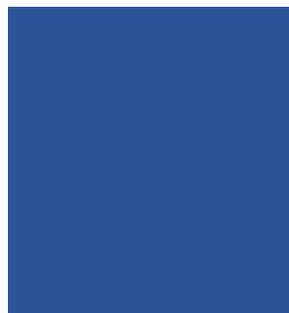
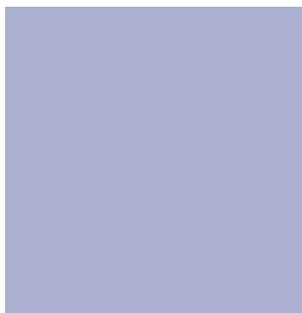
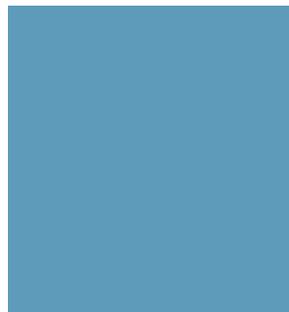
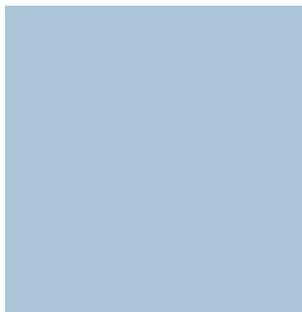
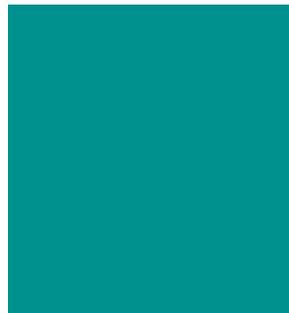
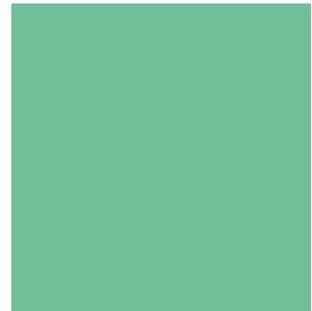
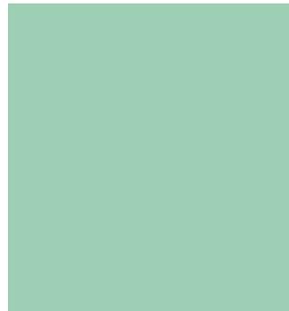
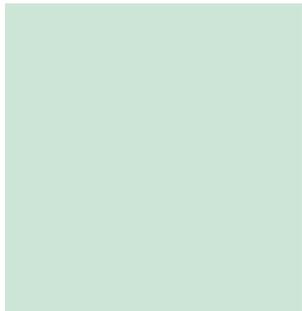




ASSOCIATION FOR LIBRARY
SERVICE TO CHILDREN

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21



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
**KIRBY
 MCCURTIS**
 2020-21 ALSC PRESIDENT

2020–21 continued to bring about more of the same as last year—an inability to predict or plan for anything as we adjusted to the reality of living through a pandemic, political unrest, inhumane treatment of people of color, and a global reckoning of just how little control we all have. But we as a unit kept moving forward. We continued to connect with one another and our communities in whatever way was safe and possible. Our successes include adopting Community Agreements, hosting multiple virtual events successfully, and collaborating across ALA to promote equity and inclusion. The Board of Directors continued to make progress on the 2020–23 Strategic Plan, updating and assessing as our needs changed and our goals were met.

ALSC has remained committed to its focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion, updating committee charge language to be more inclusive as well as approving as a Board funding for Equity Fellows and a permanent Friends of ALSC line item for donations earmarked for inclusion efforts.

The COVID-19 virus global pandemic continued to mean adjustments to our business model. All of this year’s Board meetings have been conducted virtually as well as the ALSC National Institute and our book and media award announcements and celebrations. The members of ALSC and the ALSC staff have shown creativity and flexibility transitioning from an in-person to a virtual realm. As we move closer to reopening as a nation, more and more library workers are returning to in-building services and re-imagining what library services to children and their caregivers looks like now. The sustained efforts, put forth during this challenging time by those who serve children and youth, are a testament to their 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 have been 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.

