

Report of the Pura Belpre Task Force (PBTF) February 2, 1999

The PBTF wishes to apologize for the one-year delay in the release of this report. The Pura Belpre Task Force reports the following:

- **Review of Preliminary Actions Taken in 1998.**
 1. Suspended payment to Award winners (under current terms of approved award)—as per agreement between Sandra Balderrama (President of REFORMA at the time) and Steven Herb (Past President of ALSC and Chair of the Pura Belpre Task Force at the time) at the 1998 ALA Midwinter Meeting.
 2. REFORMA supplied \$1000 to ALSC in February 1998, as voted by REFORMA, to support the Pura Belpre Award program at Annual, 1998.
 3. ALSC contributed an additional \$500 administrative costs toward sponsorship of the award in 1998.
 4. Martin Gomez and Susan Roman pursued an excellent long-range funding opportunity for the award. Unfortunately, the opportunity collapsed due to a last minute change of financial circumstances for the funder.

- **Recommendations to the ALSC and REFORMA Boards for 1999.**
 1. Officially reconfirm ALSC's and REFORMA's commitment to the award and its importance to both groups, at their respective Board meetings at MidWinter or Annual.
 2. Beginning immediately, and continuing throughout the history of the award, all future costs associated with the award program & the award process will be divided 50/50 between ALSC and REFORMA. [For example, initial costs will include the designing and sculpting of the medal, the die cut, and the facsimile seal design—approximately \$6500. In addition, annual medal-related costs e.g., striking the medals, engraving the medals, purchasing the cases will also be born equally—approximately \$350. per year.]
 3. Ask the ALSC office to initiate the medal design process.

4. Appoint one ALSC member, one REFORMA member, who with Susan Roman, will re-ignite the fund-raising process to a level that will support the award indefinitely--\$50,000, minimum.
5. Recharge the Pura Belpre Task Force and reappoint members through Annual 2000, or appoint/charge some other body (with REFORMA representation) to:
 - review the committee appointment process
 - review the award criteria
 - review the inclusion of honor books
 - review the award announcement process
 - review the presentation of the awards—the how's and the where's
 - review the possibility of adding cash prizes for award winners

All these reviews are to be undertaken with a goal toward establishing long term award procedures and institutionalizing the processes, so that the Pura Belpre Award will become an integral part of ALA/ALSC's and REFORMA's outstanding annual successes. Following the review, some of the decisions/recommendations may need to be taken to the ALA awards committee for an approval of amended practices e.g., the addition of honor books and the awarding of a cash prize to the winners.

Thank you for considering these recommendations. The ALSC Board will receive them on February 2, 1999 and the REFORMA Board will receive them by the end of February by mail. The timelines of the decision to amend and/or accept these recommendations is at the pleasure of the respective Boards.

Submitted by the Pura Belpre Task Force

Steven Herb, ALSC, Chair
Oralia Garza de Cortes, REFORMA
Sylvia Mavrogenes, ALSC
Patty Wong, REFORMA
Susan Roman, ex officio