

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Annual Conference, Chicago
June 28 – July 2, 2013**

Topic: Member Support for the Maker Movement

Background: Making and makerspaces are a burgeoning area seeing increased interest from everyone from frontline library staff to foundations and grant makers. The YALSA Board may want to create resources to help its members learn about the movement and how they might adapt some or all of the principles for use in the library services and programs they provide.

Action Required: Action

Proposal

Establish a taskforce to provide resources to members about the maker movement

Rationale

- Libraries that provide maker resources will be perceived as providing more value or return on investment to the members of their community. As libraries work to demonstrate their relevance to their communities, makerspaces and maker resources provide those serving young adults with an opportunity to show how the programs and resources provided by the library support the educational and recreational goals of the local area.
- By helping libraries to position themselves as a valuable resource that stays up to date with patron needs, libraries may also be better positioned to access grant resources that focus on one or more areas of the makerspace movement. The proposed toolkit and other resources will provide members with a wealth of resources and information to use in order to better understand the maker movement, determine where their library fits in, and decide how best to provide maker resources to their community.
- Ultimately, the toolkit and other resources will make available a high-quality resource for members to use to advocate for the important role the library plays in supporting the educational and recreational needs of teens and the community. It will also demonstrate that YALSA is keeping up with, and actively involved in, initiatives that are important in local communities as well as at the state, regional, and national levels.
- The maker movement also relates to members' needs, as evidenced in recent surveys, to keep up to date with emerging technologies and trends, and fits with YALSA's strategic planning goal of Continuous Learning.

How YALSA can support the members as they explore the maker movement

- In order to help school and public librarians better understand and support the maker movement in their local communities, YALSA would develop a Maker Toolkit for

librarians working with young adults in school and public libraries. The toolkit would include:

- An overview of what the maker movement is.
- Information on why it's important for librarians to understand and support the movement
- How to develop collections that support making.
- How to integrate making into programs for young adults.
- Information on the maker movement and the school curriculum.
- Talking points on the role the public and school libraries play in supporting the maker movement.
- A list of useful resources.
- A list of related funding.
- Recommendations and considerations for a creating a makerspace
- Illustrate how makerspaces connect to HOMAGO and connected learning values
- Create and disseminate a list of recommended professional reading, viewing, etc.
- Offer more maker-focused CE, as appropriate.
- Incorporate the movement into Teen Tech Week™ via the 2014 DIY @ your library theme
- Encourage YALSA publications, such as the YALSAblog and YALS to publish information about the maker movement and libraries.
- Build out the maker page on the wiki:
[http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/Maker %26 DIY Programs](http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/Maker_%26_DIY_Programs)
- Highlight ALA maker resources to YALSA members
- Other?

Proposed Taskforce Charge

The taskforce will create a variety of resources to help members learn about the maker movement and how libraries can be a part of it in order to increase their value in their community. Activities include: creating a "Making in Libraries" toolkit to be released in conjunction with 2014 's Teen Tech Week; implementing a maker programming contest during summer 2014 for members to highlight best practices; maintaining the maker page on YALSA's public wiki on an ongoing basis and encouraging members to contribute to the content there; as requested by the YALSAblog Manager, identify bloggers to regularly create maker related posts; as requested by the YALS Editor, identify authors to write maker related articles. Taskforce size: 5-7 virtual members, including the chair. Term of appointment: September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014.

Requested Board Action

The Board moves to approve the establishment of a maker taskforce as outlined above and directs the president to appoint members to serve on the taskforce.

Additional Resources

- HOMAGO Essentials, <http://youmedia.org/node/120/research/homago-essentials>
- <http://connectedlearning.tv>