Kirby McCurtis
ALSC President, 2020–21

COVID-19 AND ALSC

The pandemic and nationwide stay-at-home orders continued through 2020 and into 2021, affecting ALSC and ALA's work. Most notably, the final Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits, originally planned for Indianapolis, Indiana, was held virtually on January 22–26, 2021, followed by a second ALA Virtual Annual Conference on June 23–29, 2021. The fall 2020 ALSC National Institute also transitioned to a virtual event, while other 2020–21 happenings were postponed, re-imagined, or cancelled. Continuing effects of the pandemic on ALSC's work are addressed in the reporting below.

STRATEGIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

August 31, 2020, marked the end of the three-year 2017–20 Strategic Plan. Development of a new strategic plan began during the 2019 Fall Executive committee meeting, and subsequent work by the full Board resulted in the 2020–23 Strategic Plan, which took effect on September 1, 2020. The ALSC Board continues to assess strategic plan work to ensure its relevance in a changing environment. 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:

EQUITY, 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 a second round of ALSC Equity Fellows, selected in November 2020. Since that time the five selected fellows have met as a cohort, enrolled in the ALSC mentoring program, and attended the ALA Virtual Midwinter Meeting in January 2021, as well as the ALA Virtual Annual Conference in June 2021. In place of a third fellowship program, in August 2021, the Board approved the extension of the fellowship program for a second year for the 2020–21 cohort to allow for additional engagement opportunities at upcoming ALA conferences.

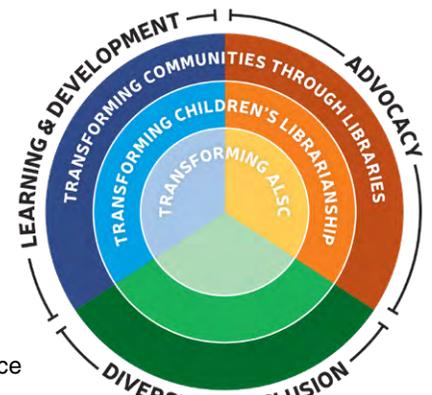
As part of the strategic plan and the ongoing goal to see EDI embedded in the work of all ALSC committees and members working in their library communities, ALSC committees were tasked with creating an inclusion goal/deliverable related to their committee's charge for the year to ensure that ALSC's EDI goals are sustainable efforts embedded across the work of our division. This goal has been embraced by committees and exhibited in the content they produce for publications, webinars, conference education programs, and booklists as well as through book, media, and professional awards, leadership development, and scholarships.

ADVOCACY

ALSC will champion the value of library service to children and the resources necessary to deliver on our vision. In February 2021, ALSC presented the community forum, "Our Work Matters: Advocating for Children's Services." The topic was selected based on a blog post by ALSC President Kirby McCurtis on November 10, 2020, titled "Our Work Matters." As libraries respond to the circumstances of the pandemic by tightening budgets, it has been vital for children's library workers to advocate for the value of their work. The community forum highlighted the Championing Children's Services Toolkit and actionable ways for libraries to engage in advocacy work during this critical time.

In May 2021, the Research and Agenda task force launched a pilot research grant that will offer seed funds of up to \$4,000 for one award to help develop, conduct, and disseminate emerging research that aligns with priority areas outlined in the ALSC Research Agenda. Researchers are encouraged to use the agenda as a starting point to explore new ideas or further develop an existing effort. An awardee was selected at the end of August and will be announced in September. The project work will begin September 2021 and be completed by October 2022.

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 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 and that share relevant and timely early literacy research.

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

ALSC will actively develop new generations of leaders. ALSC committees continue to utilize the ALSC blog, *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. An updated version of ALSC's core competencies was released and has been referenced throughout ALSC's blog posts, webinars, and conference programming to ensure the competencies are embedded in all continuing education opportunities.

As part of organizing a virtual activity/opportunity/event to discuss leading children's library services in times of crisis, the National Institute task force and ALSC staff hosted the "Children's Librarianship in Communities Experiencing Crisis" panel at the ALSC 2020 National Institute. The panel drew over 400 Institute attendees and highlighted the experiences of library professionals who are serving their communities through traumatic events and addressed how both major events and everyday traumas in their communities have impacted how they serve patrons.

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.

MEMBERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT

Since September 2020, ALSC has experienced an approximate 8% decline in overall membership. The COVID-19 pandemic has likely made it difficult for members to financially commit to ALSC, and it has impacted our ability to engage and recruit members in routine in-person gatherings at meetings and conferences. While regular recruitment methods have been disrupted, ALSC staff and member leaders have worked diligently to transition many of our events to virtual platforms, which have continued to provide space for member engagement.

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 discussions called [Community Forums](#) during which participants can 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 forum was:

- February 2021 – Our Work Matters: Advocating for Children's Services

In addition to Community Forums, ALSC recognized the need for youth serving library workers to stay connected and network during the pandemic. In April 2020, ALSC



launched We Are ALSC Chats. 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 2020, ALSC has facilitated eight chats on topics ranging from virtual storytime services to back-to-school programming.

The [ALSC Roadshow](#) offers ALSC members the opportunity to represent the Association at conferences and other relevant events around the country. During 2020–21, ALSC had representation at:

- Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy Virtual Leadership Conference, October 2020

ALSC EQUITY FELLOWSHIPS

Through the ALSC Equity Fellowship program, ALSC affirms its commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion by engaging new generations of racially and ethnically diverse library professionals.

In the Fall 2020, five ALSC fellowships were awarded to American Indian/Alaska Native/First Nations, Asian,

Black/African American, Hispanic/Latinx, Middle Eastern, and/or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander individuals who have committed to service within ALSC and demonstrate a capacity for future leadership. Fellowship recipients receive funding for two-year ALSC and ALA memberships and one year of conference registrations and travel stipends, if applicable, for ALA Library Learning Experience (LibLearnX) and ALA Annual Conference. Fellowship recipients also will receive mentorship from members of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion within ALSC task force. In August 2021, the ALSC Board approved extending the fellowship to a second year.

EMERGING LEADERS

In November 2019, ALSC named Jessica Agudelo as its representative in the 2020 Emerging Leaders program. Due to the cancellation of in-person 2020 and 2021 Annual Conferences, the Emerging Leaders program was put on hold for 2021. The next Emerging Leader will be selected in the fall of 2021.

MENTORING PROGRAM

Applications for the Fall 2020 Mentoring Program closed in September 2020. The Mentoring Working Group was able to facilitate 27 matches. Monthly communication was sent to participants to help build engagement within ALSC and to provide resources to support the development of children's services skillsets.



INITIATIVES

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

DÍA

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the celebration of Día. ALSC worked to coordinate messaging and graphics in English and Spanish with Día champions and similarly focused organizations. ALSC also coordinated with ALA Graphics and illustrator Reggie Brown to create a special image to use on posters, shirts, and tote bags that are available for purchase online from the [ALA Graphics Gift Shop](#). With a generous donation from a Día supporter, ALSC also purchased promotional advertising to encourage others to celebrate Día. The Quicklists Consulting committee created a set of engaging booklists for children ages birth through 14, which are available for free download on the [dia.ala.org](#) website. ALSC has continued to integrate the values of Día throughout its work, to build upon the growth of the Día National Program Registry for virtual and in-person events, and to encourage the use and sharing of resource materials to increase awareness of the initiative.



EVERYDAY ADVOCACY

The [Everyday Advocacy \(EA\) website](#) is a member-driven resource that provides 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.



With the EA member content editor role vacant since early 2019, ALSC has been exploring options for ongoing resource development and communication about library advocacy.

PROJECTS, PARTNERSHIPS, & LETTERS OF SUPPORT

MI TALKS

The Ypsilanti (Michigan) District Library received a three-year National Leadership Grant from 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. 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.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA – FUTURE OF YOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARIAN EDUCATION

The University of North Carolina (UNC) received a one-year IMLS National Forum Grant to 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 is 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. UNC received a one-year, no-cost extension from IMLS to postpone the symposium until Summer 2022. 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. The grant cycle for this project is September 2020 – August 2022.

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 its 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? ALSC provided a letter of support for this project in March 2020.

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

ALSC received a National Leadership Grant from IMLS in the area of Community Catalysts. In collaboration with the Association of Children’s Museums (ACM), ALSC 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 continuing situation with COVID-19, ALSC and ACM received a one-year, no-cost extension to the grant to host a virtual event in 2021. The project team is re-envisioning the format and audience of the convening to ensure an engaging virtual experience for participants.

