

ALSC 2017-2020 Strategic Plan
Implementation Progress
September 2018

The ALSC 2017-2020 Strategic Implementation Progress Report is a quarterly representation of the most recent projects and activities that are underway by ALSC committees and staff in support of ALSC's 2017-2020 Strategic Plan objectives under Advocacy, Diversity & Inclusion and Learning & Development. A full outline of the strategic plan and past progress reports can be accessed on the ALSC website at <http://www.ala.org/alsc/aboutalsc/stratplan>.

Advocacy

ALSC will champion the value of library service to children and the resources necessary to deliver on our vision.

1. Establish an accessible content stream of valuation tools and research updates, including customizable content for members, by September 2018. *Transforming ALSC*
 - Media Mentorship – Young Children, New Media and Libraries – ALSC staff, in partnership with University of Washington, and Kent State University and Claudia Haines updated the 2014 Young Children, New Media and Libraries survey and collected new data during August 2018 that will inform research on media mentorship. Survey results will be shared through upcoming ALSC/ALA and other conferences.
2. Articulate a prioritized research agenda, including but not limited to summer learning/out- of-school time, by September 2018, and pursue avenues for conducting and/or supporting the research by September 2020. *Transforming Children's Librarianship*
 - Research Agenda Task Force - Developed a list of potential priority areas that will be used as a framework for the ALSC Research Agenda and started to develop tentative recommendations for supporting and maintaining oversight of the research agenda. The task force is creating a bibliography of resources to supplement the final research agenda recommendations, which should connect practitioners to research they can use for advocacy.
 - Erikson Institute – Technology and Children (TEC) Center – The TEC Center was awarded an IMLS FY2018 National Leadership Grant for the project “Building an Alliance for Media Literacy in Early Childhood Informal Learning-A National Forum” in collaboration with several partner organizations including, ALSC, Association of Children’s Museums (ACM), Chicago Children’s Museum (CCM), and National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE). The Tec Center, ALSC and additional partners will lead their stakeholders in forming an alliance for media literacy in early childhood at a leadership forum and a consensus building forum with practitioners. These two forums will enable organizations and leaders, individually and collectively, to identify and implement promising practices in media literacy for young children and families in libraries, museums, community program and other beyond-the-classroom settings.
3. Amplify librarians’ essential role as information literacy experts through advocacy outputs, including communications, webinars, and establishing collaborations, by September 2018. *Transforming Communities through Libraries*

- Advocacy & Legislation - In October, the committee's webinar on advocacy will take place, pooling discussion questions from a broad range of stake holders and advocates. The committee is also looking into ways to collaborate with the Public Awareness Committee, especially as it relates to an advocacy centered toolkit.
- Intellectual Freedom – Committee blog posts have advocated for Banned Books Week, provided highlights of the ALA Annual Conference, and provided background for their information literacy toolkit project.
- Library Service to Underserved Children and Their Caregivers – The committee is poised to work with Project Local, an IMLS National Leadership Planning Grant initiative designed to research, describe and analyze libraries’ practices and perceptions of community-focused programs and services that are taking place outside of library walls and intended to reach families in underserved communities who are not currently using the library.
- Public Awareness Committee - PAC is in the second year of working on a toolkit to champion expertise of children’s librarians. Expected completion date is June 2019. The committee is in the process of writing 7 new “Because” statements that will be one-page documents in the style of the Libraries Transform toolkits by January 2019. Also, in development is a script for a PSA video and securing a location for it to be filmed at ALA Midwinter.
- Public Awareness Committee – The committee is collaborating with the Advocacy & Legislation committee on a presentation for the 2018 ALSC Institute. The presentation titled, “Demystifying Advocacy: Building Support for Your Library” has been accepted and will highlight PAC’s new Championing Children’s Services Toolkit, as well as other advocacy resources. Desired outcomes: ALSC Institute attendees will become confident library advocates, equipped with advocacy resources as well as with a knowledge of the upcoming Championing Children’s Services Toolkit.
- Managing Youth Services Committee - The Managing Youth Services Committee has finalized dates and times for an upcoming webinar series through ALSC on Leadership in Youth Services to be offered in November, December, and January. Topics are Part 1: Leading Outside Your Organization, Part 2: You're More than a Children's Librarian, and Part 3: Moving Beyond Youth Services. The three webinars will be standalone but will allow participants who attend all three to develop a toolkit of skills for advocating both for themselves as professionals and for youth services in libraries.
- ALSC staff submitted, in partnership with the Association of Children’s Museums, a revised preliminary IMLS grant proposal to facilitate the planning and hosting of a Welcoming Spaces National Forum.
- ALSC staff, in partnership with the research team, J. Elizabeth Mills, Kathleen Campana, and Dr. Michelle H. Martin, will be developing a white paper that would share Project LOCAL research results examining how libraries are going outside of their walls and into the community to reach and serve children and families in underserved communities who are not currently using the library.

