De Todo Corazón

President Year-end Report & State of the Organization

David Lopez, MFA, MLIS
REFORMA President, 2023-2024

As we prepare for ALA Annual in San Diego, I’d like to take you through what REFORMA has accomplished since our January mid-year check-in. While my time as your presidente has come to an end, this year has given me the opportunity to meet some incredible people who are passionate about our profession and the future of REFORMA. The last year has been one of the highlights in my professional career and I am forever grateful for this growth and everyone’s patience and apoyo.

My commitment to being a hands-on president with all committees helped strengthen productivity and move our organization’s goals forward. I have had the pleasure of working closely with our Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and membership. Being transparent and having open communication with Reformistas has been paramount to me over the last year.

In Baltimore we had a successful mixer during LLX where we met new and returning members! We even recruited some non-members and new Executive Committee members!

One of the biggest honors in my library career. To celebrate Latino/x/é excellence in publishing and to uphold the tradition that is the Pura Belpre Award as REFORMA President during the Youth Media Awards (YMA) at LLX in Baltimore, MD. The winners and honorees are incredible and show us how important our voices are to the readers, the dreamers and the hopeful. Gracias to the Pura Belpré selection committee for helping us put a new set of books into the hall of fame of our hearts.

FUNNY CUENTO: I met comedian Jesus Trejo the day before the YMAs after he read from his book “Papá’s Magical Water-Jug Clock” in Baltimore and we connected as two Southern Californians. Little did I know I’d be calling his name as the Pura Belpré Honor! Then we began planning for future partnerships and our Fiesta and Fundraiser!

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YMA Presenters moments before showtime!
On June 24, 2024, REFORMA partnered with Candlewick, and hosted Pura Belpére Award-winning author and current National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature, Meg Medina, Honorary Chair of 2024 National Library Week. The event was a celebration of National Library Week, where Meg shared her new book No More Señora Mimí and engaged in a conversation with New York Public Library children’s librarian, Angelina Anzalone, about the importance of storytelling and the vital role that libraries play in communities.

On May 21, 2024, REFORMA’s International Relations Committee (IRC) presented a webinar with ALA’s Graphic Novels and Comics Round Table (GNCRT) titled “Portrayal of Latinos in Comic Books”. Topics included the rich mixed ethnic and cultural backgrounds comic book characters, stereotypes in Latino portrayals, among others. REFORMA and GNCRT work together on a joint booklist, a partnership that developed when plans for this webinar first began in 2022.

In past years ALA Graphics has worked with ALA affiliates such as REFORMA for input on posters and bookmarks that celebrate diversity in libraries. This year, REFORMA provided a list of past Pura Belpére winning and honored illustrators and ALA Graphics selected Duncan Tonatiuh to design the next poster and bookmark celebrating Latino Heritage. These will be produced and distributed widely later this year!

On May 21, 2024, REFORMA’s IRC presented a webinar in collaboration with the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA). The virtual event “More Latino than we realize: Filipino librarians contributions to librarianship” celebrated the invaluable contributions of Filipino librarians and the cultural ties that unite us.

On April 9, 2024, REFORMA partnered with Candlewick, and hosted Pura Belpére Award-winning author and current National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature, Meg Medina, Honorary Chair of 2024 National Library Week. The event was a celebration of National Library Week, where Meg shared her new book No More Señora Mimí and engaged in a conversation with New York Public Library children’s librarian, Angelina Anzalone, about the importance of storytelling and the vital role that libraries play in communities.

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Congratulations to new REFORMA Executive Committee members!
- Adriana (Ady) Huertas is elected to serve as Vice President / President-elect
- Serena Vaquilar is elected to serve as Treasurer
- Isabel Vargas is elected to serve as Secretary
- Elisa Garcia is elected to serve as Chapter Representative – Eastern Region
- Mary Pastrana is elected to serve as Chapter Representative – Central Region
- Ziba Perez is elected to serve as Chapter Representative – At-Large

Congratulations to this year’s REFORMA Scholarship Awardees!
- REFORMA/SAGE Scholarship - Ashley Yñiguez
- Rose Treviño Scholarship - Gabriella Jasso
- REFORMA Scholarship - Juana Campos Benitez
- REFORMA Scholarship - Leslie Juarez
- REFORMA Scholarship - Edith Méndez

