



Book to Action 2021 Case Study

Library: County of San Luis Obispo 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 County of San Luis Obispo collaborated with Chula Vista Public Library to plan and present a series of programs based on racial equity and based around the book *Stamped* by Jason Reynolds and Dr. Ibram X. Kendi. This program series included community book discussions, an informative panel on the impacts of racial trauma, a presentation on actions against historic racism towards Native Americans in San Luis Obispo County, a reading challenge, a discussion with Juvenile Hall, and even a youth development program based on *Stamped*. The highlights of this series included presentations on equity from the authors, Dr. Kendi and Jason Reynolds. All programs were virtual and over 314 community members were able to attend.

The attendees at these programs were as diverse as Chula Vista and San Luis Obispo are. We were able to connect to academics in our communities, rural youth equity groups like 4-H True Leaders in Equity, local high school students, and even the youth in our juvenile detention center. Participants were as likely to be advocates for racial equity as people who expressed little knowledge in historic racism, but all participants expressed a deep interest in the content of our programs and a desire to continue to learn about the topic of equity after Book to Action ended.

Many of our community partners, like the Cal Poly Office of Education, had expressed deep interest in continuing our partnership on programs focusing on racial equity and inclusion. Our local 4-H True Leaders in Equity group was so inspired by the book *Stamped*, they decide to continue hosting a young adult book discussion group after Book to Action ended. Overall, the community expressed a significant amount of interest in the Book to Action program. Many people stated that they would not have picked up a book focusing on racial equity on their own but having read *Stamped* they were very interested in continuing the discussion. Attendees at the author programs, the Native American history program, the racial trauma workshop, and the book discussions all gave positive feedback about what they learned and actions they would like to take going forward.

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 appreciated the introduction to the topic of Racial Trauma. I am very familiar with the ACES study but never really thought of race and racism as an additive to the study. I know better now."

"This forum gave me food for thought on the book and on racism. Thank you! I will now be the discussion leader for our AAUW book group. Many of our members have enrolled in the talks coming up by Ibram X.

Kendi and Jason Reynolds.”

“The tragic events of this past year have painfully exposed racism and systemic racism in our country. This topic of racial trauma and youth is even more important now than ever. We must act and do something, even on a personal level, to address the injustice of racism not only because it's morally right, but also because of its impact on people's health and life expectancy.”

“I love that the library is finding ways to interact with the community during the pandemic. Thank you for providing this program.”

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?

During the pandemic, our Book to Action team shrank from 4 or 5 interested staff to 1-2 dedicated personnel. Through all of the changes; exploring programming through different digital formats, creating community partnerships during the pandemic, learning how to host virtual book groups, dropping books off at doorsteps for community partners, and having participants pick up books at libraries that might be closed the next week, we learned SO much. We were still able to do an awesome collaborative program with the Chula Vista Public Library. We were still able to connect to our community in a deep and meaningful way. We opened doors to difficult conversations in our community that we are STILL having, and we let our staff know that we will never stop trying to make things work - even if we have 50 curveballs thrown our way.

I think my co-worker said it best when she sent me this email after our Book to Action program with author Jason Reynolds: "I just wanted to say high five on the WebEx last night. It was wonderful and you were sparkling. I loved what he said about rewriting our country's text books. What an interesting pair of writers for our book to action. They couldn't be more different in style, but obviously complement each other perfectly. Thank you so much for making this experience possible!" The experience was a challenge but worth it.

Thank you to the Book to Action staff for supporting all of us, creating a collaborative online community, helping us reach our full potential, negotiating for more books and funding, and arranging amazing state-wide author programs. The result of participating in this program is that our community sees the library as a rich partner that supports their interests and needs.

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?

Anyone interested in getting involved in Book to Action should. Your community will feel connected to you in a way that is relevant and fascinating.

Total # Programs: 10

Total Attendance at Programs: 236

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: Sarahi2 (1 of 1).jpeg

Image 1 Caption: Sarahi2

Image 2 File Name:

Image 2 Caption:

Book to Action Program Coordinator Name & Title: Margaret Kensinger-Klopfer; Coordinating Librarian -Youth Services

Contact: mkensingerklopfer@slolibrary.org

May others contact you with questions? Yes No



Image 1 Sarahi2

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