

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Midwinter Meeting, New Orleans  
June 22 - 26, 2018**

**Topic:** Pura Belpré Award Taskforce Recommendations

**Background:** At their 2018 Midwinter Meeting, YALSA's Board voted to establish a joint taskforce with ALSC and REFORMA to explore the possibility of expanding the Pura Belpré Award to include YA titles. Martha Walke, the Taskforce Chair, has provided the report below for the Board's consideration.

**Action Required:** Discussion

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**Task Force Charge:**

Charge 1: Propose a detailed implementation plan to expand the Pura Belpré Award to include YA books, using the YALSA Board proposal as a guideline and including the ALSC Board request to consult with the ALSC Budget Committee regarding sharing costs between ALSC and YALSA. The implementation plan should include a timeline that allows for the first award inclusive of YA to be presented in 2020 and detail all considerations that need to be addressed to update terms and criteria, procedures, and an MOU for all three organizations. In order to expedite the expansion, other changes to terms and criteria, beyond inclusions of YA books, should be held for later.

Charge 2: Explore options for providing recommendations of materials of interest to Latino youth. Consider questions from the ALSC Board as detailed in the Task Force Resources; as well as the YALSA Board proposal and discussion, noting that an annual list would not conform with YALSA's latest vision for readers' advisory/collection development. The YALSA Board asks that materials recommendations should happen year-round via the Hub. The task force may consider the questions regarding Belpré criteria raised in the original proposal within the context of this exploration and should note the ALSC & YALSA Board discussions on both matters.

**Overview of Task Force Work Plan:** During ALA's 2018 Midwinter conference in Denver, CO, four members of the task force (Martha Walke, Ruth Quiroa, Lucia Gonzalez and Oralia Garcia Cortes) met to begin hashing out the ideas presented in the proposal written by Ruth Quiroa and Lucia Acosta and presented to the YALSA board concerning the expansion of the Pura Belpré Award. We expanded this discussion, to also focus on the history of the award with the full Task Force during our first videoconference meeting March 27, 2018, during which we made our first decision concerning the addition of YA to the award. The Task Force agreed upon an outline that prioritized the group's work and, due to a short turn-around time, divided the tasks of rewording Part 1 of the Belpré Manual, of readjusting the budget to include YALSA, and of rewording the MOU between ALSC and REFORMA to include YALSA. We also asked Stephen Ashley to introduce the Hub to us for future reference and our continued work on Charge 2. Members communicated via email and phone. On April 13, 2018, the Task Force

again met via videoconference and worked together on the edited MOU, with the budget and Part 1 of the Manual being the group's focus during its April 27 meeting. All Task Force recommendations are delineated below, and the aforementioned documents are attached with projected changes and additions noted through tracked changes. Throughout these meetings, Ruth Quiroa has acted as secretary and Martha Walke ran the meetings and compiled written reports.

Because the final recommendations of this Task Force are not due until January 2019, we will continue to finalize wording changes and additions to both the Belpré Manual and to the MOU. We will begin work on the second charge after ALA Annual in New Orleans, LA, this June 2018.

### **Summary of Task Force Findings:**

At our first videoconference meeting, the Task Force discussed, in depth, whether to recommend adding a third award to the Belpré or to increase the age range. With a voice vote, the committee voted unanimously to increase the age range from youth age 0 to 18, rather than add on a new award category specifically for YA (the rationale for this decision is provided below). With this decision made, the group began work on the Manual and the MOU as follows:

- Rewording of the Manual made strong progress given the committee began its work in late March due to member schedules and the later timing of the Midwinter meeting in 2018. This work will take longer than expected but will be completed by January 2019. It involves updating all terms and criteria and is dependent on the final wording of the MOU. Currently, the Task Force is also examining recommendations relevant to the sections on award criteria that would better reflect current thinking (e.g. language about not giving an award; language regarding non-Latino co-author/illustrator).
- Rewording of the MOU will be completed before ALA Annual, 2018. This will need some input from the ALSC board as to how the divisions should be noted in the document. For example, those places where ALSC/ALA are used.
- Work on the second charge will begin following ALA Annual, 2018 and will require background work by members who are not familiar with YALSA's HUB. Discussion began on this charge at the April 27, 2018, videoconference meeting.

### **Task Force Recommendations:**

Based on work completed by the Task Force members over the past two months, the group recommends the following:

**Recommendation #1:** That the age range for the Pura Belpré Award be increased to include youth between the ages of 14 and 18. This would be reworded in the Manual as "...youth ages 0 to 18...".

