

January 7, 2019

To: ALSC Board of Directors

From: Aimee Strittmatter, Executive Director

Re: Management Report, October 2018 – January 2019

Hello Board! This report offers a summary of activities happening in the office since the Executive Committee's meeting in October. I will be glad to answer any questions about the items below. You will see from this report and the various staff reports, as part of the Board's consent agenda, that my team continues to work collaboratively, productively, and with excellent insight. ALSC is tremendously fortunate to have such a skilled group of dedicated staff working on their behalf. Unfortunately, we have had two recent staff transitions which means the pace at which we can achieve our projects, initiatives, and activities has slowed. We are working quickly to fill the just vacated Awards Coordinator position as well as onboarding our new Program Coordinator for governance activities.

OFFICE

- My work since October has been focused on closing the fiscal year 2018 budget, monitoring the 2019 budget, and preparing for the 2020 budget; communicating closely with Jamie Naidoo and Cecilia McGowan on ALSC activities and actions; preparing the Nominating committee's document package; setting up the committee appointments database and tracking matrix; monitoring seals inventory and production; on-boarding a new staff member; attending ALA meetings such as Unit Managers; participating on the Booklist Editor/Publisher search committee; and working with staff on their projects.
- ALSC Program Coordinator Marsha Burgess left ALSC on November 2, 2018 to take a promotion with the ALA Governance office to serve as the Council Secretariat.
- ALSC welcomed ALSC Program Coordinator Anne Michaud on December 3, 2018. Anne was promoted to full-time after serving two years as a temporary part-time program coordinator to support several awards project. In her new role, her major area of responsibilities will include appointments, ballot development, governance and committee support, budget monitoring, and customer service.
- Conducted the banquet site visits in Washington, DC with Courtney Jones on November 14, 2018. The location will be announced in the next few weeks once the contract has been signed.
- I attended the American Society of Association Executive's Chief Elected Officer Symposium in Washington, DC from November 15-16, 2018 with Vice-President Cecilia McGowan. This symposium allowed us the time need to get to know one another, think about association priorities, and explore challenges facing all associations.
- Held conference call with ALSC President-Elect Cecilia McGowan to review the appointments database and highlight parts of the support documentation.
- Several ALSC Staff took a field trip to the ALA Archive at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Alena, Anne, Courtney, Elly and I spent two days reviewing ALSC files to gain a better understanding of our holdings and how to organize current materials to send down. We

worked with ALA's archivist Cara Setsu Bertram to finalize a non-disclosure agreement and access policy for award and scholarship materials.

- ALSC Awards Courtney Jones left ALSC on January 4th to take on a new opportunity at the National Association of Realtors®. A request has been submitted to HR to post the position as soon as possible.

ALA – most entries adapted/copied from various ALA reports

- On January 2, 2019, ALA Executive Director Mary Ghikas provided an update on ALA's real estate asset. In December, the ALA's Executive Board agreed to sign a letter of intent with an external party interested in buying ALA's real estate assets. ALA has entered into a period of review that will continue over the next three to four months as the parties proceed with due diligence and negotiations. The outcome of the proposed sale transaction will be shared at the end of that period. Nothing is certain. Concurrently, ALA senior management has engaged the services of an architect and a change management specialist to begin a parallel process of reviewing options for a new workspace and understanding how this opportunity can be used to improve ALA's culture of innovation and collaboration. This will be a long, complex process and there will be opportunities for staff to participate in the creation of a vision for a new workspace. ALA has indicated a commitment to keeping headquarters in the downtown Chicago area. Staff will be sent updates when there is news to be shared. At minimum, this process is expected to take a year, but likely longer.
- In September, ALA contracted with DelCor Technology Solutions, Inc., a consultant group specializing in association technology, for an assessment of ALA information technology. The DelCor group will be making recommendations to ALA based on several things including:
 1. Review of a broad range of materials, including such things as business and planning documents, technology planning documents, the ITTS investment plan and roadmap, membership data, hardware and software inventory, and more.
 2. A review of existing network infrastructure.
 3. Input from ALA staff who interface with ALA technology and ITTS staff, as well as ITTS staff and contractors.
 4. Knowledge of the broader association technology world and what is possible.

