



**Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC),
a division of the American Library Association (ALA)
Annual Report 2020-21
Kirby McCurtis, President**

2020-21 continued to bring about more of the same as last year—an inability to predict or plan for anything as we adjusted to the reality of living through a pandemic, political unrest, inhumane treatment of people of color, and a global reckoning of just how little control we all have. But we as a unit kept moving forward. We continued to connect with one another and our communities in whatever way was safe and possible. Our successes include adopting Community Agreements, hosting multiple virtual events successfully, and collaborating across ALA to promote equity and inclusion. The Board of Directors continued to make progress on the [2020-2023 Strategic Plan](#), updating and assessing as our needs changed and our goals were met.

ALSC has remained committed to its focus on [equity, diversity, and inclusion](#), updating committee charge language to be more inclusive as well as approving as a Board funding for Equity Fellows and a permanent Friends of ALSC line item for donations earmarked for inclusion efforts.

The COVID-19 virus global pandemic continued to mean adjustments to our business model. All of this year’s Board meetings have been conducted virtually as well as the ALSC Institute and our book and media award announcements and celebrations. The members of ALSC and the ALSC staff have shown creativity and flexibility transitioning from an in-person to a virtual realm. As we move closer to reopening as a nation, more and more library workers are returning to in-building services and re-imagining what library services to children and their caregivers looks like now. The sustained efforts, put forth during this challenging time by those who serve children and youth, are a testament to their creativity, passion, and commitment to public service.

Through it all, ALSC has supported its members and those they serve with updated resources, forward-thinking programs, and a commitment to reach and serve all children, no matter where they are. While ALSC staff also faced challenges in pivoting from work in the office to working from home, they accomplished their work in an exemplary way, supporting our members in their important work.

None of this would have been possible without an engaged Board, painstakingly conscientious staff, and committed members. Without the synergy created by the work of these three groups, we could accomplish truly little of importance. Working together, we have been able to create accessible, welcoming spaces and extend the walls of the library to serve children where they are. Every child deserves the absolute best service, and ALSC and its members strive to provide that every day.

COVID-19 and ALSC

The pandemic and nationwide stay-at-home orders continued through 2020 and into 2021, affecting ALSC and ALA's work. Most notably, the final Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits, originally planned for Indianapolis, Indiana, was held virtually on January 22-26, 2021. The fall 2020 ALSC National Institute also transitioned to a virtual event, while other 2020-21 happenings were postponed, re-imagined, or cancelled. Continuing effects of the pandemic on ALSC's work are addressed in the reporting below.

ALSC Strategic Plan 2020-2023

August 31, 2020, marked the end of the three-year 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. Development of a new strategic plan began during the 2019 Fall Executive committee meeting, and subsequent work by the full Board resulted in the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, which took effect on September 1, 2021. The three main areas of the strategic plan, the objectives that were designed to achieve strategic plan goals, and highlights of work achieved related to each goal area include:

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. ALSC will become more diverse and inclusive, acting to promote these values in all aspects of library service to children. The ALSC Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion within ALSC Implementation task force (EDI TF) remained actively engaged as mentors creating a welcoming environment for a second round of ALSC Equity Fellows selected in November 2020. Since that time the five selected fellows have met as a cohort, enrolled in the ALSC Mentoring program, and attended the ALA Virtual Midwinter Meeting in January 2021.

As part of the strategic plan and the ongoing goal to see EDI embedded in the work of all ALSC committees and members working in their library communities, ALSC committees were tasked with creating an inclusion goal/deliverable related to their committee's charge for the year to ensure that ALSC's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion goals are sustainable efforts embedded across the work of our division. This goal has been embraced by ALSC committees and exhibited in the content they produce for publications, webinars, conference education programs, and booklists as well as through book, media, and professional awards, leadership development, and scholarships.

