré Medal or Honor Books.

PIO prepares the English and the Spanish press releases based on information provided by the chair. There will be a Press conference on Monday morning of Midwinter announcing the medallists and honor books. Other award announcements (Caldecott, Newbery, Batchelder, Wilder, Printz, Coretta Scott King, Sibert, and Carnegie) are made at the Press Conference. The President of the ALSC and REFORMA (or a REFORMA designee) make the announcements alternatively in Spanish and English at the Press Conference.

A news release with all recipients is available to the press and other interested parties immediately following the announcement. Annotated releases will be available later the same day.

Members of the committee should work with their local news media in publicizing the Pura Belpré, Newbery, Caldecott, Batchelder, and Carnegie medals and, in appropriate years, the Wilder award. Be sure that local newspapers and television and radio stations receive press releases. On occasion, local newspapers and television and radio stations have given extra coverage to the awards when a local person was involved in the selection process.

If you are interviewed, please emphasize the importance of good books for children, the terms of the award, and the committee's reasons for the choices made. You are reminded about the need for confidentiality. Committees completing their work early need to be especially careful about confidentiality prior to the public announcement.

Other promotional activities might include developing programs and displays in libraries, schools, and other agencies about the medallist and Honor Books.

#### Presentation of Medals and Plaques

During the Annual Conference the medals will be presented to the two winners and plaques to the creators of the Honor Books. The ALSC president, its Board of Directors, the REFORMA president and its Board of Directors decide the forum for the presentation. Ordinarily it will be a special program at the annual conference. The Youth Services Committee of REFORMA will assume responsibility for coordinating the program with the assistance of the Belpré Award committee members. Although committee members are not required to be present, most find a special satisfaction in being part of the audience on this occasion.

#### Calendar for Chair and Committee Members

It is the responsibility of the Chair to establish and distribute a calendar of the year's work as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of committee members to meet all deadlines to assure that the selection process is orderly and timely.

Note: Tasks refer to all committee members unless chair is named as responsible.

### **Year One**

#### January to June

- Chair contacts all six committee members. Verifies contact information. Prepares list of committee members to distribute when requested.
- Chair prepares agenda(s) for committee meeting(s) at Annual Conference and distributes them (May).

### June to December

- At Annual Conference, Chair distributes list of committee members with award criteria to publishers.
- At Annual Conference, study Pura Belpré manual distributed and prepared by ALSC.
- Begin search for eligible books from previous January. At Annual Conference, assign book review resources to specific committee members.
- At Annual Conference, discuss former award winners and honor books to practice applying criteria. If chair wishes to do this, she/he notifies members before conference to be prepared to do this in whatever manner is decided upon.
- At Annual Conference, prepare for selection procedure.
- Chair prepares agenda(s) for committee meetings at the Midwinter Meeting and distributes them (December).

## Year Two

### January

- At first Midwinter scheduled meeting, preparatory orientation with former committee member and/or expert in evaluation of children's books is conducted.
- Chair has list of committee members and award criteria available for publishers.
- Chair provides ALSC office with updated list of publishers for office annual contact.

### January to January – Ongoing

- Read and evaluate eligible books.
- Members send suggestions to committee chair.
- Members convey notice of reviews to chair.
- Chair compiles and redistributes lists of books suggested and notice of reviews located on monthly basis (using electronic version of form).
- Members read all correspondence from committee chair.
- Read and evaluate all books suggested or nominated.
- Promote interest in the award.
- Chair maintains updated list of publishers, adding new ones as they appear.

### April-May

- Chair contacts ALSC office in late April with list of books to be discussed at Annual conference. Checks again in late May and arranges for committee members to bring any not available through office.

### June/July (At Annual Conference)

- Chair invites ALSC Priority Consultant to first part of committee meeting to answer questions.

- Committee chair reminds REFORMA President to appoint REFORMA Youth Services Committee as Awards Celebration Committee. May include others as necessary.
- Chair has list of committee members and award criteria available for publishers. Committee chair or designee makes one last round of publishers.
- Chair selects Spanish translators (at least two) for Midwinter Meeting to do the Press Release translations. (Note: if there are not two committee members accustomed to English/Spanish translation, other translators must be obtained).

#### September/October

- Committee chair sends out first ballot forms with expected date of return.
- Chair sends (or preferably faxes) to all publishers of books that have been suggested by a committee member a form to ascertain Latino eligibility and U.S. residency. Form includes contact information for authors/illustrator (where they will be on press conference day), editors and publishers (where they will be on press conference day). Follows up on any that do not reply on first attempt.
- Chair sends ALSC office list of books that will be discussed at Midwinter (update as this changes).

#### December

- Committee chair sends out second ballot forms.
- Check with ALSC office staff about availability of books to be discussed; assign committee members to bring books to Midwinter not available through office.
- Chair obtains addresses and phone numbers for members at Midwinter (in case of weather or other emergency)
- Chair prepares tally sheets for use at Midwinter.
- Chair prepares criteria list for committee members to have before them at Midwinter.
- Chair prepares and distributes to committee members and ALSC Executive Director the final list of books nominated and suggested, at least three weeks prior to the beginning of the Midwinter Meeting.

