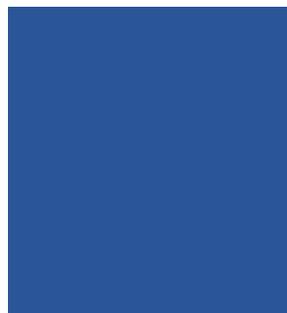
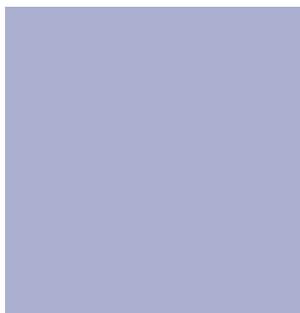
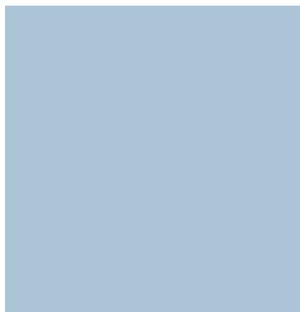
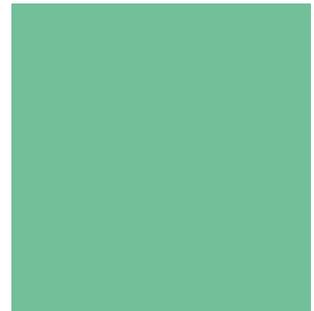
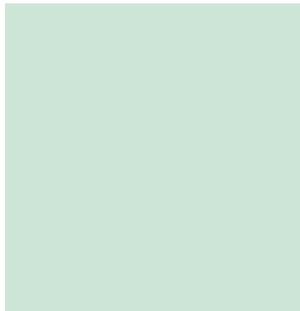




ASSOCIATION FOR LIBRARY
SERVICE TO CHILDREN

ANNUAL REPORT 2019–20



The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) is driven by more than 4,000 members dedicated to the support and enrichment of library service to children. Our members include youth librarians, literature experts, publishers, and educational faculty. ALSC supports its members in engaging communities to build healthy, successful futures for all children.

To learn more about ALSC, please visit our website at ala.org/alsc.



ASSOCIATION FOR LIBRARY
SERVICE TO CHILDREN



A MESSAGE from
**CECILIA
MCGOWAN**
2019–20 ALSC PRESIDENT

2019–20 has brought more changes than any of us had thought possible. Our successes include an updated committee structure, ensuring a more streamlined, functional, and well-aligned organization. The Board of Directors updated and approved a [2020–2023 Strategic Plan](#), which will guide the Board in its vital work over the next three years. The plan, a living document, will be assessed, curated, and updated as needed by the Board.

ALSC has remained committed to its focus on promoting [equity, diversity, and inclusion](#), part of its 2017–2020 Strategic Plan. Most recently, the Board voted to endorse the Black Caucus of the American Library Association’s (BCALA) statement condemning violence and racism towards Black people and all People of Color; additionally, the Board made a call to all its members to disrupt racism, anti-Blackness, and all forms of systemic oppression in their professional and personal communities.

Along with these successes, there have been huge challenges this past year as well. In early 2020, the COVID-19 virus developed into a global pandemic. In March, many states across the country issued stay-at-home mandates in line with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to practice social distancing to stem the spread of the virus. Libraries around the country closed their doors, causing immediate and major changes in work conditions and practices of library staff. While many were furloughed due to shortfalls in funding, many other workers were authorized to work from home, where they shifted to providing services, such as reference and reader’s advisory, and programming, such as storytimes, virtually. The sustained efforts, put forth during this challenging time by those who serve children and youth, are a testament to their flexibility, creativity, passion, and commitment to public service.

Through it all, ALSC has supported its members and those they serve with updated resources, forward-thinking programs, and a commitment to reach and serve all children, no matter where they are. While ALSC staff also faced challenges in pivoting from work in the office to working from home, they accomplished their work in an exemplary way, supporting our members in their important work.

None of this would have been possible without an engaged Board, painstakingly conscientious staff, and committed members. Without the synergy created by the work of these three groups, we could accomplish truly little of importance. Working together, we were able to create accessible, welcoming spaces and extend the walls of the library to serve children where they are. Every child deserves the absolute best service, and ALSC and its members strive to provide that every day.

Cecilia McGowan
ALSC President, 2019–20

COVID-19 AND ALSC

The COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide stay-at-home orders affected ALSC and ALA's work in numerous ways. Most notably, the 2020 ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition, scheduled for June 25–30 in Chicago, was cancelled. Conference events along with many other 2020 happenings were postponed, re-imagined, or cancelled, and priorities shifted with the changing needs of membership and communities. Specific effects of the pandemic on ALSC's work this year are addressed in the reporting below.

STRATEGIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

In February 2017, ALSC adopted a three-year strategic plan for 2017–2020. The three main areas of the strategic plan, the objectives that were designed to achieve strategic plan goals, and highlights of work achieved related to each goal area include:

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

ALSC will become more diverse and inclusive, acting to promote these values in all aspects of library service to children. The ALSC Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion within ALSC Implementation task force (EDI TF) remained actively engaged as mentors creating a welcoming environment for the pilot group of six ALSC Equity Fellows selected in November 2018. Since that time all six fellows were appointed to ALSC committees and in June 2019 the Board approved the EDI TF request to extend the fellowship for the pilot group to allow for a second year of conference attendance. Four of the six fellows opted to continue on for a second year and maintained their engagement in ALSC while producing a culminating project on a visual explanation of the ALSC committee appointments process and attending the ALA Virtual Event in June. The EDI TF representatives and invited members presented at the New Chair Orientation for awards committees at the 2020 Midwinter Meeting with discussion on incorporating EDI work into their committee work, a continuation of the effort that began with the 2019 Midwinter Meeting.

