

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Annual Meeting, Chicago
June 25-30, 2020**

Topic: YALSA Advocacy Resources: Community Listening Task Force

Background:The Standing Board Committee on Advocacy 2018-19 determined that action items from the last strategic plan focused too heavily on state and national advocacy for libraries and less on issues that were important to the everyday lives of teens and teen services staff. At Midwinter 2018, Board document #20 called for the appointment of a YALSA member to conduct an inventory of all of YALSA's advocacy resources. This inventory was delivered to the Board in June of 2018. The Advocacy Standing Board Committee has spent significant time reviewing the documents and their recommendations. Much of what exists needs to be updated, not only with the new YALSA logo, but with updated information as well. In addition, members observed that many of YALSA resources were dense and had information that may no longer be applicable to library staff.

Action Required: Action

Proposal: The 2019-20 Standing Board Committee on Advocacy would like to propose a task force be created to learn more about the advocacy needs of library staff and teens in preparation to make YALSA resources accessible and relevant.

The taskforce will engage YALSA members and non-members in small groups and one on one to learn more about two topics:

1. What do library staff need in order to support teen and young adult civic engagement? How can YALSA support library staff in helping teens advocate for issues that are important to them and their communities?
2. What support do library staff need in order to advocate for resources for teen services in their libraries as well as their institutions? How can YALSA support library staff in advocating for resources they need to elevate teen library services in their community?

Tasks already completed or in progress include:

1. An evaluation of 2018-19 YALSA Advocacy resources and web materials.
2. YALSA is working on a new Strategic Plan.

3. YALSA Board was trained on Structural Racism and Racial Inequity at Midwinter 2020.

Timeline:

Taskforce is formed and work begins: April 15, 2020

Taskforce reports results to YALSA Board: January 15, 2021

YALSA Standing Board develops next steps for implementation: Spring 2021

Rationale: With the changes to the ALA Advocacy Office, as well as the forthcoming YALSA Strategic Plan it is important to update our advocacy resources and ensure that those resources are what our members most need. The creation of this taskforce will take

Questions to explore before taking next steps:

1. How can we support the taskforce in gathering information from racially diverse staff who have a variety of lived experiences?
2. Should we work alongside AASL?
3. How can we engage library staff from school libraries and rural and urban libraries?

Financial Implications:

Member time for participation in taskforce, and staff time for support of the member. Possible additional costs for any content created.

Measuring Success/Impact:

1. Advocacy resources that support teen library staff in centering diverse teen voices and elevating the issues that are important to them.
2. Advocacy resources that support teen library staff in communicating the value of teen and young adult library services to their community in order to garner additional staff, resources and funding.
3. The Board receives clear, actionable recommendations

Recommended Action: The Board directs the YALSA President to appoint a diverse taskforce by April 15, 2020 as described above and for the taskforce to provide recommendations to the board by no later than January 15, 2021.

Additional Resources:

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/AdvocacyToolsInventory.pdf>