

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Annual Conference, New Orleans
June 22 – 26, 2018**

Topic: Innovation Award Proposal

Background: At YALSA’s 2018 Midwinter Meeting, the Board reviewed document #22 regarding member grants and awards and voted to direct the President to appoint two short-term member groups to develop a proposal for two new awards, and to submit them to the Board for review for the June 2018 meeting. Melissa West, Chair of the Innovation Award Taskforce, has presented the award proposal below for the board’s consideration.

Action Required: Consent

Item #1. Proposed Name of the Award

The proposed name of the award is the YALSA Innovation in Teen Services Award.

Item #2. Definition, Purpose and Criteria

The YALSA Innovation in Teen Services Award recognizes a member who has brought a new idea to life through their library that has benefited the teens in their community. Whether that idea is big or small, the innovation has made a positive impact on the community and illustrates YALSA’s vision for teen services as outlined in the report: “The Future of Library Services for and with Teens: A Call to Action” and in “Teen Services Competencies for Library Staff”.

This award will recognize a member who has demonstrated a commitment to creating innovative library services for and with the teens in their community. Innovation includes leveraging creative thinking, problem solving, and/or identifying novel solutions to challenges. Innovation often involves risk-taking, as well.

All personal members of YALSA, (regardless of job title) who work with teens in any type of library setting are eligible to apply or to nominate a colleague.

Application Materials

The Award is designed to recognize innovative library services for and with teens, therefore, the Statement of Innovation and supporting application materials must include:

- A detailed description of a completed or on-going program or service that works in a novel way to alleviate the challenges teens face, as measured by the criteria listed below.
- A letter of support from a community partner. This requirement will demonstrate community engagement and commitment to the project or idea. Community partners may include but are not limited to other types of libraries, nonprofits, government agencies or businesses. A public and school library partnership is permitted. More than one partner is permitted; however, only one letter of support is required.

- A willingness to submit a write-up or video of their experience (such as a blog post) to promote the innovative idea to the YALSA community and to inspire potential future award applicants.

Item #3. Rationale

The mission of YALSA is to support library staff in alleviating the challenges teens face, and in putting all teens – especially those with the greatest needs – on the path to successful and fulfilling lives. Creating an award to recognize those who have been innovative in providing services for and with helps to support this mission.

It is hoped that this award will encourage YALSA members to consider what they can offer the teens in their communities and try something new. It is hoped that this award will encourage YALSA members to continue and expand the creative and innovative work that is being done with teens in libraries and communities across the country. By recognizing and rewarding innovation, it is hoped that this award will increase membership engagement with YALSA. In addition, it is hoped that this award will increase YALSA members' awareness of the content of key YALSA documents such as "The Future of Library Services for and with Teens: A Call to Action" and "Teen Services Competencies for Library Staff".

Item #4. Number and Frequency of the Award

One recipient will be designated each year. If a suitable candidate cannot be found by the deadline, it can be extended. If, after the extension, no suitable candidate is found, the award will not be given that year.

Item #5. Selection of the Jury to Administer the Award

A YALSA Innovation Award Jury will be appointed by the President-Elect according to ALA/YALSA policy to select the winners from member nominations (self-nominations are permitted). An award jury appointed by the President-Elect and comprised of five members who will evaluate each nominee based on the selection criteria and evaluation rubric provided.

Innovation can take on many forms for library staff implementing a new project, program or idea within their community. The project may be large with multiple partners involved or small with only one partner. All innovative ideas and projects are to be considered when selecting the winner of this award.

The jury will meet in a virtual environment to finalize its choice for the award recipient. The jury will submit its choice for the award recipient to the YALSA Office no later than February 1st.

Item #6. Deadline for Nomination of Candidates

Nominations will be taken through December 1 in the year prior to when the award will be announced. A form on the YALSA website will allow members to nominate themselves or others. Nominators will need to list specific accomplishments made by the nominee. YALSA will use its communication channels to aggressively promote the award.

Item #7. Screening of Candidates and Recommendations

A member award jury will consider the degree to which each applicant demonstrates innovation, the degree to which the innovation has the potential for a large and/or lasting impact in the community and how the project design aligns with YALSA principles as part of the selection process. The award jury will begin reviewing the applications each year after December 1st and will refer to the criteria outlined below when screening nominees.

Award Criteria

- The degree to which the innovation addresses a need teens have or solves a community problem
- The ways in which discovery, collaboration, iteration, prototyping, etc. contributed to the conception and development of the innovation
- The degree to which the innovation is different from existing programs, services, or approaches, and whether it has distinct or game changing advantages over previous methods or approaches.
- The potential for impact in the field of teen services. To what degree does this innovation have potential to bring about significant or widespread change? Is it easily adaptable or replicable in other libraries?
- Close alignment with YALSA’s vision for teen services as outlined in “The Future of Library Services for and with Teens: A Call to Action.”
- The level of community support and involvement

Item #8. Presentation of the Award

The winner will be announced via press release in February. The winner’s name will be published through YALSA’s communication channels, which include YALSA’s blogs, website, Twitter feed, email discussion lists and more. The recipients will be recognized at the annual YALSA Membership Meeting.

Item #9. Form and/or Type of Award

The winning member will receive a \$500 monetary prize for themselves and a recognition plaque.

Item #10. Funder

The Friends of YALSA (FOY), which each year raises an average of \$15,732 to support member grants, awards and other recognition, will provide the funding for this award. The possibility of sponsorship by an outside organization may be considered for the future.

Fiscal Year	FOY Funds Raised
FY17	\$17,504
FY16	\$16,345
FY15	\$10,253
FY14	\$13,992
FY13	\$19,434
FY12	\$17,312

Item #11. Budget

YALSA Innovation Award	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
Cash Award for Honoree	500	500	500	500
Creation of Plaque for Honoree	100	100	100	100
Administrative costs/PR/staff time	100	100	100	100
TOTAL EXPENSES	700	700	700	700

Item #12. Contact Person

Membership Marketing Manager
Young Adult Library Services Association
[50 E. Huron St. Chicago, IL 60611](http://50.E.Huron.St.Chicago,IL.60611)
1.800.545.2433 x4390
fax: 312.280.5276
yalsa@ala.org

Item #13. Promotional Plans

YALSA will submit a press release to notify membership that the Innovation in Teen Services Award has been created. YALSA will use its communication channels, which include YALSA’s blogs, website, Twitter feed, email discussion lists and more to promote the award. Additionally, the Innovation in Teen Services Award will be promoted at in-person events via a handout. After the selection process is completed, YALSA will submit a press release recognizing the winner and the innovative contributions they have made to library services for and with teens. Within six months of receiving award the award recipient will submit a YALSA blog post about their experiences.

Item #14. Evaluation: Plans for evaluating effectiveness of the award

At the end of the first two years, the award will be reevaluated by a task force composed of YALSA members and appointed by the President. Reevaluation is to include: discussion of any changes needed in policies and procedures, determination of continuation of the award, the frequency of the award, the status of marketing and promotion for the award, the process for identifying successful candidates and sponsor involvement.