

2018-2019 ALA  
2019 ALA Annual Conference



## YALSA Annual Report

### Crystle Martin, President, 2018-2019

**Mission:** Our mission is to support library staff in alleviating the challenges teens face, and in putting all teens – especially those with the greatest needs – on the path to successful and fulfilling lives.

**Vision:** Our vision is that all teens, from a variety of backgrounds including, but not limited to ability, class, gender-identity, sexual orientation, race, religion and power-differentiated groups, will have access to quality library programs and services – no matter where they occur – that are tailored to the community and that create new opportunities for all teens’ to promote personal growth, academic success, and career development, while linking teens and staff to resources, connected learning opportunities, coaching, and mentoring.

YALSA’s actions are driven by the three priority areas in our latest [Organizational Plan](#): 1) leading the transformation of teen library services; 2) advocacy to policy makers at all levels to increase support for teen library services; and 3) funder and partner development. We also continue to focus on reorganizing and realigning YALSA as an organization. We hired a new Executive Director in August who left in early March, and a new Executive Director, Tammy Dillard-Steels, started in mid-April.

### ORGANIZATION REORGANIZATION AND REALIGNMENT

This year we extended our reorganization and realignment efforts to focus on wrapping up the activities in the 2016 - 2018 [Organizational Plan](#) which calls for restructuring the association so that it is better configured to meet the needs of today’s teens, members and libraries. YALSA is also developing a new Organization Plan that will be adopted later in 2019.

To better meet the needs of our members, the Board continued to utilize more short-term volunteer opportunities instead of year-long committees, including task forces, juries, and Resource Retreats. [Juries](#) are appointed each fall, and [taskforces](#) are assembled as needed. Members can find out about these opportunities as they become available via the weekly

## [YALSA eNews](#).

The YALSA Executive Committee's role changed in 2017 to focus more on the fiscal operations of the Division and relationship building with ALA. The Board approved a new [Functional Charge](#) for the Executive Committee. To bring a greater diversity of voices to the board and expand the Board's ability to serve its members and ultimately teens, the Board voted to add an [Advocacy Liaison](#) position. To support our relationship building efforts, we selected a member to serve as [liaison to ALA groups](#) for a 12 month period. This person's role includes strengthening ties between YALSA and ALA by sharing information between groups, representing YALSA's interests to ALA, and seeking opportunities for collaboration. This position liaises with the following ALA groups:

- Advocacy Coordinating Group
- Education Assembly
- ASCLA Accessibility Assembly
- Conference Program Coordinating Team
- Freedom to Read Foundation
- Intellectual Freedom Committee
- Legislation Assembly
- Literacy Assembly
- Professional Ethics Committee
- Website Advisory Committee

We have also created a [Liaison from YALSA to the ALA Affiliates and Round Tables](#) to establish closer ties to Affiliates and help YALSA better meet the needs of our members who belong to underrepresented communities.

This is the first year of YALSA having a Board Development Committee, instead of Governance Nominating Committee. The [manual](#) was approved by the Board at ALA Midwinter 2018 and the 2019 elections were candidates selected by this committee.

## **LEADING THE TRANSFORMATION OF TEEN SERVICES**

### **Grant Funded Projects & Initiatives**

#### ***1. Future Ready with the Library***

YALSA, in partnership with the [Association for Rural and Small Libraries](#) (ARSL), is working with the third of four cohorts of participants in its [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS) grant funded project, [Future Ready with the Library](#). Members of the third cohort participated in a two-day orientation at the YALSA Teen Services Symposium in Salt Lake City, UT in the fall of 2018 and are taking part in online learning and networking opportunities through the rest of 2019. The California State Library sponsored participation of four library staff and a coach in the third project cohort.

Through this project, YALSA and ARSL are supporting the members of the library staff as they work with a community partner to develop college and career readiness services for and with

the middle school students in their area. You can [read about the work library staff are doing in this area on the YALSAblog](#). The application for cohort 4 is now closed. Applicants will learn about the status of their application in mid-June 2019. In its fourth year Future Ready will expand to include a state-wide model. The Pennsylvania State Library is working with YALSA to develop a pilot state-wide which will be replicable and available to other states in 2020.