The EDI TF's ongoing goal is to see EDI embedded in the work of all ALSC committees and members working in their library communities. In the Fall of 2019, ALSC joined several ALA divisions to provide free Bystander Intervention training presented by Hollaback! to nearly 80 ALSC member leaders including Board members, Priority Group Consultants, and committee chairs. An additional train-the-trainer opportunity was coordinated for six ALSC members who will be collaborating to create a training opportunity to be provided to hundreds of members over the next two years beginning in the 2021 fiscal year.

ADVOCACY

ALSC will champion the value of library service to children and the resources necessary to deliver on our vision. The Research Agenda task force finalized the [ALSC National Research Agenda for Library Service to Children](#) (ages 0–14). The research agenda was published in January 2020 and includes six priority research areas, research questions, and a bibliography of research done in each priority area.

The Public Awareness committee finalized and promoted the [Championing Children's Services toolkit](#), which includes a variety of easy-to-use advocacy resources and a public service announcement video featuring Newbery Medalist Meg Medina. The toolkit has been promoted through ALSC social media and featured in the ALSC Giving Tuesday campaign. The Public Awareness and Advocacy & Legislation committees and two advocacy experts collaborated on a series of three webinars that introduced the Championing Children's Services toolkit and broadly discussed advocacy and how one might use the toolkit.



The Early and Family Literacy committee was established after the 2019 Annual Conference to identify, synthesize, and disseminate current research findings relevant to early and family literacy issues and other advocacy resources. The committee has been working to reach ALSC members and other individuals and agencies serving young children to determine information needs, open communication, initiate collaborations, and discuss future training options. The committee has contributed to the ALSC Blog with posts that have solidified understanding of the definition of family literacy as it relates to early literacy, inclusivity, and libraries.

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

ALSC will actively develop new generations of leaders. ALSC committees continue to utilize the ALSC Blog, the *Children and Libraries* journal, webinars, and courses to contribute to members' knowledge base in areas such as early literacy, fiscal responsibility within their libraries, and intellectual freedom and information literacy in children's programs and services. In the fall of 2019, the Education committee began a critical review of ALSC's core competencies as part of a five-year review cycle. The committee reviewed results of a survey sent to ALSC membership to request feedback that informed the updates and reported preliminary survey results analysis to the ALSC Board at the 2020 Midwinter Meeting. Committee members incorporated revisions and finalized the updated competencies, which will be reviewed by the Board this fall.

ALSC members, staff, and leadership have actively engaged in thoughtful consideration of how their work can impact specific goals set forth and inspired by the strategic plan. ALSC committees share their activities through quarterly reports that specifically gather information on progress toward each of the strategic plan areas. These reports and the work of staff and leadership continue to reveal steady progress in each strategic plan area.

August 31, 2020, ended the three-year 2017–2020 Strategic Plan. The Fall 2019 ALSC Executive Committee meeting initiated the 2020–2023 Strategic Plan work and was followed by the full ALSC Board's participation in developing a strategic plan by the start of the 2021 fiscal year, beginning September 1, 2020. Preparations included an extensive review of resources that informed and supported the current strategic plan. Some examples of these resources include an environmental scan, quarterly Strategic Plan Implementation Progress Reports, ALSC surveys including the 2016 Diversity Within Children's Librarianship and 2019 Needs Assessment survey results, background information on current ALSC projects, resources from ALA such as ALA's Strategic Directions and updates, and the State of America's Libraries report. The Board approved the final version of the [2020–2023 Strategic Plan](#) on May 28, 2020, and ensured its relativity to a post-pandemic environment.

MEMBERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT

Due to the ALA headquarters move and other challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, there were delays in the reporting of financials. These delays also impacted the receipt of membership data. The latest membership data received, through March 2020 as of this publication, shows ALSC at an overall membership count of 3,932, which is a 1.1% increase compared to February 2020. Although final data for FY20 was not available as of this publication, we do know ALA is expecting a reduction of 30% in membership dues for FY21. Many challenges surfaced since March, but we are hopeful that the association's work around media mentorship and advocacy, along with our equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts, will keep our membership steady.

ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

Throughout the year, ALSC leaders and members take advantage of opportunities to spread the word about the work of ALSC and its membership and to learn from and make connections with other organizations, libraries, and professionals who work on behalf of children.

ALSC hosts regular online discussion sessions called [Community Forums](#), during which participants chat live with the ALSC President, members of the Board of Directors, fellow ALSC members, and presenters. Members who cannot participate live may submit questions in advance via email or Twitter. Transcripts of the chats are shared afterwards. This year's forums included:

- February 2020 – ALSC Committee Alignment and Transition to More Virtual Work
- May 2020 – Impact of COVID-19 and the Library: Present and Future



In addition to Community Forums, ALSC recognized the need for youth serving library workers to stay connected and network during this time of uncertainty. In April 2020, ALSC launched [We Are ALSC Chats](#) (WAAC). Led by ALSC committees, these informal chats (held on Zoom or Twitter) are open to members and non-members and are designed to be online networking chats for resource sharing and discussion around timely topics in children's services. Since April, ALSC has hosted five WAAC's that featured topics such as the Impact of COVID-19 on the Library, New Adventures in School-Age Programming, Adventures in Virtual Storytime Services, and School/Public Libraries and Back-to-School.