Advocacy. ALSC will champion the value of library service to children and the resources necessary to deliver on our vision. In February 2021, ALSC presented the community forum, "Our Work Matters: Advocating for Children's Services." The topic was selected based on a blog post by ALSC President Kirby McCurtis on November 10, titled "Our Work Matters." As libraries respond to the circumstances of the pandemic by tightening budgets, it has been vital for children's library workers to advocate for the value of their work. The community forum highlighted the Championing Children's Services Toolkit and actionable ways for libraries to engage in advocacy work during this critical time.

In May 2021, the Research and Agenda task force launched a pilot research grant that will offer seed funds of up to \$4,000 for one award to help develop, conduct, and disseminate emerging research that aligns with priority areas outlined in the ALSC Research Agenda. Researchers are encouraged to use the agenda as a starting point to explore new ideas or further develop an existing effort. The grant application is open May 12 through July 20, 2021, with an award to be announced at the end of August 2021. Research must be completed by October 2022.

The Early and Family Literacy committee was established after the 2019 Annual Conference to identify, synthesize, and disseminate current research findings relevant to early and family literacy issues and other advocacy resources. The committee has contributed to the ALSC blog with posts that have solidified understanding of the definition of family literacy as it relates to early literacy, inclusivity, and libraries and that share relevant and timely early literacy research.

Learning & Development. ALSC will actively develop new generations of leaders. ALSC committees continue to utilize the ALSC blog, *Children and Libraries*, webinars, and courses to contribute to members' knowledge base in areas such as early literacy, fiscal responsibility within their libraries, and intellectual freedom and information literacy in children's programs and services. An updated version of ALSC's core competences was released and has been referenced throughout ALSC's blog posts, webinars, and conference programming to ensure the competencies are embedded in all continuing education opportunities.

As part of organizing a virtual activity/opportunity/event to discuss leading children's library services in times of crisis, the National Institute task force and ALSC staff hosted the "Children's Librarianship in Communities Experiencing Crisis" panel at the ALSC 2020 National Institute. The panel drew over 400 Institute attendees and highlighted the experiences of library professionals who are serving their communities through traumatic events and addressed how both major events and everyday traumas in their communities have impacted how they serve patrons.

ALSC members, staff, and leadership have actively engaged in thoughtful consideration of how their work can impact specific goals set forth and inspired by the strategic plan. ALSC committees share their activities through quarterly reports that specifically gather information on progress toward each of the strategic plan areas. These reports and the work of staff and leadership continue to reveal steady progress in each strategic plan area.

Membership

Statistics & Involvement

Since May 2020, ALSC has experienced an approximate 4% decline in overall membership. The COVID-19 pandemic has likely made it difficult for members to financially commit to ALSC, and it has impacted our ability to engage and recruit members in routine in-person gatherings at meetings and conferences. While regular recruitment methods have been disrupted, ALSC staff and member leaders have worked diligently to transition many of our events to virtual platforms, which have continued to provide space for member engagement.

Emerging Leaders

In November 2019, ALSC named Jessica Agudelo as its representative in the 2020 Emerging Leaders program. Due to the cancellation of in-person 2020 and 2021 Annual Conferences, the Emerging Leaders program was put on hold for 2021. The next Emerging Leader will be selected later this fall.

Mentoring Program

Applications for the Fall 2020 Mentoring Program closed in September. The Mentoring Working Group was able to facilitate 27 matches. Monthly communication has been sent to the matches participating.

Engagement and Advocacy

Throughout the year, ALSC leaders and members take advantage of opportunities to spread the word about the work of ALSC and its membership and to learn from and make connections with other organizations, libraries, and professionals who work on behalf of children.

ALSC hosts regular online discussions called [Community Forums](#) during which participants can chat live with the ALSC President, members of the Board of Directors, fellow ALSC members, and presenters. Members who cannot participate live may submit questions in advance via email or Twitter. Transcripts of the chats are shared afterwards. This year's forum was:

- February 2021 – Our Work Matters: Advocating for Children’s Services

In addition to Community Forums, ALSC recognized the need for youth serving library workers to stay connected and network during this time of uncertainty. In April 2020, ALSC launched **We Are ALSC Chats**. Led by ALSC committees, these informal chats (held on Zoom or Twitter) are open to members and non-members and are designed to be online networking chats for resource sharing and discussion around timely topics in children's services. Since April 2020, ALSC has facilitated seven chats on topics ranging from virtual storytime services to back-to-school programming.

