



Book to Action 2021 Case Study

Library: Chula Vista 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.

Chula Vista is a diverse community; our library serves patrons from all backgrounds. In the wake of the death of George Floyd, we started to think about a way we could provide a space for the community to have conversations regarding antiracism. At the same time, we had the opportunity to apply to Book to Action and, since it is a grant project that encourages reading, community discussion and action, we decided to apply specifically under the equity theme. We decided to select *Stamped from the Beginning* by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi and its Young Adult version co-written with Jason Reynolds; *Stamped: Racism, antiracism and you*, because we wanted to make the conversation accessible for different age groups, including teens.

After we were accepted as a participating library, we partnered up with Human Relations Commission and teachers and youth activists from local schools to start organizing our programming. We distributed a total of 268 books, had different youth discussions, a workshop on the impact of racism in children's mental well-being and many other related programming – all virtual. We partnered with San Luis Obispo County Libraries for some of the events, including a live author event with Jason Reynolds. Also, we created a page on our library website dedicated to antiracist resources.

The community response was a positive one, people shared how they were encouraged to listen and learn, others expressed their gratitude for a space to be able to share their experiences with racism. There is a clear need for more spaces like this, we believe this is just the start of the conversation in our community and we hope to continue to spark actions that lead us to eliminate antiracist ideas in our spaces and lives.

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.

"Organizing and discussing with you and the Chula Vista Public Library is something I am truly grateful for. I am getting messages and calls expressing the love and gratitude our group has for you all!"

"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."

"My entire family is amazed at all these things we didn't know about the history of racism, especially big historical figures who just aren't as black and white (that phrase fits perfectly) as we thought they were."

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 past year has been a challenging one having to adapt to virtual programming and services given the fact that the library was closed. BTA offered our staff an unique opportunity to explore new ways of reaching and engaging with the community. We had to take our ideas to another level and think of ways we could reach out. One thing that I find very interesting is that we were able to engage teens in a way that is usually a bit more difficult when the library is closed. Due to the topic and the way it was more accessible for teens to attend a program (without having to physically go to the library), we experienced more interest from teens. This gave us an opportunity to explore a more horizontal way of organizing a program where the library staff and the teens worked together in all the stages of the process. For example, with the Ethnic Studies program from High Tech High, which is a student-led program, we met with them and proposed doing a book discussion together using the teen version of Stamped. We organized the program together, they proposed the agreements to have a safe space to discuss, we provided the discussion questions, we all read the book, promoted the program and finally had the discussions. They also attended the Jason Reynolds author event and asked questions that they came up with from the book discussion. I believe this is a great example of how we can improve community engagement, especially with intergenerational groups and this is one of the most important takeaways I have from the experience.

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?

If you are thinking of organizing a BTA program, do it! Make sure you involve as many people as possible in the library as well as community partners. BTA is a great way to engage with the community while having high quality programming.

Total # Programs: 11

Total Attendance at Programs: 121

Book to Action URL(s): <https://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/library/services/booktoaction>

Book to Action Images:

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: IMG_7830.JPG

Image 1 Caption: Workshop: The Impact of Racial Trauma on Our Children's Mental Well-being

Image 2 File Name: IMG_7831.JPG

Image 2 Caption: Teen Book Discussion

Book to Action Program Coordinator Name & Title: Mara Cabrera - Librarian

Contact: mcabrera@chulavistaca.gov

May others contact you with questions? Yes No

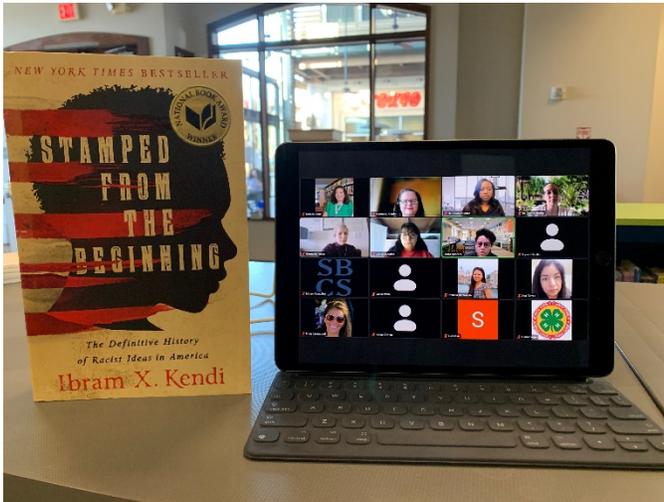


Image 1: Workshop: The Impact of Racial Trauma on Our Children's Mental Well-being

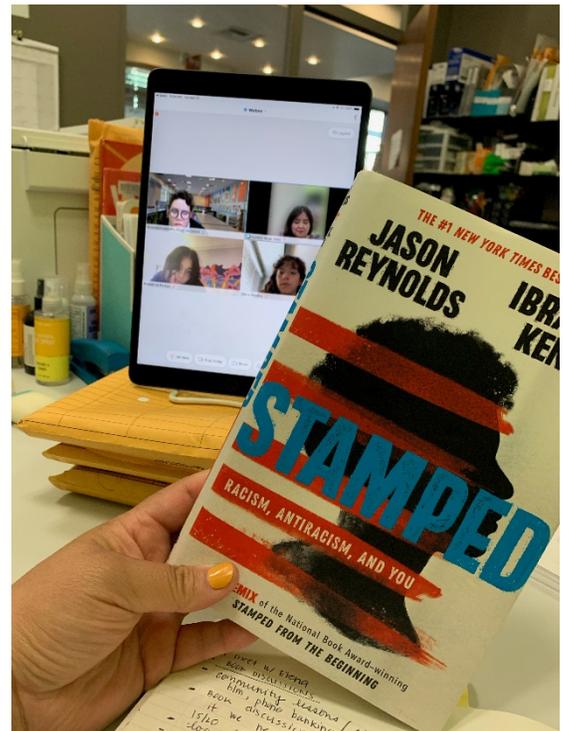


Image 2: Teen Book Discussion

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