#### January

- Informs the committee members and the ALSC office immediately of late additions to the list of books under consideration so that the books may be read by committee members and the ALSC office may check the books for eligibility and bring them to the Midwinter Meeting (no later than one week prior to the beginning of the conference).
- Prepare for Midwinter selection meetings.
- Committee members bring as many laptops as possible to prepare for writing news releases and annotations of books.
- Chair invites Priority Consultant to the beginning of the first meeting to clarify issues.
- Midwinter selection meetings to begin Friday morning.

- Press conference preparation:
  - Gather biographical information on authors and illustrators.
  - Chair brings publisher forms with author and illustrator contact information; gives a copy to the ALSC staff on Sunday so they can contact publishers.
  - Spanish translators prepare Spanish version of release.
  - Chair secures from members names of supervisors or any one else to whom members would like letters of recognition of service sent.

### **After Announcement of Winners**

#### January to June

- Chair sends congratulatory letters to winners and editors, with copies sent to respective publishers.
- Chair sends “thank you” letters to members and members' employers and press releases to members' local newspapers and library school alumnae bulletins
- Invitations to presentation drawn up by REFORMA Youth Services Committee in collaboration with chair; sent to selected persons. Presidents of the two organizations are invited to make opening welcoming remarks at the celebration.
- Chair checks with ALSC regarding the availability of copies of the prize winning and honor books for the Award Celebration (by March); reminds office to request copies from publishers. Checks on this in May and assigns committee members to bring copies if office does not have enough.
- Chair consults with REFORMA Youth Services Committee to keep abreast of plans, regarding invitations, content of celebration, format of printed program, etc. Awards Celebration Committee creates printed program.
- REFORMA transfers \$1000 to ALSC for celebration.
- REFORMA provides \$1000 check for each of the two medal winners.
- Chair prepares the remarks for the presentation of awards at celebration and the introductions for each of the winners at the celebration and submits copy to ALSC office by late May.
- ALSC prepares and inscribes medals for winners and plaques for honor winners.
- Publicize award selections.

#### June/July

- Chair presents medals and plaques at Annual Conference.
- Chair sends “thank you” letters to winners, editors, publishers and to all who assisted with the celebration.
- ALSC office solicits text of winners’ acceptance speeches for publication in the ALSC journal, *Children and Libraries*.

## **PART III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### Introduction

The Pura Belpré Award Committee is responsible for selecting the award winner and, if it so chooses, Honor Books. The Pura Belpré Award Committee Manual describes the policies, practices, and procedures that guide the selection process. It describes the roles and responsibilities of committee members and of the Chair as well.

The Chair, the Priority Consultant, ALSC (staff, membership, award and Notable Children's Books Committee chairs, the ALSC Board, and the ALSC President), and the ALA Public Information Office have specific roles and responsibilities. The checklists below with those roles and responsibilities are comprehensive but not exhaustive.

Responsibility for selection of the Medal Winner and Honor Books rests with the Pura Belpré Award Committee. This manual has already described these responsibilities. However, there are others who have responsibilities for the awards. The next several pages give an overview of the responsibilities ascribed to others, beginning with an overview of the responsibilities of the committee chair.

### Committee Chair

The committee chair is a voting member of the committee with all the rights and responsibilities of other committee members.

There is a delicate balance that the chair must maintain between being the chair and being a committee member. Many chairpersons find it helpful to the free flow of the discussion if they limit their discussion to books they feel strongly about, speak later in the discussion of any book, and speak only to make a point that has not already been made.

The chair is responsible for setting the tone for committee discussion. This can be done by accepting all statements relative to the discussion, by firm leadership leading the discussion on pertinent issues, and by the ability to provide opportunity and encouragement for all committee members to speak, without allowing any member to dominate. In addition, the chair does the following:

- Establishes calendar and mailing procedures for the committee.  
Sends committee roster to all members (January –June).
- Corresponds with committee members immediately after appointments. Establishes email lists, phone chains and any other checks that ensure that correspondence is received and answered as needed.
- Conducts all committee meetings (Midwinter, Annual Conference).
- Prepares agendas for all committee meetings and distributes them (May, December).

- Receives suggestions and nominations; prepares lists of eligible books and sends them to committee members (can be distributed electronically to those who have email); occasionally from July to January of first year; monthly in second year.
- Prepares ballots for nominations in September/October and in December of second year. Distributes results to committee members within one week of due date for receipt from committee members (can be sent and returned by email).
- Midway through the second year, arranges for translations of the press release into Spanish at the Midwinter Meeting by the committee members or other selected persons.
- Checks eligibility of books suggested or nominated by sending form to publishers. Obtains assistance of priority group consultant when needed.
- Checks with ALSC office for availability of books to discuss in late April. Arranges with committee to bring others in late May for Annual; in September and December for final Midwinter.
- Answers all correspondence promptly, referring correspondence to the ALSC president or executive director for reply when appropriate. Copies all formal correspondence to committee members, to the ALSC executive director, the ALSC president and vice-president, and to the priority group consultant (does not include emails or forms to publishers; does include concerns of eligibility). (both years).
- Works with the ALSC staff to arrange committee meeting schedule so that it fits with the other award committees and for materials needed for meetings, such as name cards, ballots for midwinter, books for discussion, etc.
- Submits budget request for next committee (if requested; may be done routinely by office).
- Maintains financial records of committee's expenses and requests a reimbursement from ALSC (both years).
- Prepares committee reports at conferences and between conferences for ALSC board. Copies to be sent to REFORMA president.
- Contacts non-participating committee members and, if necessary, after consultation with priority group consultant, suggests their resignation from the committee. If the member belongs to REFORMA, the REFORMA president should be consulted.
- Represents the committee at committee chairs' orientations and meetings of Priority Group VI at Annual Conference and Midwinter
- Presents problems to ALSC priority group consultant as needed.