## **2. Libraries Ready to Code**

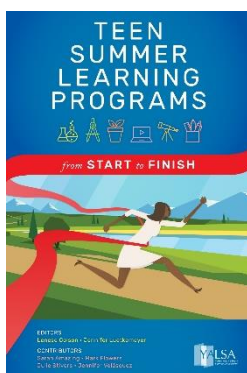
YALSA, along with AASL and ALSC, participated in ALA's ongoing Libraries Ready to Code Phase III initiative sponsored by Google to promote computer science (CS) and computational thinking (CT) among youth. 28 libraries in 21 states and the District of Columbia designed and implemented CS and CT programs for youth and families. In the fall of 2018 a website launched with materials developed by those libraries.

## **3. Transforming Teen Services: A Train the Trainer Approach**

YALSA, in partnership with the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), received \$497,635 to implement the Transforming Teen Services: A Train the Trainer Approach project funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The project brings together state library agency (SLA) youth consultants and frontline library staff from each U.S. state/territory for a robust training program that aims to help build connected learning (CL), computer science (CS), cultural competence and other skills so they can better serve and meet the learning needs of youth in their communities. Training uses a CL framework, which enables library staff to plan and deliver programs regardless of the technology available at their library, or their level of CS-specific skills. In the first year of the project five state library agencies (AL, ME, MN, RI, WI) were selected to work with the project team to test out ideas and help build training and materials for the second cohort that will come together in the fall of 2019.

## **Publications**

### **1. Teen Summer Learning Programs: From Start to Finish**



In October 2018, YALSA published [Teen Summer Learning Programs: From Start to Finish](#). In recent years, more and more libraries have shifted their focus from traditional summer reading programs to summer learning programs in order to help youth develop the twenty-first-century skills needed to succeed in their life and careers. Whether you've just started transitioning from summer reading to summer learning, or have already completed it, this guide will help you think through the nuts and bolts of designing, implementing, and improving your summer learning program to ensure success. From planning & budgeting to community engagement and program examples, you won't end up short on ideas for your teen summer learning program.

## **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

The Board has identified and prioritized equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts, specifically cultural competence, as a key element of the Organizational Plan. This year we undertook several tasks to move our work in this area forward.

### **1. YALSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Plan**

Increasing the number of YALSA members with diverse backgrounds is one component of YALSA's 3-Year Implementation Plan. In fall 2017, President Sandra Hughes-Hassell assembled a taskforce to explore the challenges and opportunities library staff of diverse backgrounds face when connecting to YALSA, including barriers (real or perceived) to YALSA membership and to submit findings and recommendations to the Board for decision making. The Advancing Diversity Taskforce completed its work in spring 2018 and the Chair, Nicole Cooke, submitted their [report](#) for the Board's consideration. The Board is in the process of reviewing, discussing, and prioritizing [their recommendations](#). One of the recommendations was a Equity Diversity and Inclusion Plan. The Board approved YALSA's first [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Plan](#) on October 31, 2018.

### **2. Spectrum Scholars**

Since 2009 YALSA has sponsored one Spectrum Scholar per year, and in 2017 increased that number moving forward to two per year. At Midwinter 2018, the Board explored tangible steps for how to best get these scholars more involved in YALSA's activities and in taking leadership roles in the field. The document which guided the Board's discussion can be found [here](#). We selected two [Spectrum Scholars](#) for 2018-2019.

### **3. Collection Development & Readers' Advisory**

YALSA, ALSC and REFORMA are working together to expand the Pura Belpré Award to include YA titles for Latino youth. An interdivisional taskforce is currently working to outline the specific procedures for the process. An interdivisional committee has also been assembled to develop the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration as well, which will be the first time the Teen category will be awarded.

In 2017, with funding through the ALA Strategic Initiatives Program, YALSA added recommended titles from ALA's Ethnic Affiliates and Round Tables to its [Teen Book Finder Database and App](#).