- Designing Youth Spaces White Paper – ALSC staff are drafting next steps to develop a white paper on Designing Youth Spaces. The paper is an opportunity to fill a need for guidelines on designing children’s spaces in libraries.
4. Increase targeted messaging to the wider library profession and the public about the expertise of ALSC and our members to demonstrate the purpose and value of strong and meaningful children’s librarianship by September 2019. *Transforming Communities through Libraries*
- National Summer Learning Day – The National Summer Learning Association celebrated its 25th anniversary and used the opportunity to expand the annual National Summer Learning Day (NSLD), an advocacy day in support of children’s continued learning, health, and safety throughout the summer, by collaborating with ALSC to engage library participation across the country. On July 12th, NSLD included a national read-aloud of the award-winning book, *Trombone Shorty*, illustrated by 2016 Caldecott Honor recipient, Bryan Collier, this year’s National Summer Learning Ambassador. ALSC staff attended a Summer Learning Day event at the Chicago Public Library (CPL) which included 300 kids, Bryan Collier, and NSLA President and founder, Dr. Boulay for a read-aloud of *Trombone Shorty* followed by CPL partners, the Art Institute, Museum of Science and Industry, Shedd Aquarium and Lincoln Park Zoo hosting activity stations for the kids.

Other activities in support of the Advocacy strategic action area:

- ALSC staff submitted an Emerging Leader Program project proposal seeking participants to revisit the purpose and goals of the Everyday Advocacy website and make recommendations on updates or changes to the website content ALSC can implement.

Diversity & Inclusion

ALSC will become more diverse and inclusive, acting to promote these values in all aspects of library service to children.

1. Increase diversity in ALSC membership and reduce barriers to participation as measured against the Diversity in ALSC baseline survey by September 2019. *Transforming ALSC*
 - No activity to report at this time.
2. Expand opportunities for existing members from underrepresented experiences to serve in ALSC activities, as measured by longitudinal studies and/or focus groups, by September 2020. *Transforming ALSC*
 - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Implementation Task Force (EDI TF) – In August the task force launched the Equity Fellowship which works to increase ALSC diversity and equity while actively recruiting new leaders. Five fellowship recipients will receive funding for two-year ALSC and ALA memberships and one year of conference registrations and travel stipends for ALA Midwinter and ALA Annual. Fellowship recipients will also receive mentorship from members of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion within ALSC task force.

3. Increase the cultural competency of library staff serving youth by developing an accessible online cultural competency training series by September 2018. *Transforming Children's Librarianship*
 - Education Committee - The committee is exploring the opportunity to work with an outside consultant to develop cultural competency training opportunities in addition to the cultural competency webinars that are being developed. The committee also is recruiting and researching potential guests to establish programming around the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative. The committee has solicited and approved the webinar 'It's not your Imagination...Identity Conversations Really Are Different Today', which also aligns with the EDI initiative.