This will reflect the acceptance of young adult literature for consideration by the committee. The discussion of whether to add a third award versus just adding to the age range was discussed fully and at length with all voices heard, listened, and responded to as necessary. A major point of consideration in this decision was the fact that so few books by and about Latinos are published in general each year (see attached information with publishing data for diverse books

and for books by and about Latinos). Ultimately, it was a unanimous decision to keep the one award for author and the one award for illustrator and change the age range of the award to reflect inclusion of books for young adults. With YALSA's HUB adding more diverse lists (see Charge 2 above) that do not present award limitations, more Latino authors of YA books will be represented in that blog and its resources, all of which are accessible by both librarians and teens.

**Recommendation #2:** That ALSC administer the Pura Belpré Award. ALSC currently administers the Belpré endowment and has been partnering with REFORMA since the inception of the award and, therefore, has the historical knowledge necessary for a smooth continuation of the award processes. Such organization would also add consistency as this new working partnership between the three organizations is launched. The new MOU between ALSC, YALSA, and REFORMA will be written to reflect this and the role YALSA will play.

**Recommendation #3:** That the amount contributed to the Pura Belpré Award by both ALSC and YALSA reflect the work that ALSC will be performing in administering the award without putting an undue financial burden on YALSA. Seal sales revenue and the income from the Endowment will also be considered. The approximate amounts to be contributed by ALSC and YALSA will need to be determined and written into the new MOU. The increase in monetary contributions from the two divisions will relieve some of the burden of fundraising currently held by REFORMA.

**Recommendation #4:** That the Task Force continue to use the current ALSC/REFORMA MOU as the basis for creating a new MOU for ALSC, YALSA and REFORMA.

**Recommendation #5:** That the Pura Belpré Award Committee be structured as follows: three (3) members to be appointed by ALSC; three (3) to be appointed by YALSA; and three (3) to be appointed by REFORMA. The chair would be appointed on a rotating basis beginning with REFORMA appointing for the 2020 award, ALSC for the 2021 award and YALSA for the 2022 award. This would increase the size of the award committee to 9 plus a chair. Because in the past many Belpré committee members have also been members of YALSA, the Task Force does not feel that a change in the terms (2 years) of committee members is necessary.

**Action to Be Taken:** The Task Force requests the ALSC, YALSA and REFORMA Boards adopt the recommendations listed above.

Thank you for your consideration. Please note that Eva Mitnick is available to represent the Pura Belpré Expansion Task Force at the ALSC Board meeting on Saturday, and Oralia Garcia Cortes is available to attend the ALSC Board meeting on Tuesday. If agreeable with the ALSC Board, Martha Walke can be available via videoconference or telephone either day, which would be set up beforehand by Ruth Quiroa using her access to Zoom with no cost to ALSC or ALA, and the only requirement being internet capacity for a computer at the Board Meeting.

**List of the Task Force Members:**

Ruth Quiroa (REFORMA), Co-Chair  
Martha Walke (ALSC), Co-Chair  
Lucia González (REFORMA)

Eva Mitnick (ALSC)  
 Stephen Ashley (YALSA)  
 Renee McGrath (YALSA)  
 Lucia Acosta (ALSC), consultant  
 Oralia Garza Cortes (REFORMA), consultant

**Additional Information**

2018 Midwinter Documento on establishing a Pura Belpré Award Taskforce,  
<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/PuraBelpreTF.pdf>

**Children’s Cooperative Book Council Statistics for Latino-Themed books, 1994-2017**



**CCBC Statistics, 1994 -2001**

Year	Estimated Total No. Books Publ	African / African-Americans		Asian Pacific / Asian Pacific Americans	American Indian	Latinos
		By	About	By and About	By and About	By and About
2001	5,000-5,500	99	201	96	60	77
2000	5,000-5,500	96	147	57	40	54
1999	5,000	81	150	61	41	64
1998	5,000	96	188	52	55	73
1997	4,500-5000	88	216	66	64	88
1996	4,500	92	172	49	50	103
1995	4,500	100	167	91	83	70
1994	4,500	82	166	65	70	90