The [ALSC Roadshow](#), which provides funding and/or materials, offers ALSC members the opportunity to represent the association at conferences and other relevant events around the country. In 2019–20, ALSC supported member representatives at the following events:

- National Summer Learning Association Conference in Atlanta, Georgia – October 2019
- American Association of School Librarians Conference in Louisville, Kentucky – November 2019
- Public Library Association Conference in Nashville, Tennessee – February 2020

ALSC EQUITY FELLOWSHIPS

In the fall of 2019, the Board approved support for a second year of conference attendance to the pilot group of Equity Fellows. Four of the six awardees opted to continue with the fellowship program. Their second year provided a more structured program that included:

- working with participating Fellows to create a visual representation of the ALSC committee appointment process;
- regular virtual meetings and discussion with other participating Fellows; and
- an in-person meeting at Midwinter 2020 and attendance at the ALA Virtual Event.

The Board also approved funding for a second cohort of Equity Fellowships. The program will, again, award five fellowships to American Indian/Alaska Native/First Nations, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latinx, Middle Eastern, and/or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander individuals who commit to service within ALSC and demonstrate a capacity for future leadership. Each fellowship recipient will receive funding for a two-year ALSC/ALA membership, one year of conference registrations, and, if applicable, travel stipends for ALA Midwinter and ALA Annual. Storytime Underground has generously supported the funding for two of the five fellowships. Fellowship recipients also will receive mentorship from members of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion within ALSC Implementation task force.

EMERGING LEADERS



ALSC named Jessica Agudelo as its representative in the 2020 Emerging Leaders program. Agudelo is the Supervising Librarian for the Bronx Library Center's children's department where she facilitates community partnerships and coordinates the development of early literacy, bilingual, and technology-based programming. Working for the New York Public Library (NYPL) since 2012, Agudelo, has vast experience in outreach services, partnerships, and children's and bilingual program development. Agudelo has served on the NYPL's Best Books for Kids committee and assisted with creating its Spanish counterpart, "Mejores libros para pequeños". In 2014, she was awarded a Spectrum Scholarship from ALA and is serving as chair of the 2021 Pura Belpré Award Selection committee.

MENTORING PROGRAM

Applications for the Fall 2019 Mentoring Program closed in September. The Mentoring Working Group facilitated 28 matches. Monthly communication was sent to the matches participating.



INITIATIVES

ALSC has been home to two major national initiatives, each with a unique focus. The Public Awareness, Advocacy and Legislation, and Quicklists Consulting committees, help develop and implement the initiatives, with oversight from the ALSC Board of Directors.

DÍA



As the National Home of [Día](#) (El día de los niños/El día de los libros - Children's Day/Book Day), ALSC has continued to work to encourage the widespread incorporation of this multicultural initiative into libraries' daily programming and collection development. This year, ALSC created and shared vibrant graphics for librarians to promote their Día programs. The tagline: Each Story Matters. Every Child Counts also was developed to coordinate messaging with completion of the 2020 Census. The Quicklists Consulting committee compiled a new set of reading lists. Unfortunately, the timing of the April 30

observance of Día fell shortly after many states began instituting stay-at-home orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ALSC responded by encouraging libraries to share details on how they reformatted their Día programming to offer virtual or socially-distanced events.

EVERYDAY ADVOCACY

The [Everyday Advocacy \(EA\) website](#) is a member-driven resource providing straightforward, effective ways librarians and others can advocate for children and libraries. Everyday Advocacy features resources and tips for engaging community supporters, legislators, and stakeholders and for effectively communicating the value of libraries and librarians, with emphasis on librarians serving youth. *Everyday Advocacy Matters*, a quarterly electronic newsletter, highlights advocacy stories, tips, and ideas. Publication of the newsletter has been suspended since early 2019.

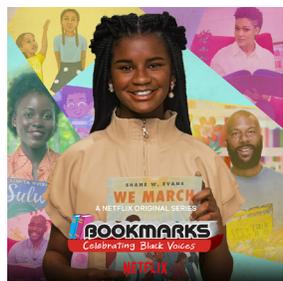


EA is also a conduit for sharing advocacy updates and actions from the Public Policy and Advocacy Office, as well as a gathering place for members to share the impact that specific programs and funding have had on their libraries.

With the EA member content editor role currently vacant, ALSC has developed other opportunities for ongoing resource development and communication about library advocacy. See Strategic Plan Highlights section above and the Projects, Partnerships, & Letters of Support section below for advocacy-related activities beyond EA.

PROJECTS, PARTNERSHIPS, & LETTERS OF SUPPORT

NETFLIX BOOKMARKS: CELEBRATING BLACK VOICES



ALSC partnered with Netflix on the Bookmarks: Celebrating Black Voices project because it encouraged families and caregivers to read books by Black authors and illustrators with children. The project also gave ALSC the opportunity to share supplemental resources like its [Supporting Diverse Communities Toolkit](#), [recommended booklists](#), and [#LooktoLibraries](#) resources. The collaboration aligned with ALSC's commitment to working toward social justice and racial equity.

Bookmarks is a 12-episode series featuring prominent Black celebrities and authors reading books from Black authors and illustrators. Each episode ends with a thoughtful prompt for the young listeners. The Black Caucus of ALA (an affiliate of the ALA) also partnered with Netflix

on the project by providing an age-leveled booklist and family activities. The Bookmarks: Celebrating Black Voices series is available on the Netflix platform. It is also available for free without subscription on the [Netflix Jr. YouTube channel](#). All videos and supplemental resources are accessible on the Bookmarks microsite at [Netflixbookmarks.com](#).

#LOOKTOLIBRARIES

ALSC launched [#LookToLibraries](#) in early August 2020. This resource offers free access to media mentoring tools and resources to support library professionals in all types of libraries. Materials include a variety of booklists with selections meant to assist children with understanding and healing from challenging situations. In addition, a compilation of web resources from expert sources, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, provide guidance on talking with children about sensitive topics, COVID-19, and managing stress, and keeping children healthy while school is out.