Other activities in support of the Diversity and Inclusion strategic action area:

- Youth Media Awards & ALA Affiliates – In continuing efforts to celebrate diversity, ALSC staff are working with ALA and the ALA Ethnic Affiliates to add select youth media awards from ALA Ethnic Affiliate groups beginning with the 2019 Youth Media Award announcements.
- Awards Program Review – At the 2018 Annual Conference, the ALSC Board of Directors reviewed recommendations provided by the Awards Program Review task force for the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award and voted to change the award name to the Children's Literature Legacy Award.
- 2018 National Institute Connection Event – ALSC will be hosting a Connection Event at the 2018 National Institute. The event welcomes ASLC members and colleagues interested in youth librarianship for a free networking reception at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. This event, funded by the Friends of ALSC, will include an Ignite Session and networking opportunities with invited, local non-library organizations representing the diversity of the host city, Cincinnati, OH.
- Library Service to Underserved Children and Their Caregivers - Through the ALSC blog, the committee has submitted blog posts to inform the library community of the opportunities to implement programming that is both inclusive and reaches diverse populations. Additionally, the committee is represented on ASGCLA to advance ALA's continuing commitment to diversity and to accessibility of library and information services for all, including people with physical, sensory or mental disabilities, as reflected in the ALA policy on library services to people with disabilities.
- Public Awareness Committee – A PAC member authored an ALSC blog post highlighting the new Equity Fellowship, ALSC's upcoming webinars focusing on diversity and inclusion, other ALSC resources (booklists, archived webinars etc.) that focus on diversity and inclusion.
- Research Agenda TF - Diversity and Inclusion is included as one of the priority areas in the research agenda. The task force is pulling research that has been done in this area in relation to public library children's services.

Fall EC Meeting 2018 DOC. Xb

- Charlemae Rollins President's Panel - The theme of the panel is Subversive Activism: Creating Social Change Through Libraries and Children's Literature and contributes to the Diversity and Inclusion area of the strategic plan.
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Implementation Task Force (EDI TF) - The task force has been working on logistics around a Twitter conversation to gain a better understanding of Indigenous, people of color (IPOC) and other marginalized peoples' experiences with ALSC. Another effort in progress is the development of an internal ALSC education piece for committee chairs to support EDI within committee work. We are determining the core aspects of this piece and aim to have something for ALA Midwinter 2019.
- Quicklists Consulting Committee – The committee continues to ensure that all booklist choices are sensitive to diversity and inclusion. Current and upcoming booklists include the Building STEAM with Día Booklist, a Graphic Novels booklist and a revision of Comforting Reads for Difficult Times.
- 2019 Batchelder Committee - Encourage ALSC members to develop blog posts and/or submit session proposals related to translated book programming.
- Building Partnerships - Committee members are working to include partner organizations that represent diversity and inclusion as part of the online list.
- Children & Libraries Editorial Advisory Board - Articles in Children and Libraries promote diversity and inclusion in all aspects of library work with children. Most articles at least touch on this aspect of the strategic plan. For example, the lead article in the 2018 summer issue of CAL was "Motivating Boys to Read: Guys Read, a Summer Library Reading Program for Boys."
- Children & Technology – The committee is actively looking for webinar presenters to speak to diversity and/or inclusion using technology.
- Children's Collection Management Discussion Group - Diversity and inclusion, Spanish books, and large print books were discussed during the most recent meeting.
- Managing Children's Services – The committee is working on an ongoing "What Would You Do" segment as part of their regular blog posts that takes an invented situation that may come up in a youth services library and asks several librarians and managers to share how they would handle the problem or situation. One of the goals of the new "What Would You do" format for blog posts is to showcase voices and perspectives that may not be represented on the committee itself. Responses from diverse voices will be shared.

Learning & Development

ALSC will actively develop new generations of leaders.

1. Build a discernible pathway, along with opportunities for training and mentorship, to develop ALSC members as leaders in their libraries, the profession, and/or the association by September 2020.

