

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.

Santa Cruz County is segmented into two library systems: Santa Cruz Public Libraries which serves about 80% of the population and Watsonville Public Library, which serves the remainder of the population. According to the UC Census, 27% of Santa Cruz is non-white and 31% speak a language other than English at home with Spanish coming in on top. Book to Action, a program sponsored by the California Center for the Book, seeks to engage libraries and their communities around a common book and to read, discuss, and act around a theme that book addresses. By joining together for Book to Action 2021, Santa Cruz Public Libraries and Watsonville Public Library were able to offer a wide range of programs to the entire county, including reaching the often-underserved Spanish-speaking community. Since Santa Cruz also has a large migrant worker and immigrant population, we wanted to pick a book that addressed some of the issues faced in our communities. For that reason, we chose to read *Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen* by Jose Antonio Vargas. We built a series of programs around the themes of *Dear America* that we felt would serve to educate and engage Santa Cruz County. In order to better serve our communities we created all of our program marketing materials in English and Spanish and had a handful of bilingual or Spanish-only programs. By diversifying the types of programs we offered we were able to better serve those communities.

The impact on the community can be challenging to gauge, but between attendance numbers and qualitative feedback we feel as though the Book to Action series made a significant impact on the way attendees thought about immigration and equity. We partnered with local organizations to discuss general resources for immigrants, assistance, their Day Worker program, and some of the legal help they provide. We also brought in scholars to discuss the history of immigration in Watsonville, and we hosted an author talk to get Jose Antonio Vargas' story in his own words. One of the more innovative programs we came up with was to partner with our local radio station and solicit stories on immigration from patrons. We first held a writing workshop for patrons so they could learn how to write a short, meaningful story and then we offered them the opportunity to share these stories recorded on the radio. It was well received by patrons as well as the radio station, so we feel there may be additional opportunities in the future for innovative collaboration.

Since the two systems don't often get opportunities to collaborate, this was a good chance to test those waters and see how we could work together to address a community issue that was greater than our own individual organizations. We learned how to work within the confines of our own organizational structure as well as each others' and we made sure that work was distributed fairly and equitably. Ultimately, Book to Action 2021 was a very successful project for both Watsonville and Santa Cruz Public Libraries.

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.

- “This was one of the best virtual community programs I’ve attended. The content was very interesting and the panelists were engaging. I learned a lot!”
- “Thank you for giving us the opportunity to hear Wallace Baine talk to Jose Antonio Vargas tonight. I appreciated Mr. Vargas' articulate and honest remarks and the challenges his experiences and perspectives are to everyone seeking reform. So many things to quote but at the top of my list was when he said ‘I had to stop living my life according to other people's ignorance.’ Also...the image of the library as a map...exactly right. This programming is exactly what public libraries should be doing. I salute you.”

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?

The beauty of working as part of a team is that many members get opportunities to try something new, solidify existing skills, or participate in a way that feels comfortable and authentic to them. One team member said that participating with this group gave them an opportunity to work collaboratively and contribute according to their strengths. They also ventured outside their comfort zone by coordinating a public program involving several partners and practiced delegating and keeping all the players on a timeline. Another member appreciated the unique opportunity for Watsonville Public Library team members to further develop their engagement with a number of Watsonville Public Library’s most important strategic goals. They were delighted to have deepened their relationships with their wonderful colleagues at Santa Cruz Public Libraries, who share many of our same organizational priorities. These include:

- Facilitating lifelong learning for all residents by continuing to provide high quality and relevant resources, materials programs, events and services to satisfy the information needs of people of all ages.
- Celebrating the unique diversity and heritage of the community as we work to support cross cultural engagement and champion equity and inclusion for all.
- Creating connections that meaningfully join local residents with the larger community and with each other.

For one of the project leads, this was the first time they’d done something of this magnitude and felt it was a good opportunity to learn how to coordinate such a massive, multi-part event. For anyone interested in participating in Book to Action, they should consider forming a team of diverse skill sets, plan to read their book well ahead of time to help inform

programming, and communicate with other libraries to see what kind of programming they're doing.

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?