The [ALSC Roadshow](#) offers ALSC members the opportunity to represent the Association at conferences and other relevant events around the country. In 2020-21, thus far, ALSC has had representation at:

- Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy Virtual Leadership Conference, October 2020

Professional Awards and Scholarships

(May Hill) Arbuthnot Honor Lecture

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 (May Hill) Arbuthnot Honor Lecture to be delivered by Neil Gaiman, award-winning author and library advocate, was postponed indefinitely. As of May 31, 2021, with the pandemic still curtailing in-person activities, there is no further information to report on rescheduling the lecture.

The 2021 ALSC Children’s Literature Lecture (formerly the Arbuthnot Lecture) will be delivered by Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop, Professor Emerita at The Ohio State University, whose research, writing, and teaching have informed and expanded conversations about representation of African Americans in children's literature and provided a critical framework for research and pedagogy. As of May 31, 2021, with the pandemic still curtailing in-person activities, plans to reschedule the lecture are under consideration.

ALSC Distinguished Service Award

This award honors an individual member who has made significant contributions to, and had an impact on, library services to children and ALSC. The 2021 winner is:

- Elizabeth (Liz) McChesney, Outreach and Partnership Consultant for Laundry Literacy Coalition, Chicago, Illinois

Bookapalooza Award

Each year the ALSC office receives almost 3,000 newly published books, videos, audiobooks, and recordings from children's trade publishers for award and notables consideration. At the end of the year, after the award winners have been chosen and announced, ALSC selects three libraries to receive a collection of these materials to use in an innovative way in their community. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this award was not offered in 2021.

Baker and Taylor Summer Reading Program Grant (Donor: Baker and Taylor)

This \$3,000 grant provides financial assistance to a public library for developing an outstanding summer reading program for children. The 2021 recipient is:

- New Brunswick Free Public Library, New Brunswick, New Jersey

Bechtel Fellowship (Donor: University of Florida's Endowment in memory of Louise Seaman Bechtel and Ruth M. Baldwin)

This fellowship provides a \$4,000 stipend to allow a qualified children's librarian to spend a month or more reading at the University of Florida's Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature. No fellows were named for the 2021 award year.

Maureen Hayes Author/Illustrator Visit Award (Donor: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing)

This \$4,000 award was established with funding from Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, in honor of Maureen Hayes, to bring together children and nationally recognized authors/illustrators by funding an author/illustrator visit to a school or public library that has never had the opportunity to host one. The 2021 recipient will be announced via press release soon.

Light the Way: Library Outreach to the Underserved Grant (Donor: Candlewick Press)

This \$3,000 grant is sponsored by Candlewick Press in honor of author Kate DiCamillo and the themes represented in her books. The grant is awarded to a library with exceptional outreach to underserved populations. The 2021 recipient is:

- Madison Public Library, Madison, Ohio

Penguin Random House Young Readers Group Award (Donor: Penguin Random House Young Readers Group)

This award provides a \$600 stipend, provided by Penguin Young Readers Group and Random House Children's Books, for up to four winners to attend their first ALA Annual Conference. Applicants must have fewer than 10 years of experience as a children's librarian and work directly with children. Due to another virtual Annual Conference, the 2021 award will be given to attend LibLearnX in San Antonio, Texas, next January.

Bound to Stay Bound Books Scholarship (Donor: Bound to Stay Bound Books, Inc.)

The Bound to Stay Bound Books (BTSB) Scholarship provides financial assistance in the form of four \$8,000 annual awards for the education of individuals who intend to pursue an MLS or advanced degree and who plan to work in the area of library service to children. This work may be serving children up to and including the age of 14 in any type library. The scholarship is made possible through the generous contributions of Bound to Stay Bound Books, Inc. The BTSB winners will be announced later in June.

