

YALSA Board of Directors – August 2010

**Topic: Location for the 2012 YA Literature Symposium**  
**Item # 3**

**2013 Events:**

- 2013 ALA Midwinter Meeting in

- The Missouri Library Association’s conference will be the first week of October in southwestern Missouri, and the Missouri Association of School Librarians normally holds a fall seminar in Oct. or Nov.; however, their main conference is in the spring.

| <b>St. Louis Hotels</b> | <b>Rate</b> | <b>Comps</b>                                                                                                  | <b>Summary of Notes</b>                                     | <b>Concessions</b>   |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Millennium Hotel        | \$129       | 1 per 50, comp internet in guest rooms, one bedroom suite comp for 3 nights, comp meeting space rental        | Meeting space on lower level, isolated                      |                      |
| Marriott Union Station  | \$109       | 1 per 40, 2 one-bedroom suites, staff room rates, comp internet in guest rooms, comp meeting space rental     | Historic hotel, options for breaks not desirable            | Metro stop in hotel  |
| Hyatt Regency, Arch     | \$109       | 1 per 40, 2 junior suite upgrades, staff rated rooms, comp internet in guest rooms, comp meeting space rental | Largest amount of meeting space, plenty of room to grow.    | 10% banquet discount |
| Hilton Ballpark         | \$119       | 1 per 50, comp meeting space rental                                                                           | Meeting space is a little tight, not enough room for breaks | 10% banquet discount |

### **Staff Recommendation**

Based on the site visit, the Hyatt Regency by the St. Louis Arch is the best fit for the Symposium. The hotel had the largest amount of meeting space and pre-function space, which gives the Symposium room to grow. The hotel rate is low, and transportation is relatively affordable and accessible. Locally, the Metro offers an inexpensive transportation option to and from the airport, which is a major hub for American airlines. There are plenty of hotels nearby if the YALSA block fills, and the location is right across the street from the St. Louis Arch and close to other attractions.

### **Proposal**

Approve St. Louis, MO as the site for the 2012 symposium now in order to lock in low hotel rates and begin promoting the event and location.

### **Rationale**

- The size of the hotel is adequate and its proximity to the airport and downtown is convenient
- There are multiple affordable transportation options within the city, and the airport provides many options for individuals who are flying in from out of town
- There is a significant drive-in population to draw from for potential symposium attendees
- The hotel rates are low and the hotel can accommodate our desired dates
- There is a lack of other library/literary events in area at the time of Symposium

- St. Louis, and the Midwest in general, is not an area where YALSA has recently hosted a Symposium, Institute or other event
- St. Louis is not in a part of the country where ALA has recently hosted a major event
- St. Louis, as the “Gateway to the West” has a potential draw as tourist destination

### **Requested Action**

The Board approve St. Louis, MO as the site for the 2012 symposium and direct staff to work on the necessary logistics, including but not limited to obtaining contracts for the recommended hotel and informing ALA of the decision.

### **Additional Information**

- Prior YA Lit Symposium locations:
  - 2008: Nashville, TN
  - 2010: Albuquerque, NM
- ALA Calendar of Events:  
[www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/calendarofevents/index.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/calendarofevents/index.cfm)
- St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission:  
[www.explorestlouis.com/visitors/index.asp](http://www.explorestlouis.com/visitors/index.asp)