

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Boston
January 8 – 12, 2016**

Topic: Confirmation of 2016 & 2017 Symposium Site Locations

Background: Over the past several months YALSA staff have been exploring options for a location for YALSA’s 2016 and 2017 YA Services Symposia. Since this is a key revenue source which YALSA depends on in order to fund member services, as well as a popular event with members, selecting the best location is critical. The goal is to obtain approval for the date and location of the 2016 and 2017 symposia in 2015 in order to be able to negotiate the best rates with hotels. Identifying the date and location over a year in advance will also ensure adequate time to plan and promote the events. On Sept. 9th the Board voted to approve the 2016 location, and on Nov. 2nd the Board voted to approve the 2017 location. Including the item as a part of this meeting simply ensures it will be entered into the official record of the association.

Action Required: Consent

2016 SYMPOSIUM SITE LOCATION PROPOSAL

DATES TO AVOID

Holidays:

Oct 12 Columbus Day
Nov 8 Election Day
Nov 11 Veterans Day
Nov 24 Thanksgiving Day
Dec 25 first day of Hanukkah, Christmas

2016 Events:

- PLA is in Denver, CO, April 5- 9
- 2016 ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, FL, June 23 – 28
- National Book Festival in DC, Sept. (they won’t know the exact date until 12 months in advance)
- ALSC Institute in Charlotte, NC September 15-17 (usually even years)
- AASL Fall Forum, date and location TBD
- Teen Read Week™ (Oct. 16-22)
- ALA/Division Fall Executive Committee Meetings in Chicago Oct. 21 - 23
- ALAN Workshop in Atlanta, GA, Nov. 20 - 23
- Regional Book events (see www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/bookfair.html)

State & Regional Library Assoc. conferences (see:
<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/afficalendar/index.cfm>)

2017 Events:

- 2017 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta, GA: January 20-24, 2017

RECOMMENDED DATES: (please note: hotel rates typically drop at the end of Oct.)

- November 4-6, 2016 (first choice)
- November 11-13, 2016 (second choice)

FORMER SYMPOSIUM LOCATIONS

2015: Portland, OR

2014: Austin, TX

2012: St. Louis, MO

2010: Albuquerque, NM

2008: Nashville, TN

POTENTIAL 2016 LOCATIONS:

Criteria:

- size and proximity of airport to downtown
- transportation options w/in the city
- size of area drive-in population
- hotel rates and availability
- lack of other library events in area at the time of Symposium
- not an area where YALSA has recently hosted a Symposium, Institute or other event
- not in a part of the country where ALA has recently hosted a major event
- prior success of other ALA functions in city
- potential draw as tourist destination
- 2nd tier city to ensure lower rates for attendees

Areas of focus for 2016:

We surveyed attendees in 2014, and they said their number one consideration for attending was the location city (content was the second deciding factor). Then, when asked what cities they would like to see host they Symposium, New Orleans came in first, Seattle second, and Savannah came in 3rd. Other options were

- Milwaukee, WI
- New Orleans, LA
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Louisville, KY

State Conferences

- Pennsylvania Library Association in Pocono Manor, October 16 - 19
- Louisiana Library Association Joint Conference, March
- Wisconsin Library Association conference, October

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- Georgia Library Association (Council of Media Organizations), early October
- Kentucky Library Association conference, October

Taking into consideration all of the information above, Request for Proposals (RFP) were sent out in May, 2015, to Milwaukee, New Orleans, Pittsburgh, Louisville, and Savannah.

- Based on the response to the RFP, Savannah was eliminated because they did not have any hotels available (there was a marathon happening over the preferred dates)
- New Orleans only had one hotel with availability and the rate was \$269.
- Milwaukee had 2 hotels available; one hotel had a rate of \$169 at one hotel near the airport. (There is a half marathon happening over the preferred dates).
- Pittsburgh had three hotels available, the lowest rate is \$119 and the highest is \$135.
- Louisville had 4 hotels available, only 2 over the 1st option of dates, all with \$129 rates or higher.

Based on the above information, YALSA chose to focus on Louisville and Pittsburgh.

Summary of Pittsburgh & the site visit

- There is a bus from the airport that costs around \$2. SuperShuttle and cabs are also available.
- There are restaurants and night life within walking distance from the hotels, all public transportation in the downtown area is free.
- YALSA’s preferred date is available.
- Pittsburgh is located within a 90 minute flight and a 6 hour drive for over half of North America.

