

TO: ALA Council

DATE: January 9, 2025

RE: (select one)

- ACTION REQUESTED
- INFORMATION
- REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT: (add below)

The ALA Awards Committee met twice during the fall. An audit was conducted per the ALA Board Directive: to direct ALA units, including Divisions and Round Tables, to conduct an audit of their awards, scholarships, and grants with recommendations to continue or sunset to aid in future budgeting decisions to the Executive Director of the Association by September 30, 2025.

Appendix 1: *(PUBLISHING) Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction have been paused, pending future funding.*

Appendix 2: *(PPA) Public Service Award has been discontinued; (PPA) Eileen Cook State & Local Madison Award have been discontinued; (PPA) I. Ray Patterson Copyright Award has been discontinued; and (PPA) James Madison Award have been discontinued.*

Appendix 3: *Diversity Research Grant (DRG)*

Appendix 4: *The proposal to Amend and Expand the Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement was approved by the ALA Awards Committee.*

Information: *In September, Bloomsbury informed ALA they would not be sponsoring the Equality Award in 2026. Similarly, EBSCO recently notified us that they will not sponsor the EBSCO Conference Sponsorship Award for 2026. These decisions were made by the sponsoring organizations due to their own funding considerations.*

Additionally, the ALA Awards Committee has examined and revised the ALA Awards Manual to incorporate the modifications in Chapter 17 of the ALA Policy, following the directive from the ALA Council. This directive instructed the ALA Awards Committee to align Chapter 17 of the ALA Policy Manual with the ALA Awards Manual to guarantee consistency between the two documents.

Action requested from Councilors is to cast their vote to: *(if applicable)*

N/A

ACTION/INFORMATION REQUESTED BY: ALA Awards Committee

CONTACT PERSON: Richenda Hawkins, richenda.hawkins@oregonstate.edu

STAFF LIAISON CONTACT: Marsha P. Burgess, mburgess@ala.org

BACKGROUND: See attached appendices.

APPENDIX#1

Date: 11/7/2025

Re: Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction

Before completing this form, please use the [Awards Committee Manual](#) as your guide. For questions, please contact governance@ala.org

- Establish (e.g. *new ALA, Division, or Roundtable Award*)
- Discontinue (e.g. *end of ALA or Roundtable Award*)
- Paused (e.g. *pausing of ALA or Roundtable Award*)
- Renew (e.g. *renewal of Award*)
- Name Change (e.g. *changing name of Award*)
- Change amount of Award
- Division Award Discontinuance Alert to the ALA Awards Committee **INFO ONLY**

Committee or Award Jury/Units Affected/Contact Name/Email:

Background: Provide any background information on the Award under consideration, including why this action is necessary.

The Carnegie Foundation, while continuing to support ALA in other areas, has stopped funding these awards. Novelists also discontinued supporting the award. Booklist and the Development team are searching for funders but have not been successful up to this point. The 2026 Carnegie Medalist winners have already been selected, so the recommendation is to sunset for 2027 if funding cannot be secured.

Proposal: Provide detailed information on proposed action requested. (*Please review "Award Proposal Requirements" in the Awards Committee Manual.*)

Per the manual, awards may be terminated or paused in cases of termination of financial assistance by donors. This is the case with the Carnegie Medals for Fiction and

Nonfiction. The recommendation is to pause the awards until a new donor financially supports the award.

APPENDIX #2

Date: 1/9/2026

Re:

- James Madison Award (last given 2017) <https://www.ala.org/awards/professional-recognition/james-madison-award>
- I. Ray Patterson Copyright Award (last given 2022) <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/copyright/patterson-award>
- Eileen Cooke State & Local Madison Award (last given 2018) <https://www.ala.org/awards/professional-recognition/eileen-cooke-state-local-madison-award>
- Public Service Award (last given 2012) <https://www.ala.org/awards/professional-recognition/public-service-award>

Before completing this form, please use the [Awards Committee Manual](#) as your guide. For questions, please contact governance@ala.org

Establish (e.g. *new ALA, Division, or Roundtable Award*)

Discontinue (e.g. *end of ALA or Roundtable Award*)

Renew (e.g. *renewal of Award*)

Name Change (e.g. *changing name of Award*)

Change amount of Award

Division/Office Award Discontinuance Alert to the ALA Awards Committee **INFO ONLY**

Committee or Award Jury/Units Affected/Contact Name/Email: Public Policy & Advocacy Office, Lisa R. Varga, lvarga@alawash.org

Background: Provide any background information on the Award under consideration, including why this action is necessary.

Following ALA Forward Guidelines, these 4 awards are recommended for sunseting. Each awards score fell into the Sunset/Replace categories following evaluation.

Proposal: Provide detailed information on proposed action requested. *(Please review “Award Proposal Requirements” in the Awards Committee Manual.)*

APPENDIX #3

Date: 1/12/2026

Re: Diversity Research Advisory Comm (ODLOS Adv Sub-Committee) – Grant

Before completing this form, please use the [Awards Committee Manual](#) as your guide. For questions, please contact governance@ala.org

Establish (e.g. *new ALA, Division, or Roundtable Award*)

Discontinue (e.g. *end of ALA or Roundtable Award*)

Renew (e.g. *renewal of Award*)

Name Change (e.g. *changing name of Award*)

Change amount of Award

Division/Office Award Discontinuance Alert to the ALA Awards Committee **INFO ONLY**

Committee or Award Jury/Units Affected/Contact Name/Email:

ODLOS Advisory Committee Chair: Tracy Sumler (DCPL) - tracy.sumler@dc.gov

Kevin D. Strowder – ODLOS Director – kstrowder@ala.org

Background: Provide any background information on the Award under consideration, including why this action is necessary.

