

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, San Diego
January 7 - 11, 2011

Topic: Confirmation of Books for Teens Jury

Background: In December 2010 YALSA established the Books for Teens Project as part of the President’s Think Big Initiative. In December and early January the Board discussed via ALA Connect the desirability of establishing a member jury to vet applications for this project, and ultimately voted in favor of doing so. Including the item as a part of this meeting simply ensures it will be entered into the official record of the association.

Action Required: Consent

Proposal:

Create a member jury that will vet applications for the Books for Teens project and that will work with staff to create application and judging procedures adapted from the ones used by the Great Books Give Away Jury.

Proposed Jury Charge:

Vet applications for the project with the goal of selecting the winners, as funds become available, and work with YALSA’s Communications Specialist and Web Advisory Committee to help market the availability of Books for Teens funds. Term: March 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. Jury size: 5 virtual members, including the chair.

Rationale:

The Books for Teens project needs an equitable way to distribute funds collected to libraries. Establishing a new jury of members who vet applications seems to be both a fair and an effective way to handle the process.

Proposed Action:

The Board directs the President to appoint a member jury to work with staff to create application and judging procedures adapted from the Great Books Give Away Jury and to vet Books for Teens applications once they begin coming in.

Additional Information:

Books for Teens' mission is to empower the nation’s at-risk teens to achieve more by providing them with free high quality, new, age-appropriate books. Research shows that the biggest factor in determining the level of education a young person attains is the number of books in the home. However, multiple studies also have shown that thousands of families in poverty-stricken parts of the country have few or no books in the home.

As an age group teens receive the least financial support from government, philanthropic and

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non-profit agencies. Books for Teens seeks to reverse this trend by raising funds to help teens have a brighter future. Funds raised through Books for Teens will be distributed to libraries in communities with a high level of poverty, where teen services librarians will purchase and distribute new books, encourage teens to get library cards and provide teens with reading-focused events and activities.

Books for Teens is an initiative from the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association (ALA).

<http://www.facebook.com/booksforteens>