Frederic G. Melcher Scholarship

The Frederic G. Melcher Scholarship provides financial assistance for the professional education of men and women who intend to pursue an MLS degree and who plan to work in children's librarianship. This work may be serving children up to and including the age of 14 in any type of library. Two \$8,000 scholarships are awarded annually. The Melcher winners will be announced later in June.

ALSC Spectrum Scholarships

Two ALSC Spectrum Scholarships are awarded to Spectrum applicants who express an interest in library service to children. Since the program began in 1997, ALA has awarded more than 1,000 Spectrum Scholarships to qualified applicants enrolled in an ALA-accredited graduate program in library and information studies or an ALA-recognized NCATE School Library Media program. The 2021 ALSC Spectrum Scholars will be announced in June.

Ellen Fader, ALSC past-president (2005-2006), has provided a generous donation to the Spectrum Scholarship for an eighth year. Her contribution will support a student through the 2021-22 school term. The scholarship recipient will be announced later in June.

Literary & Related Awards

Although ALSC is best known for its landmark awards, the **Newbery and Caldecott Medals**, the association administers a wide range of book and media awards, including the **Batchelder Award** for distinguished translated books; the **Belpré Awards** for books that best represent Latinx culture, co-sponsored with the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking (REFORMA) and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA); the **Excellence in Early Learning Digital Media Award** for distinguished digital media for an early learning audience; the **Geisel Award** for the most distinguished book for beginning readers; the **Odyssey Award** for excellence in audiobook production, jointly administered with YALSA and sponsored by *Booklist* magazine; and the **Sibert Medal** for the most distinguished informational book. ALSC's **Children's Literature Legacy Award** honors an author or illustrator whose books, published in the United States, have made a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children.

ALSC member evaluation committees also produce lists of recommended children's media: Notable Children's Books, Notable Children's Recordings, and Notable Children's Digital Media (NCDM).

ALSC's award winners and notable lists are available at <https://alsc-awards-shelf.org/>.

The ALA Youth Media Awards (YMA) Press Conference was webcast live on January 25, 2021, during the ALA virtual Midwinter Meeting and [the archive presentation is available, along with the full list of recipients](#). Deliberations and calls to winners were held via Zoom; for the first time, calls to recipients were completely recorded. Among the featured award recipients are Newbery Medalist Tae Keller, Caldecott Medalist Michaela Goade, Children's Literature Legacy Award recipient Mildred D. Taylor, Belpré Medalists Raúl the 3rd, Ernesto Cisneros, and Yamile Saied Méndez, Geisel Medalists David LaRochelle and Mike Wohnoutka, and Sibert Medalists Candace Fleming and Eric Rohmann.

For the third year, the 2021 YMA announcements highlighted award titles selected by the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA) and the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL), in an effort to bring

about awareness and encourage the creation of more books that depict diverse cultures, or by authors of color.

COVID-19 Impact on ALSC Awards

The 2021 ALSC Awards selection committees operated almost completely virtually throughout their committee service. This year has brought considerations to the award selection process, especially considering the retirement of ALA Midwinter and the debut of LibLearnX. Many processes were streamlined, and the lessons learned by the committees operating during this pandemic are sure to carry forward.

ALSC is collaborating again with REFORMA, ODLOS, Booklist, and YALSA on virtual award events for June hosted on YouTube. Following the success of 2020's "The ALA Book Award Celebration," this year's virtual presentations again will feature the award ceremonies that normally occur during the Annual Conference and will be free and accessible to all. The 2021 events, however, will occur over a range of dates during the Annual Conference in June, unlike last year, when all these award events occurred on the same day.

Newbery 100th Anniversary Celebration

The Newbery Medal, established in 1921 and first awarded in 1922, is celebrating its 100th anniversary. The 100th medal and honor books were announced in January 2021. Beginning this summer and culminating with the ALA 2022 Annual Conference, the anniversary celebration will include a host of special Newbery-related events and activities to encourage widespread involvement.

