STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The Children Services Division of the Oregon Library Association has launched, for the first time, a Mock Pura Belpré Award. This is a great opportunity not only for librarians who are working with Latino and/or Spanish speaking children, but also for all children's librarians to include other cultures, in this case the Latino one, in their programs and collections.

We are expecting that the event will be a learning experience for all the attendees. The focus of the workshop will be on knowledge building by including titles which are open to deliberation regarding the Pura Belpré Awards criteria. This will helps us educate ourselves about ways to improve the CSD Mock Pura Belpré Awards in the future, and also to raise awareness of the importance of more quality children’s literature written and/or illustrated by Latino authors.

We have to take into account that, according to the Cooperative Children’s Book Center, of the 5,000 children’s books published in 2009 only 1 percent were about and/or by Latinos and this percentage has changed very little since the cCBC began keeping track of the publishing trends of Latino books. This reveals lack of access to and the narrow perspective of the publishing industry.

The Pura Belpré Award defines Latinos as “people whose heritage emanates from any of the Spanish-speaking cultures of the Western Hemisphere. The award recognizes works rooted in any of the cultures found tin the countries that compose Spanish-speaking Latin America, including the Spanish-speaking Caribbean. However, this works must be published in the United States or Puerto Rico, and the authors and/or illustrators, while they need not be American citizens, must reside in the United States.