

Date: December 15, 2018

To: ALSC Board of Directors

From: Pura Belpré Expansion Task Force

Subject: Final Report and Recommended Next Steps

Task Force 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 by 2010, 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 expansion, other changes to terms and criteria beyond inclusion of YA books should be held for later.

2. Explore options for providing recommendations of materials of interest to Latino youth. Consider questions from the ALSC Board as detailed in 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 as raised in the original proposal within the context of this exploration, and should note ALSC & YALSA Board discussions on both matters.

Overview of Task Force Work Plan:

The Task Force, after accepting the rejection of their initial recommendation concerning the inclusion of YA books in the Pura Belpré award, moved on to working with a new recommendation. It was decided, by the Task Force, that given the breadth and depth of our two charges, that we would concentrate on the Belpré Manual so that it would be finalized in time for the 2020 committee. The questions asked by Jamie Naidoo, in his October 11, 2018, email, would be considered as they related to similar items in the Manual.

The Task Force membership shifted a bit starting in September 2018 as REFORMA committee member Lucia Gonzalez requested to step down in order to concentrate on her work for the Caldecott Committee. At the beginning of October, REFORMA president Madeline Peña appointed Maria Estrella as Lucia's replacement. All remaining Task Force members, including Lucia Acosta, co-author with Ruth Quiroa of the original proposal to add a YA component to the Belpré award, as an invited member and with Oralia Garza de Cortes, participating as our consultant, being apprised of discussions and decisions via meeting minutes and email correspondence.

The Task Force met, via Zoom, approximately every other week, Sept.-Dec., with some decisions made by consensus via email discussion. This Task Force worked extremely well as a

unit, with opinions expressed, listened to, and responded to with equanimity and professionalism. All decisions were agreed on with unanimous consensus.

This report, outlining recommendations for next steps, concludes the work of this Task Force on major points in charge #1. The committee tabled charge #2, deciding that there was not enough time to fully investigate the various items included in it in order to finalize recommendations prior to December 15, 2018.

Summary of Task Force Findings:

- That the desire to add a YA category to the Pura Belpré is important to all three of the participating organizations.
- That this Task Force worked to ensure that this new award will be awarded for the first time in 2020, the 20th anniversary of the Pura Belpré Award.
- That while this Task Force could, and did, adjust and update the Belpré Manual,
- That it is beyond the ken of this group, at this time, to rewrite the MOU between the three organizations.
- That the financial arrangements between ALSC and YALSA should be decided and agreed upon by their respective staffs.

Task Force Recommendations:

Based on the response to our initial recommendations, we now recommend the following:

Recommendation #1:

That the Pura Belpré Award be expanded to include a third, separate, category for Young Adults. This category would include books for youth age 12 - 18, which is how “young adult” is defined by YALSA. ALSC defines books for children as those for ages 0 - 14. Since neither division specifies grade level in their definitions, nor will the Belpré award. Each committee will have the authority to place books in the category they deem most appropriate. Thus, there will be two (2) awards for text, defined by age: youth 0 - 14 and YA 12 - 18. Additionally, there will be one award for illustrator, 0 - 18. While the current annual number of Latino/Latina illustrated novels or graphic novels published for YA is slim, the expansion of this category does not appear to be necessary at the present time; however, this is an important consideration in the future should there be increased numbers of illustrated young adult publications.

Recommendation #2:

That the composition of the award committee be expanded to seven (7) with equal representation from all three organizations. More specifically, that ALSC, YALSA and REFORMA each appoint two (2) members to the award committee with one (1) chair who will be appointed on a rotating basis between all three organizations beginning with an ALSC appointed chair in 2020, a REFORMA appointed chair in 2021, and a YALSA appointed chair in 2022. It is further recommended that each organization continue to make appointments of members with the appropriate cultural and linguistic background necessary to serve on this committee, a point that has been clarified in the updated Manual.

Recommendation #3:

That each award committee have the authority to place a book in the age range they deem most appropriate. Each committee will be informed by publisher designation of age range (on the

book itself and/or promotional material) and, if there is doubt, it will be the responsibility of the committee to contact said publisher for input on age designation.

Recommendation #4:

That ALSC continue with the administration of the Pura Belpré Award and that REFORMA continue to plan the annual Celebración with a review of this process following a full three (3) year rotation of committee chairs (2023). The rationale being that since the inception of the Pura Belpré Award, ALSC has had continual communication with publishers concerning committees, regularly collected books that have been submitted and assured they were available during award discussions, as well as overseeing the final press releases. The Task Force recommends that ALSC continue in these activities to ensure the smooth inclusion of YA books in this award.

Recommendation #5:

That the ALSC Board, the YALSA Board and the REFORMA Board review and accept the updated Pura Belpré Manual, acknowledging that there will still be work to be completed so as to finalize the document before the final version will be published on the ALA website(s). There are language terms (see attached notes), such as the term Latino, that will need to be agreed upon by the REFORMA Board as well as a further examination of, and defining of, the term “cultural authenticity”.

Recommendation #6:

It is recommended that a new task force be appointed consisting of a combination of current members and new members, assuring that there is equality of numbers between the three organizations. That this new task force be charged with finalizing the Manual, if needed, and with taking up Charge #2. Because of the limitations of time in working virtually with members from all of the time zones, it is recommended that the deadline for a final report be fluid.

Action to Be Taken:

The Task Force requests that the ALSC Board, the YALSA Board and the REFORMA Board adopt the six (6) recommendations expressed above.

Thank you for your consideration. Member(s) will be present, for explanations and clarifications, at the appropriate ALSC Board meeting at Annual Conference and available, if needed or desired, at the YALSA Board meeting and the REFORMA Board meeting as well.

List of the Task Force Members:

Ruth Quiroa, Co-Chair
Martha Walke, Co-Chair
Stephen Ashley
Maria Estrella
Renee McGrath
Eva Mitnick
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