



Form C Board of Directors Action Form

To: ALSC Board of Directors

Subject: Request to Commission a white paper on Library Outreach for Children

Submitted by: Katie Campana, J. Elizabeth Mills, & Dr. Michelle H. Martin

Date submitted:

BACKGROUND:

Project LOCAL is an IMLS National Leadership Planning Grant that is examining how libraries are going outside of their walls and into the community to reach and serve children and families in underserved communities who are not currently using the library (see the Project LOCAL Infosheet for more info). To understand this, we conducted focus groups, interviews, and a nationwide survey, making every effort to incorporate a variety of different types of libraries, including small, medium, and large; rural, suburban, and urban. As we conclude the research, we are eager to share our findings broadly with the field as they have the potential to help libraries understand how to increase their outreach services to families, especially for those in underserved communities. Because of this we are requesting that ALSC commission our research team (Katie Campana, Liz Mills, and Dr. Michelle H. Martin) to write a white paper on developing and delivering library outreach for children and families, particularly for those in underserved communities, based on the findings from Project LOCAL.

This white paper would build on some existing connections between ALSC and Project LOCAL. During the initial grant proposal process, ALSC provided a letter of support for Project LOCAL. In addition, ALSC's Library Service to Underserved Children and Their Caregivers Committee has expressed interest in the research and in finding ways to support our work. If the white paper is approved it is anticipated that we will look to involve the Library Service to Underserved Children and Their Caregivers Committee in the process.

Budget:

Total budget request – \$5750

- \$1250 per author for a total of \$3750
- White paper design - \$500
- Distribution at conferences - \$1500

Timeline:

A tentative timeline is laid out below based on a commission date of June 2018.

- July-December 2018: Draft written
- January 2019: Request feedback from ALSC board and membership
- February-March 2019: Revise the white paper based on feedback
- April-May 2019: submit final draft to ALSC Board

Email your completed Action Form to the current ALSC President (<http://www.ala.org/alsc/aboutalsc/governance/boardroster>) and ALSC Executive Director Aimee Strittmatter (astrittmatter@ala.org)

ACTION RECOMMENDED: That the ALSC Board of Directors commission a white paper on library outreach for children, written by Kathleen Campana, J. Elizabeth Mills, and Dr. Michelle H. Martin, based on the findings of Project LOCAL—an IMLS-funded planning grant.

HAVE OTHER STAKEHOLDERS BEEN CONSULTED: This request has been discussed with Aimee Strittmatter, and she recommended that this request be brought to the board. Sandra Toro, Project LOCAL's program officer at IMLS, has also been consulted. She has indicated that she fully supports the development of a white paper based on Project LOCAL's findings.

DESCRIBE POTENTIAL FISCAL AND STAFFING IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY: Outside of the budget items listed above there are not any other anticipated fiscal or staffing impacts.

DESCRIBE IN DETAIL HOW STRATEGIC GOAL AREA(S) WILL BE SUPPORTED:

In 2017, ALSC adopted various areas of strategic interest, including the following:

- ALSC will champion the value of library service to children and the resources necessary to deliver on our vision.
- ALSC will actively develop new generations of leaders.

A research-based white paper that focuses on developing and delivering meaningful library outreach programs and services for children and families, particularly for those in underserved communities, will enable ALSC to directly impact these areas, by helping to call attention to the importance and value of reaching those who do not and/or cannot come into the library. In addition, it will highlight the effectiveness of outreach as a way to make a difference by providing practical information on developing outreach programs and plans, which will empower librarians to become leaders in the area of library outreach to children and their families. Finally, this white paper could also serve as an advocacy tool, helping librarians to articulate the impact of the work they do outside of the library.

Select the goal area and circle the objectives that will be affected most by this action.

Goal Area: Diversity and Inclusion

ALSC will become more diverse and inclusive, acting to promote these values in all aspects of library service to children.

Objective 1: Increase diversity in ALSC membership and reduce barriers to participation as measured against the Diversity in ALSC baseline survey by September 2019. *Transforming ALSC*

Objective 2: Expand opportunities for existing members from underrepresented experiences to serve in ALSC activities, as measured by longitudinal studies and/or focus groups, by September 2020. *Transforming ALSC.*

Objective 3: Increase the cultural competency of library staff serving youth by developing an accessible online cultural competency training series by September 2018. *Transforming Children's Librarianship*

Goal Area: Advocacy

ALSC will champion the value of library service to children and the resources necessary to deliver on our vision.

Objective 1: Establish an accessible content stream of valuation tools and research updates, including customizable content for members, by September 2018. *Transforming ALSC*

Objective 2: Articulate a prioritized research agenda, including but not limited to summer learning/out-of-school time, by September 2018, and pursue avenues for conducting and/or supporting the research by September 2020. *Transforming Children's Librarianship*

Objective 3: Amplify librarians' essential role as information literacy experts through advocacy outputs, including communications, webinars, and establishing collaborations, by September 2018. *Transforming Communities through Libraries*

Objective 4: Increase targeted messaging to the wider library profession and the public about the expertise of ALSC and our members to demonstrate the purpose and value of strong and meaningful children's librarianship by September 2019. *Transforming Communities through Libraries*

Goal Area: Professional and Leadership Development

ALSC will actively develop new generations of leaders.

Objective 1: Build a discernible pathway, along with opportunities for training and mentorship, to develop ALSC members as leaders in their libraries, the profession, and/or the association by September 2020. *Transforming ALSC*

Objective 2: Provide at least two educational opportunities in media mentorship and child development, ideally developed and/or presented with collaborative partners from other ALA units, by September 2018. *Transforming Children's Librarianship*

Objective 3: Organize and promote ALSC activities to position the core competencies as central to library service to children, by September 2018. *Transforming Children's Librarianship*

Objective 4: Develop a toolkit of research-based best practices for out-of-school time learning and disseminate the toolkit and practices to members by September 2019. *Transforming Communities through Libraries*

MOTION: Above recommendation moved No motion made Motion revised (see motion form)

ACTION TAKEN: Motion Approved Motion Defeated Other:

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