#### Midwinter Selection Meeting

- Obtains roster of committee members' midwinter addresses in case of emergency
- Prepares and distributes to committee members and ALSC executive director the final list of books nominated and suggested at least three weeks prior to the beginning of the Midwinter Meeting.
- Appoints committee secretary and tellers (December/January)

- Arranges in advance of the first committee meeting for all materials (books, ballots, name cards, tally sheets) to be available in the meeting room.
- Submits copies of the medal and honor books, committee tally sheets, committee ballots, and committee minutes to ALSC executive director immediately on conclusion of the committee's meetings (Midwinter).
- Prepares or arranges for a committee member to prepare the award biographical sheet for the news release and other announcement articles (Midwinter). Translations of remarks for press and news release into Spanish are done at this time.
- Notifies winners (Midwinter).
- Prepares committee report for ALSC Board before leaving Midwinter Meeting.

#### Between Midwinter and Annual Conference

- Sends letters of congratulations to award winner and honor book authors, illustrators and editors with copies to respective publishers.
- Sends all committee files to ALSC office OR to the next chair (preferably).
- Sends thank you letters to members and members' employers.
- Check in February to be sure ALSC staff has details of celebration and has sent letters to publishers inviting authors and illustrators to the celebration.
- Prepares and sends suggestions to the chair of the next year's committee with copies to president, vice-president, executive director, and priority group consultant (February). This includes sending the next chair titles of any books with next year's copyright date that the committee has identified in its reading, and friendly suggestions about procedural matter.
- Prepares introductions and presentation comments for Awards Celebration and submits to ALSC Office (late May or early June).
- See also page 25: Announcements, Publicity and Presentation

#### Annual Conference

- Chair presents awards and introductory remarks at award ceremony.

#### ALSC Priority Group Consultant

- Serves as a liaison between the ALSC Board and the committee chair and between the ALSC office and the committee chair.
- Meets with committee chair at Division Leadership meetings.
- Orients committee chair at meetings or between conferences.
- Assists Chair with procedural, personnel and eligibility questions.
- Assists members with unusual issues, particularly those having to do with the chair.

- Attends a committee meeting to explain the Priority Group Consultant role (at the request of the chair).

#### ALSC Staff

- Contacts publishers after each Midwinter Meeting (TWICE: in both first and second of two year term) with request to submit eligible books to committee members and encloses list of names and mailing addresses of committee members Explains to publishers the biennial nature of the award in the letter.
- Gathers and provides books for discussion at midwinter and annual meetings.
- Assists committee with other arrangements such as name tags, place cards, ballots etc.
- Arranges for engraving of winners' medals and the printing of honorees' plaques.
- Provides copies of winning books for Awards Celebration.
- Arranges for publication of acceptance speeches in *Children and Libraries*.
- Following the press conference announcements informs winning publishers of procedures, i.e. what the award ceremony will be like, who is expected to attend, etc. Follows up in early February with a letter to the publishers inviting the authors, etc. to the ceremony and explaining the details.

#### REFORMA

- REFORMA Youth Services Committee, in consultation with Pura Belpré Committee Chair, plans award celebration, prepares invitations, sends invitations and creates printed program.
- REFORMA Treasurer sends \$1000 to ALSC for Award Celebration expenses.

#### ALSC and REFORMA Membership, President and Board

- ALSC and REFORMA membership submit suggestions for award to committee chair throughout consideration period.
- ALSC President and Board in conjunction with REFORMA President and Board approve policies and resolve issues relating to the committee.
- ALSC and REFORMA Presidents announce winners at Midwinter Press Conference in English and in Spanish.
- ALSC and REFORMA Presidents make opening remarks at celebration.

#### ALA Public Information Office (PIO)

- Provides guidelines for preparation of press release information – explanation of why books are truly distinguished and biographical information on winning author(s) and illustrators. Requests books from ALSC staff.

- Designates format and deadlines for submission of information/books needed to prepare press release.
- Prepares information for press release in print and for ALSC web page based on information submitted by committee.
- Briefs Chair on arrangements for notifying winners and for Press Conference.
- Provides time and space for Chair to make phone calls to winners before Press Conference (preferably with a speaker phone to allow committee participation).
- Arranges for Press Conference.

