**2018-2019 EBD#10.1**

**2019 ALA Midwinter Meeting**

**TO: ALA Executive Board**

**RE: ALA Conference Committee**

**ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion**

**DRAFT MOTION: NA**

**REQUESTED BY: Clara Bohrer, Chair, ALA Conference Services**

**Paul Graller, Manager, ALA Conference Services**

**DATE: January 16, 2019**

**BACKGROUND:**

For the past two years, the ALA Conference Committee has been exploring future directions for the ALA Midwinter Meeting. Opinion on the Midwinter Meeting is sharply divided. Some members believe no mid-year event is necessary; other take just the opposite position. In between, the Conference Committee has heard a wide range of opinion on how a future mid-year event might be shaped, how it might be focused and what the various components of the event would be.

The attached documents, developed for discussion at this Midwinter Meeting, are based on a middle path and build on the successes of the current Midwinter Meeting. The proposed option recognizes and builds on the high visibility of the Youth Media Awards, the Carnegie Medal announcements, the RUSA Book and Media awards and related programming and exhibits at the current Midwinter Meeting. It also builds on and expands the current – successful – Symposium on the Future of Libraries, linking development of strategic leadership skills (know how) to the futurist content developed by and for Center for the Future of Libraries (know what). These two broad content streams will utilize multiple formats: information sessions (speakers and panels), interactive workshops for collaborative and hands-on learning, and “campfire” discussions, facilitated discussions designed to generate conversation among participants, across perspectives. Content is explicitly at the core of the envisioned event.

While meetings continue, they are reduced in number (only those where there is a defined need for high-value/high-cost face-to-face meeting) and separated in time (beginning/end) from the content sessions. This is intended to encourage interaction between leadership and other attendees around the critical discussions taking place in a changing field and to enable broader informal networking and conversation, enabling both leadership and other members and attendees opportunity to engage with each other.

While the Committee believes the event has the potential to attract a national audience, it is initially positioned as a slightly smaller meeting than the present Midwinter, assuming initial reliance on a regional audience. (For both Annual Conference and Midwinter, regional attendees may comprise 25% or more of attendance, depending on location.) The smaller footprint will enable ALA to take advantage of smaller cities, which (in some cases) will itself reduce costs, and to control meeting/session-related costs such as AV. In building the sample budget, some dollars have, then, been shifted to support increased facilitation and to support networking events.

The following documents are attached:

January 11, 2019 memo from Paul Graller to Clara Bohrer

Sample Skeleton Schedule

Sample Budget

Draft Call for Proposals

There are several opportunities during the Seattle meeting to meet with members of the ALA Conference Committee and to comment on the proposal:

ALA Conference Committee Meeting – Saturday, 10:30-12:30, WSCC Room 3B

ALA Conference Committee Town Hall – Sunday, 10:30-11:30, SHER Cedar Room

ALA Conference Committee Town Hall – Sunday, 4:00-5:00, SHER Cedar Room

Additionally, the ALA Conference Committee Chair will be reporting at Council III on both the impact of changes to the ALA Annual Conference (initially implemented at the 2018 Annual Conference in New Orleans) and the proposed replacement for the ALA Midwinter Meeting.

Implementation of the new event is proposed for January 2021 in Indianapolis (already contracted) and 2022 in San Antonio (already contracted). As with the Annual Conference changes, the ALA Conference Committee will evaluate following each iteration of an event, making changes as needed based on on-site and post-conference evaluation.