

YALSA Executive Committee Meeting
October 21-22, 2011, Chicago

Topic: Morris Funds for FY12

Background: A taskforce was established in 2004 to determine how best use the interest from the then newly established Morris Endowment. As stipulated by Bill Morris, YALSA may only use the funds "for the purpose of funding programs, publications, events or awards in promotion of young adult literature." At the 2004 Annual Conference, the YALSA Board approved three uses of the funds: to establish a debut author award; to establish a conference with a focus on YA literature; and to support Teen Read Week activities. In 2006, the YALSA Board also approved using the Morris funds to cover start-up costs for the Odyssey Award. The money has been invested in the ALA Endowment Fund and only the interest generated by the endowment may be used. The Executive Director is seeking feedback from the Board on how best to direct the funds for FY12. The Executive Committee may want to review possibilities and develop a proposal for Board consideration.

Action Required: Discussion

Morris Award Expenses to date:

- Start up cost for the Odyssey Award (one-time cost) \$6,200 split between YALSA & ALSC
- Stipends for two members to travel to the 2008 & 2010 YA Symposiums - \$4,000
- Start up costs for the Morris Award for first-time YA Authors - \$6,100
- Start up costs for the Nonfiction Award -- \$6,500
- Teen Read Week – the board voted in 2010 to use FY11 funds for a Teen Read Week impact study (not yet implemented. Cost is estimated at \$10,000)

Estimated available funds for FY12: \$14,000

Considerations:

- Where is the greatest need?
- What would most closely support both Bill Morris' wishes and YALSA's strategic plan?
- How might members benefit?
- What are the pros and cons of designating the funds for an ongoing project vs. a one-time project?
- Is it preferable for the board to vote every year on funding a specific project, or for the board to vote on putting funds toward a broad area (similar to what FAC does with FOY funds)?

Options:

Possible one-time activities:

Activity	Strategic Plan support	Pros	Cons
Support a one-time research activity for FY12 relating to YA Literature	Research & Best Practices possibly Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can support the new research agenda • Might bring more recognition to the symposium and JRLYA • Could yield data that could be used in advocacy efforts 	Is research YALSA's greatest area of need at this time?
Use funds to support the 2012 Teen Read Week	Possibly Member Engagement or CE	Funds can be used in a way that members benefit	2012 TRW is already being supported by Dollar General, so funds might not be most needed here
Use funds to support the 2012 Teen Tech Week	Possibly Member Engagement or CE	Funds can be used in a way that members benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is TTW YALSA's greatest area of need at this time? • Funds could only be used for something directly related to YA literature and teen reading.
A 2012 congressional briefing on teen reading and literacy	Advocacy & Activism	There's a need to increase advocacy efforts, as indicated by member feedback as well as the overall political climate	Timing might be best to do this in FY13 for the 2012 TRW
Other?			

Possible on-going activities:

Activity	Strategic Plan support	Pros	Cons
An award for state library agencies and/or state library associations	Research & Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Library Agency Youth Consultants Survey indicated a need for financial support at the state level. • This type of award can 	The award would need to be limited to something relating to YA literature and teen reading

		also help build YALSA ties at a more local level	
Marketing funds for awards and lists	Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds for supporting the awards is an on-going need. A long term solution could help ensure a gradual increase of awareness about the awards and lists A reliable funding source can help ensure adequate marketing from year to year Members have repeatedly asked for YALSA to do more to raise awareness about the awards 	No direct benefit for members
PhD scholarship	CE possibly Research & Best Practices	Can help grow future leaders in the profession and possibly spur research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scholarship would have to be limited to someone seeking their PhD specifically in the area of YA literature and teen reading. Might be better suited for Leadership Endowment
Annual congressional briefing	Advocacy & Activism	There's a need to increase advocacy efforts, as indicated by member feedback as well as the overall political climate	The briefing would have to be YA literature and teen reading, and in the past trouble-areas for advocacy efforts were also common around Internet issues
Support a research activity relating to YA Literature	Research and best practices possibly Advocacy & Activism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can support the research agenda Possibly bring more recognition to the symposium and JRLYA and Could yield data that could be used in advocacy efforts 	Is research YALSA's greatest area of need at this time?
Use funds to support each Teen Read Week	Possibly Member Engagement or	Funds can be used in a way that members benefit	Is this the best use of funds? Teen Read Week, being well

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	CE		established, has other funding sources
Use funds to support each Teen Tech Week	Possibly Member Engagement or CE	Funds can be used in a way that members benefit	Funds could only be used for something directly related to YA literature and teen reading

--respectfully submitted by Penny Johnson and Beth Yoke