

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Annual Conference, Chicago
June 23 – 27, 2017

Topic: RBA: Pura Belpre Award Expansion

Background: Lucia Acosta and Ruth Quiroa have submitted the following request for board action for the board's consideration. If YALSA's board were to agree to move forward with this, the next step would be to seek approval from REFORMA's leadership, and support from ALSC's.

Action Required: Action

I. Expand the Belpré Award

Current Pura Belpré Award:

- Age Range: Preschool to age 14
- Committee Composition:
 - 4 by ALSC
 - 4 by REFORMA
 - Chair: 1 year appointed by ALSC the next year by REFORMA
- Prizes
 - Illustration
 - Text

Proposed Changes to the Pura Belpré Award:

- Age Range: Expand to preschool through age 18
 - Committee Composition includes individuals with appropriate backgrounds in relationship to Latinx literature as follows:
 - 3 appointed by ALSC
 - 3 appointed by YALSA
 - 3 appointed by REFORMA
 - Chair position rotates as follows: 1 year by REFORMA, 2nd year by ALSC, 3rd year by YALSA, and so on
- Award/honor criteria:
 - Most award and honor criteria would remain the same in relationship to literary and ethnic/culture/language components; however, it is recommended that criteria related to ethnic background of authors and illustrators be reviewed in light of the Coretta Scott King Award criteria, so as not to exclude titles that might otherwise be appropriate for this award.
 - Additional criteria related to age expansion to be determined

- Prizes:
 - Illustration
 - Text: Preschool through age 14
 - Text: age 12-18

1. What would the partnership with YALSA look like?

- YALSA would appoint 3 members with an appropriate background in relationship to Latinx literature on an annual basis
- YALSA would appoint one of the above 3 members to be chair every 3rd year

2. What would be expected of YALSA?

- Same as #1
- Promote award
- Participate in the same manner as that of the Odyssey Award (except that for Odyssey, Booklist, as sponsor, helps defray the cost of events)

3. What would potential expenses be for YALSA?

- An endowment covers award expenses such as minting medals, producing honor plaques, inscribing the two medals each year, and committee expenses.
- The Belpré seal image is trademarked to ALA, and ALSC currently absorbs expenses related to staff time for all the permission/use requests and legal fees, and production costs.
- As long as seal revenue is sufficient, ALSC also contributes \$3,000 annually to the support of the Celebracion. ALSC is currently discussing increasing this amount to be used for more promotion of the award.
- In anniversary years, ALSC contributes an additional \$3,000 to support the award Celebración. The next anniversary is the 25th, in 2021.

If the award were to be expanded to include young adult titles, YALSA and ALSC could split the expenses.

4. What area of the [Strategic Plan](#) does this proposal directly support?

- This proposal is related to the YALSA strategic plan Vision: “Our vision is that all teens have access to quality library programs and services – no matter where they occur – that link them to resources, connected learning opportunities, coaching, and mentoring that are tailored to the unique circumstances of the community and that create new opportunities for all teens’ personal growth, academic success, and career development.”
- It is also related to the following two statements in the YALSA strategic plan, the first for those providing services, and the second related to impact on teens:
 - The need for “greater cultural competency on the part of those working for and with teens, based on the growing diversity of the U.S. population.”
 - “Libraries reach out to and serve ALL teens in the community no matter what their backgrounds, interests, needs, or abilities, and whether or not they frequent the library space.”

5. How does this request benefit YALSA and its members?

- Same as above.

II. Best of Latinx-themed Literature List Proposal

Since YALSA is transitioning its lists to The Hub, we would request that it plan to include a focus on literature with diverse perspectives in future Hub-incorporated lists, and that appointed bloggers and their coordinator have the necessary background in such literature, as well as in the Spanish language if books will be recommended that are originally published in or translated into Spanish. Also, that ethnic and linguistic criteria be determined to guide their work.

More specifically, we propose that an additional coordinator and team with appropriate background in Latinx-themed literature be recruited for The Hub.

1. What would the partnership with YALSA look like?

- It is recommended that YALSA reach out to the ethnic divisions to seek their input on future Hub work in relationship to the inclusion of ethnic book lists, specifically REFORMA in relationship to Latinx-themed books.

2. What would be expected of YALSA?

- Same as above (#1).

3. What would potential expenses for our organization be?

- None anticipated at this time.

4. What area of the [Strategic Plan](#) does this proposal directly support?

- This proposal is related to the YALSA strategic plan Vision: “Our vision is that all teens have access to quality library programs and services – no matter where they occur – that link them to resources, connected learning opportunities, coaching, and mentoring that are tailored to the unique circumstances of the community and that create new opportunities for all teens’ personal growth, academic success, and career development.”
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 - “Libraries reach out to and serve ALL teens in the community no matter what their backgrounds, interests, needs, or abilities, and whether or not they frequent the library space.”

5. How does this request benefit YALSA and its members?

- Same as above (#4).

Additional Resources

Américas Award, <http://claspprograms.org/pages/detail/37> (for children’s and teen titles that that portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the United States)

Noteworthy Books in Spanish, published annually in the August issue of VOYA

Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award, <http://riverabookaward.org/> (honors authors and illustrators who create literature for children and teens that depicts the Mexican American experience)

Teen Latino Titles from REFORMA (published in 2011), http://www.reforma.org/teen_titles

Vamos a Leer, <https://teachinglatinamericathroughliterature.wordpress.com/latin-american-young-adult-literature/> (a map of children's and teen books related to Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latinos in the U.S.)