ALA staff participated in discovery meetings over October 3-5, 2018 with a follow-up all-staff survey the week of October 19th. Discussions covered topics around membership, member engagement (ALA Connect), dashboard/metrics, advocacy, marketing/communications, development/fundraising, finance/accounting/payroll, conferences, publishing/e-store, eLearning/virtual meetings and events, and the website.

- In October, the ALA Washington Office announced the reorganization of their Office of Government Relations and the Office for Information Technology policy into a public policy and advocacy team, which is now the Public Policy and Advocacy (PPA) unit. The ALA Committee on Legislation and the OITP Advisory committee will continue to provide the PPA with direction and guidance to advance ALA's public policy priorities.
- **ALA Staffing Changes**
 - ALA Membership Director Ron Jankowski left ALA in October. Crystal Carrazco rejoined ALA as the new Membership Communications Specialist responsible for membership communications, website development, social media, and exhibit/event coordination.
 - James LaRue, director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) left ALA on November 2, 2018 to return to his Colorado-based career of writing, speaking and consulting. Deborah

- Caldwell-Stone was named interim director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom and the Freedom to Read Foundation on November 14.
- In October, Jeannette Smithee switched roles for the Association of Specialized, Government, and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA) by resigning as Past President of the Board to accept a contract position as part-time Interim Executive Director.
 - Earla J. Jones has been named the new director of ALA Conference Service Operations. She will start on January 14, 2019. Ms. Jones is currently the Senior Director, Annual Meeting – Education, Development, and Membership, at the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO), in Washington, DC. She will oversee the operation of ALA Conference Services, serve as liaison to the ALA Conference Committee, and collaborate with conference and meeting planners across the Association.
 - In October, I met with new ALA Development office staff, Remigio Torres and Autumn Ni, to coordinate donor thank you messaging processes which is part of an ALA-wide coordination effort.
 - Attended an ALA meeting around standardizing language in ALA unit conference code of conducts and aligning processes and procedures around the codes.
 - OIF has been sharing the revisions to the *Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights* to ALA Council and Julie Dietzel-Glair has also shared with the ALSC Board.
 - ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo began her National Library Tour to advocate for Libraries in October. Her first stop was the Pikes Peak District Library in Colorado.
 - Loida also collaborated with the ALA-APA to renew the Wellness website which originated under ALA Past-President Loriene Roy. <http://ala-apa.org/wellness/>, the new update includes eight wellness categories: emotional, environmental, financial, intellectual, occupational, physical, spiritual, and social.
 - CMO partnered with the Public Library Association to create a new [Libraries Transform Family Engagement Toolkit](#). The free toolkit promotes the important role libraries can play in supporting families with their children's learning and development. The toolkit includes customizable graphics and promotional ideas for libraries to use in spreading the word about their own family engagement programs and services.
 - The ALA Public Programs Office and the FINRA Foundation are developing a new financial literacy experience for children ages 7 to 11, as well as their parents, caregivers and educators. The interactive exhibit will help children understand what money is, its function in society, money choices and money values, such as fairness, responsibility and charitableness. The exhibit will travel to 50 U.S. public libraries between 2019 and 2021. Libraries selected for the tour will receive the exhibition on loan, a \$1,000 programming allowance, expenses paid for an orientation workshop at the 2019 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., staff training, and additional resources and support. Public libraries are invited to apply between December 17, 2018, and February 8, 2019. To learn more, visit <https://apply.ala.org/thinkingmoneykids>.
 - Information about the status of the possible reorganization of ALCTS, LITA, and LLAMA into one division can be found here: <https://connect.ala.org/communities/allcommunities/all/all-current-information>. The Boards of all three divisions will determine by the 2019 ALA Midwinter Meeting if they want to continue with this plan to create a new division. If the answer is yes, they

will proceed with putting this item on the Spring 2019 ALA ballot for a vote by ALCTS, LITA, and LLAMA members.

