Mid-Year Report from the 2015 Best Book Award Committee

December 15, 2015

Yuan Li (co-chair) & Zao Liu (co-chair)

Committee Roster:

Yuan Li (Co-Chair) yuanli80@gmail.com, Princeton University
Zao Liu (Co-Chair) zliu@neo.tamu.edu, Texas A&M University
Lijun Xue lxue@madonna.edu, Madonna University
Haiwang Yuan haiwang.yuan@wku.edu, Western Kentucky University
Ning Zou nzou@dom.edu, Dominican University
Sai Deng saideng@gmail.com, University of Central Florida
Amy Kuo akuo@ci.berkeley.ca.us, Berkeley Public Library

Committee Charge:

The Committee was charged with

- Seeking nominations for the Best Book Award and to find books about general and modern life in China and Chinese-American life in the United States
- Contacting publishers and other parties to send books for review
- Reading, and contributing opinions for as many nominated books assigned as possible

Committee Action Plan:

The Committee co-chairs worked with the committee members to develop an action plan for the committee in the beginning of the year. We set up three goals that we hope to accomplish, timelines for important tasks, and the budget plan.

Call for Nomination:

The Committee Co-Chairs worked with the committee members especially Sai Deng to update the call for nomination and translate it to Chinese. The English and Chinese versions of the call were posted to CALA web at: http://www.cala-web.org/node/1644. A publishers' list was shared from the previous committee chair and updated by committee members. The call for nomination was sent out to over a hundred publishers in October 2015 according to the list. The Committee solicited nominations from CALA members, friends and many publishers.

Committee communication and revision of reviewing team:

The Committee also utilized Google Docs to store documents and facilitate collaboration, but email remained as the major communication channel. All committee members actively participated in discussion and made collective decisions. After discussed with committee members, we have split the
committee into two groups for reviewing and nominating the four categories of books. One group is for fiction & non-fiction books, and the other group is for Juvenile and Children’s books.

**Summary:**

The 2015 CALA Best Book Award Committee worked diligently to solicit nominations from CALA members, friends, authors and publishers. The award was promoted to various professional organizations, individuals and publishers and nominations were sought consistently. From October, the committee starts receiving the nominations and books (6 nominations including books for different categories so far). The committee shall keep working on soliciting nominations from now through the end of March, 2016.