In addition to the event, ALSC and ACM will compile 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.

ALSC EVENTS AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

NATIONAL INSTITUTE

The 2020 ALSC Virtual Institute was held on October 2–3, 2020. The virtual transition accounted for all planned general sessions and almost all expected education programs; it also enabled additional programming and allowed registrants to view programming on-demand through the end of 2020. Through the support of the William C. Morris Endowment, registration rates were kept low to increase attendance, particularly with non-ALSC members; the event net more than 860 registrants, including more than 350 non-ALSC members.



General sessions included “We Are Water Protectors,” featuring Carole Lindstrom and Michaela Goade; “Diving into Identity: Amplifying Own Voices,” featuring Kacen Callender, Kyle Lukoff, and Christian Robinson; “Family Matters: Sharing Generational Love in Children’s Literature,” featuring Bao Phi, Minh Lê, Siman Nurali, and Kao Kalia Yang; “Using Brazelton Touchpoints to Engage Children and Families,” featuring Carolyn Brooks and Mindy May; and “Muslim Representation and Cooperative Children’s Book Center (CCBC) Publishing Statistics,” featuring Ariana Sani Hussain, Miriam Hussain, and Madeline Tyner. Due to the virtual nature of the conference, ALSC was able to add another, timely general session: “Children’s Librarianship in Communities Experiencing Trauma,” featuring Oralia Garza de Cortes, Anita Montoya, and Beth Patin. Twenty education programs, sponsor chats, and networking sessions were offered live or simulate over the two-day event.

Reception to the virtual program was overwhelmingly positive and many attendees noted that the affordable price and virtual nature allowed them to attend, whereas travel and costs associated with in-person events would have precluded them from attending.

A CELEBRATION OF ILLUSTRATION!

In lieu of a Preconference to ALA Annual Conference, ALSC hosted A Celebration of Illustration!—a one-day virtual conference focused on art and illustration in children’s literature. The event, held on May 14, 2021, reached

more than 100 people and included two general sessions (below) and six education programs.

- Excellence in Illustration: A Panel Discussion with 2021 Caldecott, Coretta Scott King Illustration, and Pura Belpré Youth Illustrator Award Winners
- The Art of Information: A Conversation with the 2021 Sibert Honoree Illustrators

ALA VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The ALA Virtual Annual Conference was held June 23–29, 2021, during which ALSC presented the following programs:

- Brainy Babies Goes Remote: Creating a Virtual Parent Support for Young Families at Brooklyn Public Library
- Building Equity through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
- Re-Imagining Beginning Readers: How Content and Design Are Changing How Children Learn to Read
- Through the Sliding Glass Door: Using a Rubric to Identify and Discuss Diverse Children’s Literature
- Wash, Spin, and Learn: Equity through Early Literacy at the Laundromat

CHARLEMAE ROLLINS PRESIDENT’S PROGRAM

ALSC hosted a virtual 2021 Charlemae Rollins President’s Program, “The POW(!)er of Graphic Novels to Support Youth Literacy: Creators Speak” on July 20, which featured a panel including Nidhi Chanani, Jerry Craft, Varian Johnson, and Nadia Shammass.

Additionally, due to the virtual nature of this year’s event, ALSC was able to offer ancillary programming to the President’s Program to ALSC members as a benefit of their membership: “The POW(!)er of Graphic Novels to Support Youth Literacy: Successes in Libraries” on June 1. This panel of library practitioners discussed how to advocate for and incorporate graphic novels in home library collections and programming. The event was recorded and later presented on-demand as part of the Comic-Con@Home Education Programming, in partnership with Comic-Con International.

ONLINE COURSES

ALSC offered a host of [online courses](#) this past year. Topics included:

- Full STREAM Ahead: How to Take Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) to the Next Level with Maker Kits
- Homeschoolers and the Public Library
- The Newbery Medal: Past, Present, and Future
- Utilizing the Competencies to Boost Skills



- Building Literacy in Every Library: How to Develop Fun Programs that Support Reading for School-Age Children, Part Two – Making Connections: How Does Background Knowledge Contribute to Comprehension?
- Building Literacy in Every Library: How to Develop Fun Programs that Support Reading for School-Age Children, Part Three – Curious Readers: Celebrating the Joy of Reading
- Giving Storytime a Tune-Up: Embedding Music Activities to Support Texts and Engage Participants
- Strategic Scheduling and Planning in Youth Services, Part One: Managing Your Own Schedule
- Strategic Scheduling and Planning in Youth Services, Part Two: Staff & Program Scheduling
- Virtual Program Planning

WEBINARS

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

- Advocating for K–12 Resources during COVID-19
- Building Literacy in Every Library: How to Develop Fun Programs that Support Reading for School-Age Children, Part One – Comprehension Basics: Developing Critical Thinking to Discover Meaning

In addition, ALSC offers [archived webinars](#), which 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 2020–21. Archived webinars were available to non-members for a small fee.