An initial [press release](#) and [webpage](#) have been created to inform the public of upcoming events. An anniversary logo was designed and initial merchandise is available for purchase in the [ALA Graphics Gift Shop](#). Six prolific illustrators have agreed to create original art for the celebration, and four have already submitted sketches or final designs.

ALSC Book & Media Awards Shelf

In March 2021, ALSC launched its [Book & Media Awards Shelf](#), a database driven resource that is a one-stop destination for approximately 2,000 ALSC award-winning titles, representing 100 years of awards history. This new tool will help library staff, educators, and families find books and media that support their needs and appeal to their interests.

Initiatives

ALSC has been home to two major national initiatives, each with a unique focus. The Public Awareness, Advocacy and Legislation, and Quicklists Consulting committees, help develop and implement the initiatives, with oversight from the ALSC Board of Directors.

Día

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the celebration of Día. ALSC worked to coordinate messaging and graphics in English and Spanish with Día champions and similarly focused organizations. ALSC also coordinated with ALA Graphics and illustrator Reggie Brown to create a special image to use on posters, shirts, and tote bags that are available for purchase online from the [ALA Graphics Gift Shop](#). With the generous donation from a Día supporter, ALSC has also purchased promotional advertising to encourage others to celebrate Día. ALSC's Quicklists Consulting committee created a set of engaging booklists for children ages birth through 14, which are available for free download on the [dia.ala.org](#) website. ALSC

continues to integrate the values of Día throughout its work. ALSC continues to build upon the growth of the Día National Program Registry for virtual and in-person events and to encourage the use and sharing of resource materials to increase awareness of the initiative.

Everyday Advocacy

The [Everyday Advocacy \(EA\) website](#) is a member-driven resource providing straightforward, effective ways librarians and others can advocate for children and libraries. Everyday Advocacy features resources and tips for engaging community supporters, legislators, and stakeholders and for effectively communicating the value of libraries and librarians, with emphasis on librarians serving youth. *Everyday Advocacy Matters*, a quarterly electronic newsletter, highlights advocacy stories, tips, and ideas. The last issue released came out in January 2019.

EA is also a conduit for sharing advocacy updates and actions from the ALA Washington Office, as well as a gathering place for members to share the impact that specific programs and funding have had on their libraries.

With the EA member content editor role currently vacant, ALSC is exploring options for ongoing resource development and communication about library advocacy.

Projects, Partnerships & Letters of Support

MI TALKS

The Ypsilanti (Michigan) District Library has received a three-year National Leadership Grant from IMLS to expand the MI TALKS project geographically—from its current reach of Washtenaw County, Michigan, to the entire state of Michigan. The eventual product is envisioned as a nationally available subscription service created by and for librarians. The project is described by the coordinator as “an early literacy texting service specifically designed to tie families into the library, with an emphasis on meeting non-user parents where they are. We believe that, because TALK is based on the ECRR five practices, it has tremendous potential to bolster early literacy and market libraries at the same time.” ALSC provided a letter of support for this project in September 2019.

University of North Carolina - Future of Youth Public Librarian Education

The University of North Carolina (UNC) is applying for a one-year IMLS National Forum Grant that would fund a yearlong exploration into the future of public youth services librarianship, culminating in a two-day national symposium. The Forum will include 40 innovators, scholars, and practitioners from LIS and related fields and will be hosted at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. This project will be an intensive exploration of the developing trends in youth services in public libraries to determine how higher education LIS curricula should change to meet the needs of 21st and 22nd century youth library professionals. UNC is also engaging with YALSA on this project. ALSC provided a letter of support for this project in March 2020.

University of Washington – Autism-Ready Libraries

This project focuses on early literacy library services to children with autism and their families. The research team is working to create an Autism-Ready Libraries toolkit, which will contain evidence-based professional development training modules and early literacy program resources specifically for children with autism and their families. This project will provide important tools for librarians serving autistic children and promote early literacy among families. ALSC provided a letter of support for this project in March 2020.