## PART IV. APPENDICES

### Sample Letter to Committee Member's Employer/Supervisor

[NAME, ADDRESS]

[SENDER'S ADDRESS]

[DATE]

[SALUTATION]:

Please accept our congratulations and thanks for your support of [NAME] during her [or HIS] term on the ALA'S Association for Library Service to Children and REFORMA's [YEAR] Pura Belpré Award Selection Committee.

The committee, which selected the author and illustrator winners of the [YEAR] Pura Belpré Medals and the [YEAR] Pura Belpré Honor Books, has considered books for children that are published in the United States or Puerto Rico during [YEARS]. Many trade books for children by Latino authors and illustrators are now published each year, and the job of a committee member has become more challenging. Besides their initial reading, the members have been involved in an intense process of re-reading, evaluation, and discussion to hone their selection/reviewing skills and increase their professional understanding of the field of children's literature. It's a demanding but wonderful experience and one that should prove of great value to their libraries, systems, and universities as well as to themselves.

\* [NAME] has been an exemplary member of this committee and we look forward to seeing her/him in [CITY] in [MONTH, YEAR] for the award presentation.

Thank you again for your support during this selection process.  
Sincerely,

[NAME], Chair  
[YEAR] Pura Belpré Award Selection Committee

Sample Publisher Form For Author And Illustrator Eligibility Information

Note to Chair: Fax this form to publisher if possible and request fax in return if you have a fax available. Otherwise, send to: Pura Belpré Award Committee, American Library Association, Association for Library Service to Children, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

**Pura Belpré Author/Illustrator Information Form**

Please assist the Pura Belpré Award Committee by completing the information below for each book named so that we may verify the eligibility of its author or illustrator. We also need the information to prepare for possible contact at ALA Midwinter should the book be chosen for an award. This solicitation of information in no way implies that this book will be selected, merely that it is under consideration.

For purposes of this award, *Latino* is defined as people whose heritage emanates from any of the Spanish-speaking cultures of the Western Hemisphere

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the author Latino/a? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Is the author either a U.S. citizen or a resident of the U.S.? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Is the author a citizen of Puerto Rico? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Author's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Author's Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Illustrator: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the illustrator Latino/a? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Is the illustrator either a U.S. Citizen or a resident of the U.S.? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Is the illustrator a citizen of Puerto Rico? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Illustrator's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Illustrator's Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher/Imprint: \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher date (month/year): \_\_\_\_\_

Editor of book: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Award Contact Person at ALA Midwinter (if different):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone # of contact person at ALA Midwinter:

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that the Pura Belpré Award winners will be contacted between 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on Monday morning, \_\_\_\_\_ 200X.

Please FAX this to the chair of the committee [Name] at [Number] by [Date] [or give mailing address of chair if fax is not available]

### Sample Table for Keeping Track of Eligibility

<b>Eligibility Letter Sent</b>	<b>Eligibility Letter Received</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author (Eligibility)</b>	<b>Illustrator (Eligibility)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Via fax Refaxed 12/5	12/10	August House	Between Midnight and Morning: Historic Hauntings & Ghost Tales from Frontier Hispanic & N.American Traditions	Mendoza, Patrick (Eligible)	None	None

Sample Template for Letter to Verify Author/Illustrator Eligibility sent Mid-Fall of Second Year  
(Accompanied by Eligibility Forms)

Publisher's Name  
Address

Dear XXX,

Thank you for submitting the following book(s) for consideration by the XXX Pure Belpre Award Committee:

Please fax or mail the enclosed form to me at the following address by November XXX

[Chair's Name, Address, and Fax Number]

Before the Committee can complete its consideration of this book(s), we need to have this enclosed form on file. This form gives us essential, verified (by you) information about the eligibility for the award of the author or illustrator.

This form also tells us whom to contact at the publishing company on Monday morning, January XXX at approximately 7:30 AM local time if the book you have submitted should win and the phone number where the person can be reached. The final piece of information we need is the phone number where the author or illustrator can be reached on the morning of January XXX should their book be selected as a winner or honor book.

If you have any biographical information, beyond the book cover, about the author or illustrator of the book you have submitted, please send that with the enclosed filled-out form.

If you have any questions, please email me at  
XXXXX  
or phone me at  
XXXXX

You are cordially invited to attend the award announcement at 8:45 A.M. local time press conference on Monday, January XX at the Midwinter Meeting of the American Library Association in XXX.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

XXXXX, Chair  
Pura Belpre Award Committee

Sample Format For List Of Books Under Consideration

**Midwinter Selection Meetings**

**AUTHOR AWARD**

Title	Author	Author Eligibility	Illustrator	Illus El.	Publisher	Pub Date	Reviews Sources	# of Nom.
		(yes or no)		(yes or no)				

**ILLUSTRATOR AWARD**

Title	Illustrator	Illus El.	Author	Author El (yes or no)	Publisher	Pub Date	Review Sources	# of Nom.
		(yes or no)						

Sample Note-Taking Form

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Author:

Title:

Publisher:

Illustrator:

