



## BCALA; SELF-E PARTNER FOR NEW SELF-PUBLISHING LITERARY AWARD TO PROMOTE DIVERSE BOOKS IN LIBRARIES

The **Black Caucus of the ALA (BCALA) Self-Publishing Literary Award** will be the first presented by the Black Caucus for digital content, as well as the first recognizing self-published work. It represents an exciting new opportunity not only to recognize diverse authors and books, but also to foster successful partnerships between libraries, authors and communities.

BiblioBoard founder and Chief Business Officer Mitchell Davis is excited for the opportunities the award will create. "As publishing continues to evolve in the digital era, it is clear that self-published authors will play an ever increasing role in the literary landscape," says Davis. "Efforts like this help authors get the recognition they deserve and help readers to find important books. It also places libraries at the center of the indie movement and insures they can positively influence book culture now and into the future."

As an organization that is celebrating 45 years of championing African American librarians and literature, the BCALA is excited to work with SELF-e in creating new avenues to foster relationships between libraries and indie authors. "Working with SELF-e is another way for the BCALA to continue our service as advocates for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services to the nation's African American community," says current BCALA president Kelvin Watson.

Watson also cites the **#weneeddiversebooks** campaign, a new viral movement championed by librarians in pursuit of books by diverse authors for diverse audiences, as an influence. "There has been a lack of diversity and equity in literature. SELF-e is an excellent tool to assist in connecting and being more inclusive," he added.