As part of the August 2016 board document "Recommendations for Transforming Remaining Work Groups," a Selected List Transition taskforce was created to offer recommendations for transitioning selected lists to YALSA's blog, [The Hub](#), in two phases: the first phase took place in 2017 with Amazing Audiobooks (AA), Popular Paperbacks (PP) and Quick Picks (QP). After conducting an evaluation of the 2017 process, beginning in 2018 we transitioned [Best Fiction for Young Adults](#) (BFYA) and [Great Graphic Novels](#) (GGN). The Board continues to work with the Hub Manager, Stephen Ashley, and the AA, PP, QP, BFYA, and GGN blogging teams to engage in continuous evaluation to ensure alignment with YALSA's mission and the goals of the Implementation Plan which are to:

- Provide more timely information

- Share information in an easier to use format
- Create new resources to meet the needs of today's diverse teens
- Ensure the flexibility to embrace new formats as they emerge
- Include new and diverse voices in the process

At Annual 2018, a [board document](#) was brought forward so that YALSA could consider processes and policies in the light of #MeToo. From this initial discussion YALSA has added guidance for awards committee to the chair manual and has also created a policy to [Rescind Awards](#), so it has a process in place should it be needed.

#### **4. Continuing Education**

YALSA is expanding continuing education resources and opportunities to include topics related to EDI. Examples include:

- **Equity and Identity in Teen Services Design Team**  
In the spring of 2019 YALSA put together a cohort of library staff from across the country to help in the design of a new continuing education offering that is focused on equity and identity in teen services. The cohort meets virtually and in a community of practice to discuss the equity training needs of library staff and how best to meet those needs through face-to-face and/or online professional development. What's developed through this work will be launched in fall 2019.
- **Webinars**  
Several webinars sponsored by YALSA over the past year embedded ideas of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. These include:
  - October 2018: *YALSA Teen Services Competencies for Library Staff: Equity of Access*
  - September 2018: *YALSA Teen Services Competencies for Library Staff: Cultural Competence and Responsiveness*
  - August 2018: *YALSA Teen Services Competencies for Library Staff: Community & Family Engagement*
  - January 2019: *Everyday Disabilities: Welcoming Teens with Disabilities*
  - February 2019: *Providing Equitable Access for All Teens @ Your Library*
  - March 2019: *Teens, Social Justice, & Difficult Conversation*
- **E-Courses**
  - Spring 2019 - *More than Just a Ramp: Disability Services Beyond the ADA*

#### **5. Improving Member Engagement and Creating an Inclusive Environment**

The YALSA board has been working on two interconnected and simultaneous initiatives. The initiative started with two board documents presented at Annual 2018: [Improving member Engagement](#) and [Creating an inclusive environment](#). From these initial documents and a document brought forth by the [Division and Membership Promotion](#) the following items have been undertaken:

- the Chair Manual has been revised to include content about what we mean by ethical behavior, building cultural competency, creating a welcoming, inclusive environment, how to report concerns or problems, etc.
- The [Committee FAQ](#) and list of Responsibilities for Committee Members was updated to have information on how to report concerns/problems
- Updated and expanded [YALSA's Ethical Behavior Policy for Volunteers](#)

- Updated the [volunteer form](#) to make it easier for members to indicate preferences and to better support YALSA's EDI goals
- Created and implemented an [Exit Survey](#) for members and chairs on committees, juries, and taskforces
- Encourage board liaisons to participate in committee meetings
- Remind chairs to send thank you notes to outgoing members
- Increased communication about how to volunteer for committees
- Evaluate the pipeline of getting involved in through [YALSA 101, 201, and 301](#)

### **YA Services Symposium**

Over 500 attendees participated in the 2018 YA Services Symposium in Salt Lake City November 2-4, 2018. YALSA provided stipends of up to \$1,000 for two qualified applicants, one to a library member-with at least one year of experience-and the second to a student enrolled in an ALA or NCATE accredited library with a focus on serving young adults-to attend the conference. They were:

- Ness Shortley, a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill won the student stipend
- Kimberly Taylor-Cloud, a Youth Services Librarian at the Fairburn Branch Library of the Atlanta-Fulton (Georgia) Public Library System won the worker stipend

(We did not have a program planning contest so you can delete that info, instead you can add information about 2 different grant opportunities we will be offering—info below).

The 2019 YALSA YA Services Symposium will take place in Memphis November 1-3, 2019 at the Memphis Cook Convention Center which is connected to the Sheraton Memphis Downtown Hotel. In addition to the worker and student stipends, YALSA will offer 2 additional grants to presenters at the Symposium. One grant, funded by Dollar General, will fund travel for a presenter from a diverse background to give a program relating to literacies and/or serving underserved youths and the second will provide lodging for a presenter to give a program on self-care, stress management, or general wellness in the workplace.