---

I suggested: Yes No

I nominated: Yes No

---

Reviews: BCCB Booklist Horn Book PW SLJ Other

---

Subject/Summary

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Quality of writing (excellent, engaging, and distinctive use of language)

Quality of illustration (excellent, engaging, and distinctive visual material)

Organization (appropriate scope and sequence)

Documentation (appropriate citations to allow verification of facts)

Clarity (delineation of fact and theory)

Accuracy (author authority; current, etc)

Stimulating presentation of facts, concepts, and ideas

Style of presentation (text, visual material, and book design appropriate for subject and intended audience)

Features (index, table of contents, bibliography, glossary, graphics, author note, etc)

Child audience (respect for children's understanding, abilities, and appreciation up to and including age fourteen)

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Strengths

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Weaknesses

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Comments

Sample Nominating Ballots

**October Preliminary Ballot – Author Award**

I recommend to the committee for consideration for the Pura Belpré **Author** Award the following three titles: (not in preferential order)

Author

Title

Publisher

Illustrator

Reason for Nomination Based on Criteria (paragraph):

Author

Title

Publisher

Illustrator

Reason for Nomination Based on Criteria (paragraph):

Author

Title

Publisher

Illustrator

Reason for Nomination Based on Criteria (paragraph):

Signature (Type name here if submitted electronically):

Single-space your typing so that your reasons may be easily reproduced for the other committee members.

Please return by October to

**October Preliminary Ballot – Illustrator Award**

I recommend to the committee for consideration for the Pura Belpré **Illustrator** Award the following three titles: (not in preferential order)

Illustrator  
Title  
Publisher  
Author  
Reason for Nomination Based on Criteria (paragraph):

Illustrator  
Title  
Publisher  
Author  
Reason for Nomination Based on Criteria (paragraph):

Illustrator  
Title  
Publisher  
Author  
Reason for Nomination Based on Criteria (paragraph):

Signature (Type name here if submitted electronically):  
Single-space your typing so that your reasons may be easily reproduced for the other committee members.  
Please return by October to

**December Preliminary Ballot—Author Award**

Additional nominations for consideration for the author award. (Not in preferential order)

I recommend to the committee for consideration for the Pura Belpré **Author** Award the following three titles: (not in preferential order)

Author

Title

Publisher

Illustrator

Reason for Nomination Based on Criteria (paragraph):

Author

Title

Publisher

Illustrator

Reason for Nomination Based on Criteria (paragraph):

Author  
Title  
Publisher  
Illustrator  
Reason for Nomination Based on Criteria (paragraph):

Signature (Type name here if submitted electronically):  
Single-space your typing so that your reasons may be easily reproduced for the other committee members.  
Please return by December            to  
Note: You may nominate books that others nominated on the first ballot, but do not renominate your own first ballot choices.

**December Preliminary Ballot – Illustrator Award**

I recommend to the committee for consideration for the Pura Belpré **Illustrator** Award the following three titles: (not in preferential order)

Illustrator  
Title  
Publisher  
Author  
Reason for Nomination Based on Criteria (paragraph):

Illustrator  
Title  
Publisher  
Author  
Reason for Nomination Based on Criteria (paragraph):

Illustrator  
Title  
Publisher  
Author  
Reason for Nomination Based on Criteria (paragraph):

Signature (Type name here if submitted electronically):  
Single-space your typing so that your reasons may be easily reproduced for the other committee members.  
Please return by December        to

Note: You may nominate books that others nominated on the first ballot, but do not renominate your own first nomination choices.



Sample Letters to Author, Editor

Sample Letter to Award Winner with cc to Editor

[Author's name and address]

Dear [Author's Name]:

Now that we have had an opportunity to relish the excitement of the award announcements for a while, I want to write a formal letter of congratulations for the honor bestowed upon you and your book, [Title], as recipient of the [Year] Pura Belpré Award given to “a Latino/Latina author whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.” As you know, the award is co-sponsored by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA) and the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking ([REFORMA](#)), an ALA Affiliate

The committee appreciated [Title] from the first moment we read our copies, and our admiration only increased as we delved deeply into our examination of the books before us. [Add here comments of appreciate for this specific book]

The excitement continues! The [year] Pura Belpré Award Ceremony will take place on [date and time if known; otherwise at the ALA Annual Conference in xxx]. The REFORMA Youth Services Committee oversees the Award Ceremony. The ALSC office provides contact with publishers about the details of the ceremony. Your publisher will hear from them about details in early February. The other members of the [year] Committee and I hope to be at the celebration and will look forward to extending our congratulations in person. [is applicable] I will contact you after the ceremony about the possible publication of your remarks in the ALSC journal *Children and Libraries*.

Again, our sincere congratulations.

[Name] Chair  
[year] Pura Belpré Award Committee

cc [Editor]

Sample Press Releases Announcing Winners (English and Spanish)

Contact: Eliza T. Dresang

ALA News Release  
For Immediate Release  
January 21, 2002

**SUSAN GUEVARA, PAM MUÑOZ RYAN win PURA BELPRÉ AWARDS**

Susan Guevara, illustrator of “Chato and the Party Animals,” written by Gary Soto and published by G.P. Putnam’s Sons and Pam Muñoz Ryan, author of “Esperanza Rising,” published by Scholastic Press, are the 2002 winners of the Pura Belpré Awards, honoring Latino authors and illustrators whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in a children’s book. The awards were announced January 21 during the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting in New Orleans.