University of Washington – Project VOICE

The University of Washington’s iSchool and Kent State University School of Information received a three-year Laura Bush 21st Century Research in Service to Practice grant to create an outcomes-based, social justice planning and assessment tool. The tool will be developed as a result of the team’s research and will support library staff in their work in underserved communities with children birth to age eight and their families. The research team is focusing its efforts in Ohio, Washington, Colorado, and South Carolina to answer the following questions: How, if at all, are libraries offering outreach programs and services to reach and serve young children and their families in underserved communities? What are the experiences and perceptions of various stakeholders (families, community partners) who participate in and/or facilitate these outreach programs and services? How, if at all, are librarians planning and assessing their outreach programs and services to promote equity, engagement, and empowerment for families in underserved communities?

Welcoming Spaces National Forum Grant - IMLS \$150,000

ALSC received a National Leadership Grant from IMLS in the area of Community Catalysts. ALSC, in collaboration with the Association of Children’s Museums (ACM), planned to convene a one-day National Forum attended by representatives from 12 children’s museums, 12 libraries, and up to 24 of their partnering organizations to distill a set of best practices from their exemplary work serving immigrants and refugees. In response to the current situation with COVID-19, ALSC and ACM have postponed the forum and will request a one-year no cost extension to the grant to host a virtual event in 2021.

In addition to the event, ALSC and ACM will compile the best practices resulting from the forum into a white paper, and broadly disseminate the best practices document to elevate these practices and encourage their adoption by libraries and children’s museums. The project team is re-envisioning the format and audience of the convening to ensure an engaging virtual experience for participants.

Publications & Professional Resources

Along with serial publications—*Children and Libraries: The Journal of the Association for Library Service to Children* and the *ALSC Matters* electronic newsletter, and the *ALSC Update* and *ALSC Advantage* e-mailings, the Association also produces publications and resources, such as booklists, toolkits, books, and white papers. Resources not addressed elsewhere in this report are included below.

New IF Toolkit

An Intellectual Freedom Programming Toolkit was released in 2021. Created by ALSC’s Intellectual Freedom committee, the resource provides practical tips and samples of programming that incorporate the topics of intellectual freedom and information literacy in a fun and engaging manner to help raise young peoples’ awareness of these concepts.

Booklists

2021 Summer Reading Lists

The Quicklists Consulting committee updated the [Summer Reading lists](#) this spring with new titles to keep children engaged and reading throughout the summer. Four customizable booklists, covering birth through eighth grade students, are available. New this year, the lists also feature online resources that offer virtual experiences.

25th Anniversary Día Reading Lists

Each year, the Quicklists Consulting committee compiles lists of books for children from birth through age 14 that celebrate many cultures and backgrounds. These [lists are provided to promote Día](#) and the sharing of wonderfully diverse books with children.

Social Media

Facebook

The [ALSC Facebook account](#) is used to broadcast important messages, promote awareness of the association and library service to youth, and provide inspiration, resources, and news to our members and all interested colleagues. With more than 13,500 followers, the account continues to be an engaging space. In the most recent 28-day reporting period, the page reached 3,827 readers and accumulated 466 post engagements (clicks, reactions, comments, and shares).

Twitter

[ALSC's Twitter presence](#) continues to grow each month. In the last year, the number of followers has increased by more than 800, and @WeAreALSC currently has more than 17,400 followers. ALSC has been using this platform to engage with members during webinars and community forums using respective hashtags.

ALSC Blog

The [ALSC Blog](#) strives to position the association as a thought-leader and to be the destination for individuals seeking ideas and inspiration around library services to young people. Daily posts address subjects such as programming, collection development, and partnerships. In 2020-21, the blog has averaged approximately 20,000 sessions per month.

In the summer of 2019, ALSC contracted with a freelance web developer to implement a more modern blog design. Due to staff capacity and other challenges resulting from the pandemic, this project has been on hold but is expected to be completed by August 2021. Additionally, the ALSC Board recently reviewed and updated the ALSC Blog's policies and guidelines to reference the Association's core values and commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. The blog is still in Feedspot's Top 50 Library Blogs and Websites for Librarians at number seven.

