

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Conference, Atlanta
January 19-24, 2017

Topic: Evaluating Member Grants, Scholarships and Awards

Background: During the strategic planning phase of the new organizational plan, the Board briefly spoke about the need to evaluate the member awards and grants to make sure they align with the new plan and are meeting members' needs. Franklin Escobedo has provided the following proposal for the board's consideration.

Action Required: Discussion

Overview

YALSA maintains and administers several member awards and grants, but has not in recent memory (12+ years) ever taken the step to examine them and their impact for YALSA and for its members.

Awards (to recognize past achievement)

- Outstanding Achievement Award
- MAE Award for Best Literature Program for Teens
- Volunteer of the Year Awards
- Writing Award

Fellowships, Scholarships and Stipends (to support learning and professional development)

- Annual Conference Travel Stipends
- Board Fellowship
- Spectrum Scholarship
- YA Services Symposium Travel Stipends

Grants (to fund future projects, services or resources)

To support the profession:

- Frances Henne Research Grant
- Midwinter Paper Presentation
- National Library Legislative Day Grants

To support front-line library activities:

- Collection Development Grant (materials)
- Great Books Giveaway Competition (materials)
- Summer Learning Resources Grant (materials)
- Summer Intern Program Grant (services)
- Teen Read Week Grant (materials and programming)
- Teen Tech Week Grant (materials and programming)
- Teens' Top Ten Grant (materials)

Possible Next Step

Create a short-term, virtual taskforce to evaluate the awards and grants, and submit a final report for the board to review at their meeting at Annual 2017. Promote the volunteer opportunity via YALSA eNews and other communication channels and allow interested members to opt-in.

The taskforce will examine the current awards, scholarship, and grants with these questions in mind:

- How do these existing awards, scholarships, & grants fit into the Teens First model and the goals of the organizational plan?
- Based on the goals of the Organizational Plan, and the needs members express, which type of recognition is the most important: recognizing past achievement, supporting learning and contribution to the profession, or funding future projects services and resources to the profession and/or to front line library activities?
- Which types of member recognition and/or which specific awards, grants and scholarships, if any, are not in strong alignment with the plan and how did you come to that conclusion?
- Based on the Teens First model and the goals of the organizational plan, what gaps exist in YALSA's current portfolio of awards, scholarships and grants?
- Which types of recognition and support, if any, have consistently garnered low member interest and could be considered for re-envisioning or phasing out?
- Which types of member recognition and support, and/or which specific awards, grants and scholarships, if any, have consistently garnered high member interest and could be considered for expansion?
- Are the funding sources for these member recognition and support efforts adequate, appropriate and reliable? If not, what alternatives exist?
- What member recognition best or emerging practices exist in the association industry that may be a good fit for YALSA to adopt or adapt?

Draft Taskforce Charge

Member Grants and Awards Evaluation Taskforce

YALSA Board of Directors – Midwinter 2017
Topic: Evaluating Member Grants, Scholarships & Awards

The taskforce will evaluate YALSA's existing portfolio of grants, scholarships, stipends and awards to 1) determine their alignment with the Organizational Plan; 2) identify any gaps; and 3) submit a report to the board recommending any changes, if warranted, along with a rationale, by no later than May 23, 2017. Composition: 5-7 virtual members who are previous chairs and members from juries as well as individuals who are knowledgeable about the 2016 Organizational Plan and its goals. Length of term: March 2017-June 2017.

Financial Considerations

- Member and staff time for compiling data about the awards, scholarship, and grants.

Recommended Board Action

The Board directs the YALSA President to form a short-term taskforce by March 1, 2017 which will evaluate YALSA's portfolio of member grants and awards and submit a final report to the board for consideration at their meeting in June 2017.

Additional Resources

- Awards: Why they are a Big Deal for Members and Organizations, <http://bit.ly/2ibEBTc>
- Association Recognition: Why Recognize?
<http://awardspersonalization.org/Default.aspx?TabID=534>
- List of YALSA member grants, stipends, scholarships and awards:
www.ala.org/yalsa/awardsandgrants/yalsaawardsgrants