The awards are administered by the Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC), a division of ALA, and REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking.

Susan Guevara’s larger than life mural-like images translate and extend Soto’s barrio story with vitality, color and social commentary. Discovering that his best friend, Novio Boy, has never had a birthday party, Chato the Cat, plans a surprise *pachanga*. Everything is set except that Chato forgot to invite the guest of honor. Sly humor and Latino symbolism abound in these innovative, acrylic-on-scratchboard illustrations.

According to committee chair, Dr. Eliza T. Dresang, Guevara’s vivacious, distinctive artistic style creates a culturally authentic picture book with immense child appeal.

Native Californian Susan Guevara has studied painting at the San Francisco Art Academy and the Royal Academy of Fine Art in Belgium. Her first book about Chato the Cat, “Chato’s Kitchen” was a Pura Belpré winner for illustration (1996), a Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children’s Book Award and was an ALA Notable Children’s Book.

“‘Esperanza Rising’ brings to young readers beautifully executed literature, simple but eloquent and rich in historical details, powerful imagery, and symbolism. Vivid descriptions of the social and economic hardships of the Mexican migrant workers create compelling realism for contemporary readers,” says Dresang.

Pampered thirteen-year-old Esperanza and her mother are forced to flee Mexico following her father's sudden death and his brothers' takeover of their land. In a California migrant-worker camp, they encounter poverty and racism that are mitigated by the support of family and friends. Esperanza's response to the fall from a privileged life into a 1930's immigrant experience transforms her from a spoiled child into strong adolescent.

Born and raised in the San Joaquin Valley of California, Pam Muñoz Ryan is of Mexican heritage. A former teacher, she is now a fulltime author. Ryan received the 2001 Jane Addams Children's Book Award for 'Esperanza Rising.' Her writing for youth has been recognized with numerous other state and national awards.

The Committee selected one honor book for illustration: 'Juan Bobo Goes to Work,' illustrated by Joe Cepeda, retold by Marisa Montes and published by HarperCollins Publishers.

'Juan Bobo Goes to Work' carries on Pura Belpré's tradition of retelling traditional Puerto Rican folktales. Cepeda humorously depicts Juan Bobo's determined but disastrous antics through bold brush strokes, expert use of varied perspectives, and vibrant Caribbean colors.

Joe Cepeda, who grew up in East Los Angeles and lives in Southern California, is a best-selling illustrator of numerous children's books.

Two Author Award Honor Books were named: 'Iguanas in the Snow,' by Francisco X. Alarcón, illustrated by Maya Christina González, published by Children's Book Press; and 'Breaking Through' by Francisco Jiménez, published by Houghton Mifflin Company.

'Iguanas in the Snow,' a collection of seventeen bilingual poems depicting winter in San Francisco and nearby mountains, surprise and delight like peppermint candy on the tongue. Alarcón's rich verbal imagery peppers the pages with Latino children's experiences in a multicultural setting.

Alarcón, who lives and teaches at the University of California at Davis, is an award-winning poet and educator. Two previous seasonal poetry books by Alarcón, "Laughing Tomatoes and Other Spring Poems/Jitomates Risueños y otros poemas de primavera" (1997) and "From the Bellybutton of the Moon/Del ombligo de la luna y otros poemas de verano" (1998) have won Pura Belpré Honor Awards for author. Alarcón grew up in Mexico and the United States and thus considers himself "bi-national."

Jimenez's compelling autobiographical stories in "Breaking Through," sequel to "The Circuit," combine dramatic social issues of poverty and prejudice in the 1950's with timeless adolescent experiences of family tension, school, and romance. Powerful images of a teenager overcoming crushing poverty and personal challenges while maintaining hope encourage readers to "break through" their own barriers with tenacity and courage.

As a child, Francisco Jiménez immigrated with his family from Tlaquepaque, Mexico, to California, where he worked in the fields. Jiménez received both his master's degree and his Ph.D from Columbia University and is now professor at Santa Clara (CA) University.

Members of the ALSC/REFORMA Belpré Committee are: Eliza T. Dresang, Florida State University; Miguel García Colón, Chicago Public Library, Chicago; Jean Hatfield, Johnson County Library, Shawnee Mission (Kansas); Bethe Marie Lehman, L.O. Donald Elementary School, Dallas; Maria C. Mena, Leon County Public Library System, Tallahassee; Meb Norton, Metairie Park Country Day High School, New Orleans; Nissa Perez, East Los Angeles Library, Los Angeles.

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Contact: Oralia Garza de Cortés

ALA News Release

For Immediate Release

January 21, 2002

Susan Guevara y Pam Muñoz Ryan ganadores del Premio Pura Belpré.