ALA PUBLIC POLICY AND ADVOCACY – WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

ALA partnered with the Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission. WSCC was created by an act of Congress and consists of Presidential and Congressional appointees, as well as representatives of federal agencies, including the Library of Congress. One of WSCC’s projects was the donation of 6,000 sets of books about women’s suffrage that are written for elementary, middle, and high school audiences. ALA co-branded the distribution of the books and related materials (reading list, program/display ideas) to public and school libraries across the country. ALSC was invited as an ALA stakeholder to appoint a representative to a short-term working group. A co-chair of the Quicklists Consulting committee served in this role.

DANIEL TIGER’S NEIGHBORHOOD – GRAND COMMUNICATIONS/FRED ROGERS PRODUCTIONS

ALSC collaborated with Grand Communications in November 2019 to co-develop a series of materials to support the theme of “family” for the Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood television show and to promote library opt-in to access materials and proprietary PBS graphic assets. ALSC’s Early Childhood Programs and Services committee contributed the replicable activities for librarians and the Quicklists Consulting committee also developed a booklist.

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY – PROJECT SHIELD: SUPPORTING HEALTHY INFANT EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Kent State University’s (KSU) School of Information, in partnership with KSU’s College of Nursing and Akron-Summit County Public Library (Ohio), applied for a one-year Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) planning grant in the Community Catalysts category to conduct a pilot study that will take place in Akron, Ohio, to explore the feasibility and impact of partnering public library staff with nurses to provide parents and caregivers with information and mentoring on how to effectively bond with their baby. In addition to providing findings on the impact of this initiative, it will also inform a plan for a larger project grant to create a replicable model of how libraries, by working with nursing staff, can be catalysts for supporting learning and health for the youngest members of their communities. ALSC provided a letter of support for this project in March 2020.

MI TALKS

The Ypsilanti (Michigan) District Library received a three-year National Leadership Grant from Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to expand the MI TALKS project geographically—from its current reach of Washtenaw County, Michigan, to the entire state of Michigan. The eventual product is envisioned as a nationally available subscription service created by and for librarians. The project is described by the coordinator as, “an early literacy texting service specifically designed to tie families into the library, with an emphasis on meeting non-user parents where they are. We believe that, because TALK is based on the ECRR five practices, it has tremendous potential to bolster early literacy and market libraries

at the same time.” ALSC provided a letter of support for this project in September 2019.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

ALSC, along with ALA’s other youth-serving divisions, was approached by ALA’s Association of Specialized Government and Cooperative Library Agencies to join that division in signing on to a letter of support. The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) is applying for a grant to establish a Deaf Youth Self-Advocacy Center to create a junior NAD curriculum and regional onsite training for deaf youth in middle school. ALSC provided a letter of support for this project in March 2020. Ultimately, the project did not receive funding.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA – FUTURE OF YOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARIAN EDUCATION

The University of North Carolina (UNC) received a one-year IMLS National Forum Grant that will fund a yearlong exploration into the future of public youth services librarianship, culminating in a two-day national symposium. The Forum will include 40 innovators, scholars, and practitioners from LIS and related fields and will be hosted at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. This project will be an intensive exploration of the developing trends in youth services in public libraries to determine how higher education LIS curricula should change to meet the needs of 21st and 22nd century youth library professionals. UNC also is engaging with YALSA on this project. ALSC provided a letter of support for this project in March 2020.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON – AUTISM-READY LIBRARIES

This project focuses on early literacy library services to children with autism and their families. The research team is working to create an Autism-Ready Libraries toolkit, which will contain evidence-based professional development training modules and early literacy program resources specifically for children with autism and their families. This project will provide important tools for librarians serving autistic children and promote early literacy among families. ALSC provided a letter of support for this project in March 2020.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON – PROJECT VOICE

The University of Washington’s iSchool and Kent State University School of Information received a three-year Laura Bush 21st Century Research in Service to Practice grant to create an outcomes-based, social justice planning and assessment tool. The tool will be developed as a result of the team’s research and will support library staff in their work in underserved communities with children birth to age eight and their families. The research team is focusing their efforts in Ohio, Washington, Colorado, and South Carolina to answer the following questions: How, if at all, are libraries offering outreach programs and services to reach and serve young children and their families in underserved communities? What are the experiences and perceptions of various stakeholders (families, community partners) who participate in and/or facilitate these outreach programs and services? How, if at all, are librarians planning and assessing their outreach programs and services to promote equity, engagement, and empowerment for families in underserved communities?

WELCOMING SPACES NATIONAL FORUM GRANT – IMLS \$150,000

ALSC received a National Leadership Grant from IMLS in the area of Community Catalysts. ALSC, in collaboration with the Association of Children’s Museums (ACM), planned to convene a one-day National Forum attended by representatives from 12 children’s museums, 12 libraries, and up to 24 of their partnering organizations to distill a set of best practices from their exemplary work serving immigrants and refugees. In response to the current situation with COVID-19, ALSC and ACM have postponed the forum and will request a one-year, no cost extension to the grant to host a virtual event in 2021.

In addition to the event, ALSC and ACM will compile the best practices resulting from the forum into a white paper and broadly disseminate the best practices document to elevate these practices and encourage their adoption by libraries and children’s museums. The project team is re-envisioning the format and audience of the convening to ensure an engaging

virtual experience for participants.