The 2020 Symposium will be held in Reno, Nevada, November 6-8, 2020.

### **Teen Tech Week™ and Teen Read Week™**

In 2014, the YALSA board [evaluated Teen Read Week™](#) and [Teen Tech Week™](#). Building on these evaluations and a Board Chat that happened in March of 2017, the [Board voted](#) at Annual 2017 to explore how to leverage Teen Read Week and Teen Tech Week to support a single month-long public awareness campaign that support year-round teen services. At Midwinter 2019, the Board voted to create a taskforce to create the new month-long public awareness campaign. The Taskforce will solicit names for the month-long celebration and hold a vote with the announcement to happen at Annual 2019. The first celebration will be held October 2019.

### **Responding to the Current Social and Political Climate**

YALSA continued to support library staff and teens during today's challenging social and political climate. Efforts included:

- Adoption of Youth Activism through Community Engagement for the 2017- 2018 presidential theme. The Presidential Taskforce developed the [Youth Activism through Community Engagement](#) wiki page, highlighted current youth activism efforts on the YALSABlog (to read go to [YALSABlog](#), search using terms: youth activism through community engagement), and organized the President's program which will be held at Annual 2018.
- Continuing to update the [Supporting Youth in the Post-2016 Election Climate](#) wiki page.
- Hosting webinars devoted to the topic
- Participating in the [22x20 campaign](#)

### **Member Grants, Awards and Scholarships Evaluation**

At the 2017 Midwinter Meeting YALSA's Board directed the President to establish two taskforces to evaluate YALSA's portfolio of member grants and awards to identify challenges, opportunities, and gaps. Both taskforces have completed their work and provided recommendations to the Board at the 2018 ALA Midwinter meeting. The recommendations can be found [here](#) and [here](#). This led to the development of two new awards passed at Midwinter 2018.

During the fall of 2018, ALA approved YALSA's awards for:

- An [Innovation Award](#) that will recognize a member who has embraced YALSA's vision for teen services.
- A [Mid-Career Travel Stipend](#) to be used by a YALSA member who expresses need and has not had the opportunity to attend an ALA Annual Conference or YALSA Symposium for five years.

Both proposals will be reviewed by ALA's Awards Committee at Annual 2018.

## **ADVOCACY**

### **Advocacy Resources Audit**

The Board appointed a member volunteer to conduct a content audit of YALSA's advocacy resources for both local grassroots advocacy and legislative advocacy, in all formats (print, web, video, etc.), and to submitted the inventory and recommendations to YALSA's Board for consideration at Annual 2018.

### **Advocacy Board Seat**

The [YALSA Board voted](#) to create a new seat on the board, specifically for a non-member who works for an organization that advocates for and supports teens. This will help YALSA better develop its advocacy efforts for teens and bring fresh perspectives to the board.

### **#Fundlibraries**

YALSA worked with the ALA Washington Office to distribute calls to action to members and



supporters in an effort to restore federal funds for libraries that were eliminated in the White House's draft FY19 budget. The YALSAblog published several posts about the Institute of Museum of Library Services (IMLS) to raise awareness among members about how all libraries benefit from IMLS funds. YALSA is collecting and sharing out stories from members illustrating how IMLS funds have helped the teens in their community.

## **FUND AND PARTNER DEVELOPMENT**

YALSA maintains a list of partners, sponsors and funders at [www.ala.org/yalsa/givetoyalsa/sponsors/recognition](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/givetoyalsa/sponsors/recognition)

### **Fundraising to Support Member Services & Resources**

#### ***Friends of YALSA***

Each year [Friends of YALSA](#) is tasked with raising just over \$14,000 to support member grants and awards. The Financial Advancement Committee organizes this fundraising effort. YALSA achieved its goal in FY17.