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS AND GRANTS

(MAY HILL) ARBUTHNOT HONOR LECTURE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 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, 2021, with the pandemic still curtailing in-person activities, there is no further information to report on rescheduling the lecture.

Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop, Professor Emerita at The Ohio State University, was selected as the 2021 ALSC Children's Literature Lecturer (formerly the Arbuthnot Lecture). Dr. Bishop's 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. As of August 31, 2021, with the pandemic still curtailing in-person activities, plans to reschedule the lecture are under consideration.

BOOKAPALOOZA AWARD

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

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this award was not offered in 2021.

BAKER & TAYLOR SUMMER READING PROGRAM GRANT

Donor: Baker & Taylor

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

- New Brunswick Free Public Library, New Brunswick, New Jersey

BECHTEL FELLOWSHIP

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

A \$4,000 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 2021 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

- Virginia Beach Library Foundation on behalf of the Virginia Beach Public Library, Virginia Beach, Virginia

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

- Madison Public Library, Madison, Ohio

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

- No award was given in 2021 due to the lack of an in-person conference. ALSC and Penguin Random House plan to award this travel stipend again for the 2022 Annual Conference in Washington D.C.

» ALSC Distinguished Service Award



Liz McChesney

Outreach and Partnership Consultant for Laundry Literacy Coalition and previous Director of Children's Services and Family Engagement at Chicago Public Libraries

Liz McChesney serves as Senior Advisor to the Urban Libraries Council and as the Library Advisor to the National Summer Learning Association.

She has worked with ALSC and the National Summer Learning Association to promote libraries during National Summer Learning Day. McChesney was a member of the first ALSC task force on implementing Summer and Out-of-School Time Learning and since 2018 leads ALSC's task force on Summer/Out-of-School Time Learning.

Known for pioneering inclusive practices, McChesney spearheaded multiple practices and programs for children and families throughout Chicago Public Library, which included materials in alternative formats, training for staff, the co-creation with The Autism Program of a customizable book for families to prepare their ASD child for a library visit, early childhood programming for visually impaired, hearing impaired, and autistic children, STEM programming for school-age children on the Autism Spectrum, in-house sensory kits, and outreach to community organizations serving children who are differently abled.

McChesney has authored two books through ALA Editions, *Summer Matters: Making All Learning Count* (2017) and *Pairing STEAM with Stories* (2020). She has been recognized through the National Summer Learning Association's Excellence Award (the first time a library has won this award), the *Library Journal* Movers & Shakers Award, and the John Cotton Dana Award for Marketing Excellence.

SCHOLARSHIPS

BOUND TO STAY BOUND BOOKS SCHOLARSHIP

Donor: Bound to Stay Bound Books, Inc.

- Molly Boehm, Longwood University
- Dana Fanslow, University of Illinois
- Lindsay Robins, North Carolina Central University
- Scott Schaffer, Clarion University

FREDERIC G. MELCHER SCHOLARSHIP

- Jeremiah Henderson, San Jose State University
- Brianna King, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

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 an eighth year. Her contribution will support a student through the 2021–22 school term.

- Elizabeth Lafont-Hurtado, University of North Texas
- Kimberly Nguyen, University of California
- Chantra Tham, San Jose State University (in honor of Ellen Fader)

The ALSC Board also has approved funding for a third ALSC Spectrum Scholarship, beginning with the 2022–23 academic year.

LITERARY AND RELATED AWARDS

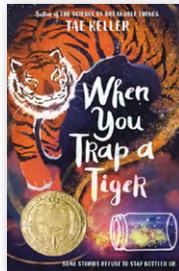
2021 WINNERS

ALA's Youth Media Awards (YMA) press conference, held during the 2021 Virtual Midwinter Meeting and Exhibits, was Webcast live and the archive presentation is at <https://ala.unikron.com>.

