



## YART Candidate Information

**Name:** Melissa Silerio

**Candidate Position:** Secretary, YART

- Degree, Master of Library Science
  - Institution, Sam Houston State University
  - Start Year: 2016 - End Year: 2019
- Degree, Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies
  - Institution, University of Texas at El Paso
  - Start Year: 2006 - End Year: 2009

### Work Experience

- Title, Librarian
  - Institution, James Coble Middle School
  - Start Date: 06/15/2022 – Present
- Title, Librarian
  - Institution, Danny Jones Middle School
  - Start Date: 09/24/2019 – 06/15/2022
- Title, Teacher
  - Institution, Danny Jones Middle School
  - Start Date: 07/31/2010 – 09/24/2019

### TLA Activities

- TASL, Social Media Committee Co-Chair
  - Dates: 2023 – Present
- Young Adult Round Table, Lone Star Reading List Committee
  - Dates: 2022 – Present
- TASL, Media Virtual Presence Award Chair
  - Dates: 2022 - 2023
- TASL, Media Virtual Presence Award Committee
  - Dates: 2021 – 2022

### Other Professional Association Membership Information

North Texas Teen Book Festival Steering Committee (2022 – Present)

### Statement of Concern:

As a library professional, I am deeply concerned about the continued trend of book challenges and censorship in Texas libraries. These attempts to restrict access to diverse perspectives threaten intellectual freedom and the right to information. To address this issue, the Young Adult Round Table can play a vital role by collaborating with other round tables to offer mentorship, plan workshops, and create a resource hub to access information, tools, and best practices for librarians facing book challenges. This

will equip librarians with the knowledge to handle censorship challenges and ensure that young adults continue to have access to diverse and relevant materials. By taking these steps, YART can help empower librarians to maintain thriving library environments where intellectual freedom flourishes.