ALSC Events and Continuing Education

ALSC National Institute

The 2020 ALSC Virtual Institute occurred on October 2-3, 2020. The virtual transition accounted for all planned general sessions and almost all expected education programs; it also enabled additional programming and allowed registrants to view programming on-demand through the end of 2020. Through the support of the William C. Morris Endowment, registration rates were kept low to increase attendance, particularly with non-ALSC members; the event net more than 860 registrants, including more than 350 non-ALSC members.

General sessions included "We Are Water Protectors," featuring Carole Lindstrom and Michaela Goade; "Diving into Identity: Amplifying Own Voices," featuring Kacen Callender, Kyle Lukoff, and Christian Robinson; "Family Matters: Sharing Generational Love in Children's Literature," featuring Bao Phi, Minh Lê,

Siman Nuurali, and Kao Kalia Yang; “Using Brazelton Touchpoints to Engage Children and Families,” featuring Carolyn Brooks and Mindy May; and “Muslim Representation and Cooperative Children’s Book Center (CCBC) Publishing Statistics,” featuring Ariana Sani Hussain, Miriam Hussan, and Madeline Tyner. Due to the virtual nature of the conference, we were also able to add another, timely general session: “Children’s Librarianship in Communities Experiencing Trauma,” featuring Oralia Garza de Cortes, Anita Montoya, and Beth Patin. Twenty education programs, sponsor chats, and networking sessions were offered live or simul-live over the two-day event.

Reception to the virtual program was overwhelmingly positive and many attendees noted that the affordable price and virtual nature allowed them to attend, whereas travel and costs associated with in-person events would preclude them from attending.

A Celebration of Illustration!

In lieu of a Preconference to ALA Annual Conference, ALSC recently hosted *A Celebration of Illustration!*--a one-day virtual conference focused on art and illustration in children’s literature. The event, held on May 14, reached more than 100 people and included two general sessions (below) and six education programs.

- Excellence in Illustration: A Panel Discussion with 2021 Caldecott, Coretta Scott King Illustration, and Pura Belpré Youth Illustrator Award Winners
- The Art of Information: A Conversation with the 2021 Sibert Honoree Illustrators

ALA Virtual Conference

The ALA Virtual Annual Conference is scheduled for June 23-29. ALA Virtual’s educational sessions will include five ALSC programs (see below), selected by ALSC’s Program Coordinating committee (PCC).

In addition, other ALSC meetings and events, such as membership and board meetings, will be held virtually and outside of the dates on which the Virtual Annual Conference is being held.

Educational Programs – 2021 ALA Virtual Annual Conference

ALSC is presenting the following programs during ALA Virtual:

- Brainy Babies Goes Remote: Creating a Virtual Parent Support for Young Families at Brooklyn Public Library
- Building Equity through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
- Re-Imagining Beginning Readers: How Content and Design Are Changing How Children Learn to Read
- Through the Sliding Glass Door: Using a Rubric to Identify and Discuss Diverse Children’s Literature
- Wash, Spin, and Learn: Equity through Early Literacy at the Laundromat

2021 ALSC Charlemae Rollins President’s Program

ALSC looks forward to hosting the 2021 Charlemae Rollins President’s Program, “The POW(!)er of Graphic Novels to Support Youth Literacy: Creators Speak” on July 20. Due to the virtual nature of ALA Annual Conference, the President’s Program will be a virtual panel and will include Nidhi Chanani, Jerry Craft, Varian Johnson, and Nadia Shammam.

Additionally, due to the virtual nature of this year's event, ALSC is also offering ancillary programming to the President's Program to ALSC members as a benefit of their membership: "The POW(!)er of Graphic Novels to Support Youth Literacy: Successes in Libraries" on June 1. This panel of library practitioners will discuss how to advocate for and incorporate graphic novels in home library collections and programming.