Since 2020, the Diversity Research Grant (DRG) within ODLOS has been on hiatus. This grant consists of a one-time \$2500 award to support a one-year original research project and complimentary registration for one conference in conjunction with a presentation of findings at ALA Annual Conference or the ALA Midwinter Meeting. There are a couple of reasons why we are requesting that this grant be terminated permanently:

Financial Support:

The funding for this effort has no substantial backing. Each fiscal year, ALA staff would budget about \$7,500 - \$10,000 from the general operating fund of ODLOS to ensure applicants were

awarded. Sponsorship was minimal and there were no prospects for sustainability given the current states of ALA.

Member/Staff Capacity

Due to the Program Assessment efforts and the potential sunset of the ODOS Advisory Committee, support for monitoring this grant remains limited. The annual commitment for staff and members is difficult to ensure proper oversight and alignment with unit goals.

Proposal: Provide detailed information on proposed action requested. *(Please review “Award Proposal Requirements” in the Awards Committee Manual.)*

Name:

Diversity Research Advisory Comm (ODLOS Adv Sub-Committee) – Grant

Application Information:

Eligibility

Grants should not be sought for work leading toward the completion of a degree, thesis or dissertation. The principal investigator submitting a proposal must be a current member of the American Library Association, it is not required that all project personnel hold membership. If you are not presently a member of ALA but wish to submit a proposal please visit the [Membership Website](#) for more information on the benefits of joining ALA. You will be required to supply your membership ID number with your proposal.

Criteria

Grants should not be sought for work leading toward the completion of a degree, thesis or dissertation. Once a proposal has been deemed both complete and clearly in fitting with the Diversity Research Program, it will be evaluated on the following criteria: Need for Support (relevance to the DRG program goals): measures whether or not the research will be undertaken without this support and how the project is original and addresses gaps in the conceptual and/or practical knowledge of equity, diversity, and inclusion in LIS. Need for Research (professional impact): measures the potential of impact on diversity research and practice in the LIS professional. Project Design (effectiveness): measures if the project is designed to effectively carry out the proposed work. Note staff training, general operating or overhead expenses, and other indirect costs are not funded and should not be included in the budget request. Sustainability (adaptability): measures if project has the potential for being expanded upon in the future and/or encouraging further research in diversity in the LIS profession. Also measures if the project can be adapted by libraries with similar interests or concerns.

APPENDIX #4

Proposal to Amend and Expand the Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement

Brought to the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Round Table Executive Board on 7 July 2025 by Emma K. McNamara, PhD, on behalf of the 2023-2025 Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement Jury

The Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement is currently awarded in alternating years: even years for an author/illustrator and odd years for a practitioner. The 2023-2025 VHALA jury proposes that the award be amended and expanded.

Two of the main criteria for the award are that the recipient is alive and their awarded work is 10+ years old. These are tight, yet reasonable, parameters to adhere to, and those who fall under that criteria are aging. We are all aware that tomorrow is not promised. In fact, many of the VHALA winners would not have been eligible to receive the VHALA had they not won the exact year that they won. Given the slate of nominations over the past four years (2021-2025), VHALA jurors have been racing against a clock to award distinguished authors, illustrators, creators, and practitioners who deserve to be recognized by the CSK community. The 2023-2025 VHALA jury worries about who will be missing in the future. The 2023-2025 VHALA jury proposes that the Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement be reimagined from an alternating award to a yearly award, meaning that each year both an author/illustrator and a practitioner receive an award.

The largest barrier to this change is the monetary award. The current award guidelines, as noted in the VHALA Juror Handbook, indicate that each year's VHALA recipient receives \$1500. The 2023-2025 VHALA jury brainstormed a list of potential sponsors to take up the cost on CSKBART's behalf, especially if it were to be doubled to \$3000 each year. Due to the attack on activities that benefit antiracism, diversity, equity, and inclusion, the groups that we reached out to were unable to commit to such expenditures. Therefore, for CSKBART to afford the expanded award, the 2023-2025 VHALA jury proposes that the monetary award of \$1500 per recipient be decreased to \$1000 per recipient. In doubling to \$2000, CSKBART would only need to find \$500 to cover this cost. In years when authors/illustrators receive the award, their publishers usually cover the cost of any giveaways presented to attendees at the reception. In recent years, giveaways presented at the reception for practitioners were either extra copies of CSK books on the shelves at ALA Headquarters, or giveaways were not provided. Additionally, the VHALA reception now shares flowers with the CSK Breakfast, since the Breakfast flowers get dropped off on the Saturday afternoon of Annual anyway. So, the additional \$500 can come from the

VHALA flowers and giveaways line items in the VHALA budget; additional money does not need to be found.

This proposal was initially brought to the CSKBART Executive Board at the 7 April 2025 Board meeting. The new imagination of the award was met with understanding and agreement. Thus, the 2023-2025 VHALA jury submits this formal proposal for approval from the CSKBART Executive Board so that it can move through the proper channels for both CSKBART and ALA adoption.