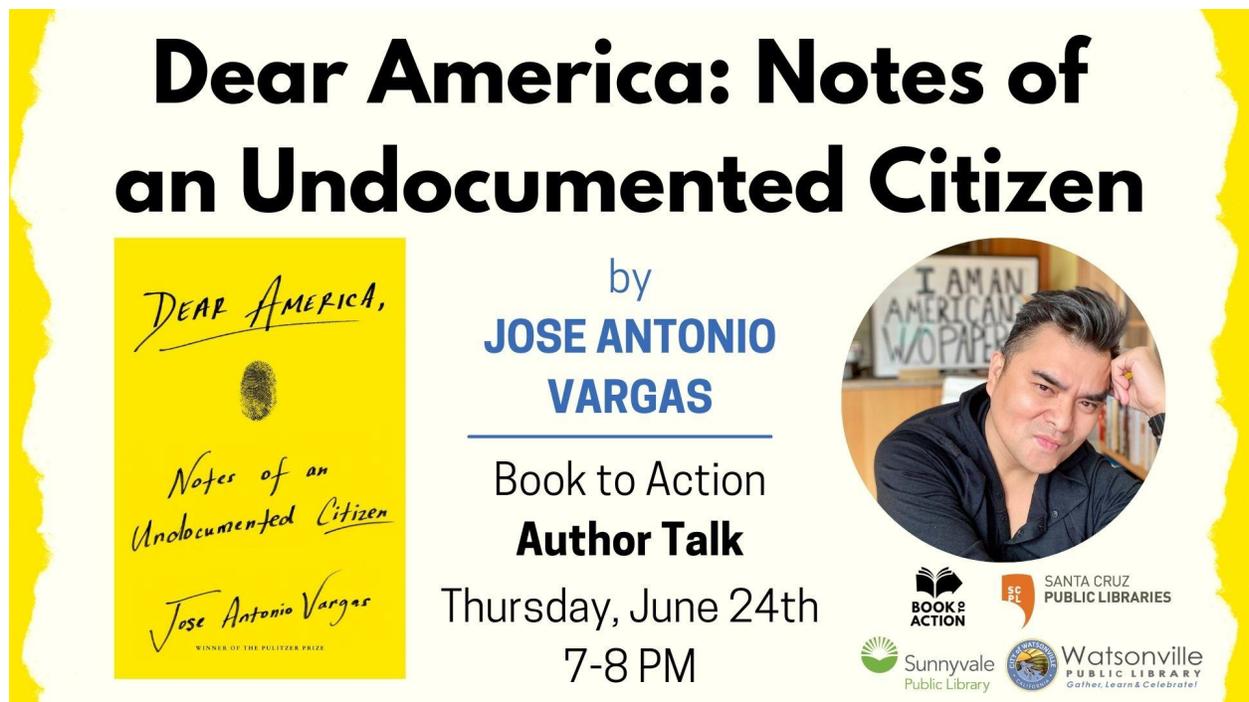
Be sure to plan everything well in advance, don't be afraid to get creative with types of programming, have a variety of levels of engagement, and have fun!

Total # Programs: 17

Total Attendance at Programs: 736

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

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



Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen

by **JOSE ANTONIO VARGAS**

Book to Action
Author Talk

Thursday, June 24th
7-8 PM

DEAR AMERICA,
Notes of an Undocumented Citizen
Jose Antonio Vargas
WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

I AM AN AMERICAN
WONDER

BOOK & ACTION

SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Sunnyvale Public Library

Watsonville PUBLIC LIBRARY
Gather. Learn & Celebrate!

The banner features a yellow background with a white torn-paper effect. On the left is the book cover for 'Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen' by Jose Antonio Vargas. In the center, the author's name and the event details are listed. On the right is a circular portrait of Jose Antonio Vargas. At the bottom right are logos for Book & Action, Santa Cruz Public Libraries, Sunnyvale Public Library, and Watsonville Public Library.

Image 1 File Name: BTA 2021 JAV Talk FB

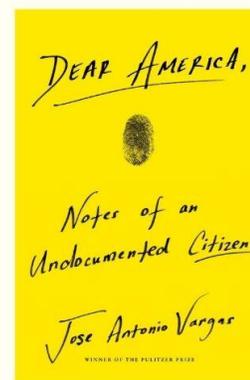
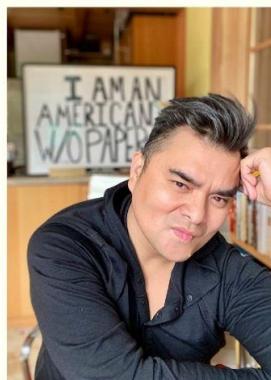
Image 1 Caption: Facebook banner for author talk with Jose Antonio Vargas

Book to Action 2021

LEER

Únase a las Bibliotecas Públicas de Santa Cruz y la Biblioteca Pública Watsonville en nuestra lectura comunitaria Book to Action.

Leeremos "Querida América: notas de un ciudadano indocumentado" por José Antonio Vargas.



CONVERSAR

Las Bibliotecas Públicas de Santa Cruz y Watsonville han colaborado para crear una serie de programas donde los participantes pueden explorar temas relacionados al libro, incluyendo equidad, inmigración, identidad y comunidad.

ACCIÓN

Book to Action tiene como objetivo alentar a los participantes a tomar medidas dentro de sus propias comunidades para abordar los temas explorados a lo largo de nuestros programas. Trabajaremos juntos para identificar formas en las que podamos mejorar activamente nuestra comunidad.

PARTICIPAR

Para más información y registrarse para nuestro próximo programa de Book to Action y otros programas relacionados visite:
<https://www.santacruzpl.org/pages/book-to-action>



Book to Action Program Coordinator Name & Title: Jennifer Hooker, Librarian II; Diane Cowen, Librarian II

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