

**YALSA Board of Directors**  
2021 ALA Annual Conference, Virtual  
**June 26, 2021**

**Topic:** CALA/YALSA Joint Taskforce

**Background:** In order to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), celebratory youth booklists featuring Chinese American writers/characters will be created by CALA, YALSA, and ALSC. CALA and YALSA will work jointly to create a taskforce that will spearhead the creation of the celebratory youth booklists in partnership with ALSC’s Quicklists Consulting Committee. Valerie Tagoe, Susannah Goldstein, Amanda Barnhart, Tammy Dillard-Steels, and Crystal Chen have presented the information below for the Board’s consideration.

**Action Required:** Action

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**Overview:**

The need for a joint taskforce stems from the need for a booklist to highlight and promote Chinese American creators and characters. The work of this joint taskforce would lead to a collaborative list that will celebrate CALA’s 50th anniversary and, like the YALSA Selection Lists, serve as a useful resource for YALSA members to diversify their library collections and ensure that underrepresented voices are included.

**Proposed Timeline:**

The joint taskforce, with members appointed by CALA and YALSA, would meet from June-September 2021 to determine the name of the booklist(s), set up selection criteria and rubric, develop potential promotional opportunities (such as webinars or panels after the booklist(s) release that highlight Chinese American creators or partnerships with community organizations that support Chinese American youth), and present recommendations for review. The taskforce will make changes as necessary by October 1 based on feedback from the Boards. All divisions vote for approval by December 2021. From February 2022 through December 2022, the taskforce will work together with the ALSC Quicklists Consulting Committee to select titles for the booklist and create a final bibliography to be promoted on the YALSA and CALA website. The final booklist(s) will be announced in January 2023 in anticipation of CALA’s 50th Anniversary in March 2023, and subject to Board feedback/approval, may also be accompanied by additional promotional media.

**Taskforce Members:**

Members will be appointed for a two-year term beginning in June 2021 and ending in June 2023. The taskforce will consist of 7 members total: YALSA will appoint 3 members; CALA will appoint 3 members and 1 chair. Individuals with fluency in Chinese, experience with creating Chinese American booklists or library programming, and/or experience with advocating for underrepresented voices in youth literature more broadly are preferred.

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

- Exploration and discussion of a joint taskforce with ALSC. ALSC confirmed participation through their pre-established Quicklists Consulting Committee.
- Exploration and discussion of a joint taskforce with CALA and Executive Committee. Proposal submitted and approved by the EC.

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

- What will the impact of this reading list be on YALSA members and their libraries?
- How will this fit into existing YALSA structures for reading and/or selection lists?
- What kinds of support would taskforce members need?
- How will YALSA coordinate with CALA?
- Will there be seal sales for this booklist? If so, will the profits go to CALA exclusively?

**Possible Next Steps:**

- Create a volunteer form and call for applicants.
- Find opportunities to promote the collaborative list and incorporate it into existing advocacy.
- Incorporate the final CALA/YALSA/ALSC list into selection list promotion in January and February 2023.
- Create a website page to recognize taskforce members once appointed (and to direct publishers too if necessary). The page will also host the completed list and any accompanying materials.

**Fiscal Implications:**

- Staff time, coordination, and resources to support the taskforce in their work

**Measuring Success/Impact:**

- Tracking the statistics and usage of the final booklist(s) on the YALSA website or in any YALSA social media promotion, as well as social media discussion surrounding the list in general.
- Tracking participation statistics if any additional media like webinars or panels are developed.
- Anecdotal information from members about this work in relation to YALSA's Core Professional Values.
- Anecdotal information about how this list supports library workers, educators, and caregivers.

**Existing YALSA resources:**

[YALSA EDI Plan](#) and specifically the following goals:

- Recruit, retain, and develop a more diverse membership and cadre of volunteers at all levels in the organization
- Ensure that YALSA members know how to develop inclusive and equitable library spaces, services and programs
- Create and maintain formal and informal partnerships with other organizations around a shared commitment to redressing institutional inequities and systemic power asymmetries
- [YALSA Core Professional Values for the Teen Services Profession](#)

**Existing ALA resources:**

- ALA's statement on [Combating Xenophobia and Fake News in light of COVID-19](#)
- [ALA's Policy Manual - Diversity](#)

**Other Resources:**

- [BCALA and ALSC Social Justice Reading List](#) that led to [Netflix's Bookmarks: Celebrating Black Voices collaboration](#)
- [AILA's Reading Native 2021](#)

**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Impact:**

By highlighting Chinese American creators and books, this joint taskforce aligns with [YALSA's commitment to EDI](#), ensuring that the organization is an inclusive environment that welcomes different perspectives and promotes underrepresented voices. This taskforce would allow more voices to be involved and help contribute to a more inclusive organization as well as more inclusive youth library collections. This would also hopefully encourage future collaborations with CALA and the National Association of Librarians of Color (NALCo) more broadly.

Aligned with ALA's statement on [Combating Xenophobia and Fake News in light of COVID-19](#) and [ALA's Policy Manual](#), these booklist(s) will also help empower youth that may have faced sinophobia/xenophobia due to the pandemic and also provide a pathway for library workers to use these lists to make positive change in impacted communities.

**Charge:**

To determine a booklist to highlight and promote Chinese American creators and characters to commemorate the 50th anniversary of CALA. To select titles for the list in conjunction with ALSC (to begin work in February 2022). To provide recommendations to the board for review. To make changes as necessary depending on feedback from the YALSA Board.