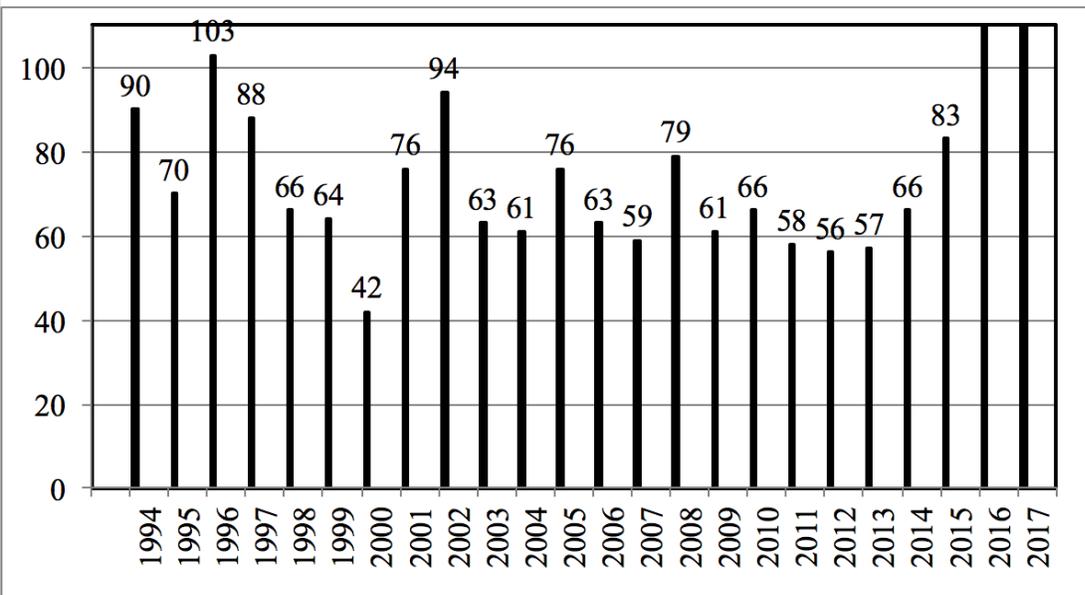
## CCBC Statistics 2002-2017

<http://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp>

Year	Number of Books Received at CCBC (approx.)	African / African Americans		American Indians / First Nations		Asian Pacifics/ Asian Pacific Americans		Latinos	
		By	About	By	About	By	About	By	About
2017	3,700	122	340	38	72	274	310	116	216
2016	3,400	94	287	23	55	217	240	104	169
2015	3,400	108	270	19	42	176	113	60	85
2014	3,500	85	181	20	38	129	112	59	66
2013	3,200	69	94	18	34	90	69	49	58
2012	3,600	69	119	6	22	83	76	58	54
2011	3,400	79	123	12	28	76	91	52	58
2010	3,400	102	156	9	22	60	64	55	66
2009	3,000	83	157	12	33	67	80	60	61
2008	3,000	83	172	9	40	77	98	48	79
2007	3,000	77	150	6	44	56	68	42	59
2006	3,000	87	153	14	41	72	74	42	63
2005	2,800	75	149	4	34	60	64	50	76
2004	2,800	99	143	7	33	61	65	37	61
2003	3,200	79	171	11	95	43	78	41	63
2002	3,150	69	166	6	64	46	91	48	94

## Latino-themed texts, 1994-2016

169 216



A FEW NOTES:

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- The Pura Belpré award focuses on books written and/or illustrated BY Latinos. However, these CCBC data charts indicate “by and about” as well as “by” and “about”. The PB award only focuses on books “by” Latinos.
- The numbers of books written by and/or illustrated by Latinxs do not reflect whether their content is ABOUT Latinos, something the Pura Belpré Award requires, namely, books that are both by AND about Latinos.
- The numbers of books that are both by and about Latinos do not indicate whether these books are of high quality with exceptional merit to garner award or honor status for the Pura Belpré Award.
- In sum, the 23 years of statistics compiled by CCBC evidence truly abysmal publication rates for Latino-themed books written and/or illustrated by Latinos. In fact, these numbers seem to be impacted by socio-political events such as the demise of bilingual education in California in 1998 (only 42 books published in 2000), the findings related to population increases for Latinos in the 2000 census (94 books published in 2002), the years of No Child Left Behind and single authors and illustrators producing several titles in any given year (2002-2014), the We Need Diverse Movement and subsequent increases (2015-2017). Even though there has been a slight rise in publication numbers given the work of the We Need Diverse Books campaign and organization, the numbers are not so high as to provide an award committee with sufficient numbers of high quality, eligible books in any given year.
- Additionally, if the annual publication numbers of Latino-themed books written and/or illustrated by Latinos were to be divided into 2 additional award categories beyond the two that currently exist for text and illustrations (e.g., text for children 0-14 years, illustrations for children 0-14 years, text for young adult, illustrations for young adults), there simply would not be enough available titles that might be eligible and meritorious. For this reason, the Pura Belpré Task Force spent significant time discussing the best way to expand the award and elected to recommend raising the age range of eligibility, rather than the creation of new, additional award categories.