ALSC PARTNERS TO SUPPORT NATIONAL SUMMER LEARNING WEEK

In 2019, ALSC and the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) promoted the weeklong summer learning event—National Summer Learning Week—held July 6 through 11 and organized around theme days. ALSC President Cecilia McGowan and Liz McChesney, Chair of the Summer/Out-of-School-Time Learning task force, attended NSLA’s National Conference to share updates from the committee and explore opportunities for further efforts. The ALSC Board voted to maintain this collaboration from 2019–2021.

■ CONFERENCES & EVENTS

ALA VIRTUAL EVENT

ALA Virtual: Community Through Connection, an online event with educational programming, special author events, and social networking, was held June 24–26, 2020. ALA Virtual’s educational sessions included one of the seven ALSC programs previously chosen by the Program Coordinating committee for the Annual Conference line-up. ALSC offered presenters of the remaining programs other options for content presentation, such as webinars, online courses, and journal articles. Two programs, “Diversity Needs Jewish Books: A Missing Piece of the Diversity Conversation” and “Universal Design for Learning and Storytime: An Inclusive Approach to Early Literacy at the Library” were rescheduled to the Virtual Institute in October.

In addition, other ALSC meetings and events, such as membership and board meetings, were held virtually and outside of the dates on which ALA Virtual was held.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM – 2020 ALA VIRTUAL: COMMUNITY THROUGH CONNECTION

ALSC presented the following program during ALA Virtual:

- Juntos: Latino Family Engagement at Your Library

CHARLEMAE ROLLINS PRESIDENT’S PROGRAM

The 2020 Charlemae Rollins President’s Program, “[Telling Our Authentic Story: Connecting, Sharing, and Bridging Divides through Children’s Literature](#),” took place virtually on July 14, 2020. The panel presentation, which included children’s writers and illustrators Cece Bell, Erin Entrada Kelly, and Oge Mora, and was moderated by author and poet Janet Wong, drew 300 attendees for a vibrant hour-long discussion of authenticity in children’s literature.

ALSC BILL MORRIS SEMINAR

The 2020 Bill Morris Seminar: Book Evaluation Training was held during the 2020 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia and brought together 56 participants, facilitators, speakers, and ALSC Board members for an all-day training in book evaluation. The seminar will result in new and emerging leaders for future ALSC evaluation committees.

ONLINE LEARNING



ONLINE COURSES

ALSC offered a host of [online courses](#) this past year, including:

- Contemporary Issues in Action: Ethics for Librarians
- Full STREAM Ahead: How to Take Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) to the Next Level with Maker Kits
- Homeschoolers and the Public Library
- Postmodern Picturebooks: Changing Minds for Life
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Programs Made Easy
- Storytelling with Puppets

WEBINARS

This year, ALSC's [live webinars](#) included:

- Advocacy from A to Z
- Basic Storytime Development
- Championing Children's Services: Discover the Instruments Your Advocacy Toolbelt Needs
- Childcare Is Everywhere: How Libraries Can Develop, Strengthen, and Support Child Care Part 1: Introduction to Child Care & Bringing Literacy to Child Care
- Childcare Is Everywhere: How Libraries Can Develop, Strengthen, and Support Child Care Part 2: Programs for Nannies and Informal Providers
- Childcare Is Everywhere: How Libraries Can Develop, Strengthen, and Support Child Care Part 3: Developing and Supporting Childcare Programs
- Dispatches from the Field: Advocacy Best Practices with Jeremy Johannesen and Megan Cusick
- Early Childhood Expertise beyond Libraryland: Reading Life Between the Lines: Using Children's Literature for Tough Conversations about Diversity
- Honoring Infancy Part 1: Growing the Garden – Nurturing a Play and Early Learning Space
- Honoring Infancy Part 2: Libraries Welcoming Babies
- Honoring Infancy Part 3: Beyond Baby Storytime

In addition, ALSC offers [archived webinars](#), recorded sessions that have already taken place, as on-demand video that can be watched at any time. In efforts to support ALSC's continuing education goals, live webinars and archived webinars were offered free to ALSC members again in 2019–20. Archived webinars were available to non-members for a small fee.

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS AND GRANTS

BOOKAPALOOZA AWARD

A donation program providing select libraries with a collection of recently published books, videos, and recordings.

- Civic Center Secondary School, San Francisco, California
- Big Rapids Community Library, Big Rapids, Michigan
- Wood Dale Public Library District, Wood Dale, Illinois

BAKER & TAYLOR SUMMER READING PROGRAM GRANT

Donor: Baker & Taylor

A \$3,000 grant to support an innovative summer reading program in a public library.

- Homewood Public Library, Homewood, Alabama



BECHTEL FELLOWSHIP

Donor: University of Florida's Endowment in memory of Louise Seaman Bechtel and Ruth M. Baldwin

Up to \$7,500 grant to support four weeks of study at the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature, University of Florida, Gainesville.

- No fellows were named for the 2020 award year.

MAUREEN HAYES AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR VISIT AWARD

Donor: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing

Up to \$4,000 to provide a visit from a nationally-known author/illustrator with children who have previously not had such an opportunity.

- Algonquin Area Public Library, Algonquin, Illinois

» ALSC Distinguished Service Award



Dr. Claudette S. McLinn
Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature, Inglewood, California

Dr. McLinn is the founder and Executive Director of the Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature (CSMCL) and a long-time literacy consultant, advocate, and speaker on library services to children and culturally diverse children's literature.

She has served ALSC as chair of the ALSC/REFORMA Pura Belpré Award committee, facilitator of the Bill Morris Book Evaluation Training Seminars, and presenter on numerous ALSC programs bringing literacy and diversity issues to national audiences. Dr. McLinn partnered with Día founder Pat Mora and ALSC to create El día de los niños/El día de los libros with an African American focus. Each year CSMCL awards \$500 grants to libraries with a Día program serving children and families.