Summary of Louisville & the site

- There is a shuttle and cabs available from the airport (cabs have a flat rate of \$19.55 and a shuttle is \$10-\$12 each way)
- There is a large selection of restaurants and night life within walking distance from the hotel, all public transportation downtown is free.
- YALSA’s preferred date is available.

Louisville	Dates Available	Room rate, room block info	Complimentary Accommodations	Location & Amenities
Galt House	11/4-11/6	Rivue Tower \$129 s/d/t/q, Suite Tower, \$149 s/d/t/q	1 per 40, 1 waterfront balcony suite, 5 staff rated rooms at \$99,	self-parking for \$10, airport \$15 one way, \$25 round trip, taxi \$19
Seelbach Hilton (combined with Embassy Suites)	11/4-11/6	\$149 s/d	1 per 40, 3 upgrades to jr suites, 5 staff rooms at 20% off,	comp airport shuttle

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Embassy Suites	11/4-11/6	\$159	no meeting room, just overflow of rooms from Seelbach	comp breakfast and evening reception, self-parking \$10 a day
Pittsburgh	Dates Available	Room rate, room block info	Complimentary Accommodations	Location & Amenities
Marriott City Center	11/4-11/6	\$139 s/d/t/q	1 per 40, 5 upgrades to jr suites, 5 VIP amenities, 20% off AV, 5 staff rooms at \$99	comp internet for group, downtown
Westin Convention Center	11/4-11/6	\$119, \$10 for additional person	1 per 50, 5 staff rooms at \$89, 10% off F&B,	comp internet in guestrooms
Wyndham	11/4-11/6	\$135	1 per 40, 20 upgrades to junior suites, 5 staff rooms at 50% off, 10% AV and f&b discount	comp internet in guestrooms

Staff Recommendation

Based on the site visit, the Westin Convention Center from Nov. 4 - 6 is the best fit for the Symposium. The hotel has adequate meeting space and is connected to the Convention Center, if there is a need to grow. The hotel itself recently underwent room renovations and is within walking distance of shopping and restaurants. Of the hotels that I looked at, not only did the Westin have the nicest rooms, the rate was the lowest. There are hotels nearby if the YALSA block at the Westin fills. There are a variety of transportation options from the airport, and Pittsburgh was named one of the 15 cities to visit in 2015 by [Conde Naste Traveler](#).

In addition to the hotel and accommodations:

- the Pennsylvania Library Association Conference, which will be held a month prior to the symposium, is located on the other side of the state (a 5.5 – 6 hour drive)
- The symposium has never been located in the middle Atlantic region
- The 2015 symposium was on the west coast
- Pennsylvania is in YALSA’s top ten list of states with the most members
- Pennsylvania has three graduate schools of library and information science
- The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the Hive and remakelearning.org, all located in Pittsburgh, could be potential partners or facilities for hosting symposium events

Louisville was a strong second, and will likely be seriously considered for future symposia.

Proposed Board Action

Approve Pittsburgh as the site for the 2016 symposium and direct the Executive Director to work with staff to execute the necessary contracts with the hotel.

Additional Information

- ALA Calendar of Events: <http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/calendarofevents>
- Pittsburgh Convention & Visitors Information: <http://www.visitpittsburgh.com/>

2017 YA SERVICES SYMPOSIUM PROPOSAL

BACKGROUND

Over the past several months YALSA staff have been exploring options for a location for YALSA's 2016 and 2017 YA Services Symposia. Since this is a key revenue source which YALSA depends on in order to fund member services, as well as a popular event with members, staff worked hard to identify the best location. The goal is to obtain approval for the date and location of the 2017 symposium now in order to be able to negotiate the best rates with hotels. Identifying the date and location over a year in advance will also ensure adequate time to plan and promote the event.