Susan Guevara, ilustradora del libro "Chato and the Party Animals", escrito por Gary Soto y publicado por G.P. Putnam's Sons, y Pam Muñoz Ryan autora del libro "Esperanza Rising" publicado por Scholastic Press, son los ganadores del Premio Pura Belpré del año 2002. Este premio se otorga a los escritores e ilustradores latinos cuyo trabajo refleja el mejor retrato de la cultura latina en un libro para niños. El premio fue anunciado durante la Conferencia de Invierno de la American Library Association (ALA) en Nueva Orleans, Louisiana el día 21 de enero de 2002.

Los premios son entregados por la Asociación de Servicios Bibliotecarios para Niños, (Association for Library Service to Children, ALSC), una división de la ALA, y por REFORMA asociación nacional que promueve los servicios bibliotecarios para latinos y las personas de habla hispana (National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking).

Las ilustraciones de Susan Guevara imitan a los muralistas y reflejan la vida en su máximo esplendor. Estas imágenes traducen y le añaden vitalidad, color y un comentario social al barrio del cuento de Gary Soto. Guevara tiene un estilo innovador. Sus ilustraciones están hechas en acrílico y poseen un humor ingenioso. Chato descubre que su amigo Novio Boy nunca ha tenido una fiesta de cumpleaños. Chato planifica una pachanga para Novio Boy pero se le olvida invitarlo.

Eliza T. Dresang, quien preside el comité de Pura Belpré dice " Guevara, con su estilo único, crea un mundo culturalmente auténtico que apela al gusto de los niños".

Susan Guevara, quien es nativa de California, estudió pintura en la Academia de Arte de San Francisco y la Academia Real de Arte de Bélgica. Su primer libro, La "Cocina de Chato" (1996) fue premiado con el premio Pura Belpré 1996 y el premio infantil Mexicano Americano, Tomás Rivera.

La novela, "Esperanza Rising" le presenta a los jóvenes lectores una obra literaria bellamente escrita. Su estilo es simple y elocuente. La obra tiene poderosas imágenes y símbolos y es rica en detalles históricos. "Las descripciones de las condiciones sociales y las penurias económicas de los trabajadores migrantes mexicanos son vívidas y describen una realidad convincente al lector contemporáneo", dice Eliza T. Dresang, Presidente del Comité del Premio Pura Belpré.

Al morir su padre, Esperanza una niña de trece años se ve forzada a huir de México junto con su madre. Los tíos de Esperanza se han apoderado de sus tierras y madre e hija han quedado desamparadas. Esperanza y su madre comienzan una nueva vida en un campamento de trabajadores agrícolas en California. Ellas se enfrentan a la pobreza y el racismo, pero sobreviven gracias a la ayuda de su familia y sus amigos. Las experiencias vivenciales de Esperanza la llevan desde una posición privilegiada hasta ser una trabajadora inmigrante agrícola. Esperanza deja de ser una niña caprichosa y se transforma en una adolescente fuerte y responsable.

Pam Muñoz Ryan es de herencia mexicana. Nació y se crió en el Valle de San Joaquín en California. Actualmente se dedica exclusivamente a escribir, aunque en el pasado fue maestra de escuela. Muñoz Ryan es ganadora del Jane Addams Children's Book Award por su libro "Esperanza Rising". Sus obras para niños han recibido numerosos premios estatales y nacionales.

El Comité seleccionó "Juan Bobo Goes to Work", ilustrado por Joe Cepeda y relatado por Marisa Montes, publicado por HarperCollins Publishers, como ganador de mención honorífica por ilustración.

El libro "Juan Bobo Goes to Work" continúa la tradición de Pura Belpré de narrar cuentos populares puertorriqueños. Las ilustraciones de Joe Cepeda muestran a Juan Bobo inmerso en situaciones desastrosas y llenas de humor. El uso de brochazos fuertes y las múltiples perspectivas crean escenas caribeñas vibrantes y coloridas.

Joe Cepeda creció en el este de Los Angeles y vive en el sur de California.

Las menciones honoríficas para autor son: "Iguanas en la nieve" de Francisco X. Alarcón, ilustrado por Maya Christina González y publicado por Children's Book Press y "Breaking Through" de Francisco Jiménez, publicado por la compañía Houghton Mifflin.

El poemario "Iguanas in the Snow/Iguanas en la nieve", es una colección de 17 poemas en español e inglés, que describe las montañas cercanas de San Francisco durante el invierno. Estos poemas sorprenden y encantan como un dulce de menta. El autor utiliza un lenguaje rico en metáforas donde se proyecta la vida multicultural de niños latinos en San Francisco.

Alarcón vive y enseña en Davis, California. Sus previos libros "Laughing Tomatoes and Other Spring Poems/Jitomates Risueños y otros poemas de primavera" (1997) y "From the Bellybutton of the Moon/Del ombligo de la luna y otros poemas de verano" (1998) también han obtenido menciones honoríficas Pura Belpré en años anteriores. Alarcón creció en México y los Estados Unidos y se considera ciudadano de ambas naciones.

Las historias autobiográficas de Francisco Jiménez en "Breaking Through" son una continuación del libro "The Circuit". Jiménez combina los temas sociales de la pobreza y el prejuicio, y los une con los temas juveniles del amor, la escuela, y la tensión familiar.

