

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
via Conference Call
September 9, 2014**

Topic: Proposal to Establish a Partnerships Resources Taskforce

Background: YALSA’s [Future of Library Services for and with Teens](#) report highlights “partnering strategically to reach beyond the library’s walls” as one of the five fundamental elements that will need to shift in order for libraries and communities to successfully work for and with teens. (p. 21-24).

At their meeting at Annual, the Board discussed a variety of options to support members in developing, maintaining and evaluating partnerships. The Board Standing Committee on Continuing Education has drafted the following proposal for the Board’s consideration.

Action Required: Action

Proposal

Create a Partnerships Resources Taskforce. The work of this taskforce will be to compile and/or create and then promote resources on partnerships for YALSA members based on needs identified in the “Future of Library Services for and with Teens: A Call to Action.”

The Partnerships Resources Taskforce will compile existing resources and develop new ones, as needed, and promote partnerships resources for members, including addressing the following areas:

- How to identify teen needs and determine how partnerships may help address them
- Why partner? What are the benefits? Why do libraries need to do it?
- What collective impact is and how partnerships relate to that
- List of possible partners where members might start
- Examples of existing successful partnerships in various library types, including big, small, rural, urban, school, public
- Asset mapping to identify list of resources and assets that libraries might offer to partners
- Questions or self-administered quiz for members to ask themselves about outcomes for partnerships and possible benefit to the library

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- Sample methods for initiating and reaching potential partners (sample letter, email, etc.)

The Task Force will promote this work with the assistance of YALSA staff and members through a variety of YALSA and other channels, including YALSA blog posts, webinars, Academy videos, Google Hangouts, presentations at conference, etc.

Rationale

YALSA's [Future of Library Services for and with Teens](#) report highlights “partnering strategically to reach beyond the library’s walls” as one of the five fundamental elements that will need to shift in order for libraries and communities to successfully work for and with teens. (p. 21-24).

While many YALSA members may be ready to adopt this new role, the existing capacity, infrastructure and/or culture of their organization may make this very challenging.

Members may need additional support around best practices or other related resources in order to partner strategically in their community and shift the culture of their library towards supporting a new role for the library. Specific changes that members will need to make around partnerships and collaborations that are called out in the report include:

- Discontinuing existing library roles that have become less of a priority for students or communities
- Looking beyond the library field itself to organizations who share similar missions or values, and who may not yet see the library as a possible partner
- Identifying possible partners in the community and possible areas in which to partner
- Identifying types of partnerships and strategies to be most successful at each
- Initiating partnerships, maintaining and evaluating partnerships
- Leveraging training, support and coaching for staff
- Supporting supervisors, managers and administrators in changing staffing practices and approaches to partnerships and community involvement

At their Annual meeting, the YALSA Board discussed options and possible charges for a taskforce or other group to develop resources for members and referred next steps back to the Standing Board Committee on Continuous Learning and Professional Development who has prepared this proposal for the Board’s consideration.

Proposed Taskforce Charge:

Adapt existing exemplary resources, and as needed, create new ones to help members build knowledge and skills around establishing, maintaining and evaluating partnerships. Activities include: creating a partnerships toolkit; creating and promoting a partnerships page on YALSA's public wiki and encouraging members to contribute to the content there; creating Academy Videos; as requested by the YALSAblog Manager & YALS Editor, identifying individuals to create partnership-focused content; and increasing member awareness of existing partnership resources from ALA, the library community, and the community development arena. Taskforce size: 5-7 virtual members, including the chair. Term of appointment: October 1, 2014 through January 31, 2016.

Recommended Board Action

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The Board moves to establish a Partnerships Resources Taskforce as outlined above and direct the president to appoint members to serve on the taskforce as well as work with appropriate existing member groups to incorporate the topic into their work.

Additional Resources

- The Future of Library Services For and With Teens: A Call to Action

www.ala.org/yaforum/sites/ala.org.yaforum/files/content/YALSA_nationalforum_final.pdf