#### **1. Grants**

- YALSA's application for funds from the Best Buy Foundation to implement a teen tech intern program at libraries was unsuccessful.
- YALSA's application to IMLS implement a Train the Trainer program to move teen services forward was successful, and the association will receive nearly \$500,000 over three years to support this project.
- YALSA received funding through the ALA Strategic Initiatives effort to create a cultural competence curriculum that will be piloted at Annual 2018 and then adapted for online learning. This project is in partnership with ALA's Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services. YALSA also received funds through the same initiative to expand the Teen Book Finder Database and App to include recommended YA materials from ALA Ethnic Affiliates and Round Tables.

#### **2. Leadership Endowment**

In 2017 - 2018 YALSA's goal was to raise \$20,000 for [YALSA's Leadership Endowment](#) to begin supporting additional leadership efforts:

- [Scholarships for leadership e-course series](#) that launched in 2018
- Two [Spectrum Scholars](#)
- A [PhD fellowship](#) for teen services

Through the ALA Matching Campaign, YALSA was able to meet its goal.

#### **3. Sponsorships**

In spring 2018 YALSA surveyed library vendors to gather feedback on ways that YALSA might include and engage vendors in YALSA events and initiatives that are impactful for vendors, YALSA, and our members.

Google sponsored ALA's [Ready to Code Phase III](#) project which YALSA is administering.



## **Partnerships to Expand Impact**

### Continuing Education Partnerships

In 2018 YALSA launched a cohort model for the delivery and training of face-to-face and online trainings. 5 library staff from the U.S. and Canada were selected to participate in the cohort. Cohort members built their skills online and began facilitating trainings for the association in early 2019.

Over the past year YALSA provided training to the following state library agencies, library systems, and state library associations:

- Arizona Library Association Young Adult Services Interest Group, YALSA's Competencies and You presentation at the organization's Teen Summit, winter 2019
- California State Library, Teen Services with Impact face-to-face full-day training, 4 sessions across the state spring 2019
- Delaware Division of Libraries, Teen Services with Impact face-to-face full-day training, 1 sessions in the state, winter 2019
- Indiana State Library, Teen Services with Impact face-to-face full-day training, 2 sessions in the state, spring 2019
- New Mexico State Library, Teen Services with Impact face-to-face full-day training, 1 session in the state, winter 2019
- Pennsylvania State Library, Teen Services with Impact face-to-face full-day training, 3sessions in the state, summer 2018
- State Library of North Carolina, Teen Growth and Development 4-week e-course fall 2018 and Building Reflective Collections 4-week e-course, spring 2019
- Tampa Hillsborough Library System, Teen Growth and Development, blended learning with three online webinars, one full-day face-to-face session, and web-based discussions, fall 2018-spring 2019
- Texas State Library and Archives, Engaging Teens Through Libraries, completion of full- day face-to-face trainings (12 in total beginning in 2018) and the launch of a series of online modules that provide opportunities for library staff and administrators across the state to access the same content provided in the face-to-face sessions.
- Tennessee State Library and Archives, two presentations at the state's Teen Summit, fall 2019

In January 2019 YALSA launched a subscription model for all webinars. This new approach to webinars enables state library agencies and library systems to purchase 12-month subscriptions at a reduced rate. Currently 2 states (PA, ID and 3 library systems, Johnson County (KS) Library System, Sno-Isle (WA) Library System, and Indianapolis (IN) Public Library) are webinar subscribers.

### Partnerships to Expand Impact

- YALSA is working with the IMLS funded [Capturing Connected Learning in Libraries](#) (CCLL) team in the development and testing of tools library staff can use to evaluate their connected learning activities with and for teens. CCLL is working with YALSA's IMLS funded Future Ready with the Library cohorts to learn more about needs and test materials.
- YALSA was invited to attend the [National Council of Women and Technology \(NCWIT\)](#)

[Summit](#) in Nashville, TN in the spring of 2019. This event brought together informal and formal learning educators, youth development experts, industry leaders, and policy makers to learn about and build opportunities for reaching collective impact in communities.

- Through a partnership with the University of Maryland iSchool, YALSA was able to sponsor the e-course ConnectedLib: Creating Learning Connections with Youth at a reduced rate for all registrants. The e-course grew out of the IMLS-funded ConnectedLib project of which YALSA was a partner. Interest in the course was extremely high with large numbers of registrants from AL and IA. The course will be repeated in the summer of 2019 with library staff from MD and IA requesting approximately 20 seats prior to the class registration opening.