

Pura Belpré Expansion Task Force Report

Date: May15, 2018

To: ALSC Board of Directors; YALSA Board of Directors; REFORMA Board of Directors

From: Pura Belpré Award Expansion Joint Task Force

Subject: Preliminary Report and Recommended Next Steps

Task Force Charge:

Charge 1: Propose a detailed implementation plan to expand the Pura Belpré Award to include YA books, using the YALSA Board proposal as a guideline and including the ALSC Board request to consult with the ALSC Budget Committee regarding sharing costs between ALSC and YALSA. The implementation plan should include a timeline that allows for the first award inclusive of YA to be presented in 2020, and detail all considerations that need to be addressed to update terms and criteria, procedures, and an MOU for all three organizations. In order to expedite the expansion, other changes to terms and criteria, beyond inclusions of YA books, should be held for later.

Charge 2: Explore options for providing recommendations of materials of interest to Latino youth. Consider questions from the ALSC Board as detailed in the Task Force Resources; as well as the YALSA Board proposal and discussion, noting that an annual list would not conform with YALSA's latest vision for readers' advisory/collection development. The YALSA Board asks that materials recommendations should happen year-round via the Hub. The task force may consider the questions regarding Belpré criteria raised in the original proposal within the context of this exploration, and should note the ALSC & YALSA Board discussions on both matters.

Overview of Task Force Work Plan: During ALA's 2018 Midwinter conference in Denver, CO, four members of the task force (Martha Walke, Ruth Quiroa, Lucia Gonzalez and Oralia Garcia Cortes) met to begin hashing out the ideas presented in the proposal written by Ruth Quiroa and Lucia Acosta and presented to the YALSA board concerning the expansion of the Pura Belpré Award. We expanded this discussion, to also focus on the history of the award with the full Task Force during our first videoconference meeting March 27, 2018, during which we made our first decision concerning the addition of YA to the award. The Task Force agreed upon an outline that prioritized the group's work and, due to a short turn-around time, divided the tasks of rewording Part 1 of the Belpré Manual, of readjusting the budget to include YALSA, and of rewording the MOU between ALSC and REFORMA to include YALSA. We also asked Stephen Ashley to introduce the Hub to us for future reference and our continued work on Charge 2. Members communicated via email and phone. On April 13, 2018, the Task Force again met via videoconference and worked together on the edited MOU, with the budget and Part 1 of the Manual being the group's focus during its April 27 meeting. All Task Force recommendations are delineated below, and the aforementioned documents are attached with projected changes and additions noted through tracked changes. Throughout these meetings, Ruth Quiroa has acted as secretary and Martha Walke ran the meetings and compiled written reports.

Because the final recommendations of this Task Force are not due until January, 2019, we will continue to finalize wording changes and additions to both the Belpré Manual and to the MOU. We will begin work on the second charge after ALA Annual in New Orleans, LA, this June 2018.

Summary of Task Force Findings:

At our first videoconference meeting, the Task Force discussed, in depth, whether to recommend adding a third award to the Belpré or to increase the age range. With a voice vote, the committee voted unanimously to increase the age range from youth age 0 to 18, rather than add on a new award category specifically for YA (the rationale for this decision is provided below). With this decision made, the group began work on the Manual and the MOU as follows:

- Rewording of the Manual made strong progress given the committee began its work in late March due to member schedules and the later timing of the Midwinter meeting in 2018. This work will take longer than expected, but will be completed by January 2019. It involves updating all terms and criteria and is dependent on the final wording of the MOU. Currently, the Task Force is also examining recommendations relevant to the sections on award criteria that would better reflect current thinking (e.g. language about not giving an award; language regarding non-Latino co-author/illustrator).
- Rewording of the MOU will be completed before ALA Annual, 2018. This will need some input from the ALSC board as to how the divisions should be noted in the document. For example, those places where ALSC/ALA are used.
- Work on the second charge will begin following ALA Annual, 2018 and will require background work by members who are not familiar with YALSA's HUB. Discussion began on this charge at the April 27, 2018, videoconference meeting.

Task Force Recommendations:

Based on work completed by the Task Force members over the past two months, the group recommends the following:

Recommendation #1: That the age range for the Pura Belpré Award be increased to include youth between the ages of 14 and 18. This would be reworded in the Manual as "...youth ages 0 to 18...". This will reflect the acceptance of young adult literature for consideration by the committee. The discussion of whether to add a third award versus just adding to the age range was discussed fully and at length with all voices heard, listened, and responded to as necessary. A major point of consideration in this decision was the fact that so few books by and about Latinos are published in general each year (see attached information with publishing data for diverse books and for books by and about Latinos). Ultimately, it was a unanimous decision to keep the one award for author and the one award for illustrator and change the age range of the award to reflect inclusion of books for young adults. With YALSA's HUB adding more diverse lists (see Charge 2 above) that do not present award limitations, more Latino authors of YA books will be represented in that blog and its resources, all of which are accessible by both librarians and teens.

Recommendation #2: That ALSC administer the Pura Belpré Award. ALSC currently administers the Belpré endowment and has been partnering with REFORMA since the inception of the award and, therefore, has the historical knowledge necessary for a smooth continuation of the award processes. Such organization would also add consistency as this new working partnership between the three organizations

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is launched. The new MOU between ASLC, YALSA, and REFORMA will be written to reflect this and the role YALSA will play.

Recommendation #3: That the amount contributed to the Pura Belpré Award by both ALSC and YALSA reflect the work that ALSC will be performing in administering the award without putting an undue financial burden on YALSA. Seal sales revenue and the income from the Endowment will also be considered. The approximate amounts to be contributed by ALSC and YALSA will need to be determined and written into the new MOU. The increase in monetary contributions from the two divisions will relieve some of the burden of fundraising currently held by REFORMA.

Recommendation #4: That the Task Force continue to use the current ALSC/REFORMA MOU as the basis for creating a new MOU for ALSC, YALSA and REFORMA.

Recommendation #5: That the Pura Belpré Award Committee be structured as follows: three (3) members to be appointed by ALSC; three (3) to be appointed by YALSA; and three (3) to be appointed by REFORMA. The chair would be appointed on a rotating basis beginning with REFORMA appointing for the 2020 award, ALSC for the 2021 award and YALSA for the 2022 award. This would increase the size of the award committee to 9 plus a chair. Because in the past many Belpré committee members have also been members of YALSA, the Task Force does not feel that a change in the terms (2 years) of committee members is necessary.

Action to Be Taken: The Task Force requests the ALSC, YALSA and REFORMA Boards adopt the recommendations listed above.

Thank you for your consideration. Please note that Eva Mitnick is available to represent the Pura Belpré Expansion Task Force at the ALSC Board meeting on Saturday, and Oralia Garcia Cortes is available to attend the ALSC Board meeting on Tuesday. If agreeable with the ALSC Board, Martha Walke can be available via videoconference or telephone either day, which would be set up beforehand by Ruth Quiroa using her access to Zoom with no cost to ALSC or ALA, and the only requirement being internet capacity for a computer at the Board Meeting.

List of the Task Force Members:

Ruth Quiroa (REFORMA), Co-Chair
Martha Walke (ALSC), Co-Chair
Lucia González (REFORMA)
Eva Mitnick (ALSC)
Stephen Ashley (YALSA)
Renee McGrath (YALSA)
Lucia Acosta (ALSC), consultant
Oralia Garza Cortes (REFORMA), consultant