

The purpose of a board document is to provide needed and accurate information to board members so that they can make informed decisions

Reference the origin of this issue – did it come out of a board discussion or decision? When?

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Annual Conference, Las Vegas  
June 27 – July 1, 2014**

**Topic:** Partnerships Best Practices

**Background:** YALSA’s [Future of Library Services for and with Teens](#) report highlights “partnering strategically to reach beyond the library’s walls” as one of the five fundamental elements that will need to shift in order for libraries and communities to successfully work for and with teens” (p. 21-24). Members may need additional support around best practices, strategies or resources in order to partner strategically in their community. The Board will want to discuss this topic specifically, and what, if any, additional resources are needed by members. **Maureen Hartman** has presented the information below for the Board’s consideration.

Always include the name of the person who wrote the document

**Action Required:** Discussion

**COMMON TYPES OF ACTION:**

- Discussion:** new items being brought to the board
- Action:** previously discussed matters ready for resolution, or requests for action from members
- Consent:** items decided in an online vote, or items that just need to be ‘accepted,’ like reports
- Information:** strictly FYI, won’t be discussed
- Exploration:** typically really big picture issues that are being discussed for the first time

**Overview:**

YALSA’s [Future of Library Services for and with Teens](#) report highlights “partnering strategically to reach beyond the library’s walls” as one of the five fundamental elements that will need to shift in order for libraries and communities to successfully work for and with teens” (p. 21-24). Many YALSA members may be interested in this information. The culture of their organization may make this very challenging, if not impossible. Members may need additional support around best practices or other resources in order to partner strategically in their community and shift the culture of their library towards supporting a new role for the library in their community. Specific changes that members will need to make around partnerships and collaborations, and that are called out in the report include:

Frame and describe the issue concisely, focusing on key points and providing relevant data when available

- Discontinuing existing roles that have become less of a priority for students or communities
- Looking beyond the library field itself to organizations who share similar mission or values who may not yet see the library as a possible partner
- Identifying possible partners in the community and possible areas in which to partner
- Identifying types of partnerships and strategies to be most successful at each.
- Initiating partnerships
- Evaluating partnerships
- Leveraging training, support and coaching for staff
- Supporting supervisors, managers and administrators in changing staffing practices

**Tasks already completed or in progress include:**

- Futures Taskforce is creating content, presentations and examples for members, looking for opportunities to share the report with other ALA divisions and other partners beyond libraries.
- *YALS* editor establishing both regular feature and articles focused on report.
- Blog has been re-focused in support of the report.
- Staff coordinated online discussions of report in March.
- Staff (with help from Continuing Education committee) offering webinars throughout 2014 focused on report
- National Guidelines Committee will revisit guidelines and issue papers
- Research Committee will revise Research Agenda to reflect report

For discussion items, provide key questions that the board must consider

**Questions to explore before taking next steps:**

- Why are successful partnerships and collaborations important to the Board, to members and to members' libraries?
- How skilled are YALSA members in initiating, developing, sustaining and evaluating partnerships or collaborations as highlighted in the report?
- What existing YALSA work is planned or underway in which partnerships could be highlighted or emphasized differently?
- What kinds of support would be helpful to members?
- What kind of support could YALSA create that libraries would

For discussion items, provide possible next steps. For action items, provide specific, desired steps that you want the board to act on

**Possible Next Steps:**

1. Incorporate partnerships and collaboration into existing advocacy efforts such as Read Week™, Teen Tech Week™ and/or summer reading/learning opportunities to embed or highlight partnerships in other existing YALSA projects or tasks.
2. Establish a member taskforce or standing committee to create a position paper, toolkit and/or other resource(s) on this issue
3. No additional action at this time.

Think through any possible expenses & list them here

**Financial Implications**

- Staff time to support a new member group, if established
- Possible expenses for designing and printing a document, if created by the new member group

**Measuring Success/Impact**

- Tracking usage statistics of any resources that are created and posted on

Use primary goals to determine what will be measured & try to pre-determine how so it can be built into the planning

**YALSA Board of Directors – Annual 2014  
Partnerships Best Practices**

- Anecdotal information from members about their knowledge and skill level relating to partnership work
- A possible member survey to determine if the resources provided by YALSA led to increased partnership efforts in members' communities

**Existing YALSA resources:**

Include relevant past board documents, if the issue has been discussed previously

[Future of Library Services for and with Teens](#)

[Guidelines for Strategic Partnerships](#) (Guides partnering process for the organization as a whole).

[Advocacy Toolkit](#)

**Existing ALA resources:**

ALSC's [Engage With Your Community](#) section of [Everyday Advocacy](#)

**Other Resources:**

WebJunction [Partnerships and Collaboration](#) resources

California Library Association, [California Summer Reading Program Con](#)

[Partnerships, Collaboration: What is the Difference?](#) from National Coalit

Always provide a few additional resources that can help board members learn more about the issue and that can inform decision making. Be sure to include YALSA resources, like past board documents, policies, etc.