PARTNERSHIPS/SPONSORSHIPS/OPPORTUNITIES

- Past-President Ellen Fader has supported a 2019-2020 ALSC Spectrum Scholar. This is her sixth year of support.
- Participated in a conference call consultation with Scholastic to discuss possible ways to work with ALSC on future projects.
- As part of a prior Board action, ALSC is sharing information about WGBH Boston's new "[PEEP Family Science App](#)", which was developed through grant funding in partnership with the home visiting programs HIPPI and AVANCE. Through the app, parents and caregivers are encouraged to share science-based learning experiences with young children. The app builds upon the successful PBS preschool STEM series PEEP and the Big Wide World.
- ALSC is now accepting applications for the [Bookapalooza program](#). Each year the ALSC office receives almost 3,000 newly published books, videos, audiobooks and recordings from children's trade publishers for award and notable consideration. At the end of the year, after the awards have been given out, ALSC selects three libraries to receive a Bookapalooza collection of these materials (estimated to be worth \$10,000 each) to be used in a way that creatively enhances their library service to children and families. Applications are due February 1, 2019.
- As part of ALSC support of the Erickson TEC IMLS grant, "*Building an Alliance for Media Literacy in Early Childhood Informal Learning* project," Jamie Naidoo and ALSC staff will participate in a leadership forum next week which extends the work of Erikson and NAMLE's previous forum in June 2017.
- The Libraries Ready to Code (RtC) project is entering a new phase as the official Google grant wraps up, and the work shifts from developing resources and supporting the 28 libraries that participated throughout the past year to sustaining the progress made. A RtC task force was initiated after ALA Annual 2018 to align RtC themes and priorities with those of the three youth divisions. The task force is developing a set of recommendations and activities for each division as well as providing input on a set of RtC products that will be focused on library advocacy and informing policy for our youth and technology portfolio. The task force consists of two representatives from each division. Google awarded ALA with additional funding to help launch the final RtC website and to encourage other libraries to explore the RtC theme by providing the financing for 250 public and school libraries to receive \$500 microfunding awards that will be used to help implement Google's Computer Science (CS) First curriculum and other coding activities throughout CS Education Week (December 3-9).

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The ALSC Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, has selected five fellows for the [ALSC Equity Fellowship](#) and is pleased to include a sixth fellowship award, which was generously donated by ALSC Board Member, Amy Koester in support of ALSC Equity, Diversity and Inclusion efforts. ALSC welcomes Equity Fellows, Eiyana Favers, Ayn Reyes Frazee, Evelyn Keolian, Shahrazad "Star" Khan, Sierra McKenzie and Jocelyn Moore. The fellows will be introduced to the Board during the Saturday Board meeting.

- The 2018-19 ALSC Mentoring Program currently has 42 matches. Throughout the next year, the matches will be working on a minimum of two goals and will be receiving monthly communication from the ALSC office and the Mentoring Working Group.
- ALSC has awarded \$5,000 grants to fourteen libraries to support out-of-school time STEAM programming through the [Strengthening Communities Through Libraries](#) program.
- Georgina Rivas-Martinez of the South Huntington Public Library, in South Huntington, NY has been selected as the 2019 ALSC Emerging Leader. Georgina Rivas-Martinez is a Youth Services Librarian at the South Huntington Public Library where she designs and facilitates youth programs along with being responsible for Spanish language collection development. In May 2017, she graduated with her Master of Library Science (MLS) from Long Island University Post. During her time at LIU Post Rivas-Martinez also interned at the Port Washington Public Library, assisting with their ESOL program and collection development. Additionally, in 2016, she was awarded the REFORMA Northeast Lillian Marrero Scholarship for her commitment to serving the Latinx community.
- The American Library Association (ALA) will reveal the 2019 children's and young adult literature award recipients during its Youth Media Awards announcements at 8 a.m. PT, on Jan. 28, 2019, from Seattle, Washington. The live webcast will be available at <http://ala.unikron.com> and through ALA/ALSC's social media channels. This year's YMA Press Conference promotion and joint ALSC/YALSA youth reception is made possible by the generous support from Baker & Taylor, a Follett Company.
- The ALA-Children's Book Council (CBC) Joint Committee, with cooperation from ALSC's Quicklists Consulting Committee, have updated the four [Building a Home Library bibliographies](#) below to provide guidance to parents, grandparents, and others interested in assembling a high-quality library for their children at home. When creating these lists the committee looked to include tried and true classics; under the radar gems; multicultural books; and new, yet notable, reads for all ages.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- The [2019 Arbuthnot Lecture](#), hosted by the University of Wisconsin- Madison, will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery. The lecture will be delivered by blogger and educator Debbie Reese, Ph.D., founder of American Indians in Children's Literature (AICL) blog. Ticket information will be available later this spring. Tickets are free, but registration is required. If you plan to attend, please let me or Alena know as soon as possible.

