



Book to Action 2021 Case Study

Library: Sunnyvale Public 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.

Sunnyvale Library chose *Dear America: Note of an Undocumented Citizen* by Jose Antonio Vargas. We are located in the heart of the Silicon Valley and our patron base is very culturally diverse with a large immigrant population. Our community partner is the Columbia Neighborhood Center which provides resources and support for Sunnyvale's Spanish speaking community. Vargas's book about issues facing undocumented citizens really resonates with our community. The Library, along with our community partner, already provide programs and services around citizenship, equity and diversity, and ESL learning. After a racially motivated hate crime a few years ago, one of the City's strategic goals has been to make our community a safe place for our residents. We have also been focusing on educating our community and embracing our diversity. Through our programming, we were able to make meaningful connections with our patrons. We had three book discussions (one adult, two child/parents), some had never heard of Vargas, some had. There were individuals who had their own stories of immigration and others who were just learning about the issues our country faces. Our storytelling workshops allowed individuals to think about their own life story and we had many that shared harrowing, brave stories about how they or their ancestors came to America. Through our Your American Story project, we provided an opportunity for people to share their stories with the public. We displayed these online and in the library. Our partnership with the Columbia Neighborhood Center allowed to distribute Vargas' book in Spanish to the community and we also collaborated on a family tree craft with grade school kids. They worked alongside in the planning of all our events. Our final program, In Conversation with Jose Antonio Vargas, was the highlight of the whole project. By allowing patrons to submit questions in advance, he got the chance to speak directly to us. His story and his book clearly has a lasting effect on all of us.

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 wanted to thank you once again to share the immigrant story and also read others' experiences. We all have such a varied path to the same journey. Thank you for providing the platform to share and learn." - Medhavi Beautiful

"I wanted to tell you how important this project is to our community. Giving us an opportunity to tell our stories so that others can learn, is extremely important, especially in fighting racism. Thank you so much."

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?

This project provided an opportunity for children and adult librarians to work together. Unfortunately, this rarely happens. Everyone involved was excited to work on something that they felt was really meaningful. Working with our community partner also gave us insight on some of the challenges and opportunities in working with specific (Spanish speaking) community members.

This gave me as the coordinator the opportunity to work my project management muscles. Also, as a somewhat new Public Librarian (I was in academia for 7 years), this gave me insight and experience working on larger scale projects and to learn more about California State Library and the California Center for the Book. I also appreciated the opportunity to work with, learn and make connections with librarians from across the state.

This project also taught all of us how important it is to do programming that lets our community speak to us. We learned a lot about ourselves and our neighbors. People genuinely like to talk about themselves, and we had several people share very vulnerable, heart breaking, beautiful stories about their American experience. We've decided to continue to choose thought provoking books for book clubs, and we plan to do more storytelling workshops.

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?

Reach out to your list of possible community partners right at the beginning, don't wait too long. Also make sure to chose a book/topic this is really close to the interest of your community, as well as something that you are passionate about.

Total # Programs: 9

Total Attendance at Programs: 216

Book to Action URL(s): Book to Action Images:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set?vanity=sunnyvalelibrary&set=a.10159503031178707>

Image 1 File Name: BTA 2021 Sunnyvale Library Image 1

Image 1 Caption: Everyday there's hope. The letter will come in the mail soon.

Image 2 File Name:

Image 2 Caption:

Book to Action Program Coordinator Name & Title: Laurie Borchard, Adult Services Librarian

Contact: lborchard@sunnyvale.ca.gov

May others contact you with questions? Yes No



Image Caption 1: Everyday there's hope. The letter will come in the mail soon.

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