Dr. McLinn has shared her expertise in children's literature through service on book award committees of ALA and other organizations, including the Newbery, Caldecott, Coretta Scott King (CSK), Ezra Jack Keats, *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for YA Literature, and others. As District Librarian in the Los Angeles Unified School District, she led K-12 workshops that brought diverse children's books into libraries, classrooms, and homes.

Dr. McLinn served on the Presidential Advisory committee of past ALA President Camila Alire, the ALA Council on Diversity, and the ALA Literacy committee. She chaired the Black Caucus of the ALA's "Reading Is Grand, Celebrating Grand-Families" literacy grant program for ALA President Camila Alire's Family Literacy Focus Initiative. Most recently she chaired the CSK Book Awards committee and the 50th Anniversary Planning committee of the CSK awards.

LIGHT THE WAY: LIBRARY OUTREACH TO THE UNDERSERVED GRANT

Donor: Candlewick Press, in honor of Kate DiCamillo

A \$3,000 grant to assist a library in conducting exemplary outreach to an underserved population.

- Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library, Monterey Park, California

PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE YOUNG READERS GROUP AWARD

Donors: Penguin Young Readers Group and Random House Children's Books

A \$600 stipend for a member to attend their first ALA Annual Conference

- Amalia Butler, Maplewood Memorial Library, Maplewood, New Jersey
- Carla Davis, Multnomah County Library, Portland, Oregon
- Jennifer Minehardt, New York Public Library, New York, New York

Due to the cancellation of the 2020 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, 2020 award recipients were given the option to attend the ALA Virtual Event held in late June 2020 or the 2021 ALA Annual Conference.

SCHOLARSHIPS

BOUND TO STAY BOUND BOOKS SCHOLARSHIP

Donor: Bound to Stay Bound Books, Inc.

- Emily Thomas Chambliss, East Carolina University
- Donald Giacomini, Valdosta State University
- Lola Edwards Gomez, Texas Woman's University
- Jennifer Nicole Johnson, Valdosta State University

FREDERIC G. MELCHER SCHOLARSHIP

- Karen You-Chuan Wang, Pratt Institute

ALSC SPECTRUM SCHOLARSHIP

Two ALSC Spectrum Scholarships are awarded to Spectrum applicants who express an interest in library service to children. In addition, ALSC Past President Ellen Fader, Portland, Oregon, provided a generous donation to the Spectrum Scholarship for a seventh year. Her contribution will support a student through the 2020–21 school term.

- Alex Aspiazu, University of Illinois (in honor of Ellen Fader)
- Kyra Lee, University of Illinois
- Angelica Mejia, University of Southern California

LITERARY AND RELATED AWARDS

The COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of the ALA Annual Conference precipitated three major adjustments to the ALSC awards program.

ALSC collaborated with REFORMA, ODLOS, Booklist, and YALSA on virtual award events, hosted on YouTube, that took place throughout the day on Sunday, June 28, 2020. Branded as “[The ALA Book Award Celebration](#),” these presentations featured the award ceremonies that normally occur during the Annual Conference. The virtual events were free and accessible to all.

The 2020 (May Hill) Arbuthnot Honor Lecture to be delivered by Neil Gaiman, award-winning author and library advocate, was postponed indefinitely. As of August 31, 2020, with the pandemic still curtailing in-person activities, discussions on rescheduling continue.

The 2021 ALSC Children’s Literature Lecture (formerly the Arbuthnot Lecture) will be delivered by Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop, Professor Emerita at The Ohio State University, whose research, writing, and teaching have informed and expanded conversations about representation of African Americans in children’s literature and provided a critical framework for research and pedagogy. The host site application process, normally initiated in early spring, was put on hold for the 2021 lecture, as libraries were focused on their own communities and on addressing managerial and financial challenges brought on by the pandemic. As of August 31, 2020, with the pandemic still curtailing in-person activities, discussions on rescheduling continue.

2020 WINNERS

ALA’s Youth Media Awards press conference at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was Webcast live and the archive presentation is at <https://ala.unikron.com/about2020.php>. ALSC’s award winners included:

NEWBERY MEDAL

- ***New Kid***, Jerry Craft

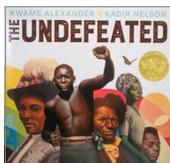


NEWBERY HONOR BOOKS

- ***The Undefeated***, Kwame Alexander
- ***Scary Stories for Young Foxes***, Christian McKay Heidicker
- ***Other Words for Home***, Jasmine Warga
- ***Genesis Begins Again***, Alicia D. Williams

CALDECOTT MEDAL

- ***The Undefeated***, Kadir Nelson



CALDECOTT HONOR BOOKS

- ***Bear Came Along***, LeUyen Pham
- ***Double Bass Blues***, Rudy Gutierrez
- ***Going Down Home with Daddy***, Daniel Minter

BATCHELDER AWARD

- Enchanted Lion for ***Brown***, Håkon Øvreås



BATCHELDER HONOR BOOKS

- Godwin Books for ***The Beast Player***, Nahoko Uehashi
- Atheneum for ***The Distance between Me and the Cherry Tree***, Paola Peretti
- Enchanted Lion for ***Do Fish Sleep?***, Jens Raschke
- Plough Publishing for ***When Spring Comes to the DMZ***, Uk-Bae Lee

BELPRÉ AUTHOR AWARD

- ***Sal and Gabi Break the Universe***, Carlos Hernandez



BELPRÉ AUTHOR HONOR BOOKS

- ***Lety Out Loud***, Angela Cervantes
- ***The Other Half of Happy***, Rebecca Balcárcel
- ***Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré***, Anika Aldamuy Denise
- ***Soldier for Equality: José de la Luz Sáenz and the Great War***, Duncan Tonatiuh

