



2023-2024 ALA CD#28.7
2024 ALA Annual Conference

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ALA Annual Conference - YALSA Annual Report

Colleen Seisser, President, 2021-2024

YALSA Mission, Vision, and Strategic Plan

Mission: Through networking, advocacy, and professional development, the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) empowers all those involved in the profession to provide equitable, diverse and inclusive teen services.

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 strategic plan priority areas outlined below. YALSA also continues to focus on reorganizing the organization. In October 2024, a full-time permanent, Executive Director was hired and shortly after resigned. Immediately following the resignation in December 2023 through present, a current ALA staff member stepped into the position serving both as current Executive Director for the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and Interim Executive Director, YALSA. This past year, YALSA activities have operated under reduced staffing capacity as additional staff positions opened and have not been replaced.

During transition periods, specific tasks have been identified and shifted to related ALA units to continue supporting YALSA's journals and publications, and continuing education.



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Division Strategic Planning Process

YALSA's most recent strategic plan ended in June 2023. Due to staffing and leadership vacancies, a full update to the strategic plan was on hold until early spring 2024 when the YALSA board engaged in robust discussion on the progress that has been made on past strategic plan activities and next steps for an updated strategic plan. The board used the current strategic plan as a guide to evaluate topic areas that may be included in the next iteration of the strategic plan.

An updated strategic plan continues to be under consideration. The YALSA board has identified the activities that have been taken during this past term related to the existing strategic plan:

Goal 1: Strengthen engagement efforts with all those involved with teen library services by cultivating member connections and increasing membership.

- Streamlined the volunteer program by clarifying roles, responsibilities and time commitments
- Streamlined processes within the Board; Uncovered gaps in knowledge and communication, particularly when it comes to the loss of institutional knowledge from previous YALSA Boards and administration.
- The Board has also been working on recruiting volunteers and communicating the benefits of volunteering.
- The Board Advocacy Strategic Committee is looking at ways to support member volunteers particularly in award/selection committees by meeting with chair(s) of the Oversight Committee to better understand their roles.
- Membership recruitment and retention has been a recurring topic of discussion this year. Thanks to the work of the Division and Membership Promotion committee, the Board is going to identify and move forward with some recommendations to better engage members.

Goal 2: Achieve financial stability and support growth by attracting and building alternative revenue sources.

- YALSA has engaged in reevaluating the Symposium and moving toward a new format that is more flexible and cost-effective in support of achieving financial stability.



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Additionally,

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- x Angelica Moreno Lopez, University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign
- x Heidi Samantha Orozco, Simmons University

Both scholars have demonstrated a passion for working in school libraries with young adults.

Advocacy

The YALSA Advocacy Toolkit has served as a resource providing practical tips, messages, facts, and strategies to help library advocates speak up on behalf of teens.

In March 2024, the YALSA board directed the President-Elect to appoint YALSA Board Action Advocacy Toolkit Task Force to commence work July 1, 2024 and report back to the YALSA Board with a plan for the updates needed, a timeline for implementation, and an initial plan for distribution and marketing support by October 2024.