2019 Midwinter Meeting Highlights

Leadership and ALSC

Saturday, January 26, 8:30 a.m. (PT)

Hyatt Regency Seattle, Columbia C (Lower Ballroom East A)

All interested conference attendees are welcome to attend this meeting that focuses on important issues and support of leadership within ALSC. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet ALSC priority group consultants, committee chairs, and the board of directors.

As part of this meeting, Debbie LeeKeenan, educator and diversity advocate, will present: "Anti-bias Education and Children's Literature: Provoking Courageous Conversations." Her talk will explore how librarians can foster anti-bias environments and spark discussions with children about equity, diversity, inclusion, race relations, and more.

News You Can Use Session

And the Survey Says...: Preliminary Results from the 2018 Young Children, New Media, and Libraries Survey of Technology Use in Today's Libraries

Sunday, January 27, 8:30 a.m. (PT)

Washington State Convention Center, Room 618-620

ALSC's first national survey of libraries and new media, administered in 2014, demonstrated a strong commitment among libraries to providing a range of technology for families with young children. An updated and expanded 2018 survey offers exciting results that provide compelling, widespread insights into this still largely uncharted and disparate landscape. Join us to learn about our preliminary findings and to discuss how your library is using new media in your programming. Speakers include: Claudia Haines, Youth Services Librarian, Homer (Alaska) Public Library; J. Elizabeth Mills, PhD Candidate, University of Washington; Kathleen Campana, Assistant Professor, Kent State (Ohio) University; and Marianne Martens, Assistant Professor, Kent State University.

ALSC & YALSA Joint Youth Reception

Monday, January 28, 5:00 p.m. (PT)

Sheraton Seattle, Ravenna

Sponsored by Baker & Taylor

Members of ALSC & YALSA are invited to a Joint Youth Reception sponsored by Baker & Taylor. Come unwind, mingle with friends and colleagues, and enjoy a wide spread of hors d'oeuvres as well as a cash bar.

2019 Annual Conference Activities

ALSC Preconference: Celebrate the 2019 ALSC Honor Books

On Friday, June 21, 2019, ALSC will host its biennial preconference program celebrating the year's honor book winners. Join us in conversation with authors, illustrators, and publishers as we celebrate and explore the 2019 Batchelder, Caldecott, Geisel, Newbery, Pura Belpré, and Sibert Honor Books. [FYI only; Board members should not register as it conflicts with Board Orientation].

Charlemae Rollins President's Program: Subversive Activism: Creating Social Change Through Libraries, Children's Literature, and Art

On Monday, June 24, 2019, the ALSC Charlemae Rollins President's Program will focus on, "Subversive Activism: Creating Social Change Through Libraries, Children's Literature, and Art." This high energy presentation examines activism and social change through multiple lenses: first from two scholarly leaders, Dr. Nicole Cooke from Library & Information Science, and Dr. Janina Fariñas from Pediatric Neuropsychology, then from acclaimed children's book author/illustrator Yuyi Morales, and finally, from Dr. Karin Perry's sketchnoting that will document this dynamic event.

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