BELPRÉ ILLUSTRATOR AWARD

- ***Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln***, Rafael López



BELPRÉ ILLUSTRATOR HONOR BOOKS

- ***Across the Bay***, Carlos Aponte
- ***My Papi Has a Motorcycle***, Zeke Peña
- ***¡Vamos! Let's Go to the Market***, Raúl Gonzalez

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE LEGACY AWARD

- Kevin Henkes

EXCELLENCE IN EARLY LEARNING DIGITAL MEDIA AWARD

- WGBH Boston for ***Molly of Denali***



EELDM HONORS

- iNaturalist for ***Seek***
- Tinybop Inc. for ***States of Matter***

GEISEL AWARD

- ***Stop! Bot!***, James Yang

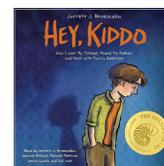


GEISEL HONOR BOOKS

- ***Chick and Brain: Smell My Foot!***, Cece Bell
- ***Flubby Is Not a Good Pet!***, J.E. Morris
- ***The Book Hog***, Greg Pizzoli

ODYSSEY AWARD

- Scholastic Audiobooks for ***Hey, Kiddo: How I Lost My Mother, Found My Father, and Dealt with Family Addiction***, Jarrett J. Krosoczka

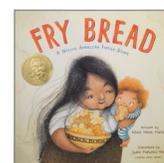


ODYSSEY HONOR AUDIOBOOKS

- Hachette Audio for ***Redwood and Ponytail***, K.A. Holt
- Listening Library for ***Song for a Whale***, Lynne Kelly
- Live Oak Media for ***We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga***, Traci Sorell
- Listening Library for ***We're Not from Here***, Geoff Rodkey

SIBERT MEDAL

- ***Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story***, Kevin Noble Maillard and Juana Martinez-Neal



SIBERT HONOR BOOKS

- ***All in a Drop: How Antony van Leeuwenhoek Discovered an Invisible World***, Lori Alexander and Vivien Mildenerger
- ***This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality***, Jo Ann Allen Boyce and Debbie Levy
- ***Ordinary Hazards: A Memoir***, Nikki Grimes
- ***Hey, Water!***, Antoinette Portis

2020 NOTABLE LISTS

ALSC's evaluation committees chose the best of the best books, recordings, and other media released in 2019. The 2020 Notable Children's Books, Recordings, and Digital Media lists are available on the [ALSC website](#).

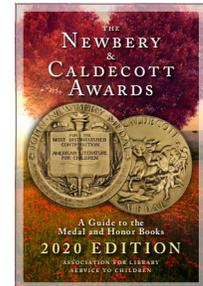
PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

ALSC connects with its members and constituents in myriad ways, from social media channels to more traditional means like newsletters and our journal, *Children and Libraries* (CAL). ALSC's non-serial publications include booklists, toolkits, books, and white papers. Resources not introduced elsewhere in this report are included below.

During the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, ALSC provided free access to recorded webinars and the CAL journal to support library workers with professional development and keeping their work moving forward.

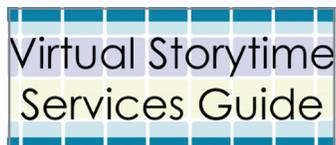
NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM ALSC AND ALA

Newbery and Caldecott Awards: A Guide to the Medal and Honor Books, 2020, written by ALSC and published by ALA Editions, was released in the spring. The annual guidebook is a resource for quick reference, collection development, and readers' advisory. This year's edition features an interview with Lois Lowry, two-time Newbery medal winner.



Bibliotots Early Literacy Brochure was created to provide straightforward early literacy tips for parents and caregivers. Children's library professionals can use these brochures to supplement early childhood programming or simply display them as a resource. The brochure will be available in early 2021.

Engage, Cultivate, Provide, Assess: An Outreach Model for Serving Children and Families White Paper was released in January 2020. This paper identifies a research-based framework for outreach development and supports ALSC's position on the value that libraries serve in establishing and assessing outreach opportunities in their communities to reach unserved and underserved children and their families. Written for ALSC by J. Elizabeth Mills, Dr. Kathleen Campana, and Dr. Michelle H. Martin, the white paper was adopted by the ALSC Board of Directors in June 2019.



Virtual Storytime Services Guide was created in response to the pandemic and the need for library staff to transition their in-person programming to virtual opportunities for their communities. ALSC worked with member volunteers and Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy to develop the comprehensive guide, which features best practices, resources, and tips on how to plan, promote, and conduct virtual storytime programming.

SERVING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES RESOURCES

ALSC compiled a list of resources to help librarians support diverse children and their families through times of unrest and uncertainty. The [list serves as a living document](#), authored by ALSC committee members and curated by the ALSC Public Awareness committee to provide librarians with resources to share with their communities who are turning to their public libraries as a resource for information on navigating issues in our changing times. The resource includes book and media lists, community-based organizations, ALSC archived programs and webinars, as well as links to guides and newsletters for grassroots organizing and mobilizing.

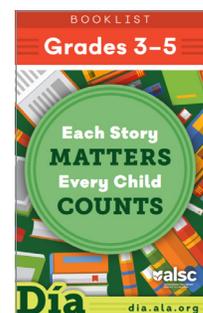
BOOKLISTS

ALSC produced a variety of booklists, thanks to our member-volunteers. Lists are available to download from the [ALSC website](#).

ALA-CBC Building a Home Library. Lists that provide guidance to parents, grandparents, and others interested in assembling a high-quality library for children at home.