ALSC's award winners included:

Newbery Medal

- *When You Trap a Tiger*, Tae Keller



Newbery Honor Books

- *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team*, Christina Soontornvat
- *BOX: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom*, Carole Boston Weatherford
- *Fighting Words*, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *We Dream of Space*, Erin Entrada Kelly
- *A Wish in the Dark*, Christina Soontornvat



Caldecott Medal

- *We Are Water Protectors*, Michaela Goade

Caldecott Honor Books

- *The Cat Man of Aleppo*, Yuko Shimizu
- *Me & Mama*, Cozbi A. Cabrera
- *Outside In*, Cindy Derby
- *A Place Inside of Me: A Poem to Heal the Heart*, Noa Denmon

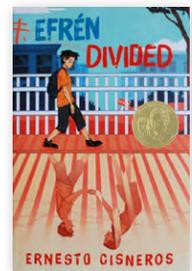


Batchelder Award

- Enchanted Lion for *Telephone Tales*, Gianni Rodari

Batchelder Honor Book

- HarperAlley for *Catherine's War*, Julia Billet



Belpre Children's Author Award

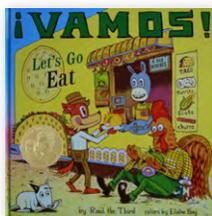
- *Efrén Divided*, Ernesto Cisneros

Belpré Children's Author Honor Books

- ***Lupe Wong Won't Dance***, Donna Barba Higuera
- ***The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez***, Adrianna Cuevas

Belpré Youth Illustrator Award

- ***¡Vamos! Let's Go Eat***, Raúl González



Belpré Youth Illustrator Honor Book

- ***Sharuko: El Arqueólogo Peruano/Peruvian Archaeologist Julio C. Tello***, Elisa Chavarri

Children's Literature Legacy Award

- Mildred D. Taylor

Excellence in Early Learning Digital Media Award

- Committee for Children for ***The Imagine Neighborhood***



EELDM Honor

- Sesame Workshop for ***Sesame Street Family Play: Caring for Each Other***

Geisel Award

- ***See the Cat: Three Stories About a Dog***, David LaRochelle, Mike Wohnoutka



Geisel Honor Books

- ***The Bear in My Family***, Maya Tatsukawa

2021 NOTABLE LISTS

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

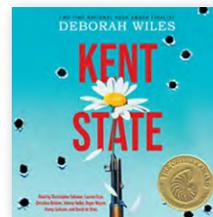
COVID-19 IMPACT ON ALSC AWARDS

The 2021 ALSC Awards selection committees operated almost completely virtually throughout their committee service. This year has brought considerations to the award

- ***Ty's Travels: Zip, Zoom!***, Kelly Starling Lyons, Nina Mata
- ***What About Worms!?***, Ryan T. Higgins
- ***Where's Baby?***, Anne Hunter

Odyssey Award

- Scholastic Audio for ***Kent State***, Deborah Wiles

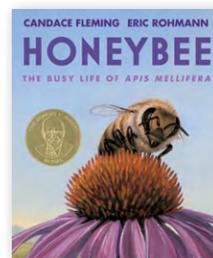


Odyssey Honor Audiobooks

- HarperAudio for ***Clap When You Land***, Elizabeth Acevedo
- Listening Library for ***Fighting Words***, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- Hachette Audio for ***Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You***, Jason Reynolds, Ibram X. Kendi
- Listening Library for ***When Stars Are Scattered***, Victoria Jamieson, Omar Mohamed

Sibert Medal

- ***Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera***, Candace Fleming, Eric Rohmann



Sibert Honor Books

- ***All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team***, Christina Soontornvat
- ***Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks***, Suzanne Slade, Cozbi A. Cabrera
- ***How We Got to the Moon: The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity's Greatest Adventure***, John Rocco

selection process, especially considering the retirement of the ALA Midwinter Meeting and the debut of LibLearnX. Many processes were streamlined, and the lessons learned by the committees operating during this pandemic are sure to carry forward.