Online Courses

During 2020-21, ALSC offered seven [online courses](#). The schedule included:

Summer 2020

- Storytelling with Puppets

Fall 2020

- Contemporary Issues in Action: Ethics for Librarians
- Homeschoolers and the Public Library

Winter 2021

- Contemporary Issues in Action: Ethics for Librarians
- Full STREAM Ahead: How to Take Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) to the Next Level with Maker Kits

Spring 2021

- The Library in the Middle: Serving Tweens through Change and Self-Discovery
- Home Learners and the Public Library

Webinars

ALSC offers hour-long [live webinars](#) with a youth-service focus that are free for all members and non-members. Topics this year have included:

- Advocating for K-12 Resources during Covid-19
- Building Literacy in Every Library: How to Develop Fun Programs that Support Reading for School Age Children Part One - Comprehension Basics: Developing Critical Thinking to Discover Meaning
- Building Literacy in Every Library: How to Develop Fun Programs that Support Reading for School Age Children Part Two – Making Connections: How Does Background Knowledge Contribute to Comprehension?
- Building Literacy in Every Library: How to Develop Fun Programs that Support Reading for School Age Children Part Three – Curious Readers: Celebrating the Joy of Reading
- Strategic Scheduling and Planning in Youth Services Part One: Managing Your Own Schedule
- Strategic Scheduling and Planning in Youth Services Part Two: Staff & Program Scheduling
- Virtual Program Planning

Recorded Webcasts

ALSC offers [archived webinars](#), which have already taken place, as on-demand video that can be watched at any time. In efforts to support ALSC's continuing education goals, live webinars and archived webinars were offered free to ALSC members again in 2020-21. Archived webinars were available to non-members for a small fee.

Board Work

The [ALSC Board of Directors works year-round](#)—in person at ALA conferences and virtually—reviewing strategic plan implementation and priorities, discussing mega issues, deliberating on organizational matters, and making decisions that move the association forward. Directors are elected by the ALSC membership and serve a three-year term. Board schedules, along with official documents and minutes, are available on the [ALSC website](#).

ALSC Finances

as of February 2021 report (6 months of data)

	Budgeted	Actual
Total Revenues	\$822,199	\$1,357,928
Total Expenses before Overhead & Taxes	\$614,519	\$586,109
Contribution Margin	\$207,680	\$771,819
Overhead to ALA	\$97,951	\$45,266
Taxes	\$140	\$140
Net Revenue for 6 months of FY21	\$109,589	\$726,414
Beginning Net Asset Balance (as of September 1, 2021)	Not yet available until after FY20 ALA audit concludes in June	
Ending Net Asset Balance	Not yet available (awaiting beginning net asset balance #).	

Looking Ahead

ALSC has accomplished so much in the past year, thanks to the hard work of the staff, the ALSC Board, and our committees. There is no question that challenges lie ahead—further fallout from COVID-19, another ALA staff furlough this summer, and possibly others that cannot even be identified at this time. But through concerted, collaborative effort, ALSC will remain a strong, fiscally responsible division and continue to excellently serve our members and work together to serve all children and their caregivers in a respectful and equitable way.

2020-21 ALSC Board of Directors and Staff

Executive Committee:

Kirby McCurtis, President
Lucia Gonzalez, Vice-President/President-Elect
Cecilia P. McGowan, Immediate Past President
Kimberly Patton, Division Councilor
Amber Creger, Fiscal Officer

Directors:

Elisa Gall
Africa Hands
Ariana Hussain
Maggie Jacobs
Sujei Lugo
April Mazza
Soraya Silverman-Montano
Meredith Steiner

ALSC Staff:

Aimee Strittmatter, Executive Director
Alena Rivers, Deputy Director
Jordan Dubin, Awards Coordinator
Angela Hubbard, Program Officer, Projects and Partnerships
Anne Michaud, Program Coordinator
Sarah Polen, Program Officer, Continuing Education
Laura Schulte-Cooper, Program Officer, Communications and Website
Elizabeth Serrano, Membership Marketing Specialist