Día. A list of books that celebrate many cultures and backgrounds and promote the Día initiative.

Early Literacy. Literacy-focused reading lists that are grouped into themes like high color contrast and daily routines. (Available in early 2021)



President's Program. [A list supporting the 2020 Charlemae Rollins President's program](#), "Telling Our Authentic Story: Connecting, Sharing, and Bridging Divides through Children's Literature." The booklist includes recent works by program panelists and moderators as well as picture books, graphic novels, and chapter books that feature authentic, own voices stories.

Summer Reading. Titles to keep children engaged and reading throughout the summer.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook. The ALSC Facebook account is used to broadcast important messages, to promote awareness of the association and library service to youth, and to provide inspiration, resources, and news to our members and all interested colleagues. With more than 13,500 followers, the account continues to be an engaging space. In the most recent 28-day reporting period, the page reached 13,761 people and accumulated 1,337 post engagements (post clicks, reactions, comments, and shares).

Twitter. ALSC's Twitter presence continues to grow each month. In the last year, the @WeAreALSC account gained an additional 1,239 followers with a total number of 17,239 followers. ALSC has been using this platform to engage with members during webinars, community forums, and conferences using respective hashtags.

ALSC Blog. The ALSC Blog strives to position the association as a thought-leader and to be the destination for individuals seeking ideas and inspiration around library services to young people. Daily posts address subjects such as programming, collection development, and partnerships. In 2019–20, the blog averaged approximately 22,000 sessions per month.

The blog is currently in Feedspot's Top 50 Library Blogs and Websites for Librarians at number seven.

BOARD WORK

The ALSC Board of Directors works year-round—in person at ALA conferences and virtually—reviewing strategic plan implementation and priorities, discussing mega issues, deliberating on organizational matters, and making decisions that move the association forward. Board schedules, along with official documents and minutes, are available on the [ALSC website](#).

As part of its work to develop a strategic plan for 2020 to 2023, the Board undertook a review of the association's structural organization. As a result of that review, the Board voted in February 2020 to approve a realigned [ALSC committee structure](#) that became effective on July 1, 2020, with the start of a new service year. At the same time, each of ALSC's process committees began operating with a co-chair structure and in a hybrid manner, meaning committees conduct their work and meetings virtually throughout the service year with conference attendance being optional, but strongly encouraged.

ALSC FINANCES

ALSC BUDGETARY PERFORMANCE

	April 2020 Budgeted	April 2020 Actual
Total Revenues	\$1,034,959	\$1,775,118
Total Expenditures before Overhead & Taxes	\$888,663	\$805,826
Overhead to ALA	\$112,880	\$209,272
Taxes	\$187	\$187
Total Expenditures	\$1,001,730	\$1,015,285
Contribution Margin	\$146,296	\$969,292
Net Revenue/(Expense) as of April 2020	\$33,229	\$759,833
Beginning Net Asset Balance (as of September 1, 2019)		\$3,280,803
Ending Net Asset Balance (as of April 30, 2020)		\$4,040,636

During the 2020 Midwinter Meeting, it was revealed that ALA had developed a stressed liquidity situation due to planned and unplanned deficits over the course of several years. The unplanned deficits fall primarily into two categories: underperformance by ALA's three primary revenue streams—publishing, conferences, and membership—and overspending in several areas, with the greatest overspending in IT. Additionally, the current global pandemic and cancellation of ALA events including 2020 Annual and shift to a virtual event for the 2021 Midwinter Meeting have further affected the association finances.

The ALA Executive Board has been closely monitoring ALA finances and strategizing ways to strengthen the association's near- and long-term financial infrastructure through the diversification and stabilization of revenue streams and expense alignment, while maintaining membership support. ALA staff are managing this under reduced capacity due to the implementation of furloughs and time it took to shift to a remote work environment and develop new procedures to align with this situation. A pivot strategy has been developed that provides a solid path back to strengthening the association's finances in alignment with its programs and services.

The global impact of COVID-19 has affected the financial reporting process. As of this time, with April data, ALSC is performing well ahead of budget in revenues and is just over budget on expenses. This overage is attributed to audio-visual expenses related to the prior fiscal year's (2019) Annual Conference activity not posting in time for the FY 2019 close and unbudgeted overhead to ALA due to an increase in seals image licensing bringing in unbudgeted revenue. Otherwise, ALSC would be performing at budget expense-wise. The projection is that ALSC will close FY 2020 well ahead in revenues and will come under budget in expenses.

While ALSC continues its strong financial standing, we are only as strong as ALA. Therefore, ALSC is committed to working across the association to do its part in maintaining the association's key priorities, looking for ways to reduce costs and create efficiencies, while addressing increased member requests for guidance, advocacy, and policy development brought on by the pandemic.



ALSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF, 2019–20

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VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

Kirby McCurtis

PAST PRESIDENT

Jamie Campbell Naidoo

DIVISION COUNCILOR

Julie Dietzel-Glair

FISCAL OFFICER

Amber Creger

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Aimee Strittmatter
ALSC Executive Director

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Linda Ernst
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Maggie Jacobs
Sujei Lugo
April Mazza
Sue McCleaf Nespeca
Amy Sears

ALSC STAFF

Aimee Strittmatter
Executive Director

Jordan Dubin
Awards Coordinator

Kristen Figliulo
Program Officer, Continuing Education (until October 2019)

Angela Hubbard
Program Officer, Projects & Partnerships

Anne Michaud
Program Coordinator

Sarah Polen
Program Officer, Continuing Education (beginning February 2020)

Alena Rivers
Deputy Director

Laura Schulte-Cooper
Program Officer, Communications & Website

Elizabeth Serrano
Membership Marketing Specialist

