

2011 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans, June 23-29

RECOMMENDED DATES:

November 5th to 7th, 2010

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS:

Criteria:

- size and proximity of airport to downtown
- transportation options w/in the city
- size of area drive-in population
- hotel rates and availability
- lack of other library/literary events in area at the time of Symposium
- not an area where YALSA has recently hosted a Symposium, Institute or other event
- not in a part of the country where ALA has recently hosted a major event
- prior success of other ALA functions in city
- potential draw as tourist destination

LOCATIONS CONSIDERED:

Salt Lake City

Overall observation:

Pros: There are multiple hotels in the area, allowing for growth. ALSC just had their Fall Institute there with one of their highest attendances (of about 275). Salt lake City Airport has been ranked 1st in on time arrivals and departures.

Cons: ALSC had their fall institute here in 2008. Not many airlines offer direct flights into Salt Lake. Is the city enough of a tourist destination? Will there be a big enough population of library workers within driving distance?

Hilton Salt Lake City Center:

Pros:

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Confirmation of Site Selection for the Symposium**

Pros: Two of the hotels are in areas where there are multiple hotels, allowing for growth if our registration is higher than expected. No other ALA meeting will be near Albuquerque before or after the 2010 Symposium. The city offers a variety of tourist attractions and the weather will be neither too hot nor too cold in November.

Cons: The Albuquerque airport is not as large and does not offer as many flights as Salt Lake City. However, price of flights does not seem to be much different.

Albuquerque Marriott

Pros: Meeting space is adequate and all on the same floor. The hotel is within walking distance of at least 3 other hotels, 2 indoor shopping malls, an outdoor upscale shopping area, and many restaurants. This hotel also has offered us the best rate of \$119.00 and free parking.

Cons: This hotel has a \$1500 daily meeting set up fee. No other hotel has a fee. (We could work to get this waived).

Doubletree Hotel Albuquerque

Pros: This hotel is downtown; meeting space would be in the Convention Center which is connected to hotel. Hotel rate is \$129.00 and parking is \$10 a day.

Cons: Meeting space in the Convention Center can not be booked until 1 year out. We can work with the CVB to get the space contracted earlier, up to 2 years out. However, there could be another convention going on at the same time.

Portland

Portland Downtown Waterfront Marriott

Pros: This hotel is downtown, close to many other hotels. The city is a solid tourist destination. There is probably a sizable drive-in population in the area.

Cons: PLA's 2010 conference is in Portland in March. YALSA would be going there in November of 2010. Hotels seem to be more expensive than other potential cities. YALSA staff have not visited this city to vet the hotels, airport, etc., so a visit would need to be made if this city is to be considered further.

Summary from Nichole:

Each city seems to offer a good amount of attractions and airfare to the cities can be affordable, depending on the traveler's starting point.

I think that each of the hotels would work for the symposium as far as space, even the Marriott Salt Lake City Center. While we could make that space work, it might be more desirable to have all events at a single hotel.

All of the hotels offer competitive rates for guest rooms, but based on the guest room rate, the Hilton Salt Lake City Center is the least desirable. The guest room rate at the Albuquerque Marriott is the lowest guest rate of all the hotels, so the most desirable for guests.

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Each of the hotels have increased their room block to 300 on peak nights, with the exception of the Doubletree Hotel Albuquerque, which is only able to allow us 250.