A pesar de tantos obstáculos el personaje principal de "Breaking Through" mantiene la esperanza y motiva al lector a romper sus propias barreras con tenacidad y valor.

De niño, Francisco Jiménez vino con su familia de Tlaquepaque, México a California, donde trabajó en campos agrícolas. Jiménez obtuvo su maestría y su doctorado en Columbia University en Nueva York. Actualmente Francisco Jiménez es profesor en la Universidad de Santa Clara en California.

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Los miembros del Comité de ALSC/REFORMA Premio Pura Belpré son:  
Members of the ALSC/REFORMA Belpré Committee are: Eliza T. Dresang, Florida State University, Chair; Miguel García-Colón, Chicago Public Library, Chicago; Jean Hatfield, Johnson County Library, Shawnee Mission (Kansas); Bethe Marie Lehman, L.O. Donald Elementary School, Dallas; Maria C. Mena, Leon County Public Library System, Tallahassee; Meb Norton, Metairie Park Country Day High School, New Orleans; Nissa Pérez, East Los Angeles Library, Los Angeles, CA.

## The Pura Belpré Award (1996 through 2004)

### Winners

May be located at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/belpremedal/belprmedal.htm>

### 2004 Awards

Author Medal: Julia Alvarez. *Before We Were Free* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2002).

Author Honor: Nancy Osa. *Cuba 15*. (Delacorte Press, 2003).

Amada Irma Pérez. *My Diary From Here to There/Mi Diario de Aquí Hasta Allá*. (Children's Book Press).

Illustrator Medal: Yuyi Morales. *Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book*. (Chronicle Books, 2003).

Illustrator Honor: Robert Casilla, Illustrator. Written by L. King Pérez. *First Day in Grapes*. (Lee & Low Books, Inc., 2002).

David Diaz, illustrator. Written by Nancy Andrews-Goebel. *The Pot That Juan Built*. (Lee & Low Books, Inc., 2002).

Yuyi Morales, Illustrator. Written by Kathleen Krull. *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*. (Harcourt, Inc., 2003).

### 2002 Awards

Author Medal: Pam Muñoz Ryan. *Esperanza Rising* (Scholastic Press, 2000).

Author Honor: Francisco Jiménez. *Breaking Through*. (Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001).

Francisco X. Alarcón. *Iguanas in the Snow*. Illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez. (Children's Book Press).

Illustrator Medal: Susan Guevara, Illustrator. Written by Gary Soto. *Chato and the Party Animals* (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2000).

Illustrator Honor: Joe Cepeda, Illustrator. Retold by Marisa Montes. *Juan Bobo Goes to Work*. (HarperCollins, 2000).

### 2000 Awards

Author Medal: Alma Flor Ada. *Under the Royal Palms*. Atheneum, 1998

Author Honor: Francisco X. Alarcón. *From the Bellybutton of the Moon*. Children's Book Press, 1998.

Juan Felipe Herrera. *Laughing Out Loud, I Fly*. Cotler/HarperCollins, 1998.

Illustrator Medal: Carmen Lomas Garza. *Magic Windows*. Children's Book Press, 1999.  
Illustrator Honor: George Ancona. *Barrio: José's Neighborhood*. Harcourt Brace, 1998.  
Felipe Dávalos. *The Secret Stars*. Text: Joseph Slate. Marshall Cavendish, 1998.  
Amelia Lau Carling. *Mama & Papa Have a Store*. Dial, 1998

### **1998 Awards**

Author Medal: Victor Martinez. *Parrot in the Oven: mi vida*. Cotler/HarperCollins. 1996.  
Author Honor: Francisco Alarcón. *Laughing Tomatoes and Spring Poems Other*. Children's Book Press, 1997.  
Floyd Martinez. *Spirits of the High Mesa*. Arte Publico Press, 1997.

Illustrator Medal: Stephanie Garcia. *Snapshots from the Wedding*. Text: Gary Soto. Putnam, 1997.  
Illustrator Honor: Carmen Lomas Garza. *In My Family*. Children's Book Press, 1996.  
Enrique O. Sánchez. *The Golden Flower: a Taino Myth from Puerto Rico*. Text: Nina Jaffe. Simon & Schuster, 1996.

### **1996 Awards**

Author Medal: Judith Ortiz Cofer. *An Island Like You: Stories of the Barrio*. Melanie Kroupa/Orchard Books, 1995.  
Author Honor: Lucía González. *The Bossy Gallito/El Gallo de Bodas: A Traditional Cuban Folktale*. Scholastic, 1994.  
Gary Soto. *Baseball in April and Other Stories*. Harcourt, 1994.

Illustrator Medal: Susan Guevara. *Chato's Kitchen*. Text: Gary Soto. Putnam, 1994  
Illustrator Honor: George Ancona. *Pablo Remembers: The Fiesta of the Day of the Dead*. Lothrop, 1993.  
Lulu Delacre. *The Bossy Gallito/El Gallo de Bodas: A Traditional Cuban Folktale*. Text: Lucía González. Scholastic, 1994.

