

**YALSA Board of Directors  
ALA Annual Conference, Virtual  
June 23-29, 2021**

**Topic:** Board Ex-Officio Advocate Report

**Background:** Stacey Shapiro was the Board’s first Advocate Ex-Officio from June 2020 to 2021.

**Action Required:** Information

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**Alignment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Goals:**

**Fiscal Implications:**

**Overview:**

Stacey Shapiro has been the Advocate, Ex-Officio officer since the Board meeting at ALA Annual in June 2020. Since then, she has attended the Board meetings at ALA Annual, Board Chats, and participated in discussions on ALA Connect. She was able to help shape the responsibilities of the position and has coordinated with Tammy Dillard-Steel to do so. Throughout the year, she has met with members of BCALA and the ABA in order to coordinate services with them and to further the outreach of the Board. She met with BCALA in order to initiate conversations about a coalition with BCALA and assist their members who serve teens. Through partnerships with Tammy, she discovered that the ABA offered webinars that members would be interested in regarding youth homelessness, and disseminated the information within YALSA. In order to make every member of YALSA feel appreciated and safe, Stacey seconded the APALA statement against Anti-Asian violence and wrote a blog post for the YALSABlog about ways that librarians can support each other and their teens through the repercussions of anti-Asian racism. She has suggested writing blog posts for other marginalized groups as well, including trans youth, who are under legislative attack in multiple states.

Throughout the pandemic, librarians have been overworked, understaffed, and burnt out. Teen librarians, including the Board Advocate, saw a significant drop-off in teen program attendance as indoor, in-person programming was cut out. This created a lot of undue stress on teen librarians and the world in general, and hindered the full ability to perform outreach with multiple groups. The loss of in-person networking at conferences meant the loss of the networking connections that might spark at a happy hour or panel. Many of the partnerships sought by the Board Advocate this year came from Tammy, especially as Stacey was figuring out her role. In the future, the Board Advocate can seek partnerships on their own and have more opportunities to meet with other organizations.

**Alignment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiatives:**

The position of Board Advocate should be fully aligned with the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiatives. Over the term, the Board Advocate has worked with diverse cross-sections of ALA in order to help librarians serving the teens in need.

**Additional Resources:**

- [Broadening the Board's Composition](#)
- [Board Seat for an Advocate](#)