Transforming ALSC

Fall EC Meeting 2018 DOC. Xb

- Organization and Bylaws – The committee is compiling the results of a survey done between May and June regarding co-chair arrangement benefits and challenges. This fall, results of this survey will be submitted to the Board for their consideration in planning for process committees.
 - Mentoring Program – The application cycle for the next Mentoring Program has closed. Mentor and mentee matches are in progress. ALSC will alternate between two types of communication to mentor and mentee matches: newsletters that include a personal note from ALSC leadership or a mentor match in the program and check-ins from members of the Mentoring Working Group. This added support and attention to the program is expected to increase interest in participation for 2018-2019.
2. Provide at least two educational opportunities in media mentorship and child development, ideally developed and/or presented with collaborative partners from other ALA units, by September 2018. *Transforming Children's Librarianship*
- Excellence in Early Learning Digital Media Award – The committee will be working with the ALSC Education Committee to present a webinar on Digital Media and young children.
3. Organize and promote ALSC activities to position the core competencies as central to library service to children, by September 2018. *Transforming Children's Librarianship*
- Advocacy & Legislation – Committee members will be presenting, Demystifying Advocacy: Building support for your library, at the 2018 ALSC Institute.
 - Early Childhood Programs and Services – The committee is developing a 4-part webinar series with the focus of early literacy expertise beyond libraries to begin presenting by the end of the year. The webinar series will provide relevant training to the profession, including topics on child development and diversity/inclusion.
 - Intellectual Freedom – The committee has been collecting resources to use and share as part of a toolkit for children's librarians interested in offering information literacy programming.
 - Library Service to Underserved Children and Their Caregivers – The committee is in the process of revamping their toolkit which would be informed by content from a proposed Community Forum examining library services to refugee, homeless, and immigrant children and families. The forum would collect suggestions from participants about best practices for serving these communities and the last Candlewick Press Light the Way Grant winner would be featured.
 - Public Awareness – ALSC Blog posts have included topics on Graphic Novel lists, the #MeToo movement and the role of libraries, and tips for creating community collaborations.
 - Research Agenda Task Force - One of the priority areas in the research agenda is dedicated to professional development and continuing education for library staff.

- School Age Programs and Services - Work continues on the Tween Maker Launch Pad, with a tentative completion timeline at Midwinter 2019.
 - National Institute Planning Task Force – The task force has developed a lineup of speakers that will provide a variety of relevant professional development opportunities across all the ALSC Competencies.
 - Student Gift Membership Task Force - Monthly emails share ALSC professional development opportunities with early career librarians. The committee has also set up a virtual discussion group to host monthly chats about topics chosen by the participants.
 - 2019 Batchelder Committee - The chair will submit a proposal for an ALSC webinar on the Batchelder award and recent changes (per invitation).
 - Interdivisional Committee on School and Public Library Partnerships - Priorities are to promote the School Library and Public Library Partnerships (SPLC) Toolkit in as many ways as possible and finalize a few minor edits to the toolkit. The committee has been invited by the ALSC Education Committee to develop a webinar on the SPLC toolkit in early 2019, and it working on a proposal and development plan for the webinar.
 - Education Committee – The committee approved the webinars ‘Leadership in Youth Services’, a three-part series and Podcast Playground: Discovery and Programming with Kids Podcasts. The committee has also created a Presenter Tip Sheet as a best-practices measure for webinar participants.
 - Special Collections and Bechtel Fellowship – The committee is creating webinars for past Bechtel fellows to present research and webinars of short talks from past Bechtel fellows that would inspire others to apply for the Fellowship and further contribute to the professional literature.
 - School Age Programs and Services – The committee is continuing development of the Tween Maker Launch Pad (previously the Tween Maker Toolkit) and includes the integration of interviews.
4. Develop a toolkit of research-based best practices for out-of-school time learning and disseminate the toolkit and practices to members by September 2019. *Transforming Communities through Libraries*
- Dollar General Literacy Fund (DGLF) – Every Reads – Strengthening Communities Through Libraries (SCTL) – ALSC has been awarded a 9th year DGLF grant that will help libraries provide STEAM-focused learning for children during breaks and in after-school programs. In the coming months, ALSC will award minigrants to members in public libraries. The outcomes of these grants will continue to inform the development of a research-based best practices toolkit in service to ALSC’s Strategic Plan.

Other activities in support of the Learning and Development strategic action area:

Opportunities

ALSC considers many opportunities for collaboration with ALA Divisions and other organizations. The ALSC 2017-2020 Strategic Plan serves as a primary guide for determining how ALSC will prioritize potential projects and activities. These potential opportunities are identified below:

- The Univ. of Virginia would like to include ALSC in an NSF grant they are writing in coordination with the Smithsonian Institute. The project would create maker kits for libraries that would teach children to recreate famous inventions that are in the Smithsonian's collection.