



Book to Action 2021 Case Study

Library: Alhambra Civic Center Library

Book to Action 2021 Summary & Impact Reflection

Please summarize your Book to Action 2021 public programming series. Write for an audience that has never heard of your library, your community, or the Book to Action concept. Start by introducing your library and community. Be sure to show how the Book to Action topic and titles met a specific community need or aspiration. Be sure to highlight your community partners, explain significant, innovative, or new models for public programs, and show how this program impacted your community. Limit 2-3 paragraphs.

The Alhambra Library is located in the San Gabriel Valley of Los Angeles County. This has been a stressful time for our city as the covid epidemic has led to an outbreak of violence directed at Asian-Americans and, as we are an Asian-majority community, the anxiety and fear felt by our residents was palpable. We chose to focus on the mental health topic of resiliency as a way to address the anxiety felt by many in the community. Brené Brown's book *Rising Strong* was chosen for its uplifting qualities and because we felt it was a timely book that would invite discussion. Indeed, two of our community partners, NAMI and the County Department of Mental Health, facilitated discussion panels (in English, Chinese and Spanish) at which the incidences of Asian hate were openly addressed. But we wanted the discussions to be uplifting and full of hope and so the emphasis of the panels was on positive ways to handle stress and how to thrive in times of adversity. We also presented resiliency expert Dr. Thalida Em Arpawong, a professor at USC and an expert in the field of resiliency, to further illuminate the themes of *Rising Strong*.

Alhambra's BOOK TO ACTION events also took programming out of the library, off of zoom, and into the community. For example, we presented *Rising Strong Day* at a local park; we printed signs with inspiration quotes from the *Rising Strong* and distributed them around a popular community walking and jogging path. The signs were printed in English and Chinese to broaden their reach. We also distributed art kits to patrons, which they used to paint pictures based on the uplifting themes of *Rising Strong*; the paintings were displayed in the lobby of the city's police department building.

Community Member Quotes

Please enter 1-2 community member quotes from surveys or public comments that may be anonymized and used in future grant applications and program model sharing.

"I love Brené Brown's book; it was a perfect selection for 2021."

"I learned a lot from Dr. Arpawong's lecture about the difference between surviving and thriving."

Impact on Professional Development

Please summarize how participating in the Book to Action 2021 initiative impacted you and your team's professional development. As a result of participating in this program, what skills did you or your team learn? What professional takeaways would you share with others looking to improve community engagement with adults & intergenerational groups?

Conducting a city-wide read was a new activity for our library. It has been many years since we have produced programming of this kind built around a single book. I think the enthusiasm we saw for this program convinced us that this kind of programming has a place at our library, provided that we select a book that resonates with our community.

Final Words of Advice

What brief bit of advice (1-2 sentences) would you give to library staff members interested in coordinating a Book to Action or similar community engagement series for adults and intergenerational groups in their community?

I think the best advice I can give is to select a book with broad appeal and with an uplifting message or theme. People are drawn to stories that inspire. It brings communities together.

Total # Programs: 12

Total Attendance at Programs: 285

Book to Action URL(s): alhambbralibrary.org (the page has been taken down I'm afraid)

Book to Action Images: attached

Please attach 1-2 images (.jpg or .png files only) that best represent your Book to Action 2021 series

Sample File Name: *BTA 2021 San Leandro Library Image 1.jpg*

Image 1 File Name: BTA-2021_ig

Image 1 Caption: Book to Action Post

Image 2 File Name: art-gallery-01

Image 2 Caption: Paintings on Display

Book to Action Program Coordinator Name & Title: Michael Whitley, Librarian

Contact: mwhitley@alhambbralibrary.org

May others contact you with questions? Yes No



Figure 1 Paintings on Display

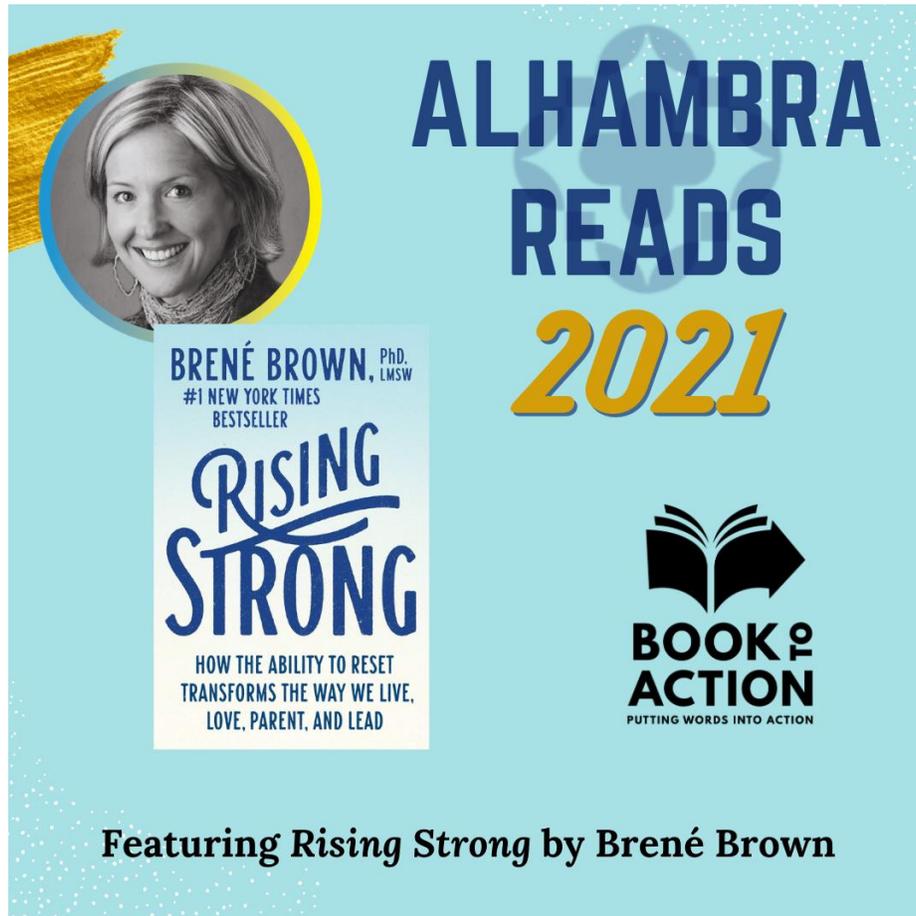


Figure 2 Book to Action Post