

**YALSA Board of Directors
Midwinter Meeting, Seattle
January 25 – 29, 2019**

Topic: Statement on the Future of Midwinter

Background: There has been a discussion about the future of Midwinter on ALA connect initiated by ALA Conference Committee Chair Clara Bohrer. It is important that YALSA makes a statement on what we would like to see happen with Midwinter. If we do not make a statement about change things may very well stay the same, which we know is not economically viable. Also, this statement will help our members understand our position and our commitment to the YMAS, concerns for which have been raised in the comments section of the discussion and on social media. Crystle Martin has presented the draft statement below for the Board's consideration.

Action Required: Action

Draft Midwinter Statement

YALSA's Board of Directors commends and supports ALA for its willingness to reconsider how its events can best serve members and the library community. The Board voted in favor of the option to "eliminate Midwinter and create something new and different." With technologies easily available to support year-round virtual work of committees, boards and other member groups, an in-person event focused on meetings is no longer essential. Instead YALSA supports the idea of creating something new that better meets member needs, especially in relation to continuing education (CE). In YALSA's recent IMLS-funded report about [transforming library services](#), one recommendation is for national organizations like ALA to provide CE that promotes deeper learning. A re-envisioning of Midwinter could achieve this, if the event were to provide for a deep-dive into a particular topic. Topics could change each year, based on member needs, and would be broad enough to appeal to all types of libraries (e.g. leadership, advancing EDI principles, advocacy). This new event would be different from ALA Annual, because 1) it would rotate to cities where Annual is not held, and 2) provide a deep dive into a single CE topic rather than providing sessions on hundreds of topics.

The Youth Media Awards are important to us, our members and the library community. Therefore, YALSA is committed to working with ALA, ALSC and the Affiliates to consider a wide range of possibilities for how best to announce and honor book and media award winners.

Fiscal Implications

A re-envisioned ALA event could create new revenue generating opportunities for YALSA, which would be used to support member services and resources.

Evaluation

Feedback and responses from YALSA members and ALA.

Alignment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Goals

By eliminating Midwinter as it stands now and building something new from the ground up, ALA and its units have an opportunity to embed EDI principles into the new event from the start.

Proposed Board Action

The Board adopt the statement and 1) directs the President to share it with ALA's President and the YALSA Liaison to the ALA Conference Committee, and to the Chair of that committee; and 2) directs the Executive Director to work with staff to distribute it to YALSA members and encourage members to provide input to ALA.

Additional Information

- Discussion in ALA Connect: <https://connect.ala.org/communities/community-home/digestviewer/viewthread?MessageKey=2ccd7b8d-35fa-44b3-a5f2-ecb2ba3c8ffb&CommunityKey=927d02c1-673b-4e91-9911-8fdf8dc3407f&tab=digestviewer>
- *Transforming Library Services for and with Teens through Continuing Education* report, www.ala.org/yalsa/national-forum-transforming-teen-services-through-continuing-education