

TO: ALA Executive Board

RE: ALA Presidential Initiatives Budget for 2023-24

ACITON REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT: Approval

ACTION REQUESTED BY: Emily Drabinski, ALA President 2023-24

CONTACT PERSON:

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Sheryl Reyes, Director of Governance, sreyes@ala.org

DRAFT OF MOTION:

ALA Executive Board approves the presidential programs budget submitted by the 2023-24 ALA President in EBD 3.17.

BACKGROUND:

The annual budget for the ALA General Fund includes funds set aside to support programs and initiatives of the ALA President in support of ALA priorities and strategic directions. They may include conference programming, member recruitment and engagement campaigns, public awareness campaigns, targeted collaborations with various groups, and other strategic activities. The programmatic activities of each successive ALA president are developed in consultation with their member advisory committee and in the context of the Association's strategic directions and goals, as well as the current environment affecting library staff and the publics they serve.

For 2023-24, the presidential programs specifically relate to (1) Climate Action, (2) The Future of Library Work, (3) Member Engagement, (4) Youth Librarianship, and (5) Reserve for other potential expenses.

Total: \$75,000

Climate Action: \$5,000

Over the past several years, the association has committed in word and action to the principles of environmental sustainability including the establishment of a sustainability committee, extensive programming related to climate change in our communities, and work toward a carbon neutral ALA. As changing climate impacts libraries with floods, fire, and hurricanes, these efforts become even more important. Funding will support ongoing efforts in these areas undertaken by member leaders in the Sustainability Committee and the Sustainability Round Table including updated LibGuides, engagement with tribal libraries around climate issues, and relevant ALA Connect Live programming.

The Future of Library Work: \$10,000

President Lessa Pelayo-Lozada's presidential initiatives included significant support for library workers, including the establishment of a working group to explore a revitalized ALA-Allied Professional Association. I share these worker-focused priorities. Funding will support the extension and expansion of President Pelayo-Lozada's efforts including the creation of resources and programming to support library workers and managers in an increasingly unionized library landscape.

Member Engagement: \$30,000

The association's Pivot Plan prioritizes increasing and sustaining membership in the association. This is crucial for ongoing fiscal health as well as for the future of the library field. Strong libraries require a strong American Library Association. Funds will support direct engagement with members across the country, particularly around intellectual freedom issues and the Unite Against Book Bans campaign. Planning will begin in earnest in spring 2023 for a bus tour that will bring programming and training to library workers and supporters across the country.

Youth Librarianship: \$5,000

Librarians who work with young people in schools and public libraries face significant challenges including ongoing staffing issues in schools and an intensification of attacks on the right to read. This funding will support youth-focused initiatives that emerge across the association and its divisions with particular attention to the needs of YALSA, AASL, and ALSC members.

Reserve: Other potential expenses: \$25,000

Reserve funds are routinely set aside to enable the President to support conference programs and events, and respond with resources to issues that arise over the course of the year. Given the urgent challenges faced by many of our colleagues, I have reserved \$25,000 to enable a nimble response to issues that may arise during my presidential term.