DATES TO AVOID

Holidays:

Oct 9 Columbus Day
Nov 7 Election Day
Nov 11 Veterans Day
Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day
Dec 12 Hanukkah

2017 Library Related Events:

- 2017 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta, Jan. 20 - 24
- 2017 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, June 23 – 27
- Kentucky Library Association conference, TBD but usually in Sept.
- Teen Read Week™, Oct. 7-13
- AASL National Conference, Phoenix, Nov. 6-12, 2017
- IMLS Focus conference, TBD (the 2015 event was in New Orleans Nov. 16 -17)
- ALAN Workshop, St. Louis, MO, Nov. 20 – 21
- DML Conference, dates and location TBD (2016 event is tentatively set for Oct. 5 – 7 at U of C, Irvine)

State & Regional Library Assoc. conferences (see:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/afficalendar/index.cfm>)

2018 Library Related Events:

- Midwinter Meeting, Denver, CO, Feb. 9-13, 2018
- PLA's National Conference March 20–24, 2018, Philadelphia, PA

RECOMMENDED DATES: (please note: hotel rates typically drop at the end of Oct.)

- November 2-5, 2017

FORMER SYMPOSIUM LOCATIONS

2016: Pittsburgh, PA
 2015: Portland, OR
 2014: Austin, TX
 2012: St. Louis, MO
 2010: Albuquerque, NM
 2008: Nashville, TN

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS:

Criteria:

- size and proximity of airport to downtown
- transportation options w/in the city
- size of area drive-in population
- hotel rates and availability
- lack of other library events in area at the time of Symposium
- not an area where YALSA has recently hosted a Symposium, Institute or other event
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- potential draw as tourist destination
- 2nd tier city to ensure lower rates for attendees

After siting Louisville for 2016, it was determined that the city would be a great fit for the Symposium, if we could get more competitive hotel rates. The Louisville Convention Center is undergoing renovations in 2016 and 2017, so there is more hotel availability with the city not able to host larger conventions. The hotels are offering competitive rates to earn the business of the smaller meetings while the Convention Center is under construction.

New Orleans was also evaluated for potential in 2016, but the desired dates were unavailable. After touching base with them about 2017, we learned that the dates were available but that the room rates were \$30 - \$40 higher than what the Louisville Hyatt was offering.

Louisville	Dates Available	Room rate, room block info	Complimentary Accommodations	Meeting Rooms	Location & Amenities

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Galt House	11/2-11/5 (2nd option, currently being held for another group)	Rivue Tower \$125 s/d/t/q, Suite Tower, \$140 s/d/t/q	1 per 40, 1 waterfront balcony suite, 5 staff rated rooms at \$99, wireless in guest rooms, self-parking for \$10	comp w/ \$25k food & beverage (f&b)	self-parking for \$10, airport \$15 one way, \$25 round trip, taxi \$19
Seelbach Hilton (combined with Embassy Suites)	11/2-11/5 or 11/9-11/12	\$155 s/d (Hilton) \$164 (Embassy)	1 per 40, comp internet in guest rooms, 4 staff rooms at 20% off	comp	comp airport shuttle
Hyatt Regency Louisville	11/2-11/5 or 11/9-11/12	\$125	1 per 40, 3 upgrades to jr suites, 5 staff rooms at \$79, 5 amenities, 25% discount on self-parking rates (currently \$13) 2016 menu prices offered for 2017, 15% off AV, comp wifi in guest rooms, comp meeting room wifi, \$6 rebate on all fully rated room nights	comp w/ \$25,000 f&b	connected to 4th Street Live via walkway, near museums
Marriott Downtown	11/9-11/12	\$127	1 comp suite, 1 suite at group rate, 5 staff rooms at \$109, comp guest room and meeting space internet, discounted parking at \$15	comp w/ \$50,000 f&b	connected to 4th Street Live via walkway, near museums

Staff Recommendation

Based on the room rate, concessions, and availability, the Hyatt Regency Louisville from Nov. 2 - 5 is the best fit for the Symposium. The hotel has adequate meeting space that allows the Symposium some room to grow and there is no charge for the meeting room rental. The hotel itself is undergoing room renovations and is within walking distance of shopping and restaurants. There are hotels nearby if the YALSA block at the Hyatt fills. The only other ALA division that has been to Louisville is LITA, in 2013 (with a room rate of \$139 a night). AASL is scheduled to hold their national conference there in 2019.

Proposal

Approve Louisville as the site for the 2017 symposium now in order to lock in low hotel rates and begin promoting the event and location for the new yearly pattern.

Additional Information

- ALA Calendar of Events: <http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/calendarofevents>
- Louisville Convention & Visitors Information: <http://www.gotolouisville.com>

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