ALSC collaborated again with REFORMA, ODLOS, Booklist, and YALSA on virtual award events for June hosted on YouTube. Following the success of 2020's "The ALA Book Award Celebration," this year's virtual presentations again featured the award ceremonies that normally occur during the Annual Conference and were free and accessible to all. The 2021 events were held during the Annual Conference in June, including the Newbery-

Caldecott-Legacy Banquet, ALSC Awards Ceremony, and Belpré 25th Anniversary Celebración.

NEWBERY 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Newbery Medal, established in 1921 and first awarded in 1922, is celebrating its 100th anniversary. The 100th medal and honor books were announced in January 2021. The anniversary celebration, which was kicked off this summer and culminates with the ALA 2022 Annual Conference, will include a host of special Newbery-related events and activities to encourage widespread involvement.

Commemorative merchandise featuring a 100th anniversary logo is available for purchase in the [ALA Graphics](#)

[Gift Shop](#). In addition, keepsake products featuring limited edition designs from Newbery-winning illustrators [Cece Bell](#), [Jerry Craft](#), [Kevin Henkes](#), [Victoria Jamieson](#), and [Grace Lin](#) are available.

ALSC BOOK & MEDIA AWARDS SHELF

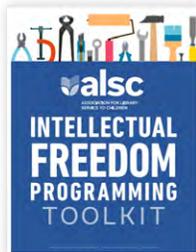
In March 2021, ALSC launched its [Book & Media Awards Shelf](#), a database driven resource that is a one-stop destination for approximately 2,000 ALSC award-winning titles, representing 100 years of awards history. This new tool will help library staff, educators, and families find books and media that support their needs and appeal to their interests.

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, and white papers. Resources not introduced elsewhere in this report are included below.

NEW PUBLICATION FROM ALSC

The *Intellectual Freedom Programming Toolkit* was released in 2021. Created by the Intellectual Freedom committee, the resource provides practical tips and samples of programming that incorporate the topics of intellectual freedom and information literacy in a fun and engaging manner to help raise young peoples' awareness of these concepts.



- **Graphic Novels.** Classics and new titles that have been widely recommended and well-reviewed, and books that have popular appeal as well as critical acclaim.
- **Summer Reading.** Titles to keep children engaged and reading throughout the summer.



BOOKLISTS

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

- **Día 25th Anniversary.** A list of books that celebrate many cultures and backgrounds and promote the Día initiative.

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 3,259 readers and accumulated 357 post engagements (post clicks, reactions, comments, and shares).

■ **Twitter.** [ALSC's Twitter presence](#) continues to grow each month. In the last year, the number of followers has increased by more than 900, and @WeAreALSC currently has more than 17,600 followers. ALSC has been using this platform to engage with members during webinars and community forums 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 2020–21, the blog averaged approximately 20,000 sessions per month. The blog is currently in Feedspot's Top 50 Library Blogs and Websites for Librarians at number six.

BOARD WORK

The ALSC Board of Directors works year-round, 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](#).

ALSC FINANCES

In consultation with the Executive Director, the ALSC Board of Directors and Budget committee carefully reviewed and monitored ALSC's budget performance over the course of the 2020–21 fiscal year (FY21).

ALSC BUDGETARY PERFORMANCE (as of third close)

	2021 Budgeted	2021 Actual
Total Revenues	\$1,467,120	\$2,230,443
Total Expenditures before Overhead & Taxes	\$1,230,074	\$1,094,774
Overhead to ALA	\$159,261	\$273,532
Taxes	\$280	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$1,389,614	\$1,368,306
Contribution Margin	\$237,046	\$1,135,669
Net Revenue/(Expense)	\$77,505	\$862,137
Beginning Net Asset Balance (as of September 1, 2020)		\$4,080,750
Ending Net Asset Balance (as of August 31, 2021)		\$4,942,887

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 further affected the association finances. ALA

continues to work toward a balanced budget and refining strategic priorities.

The ALA Executive Board closely monitors ALA finances and continues to strategize 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 have managed 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 which provides a solid path back to

strengthening the association's finances in alignment with its programs and services.

As of this time, with August final close data for FY21, ALSC is performing well ahead of budget in revenues and is just under budget on 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.

2020–21 ALSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

Lucia Gonzalez

PAST PRESIDENT

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Kimberly Patton

FISCAL OFFICER

Amber Creger

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Aimee Strittmatter, ALSC Executive Director

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