Abigail “Abby” Morales is this year’s Dr. Arnulfo Trejo Librarian of the Year (LOTY) Award recipient
An active longtime REFORMA member and is currently serving as a Co-Chair for the REFORMA National Conference Coordinating Committee. She served on the ALA Newbery Medal Committee in 2019, Pura Belpré Medal Committee in 2016 and was a part of the Pura Belpré Expansion Task Force to integrate a Young Adult medal component to the award.
reforma.org/loty24

Dr. Romelia Salinas is this year’s Elizabeth Martinez Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA) recipient
REFORMA has been a constant presence in Dr. Salinas’ career. From serving as President for the Los Angeles Chapter for several years to serving as Immediate Past President (2022-2023), chairing the Finance Committee and serving on the Strategic Plan Committee, Dr. Salinas has served the organization locally and nationally.
reforma.org/laa

TREASURY SNAPSHOT

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06/22/24
2024 ALA Annual Conference @ a Glance

On June 24, 2024, we began our year end meetings with a virtual Board of Directors Meeting. [WATCH THE RECORDING HERE]

Our meetings are open to all current members, supporters, and those interested in joining.

See our full conference schedule at reforma.org/alaannual2024

Join us at the REFORMA Fiesta & Fundraiser!

Limited tickets at the door still available

Join us for a night of storytelling featuring national and local storytellers in an enchanting evening of performances celebrating and affirming the richness of Latino heritage and culture.

The winning authors and illustrators will be signing their books, which will be available for purchase for a flat fee of $10. Proceeds from the book sale allow us to fund raise for future ceremonies, and keep the Belpre Award Celebracion FREE for all conference attendees. More information can be found on the ALA Conference scheduler.

Learn more about the work our Children in Crisis task force is doing and how you can help by visiting them during the Diversity Fair or attending their presentation.
Join me at my President’s Program!

SOMEBODY OVER THE ARCOIRIS
CONVERSATIONS ON QUEER LATINIDAD IN LIBRARIES

REFORMA
PRESIDENT’S PROGRAM

ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition
San Diego | JUNE 27 – JULY 2, 2024
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION • ALAANNUAL.ORG

SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2024 | 2:30PM–3:30PM
San Diego Convention Center, Room 26 A B

David Lopez
he/him/el
REFORMA President, 2023-2024

Adriana “Ady” Huertas
she/her/ella
San Diego Public Library

Edwin Rodarte
he/him/el
Los Angeles Public Library

Mario A. Ascencio
he/him/el
ArtCenter Library

Xaime Aceves Equihua “Raquelita”
he/him/she/her/his/hers/himself/herself/their/theirself/they/them
Associate Therapist & Drag Artist

Nadia M. Orozco-Sahi
they/she
University of New Mexico
I first joined REFORMA as a library school student in 2010, when I first met some of my first mentors. I knew when I found REFORMA that I had found a chosen family and support system that I could turn to when I needed to feel seen and heard. Since joining my local chapter in Orange County where I received my first scholarship, I have been afforded other opportunities I never imagined would find their way into my life. Librarianship and my love and understanding of Latino, immigrant, Spanish-speaking communities have taken me from working in my hometown library, to obtaining international fellowships, to expanding my knowledge through conference networking, and even being honored with awards just for doing what I love. During my presidency, I worked hard to not only make those mentors proud, but to make myself proud of what I accomplished and for doing it all by being my authentic self. In a short year, we continued to put in the work and I believe wholeheartedly that REFORMA’s future is strong thanks to everyone’s passion for this organization. This year has humbled me and given me much perspective. I stay in awe of what we can accomplish together. ¡Muchísimas gracias—de todo corazón!

Thank you to REFORMA Public Relations Chair, Celia Avila, for being my champion this entire year and always saying yes to my wild ideas. If you are at ALA Annual, come find me and pick up a flag. And if you’re not at ALA, I hope you will know how much I appreciate you and the work you all do!

June is LGBTQ+ Pride month and it’s no secret that I am as passionate about queer visibility as I am about libraries and community work. My president’s program “Somewhere Over the Arcoiris: Conversations on Queer Latinidad in Libraries” is so personal to me because of the challenges I continue to face in the professional space. To get folks excited for my program, and to celebrate Pride, I’ll be handing out these progressive Pride flags branded with REFORMA’s logo to demonstrate the importance that intersectionality plays in our diverse field.

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HAPPY PRIDE!