



Book to Action 2021 Case Study

Library: OCPL – Garden Grove 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.

At Orange County Public Libraries, our Book to Action program series on racial equity was systemwide and both online and self-directed in format. Our County population is diverse both racially and ethnically, and we noticed an increased interest in library materials on social justice issues in 2020. Additionally, social justice gatherings had been organized in several parts of the County that year, by both adults and teens. Thus, we strongly felt that a program series focusing on racial equity would fill a community need.

We reached out to community organizations which focused on racial equity as part of their mission, and several became our partners: ACLU of Southern California, 100 Black Men of Orange County, OC Black Chamber of Commerce, Orange County Human Relations Council and the University of California at Irvine's Office of Inclusive Excellence. All our partners were supportive and interested in helping us share with the public an opportunity to learn about racial equity. A few partners have expressed strong interest in creating future programs with our library system!

Our two self-directed programs included a racial equity challenge in which participants could engage in suggested learning experiences and individual actions regarding racial equity, as well as a design-your-own comics bookmark. Our seven active online programs included four book discussions of *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo; an author visit by Tony Medina and discussion of his graphic novel, *I Am Alfonso Jones*; a panel of our partners discussing racial equity in Orange County; and finally a reflection discussion with those who took the racial equity challenge. We feel that our programs impacted our community positively as many participants expressed that they had been looking for programs and book discussions on racial equity and were so happy to have found ours!

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.

"Very Informative. I am glad to learn of local racial justice organizations I can connect with."

"It gave me [a] safe space to talk about race and hear from others in the community who have the same questions about race."

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?

Participating in Book to Action really helped all of us on the team to grow professionally in several ways. We learned how to work well as a team, especially how to include aspects of everyone's programming ideas while respectfully suggesting changes that may be needed. We also learned more about interacting in a sustained and ongoing way with community partners and incorporating their experience into our program planning. I think one of the most important things that we learned was that program participants will engage on different levels. While some will engage actively in group discussion, many prefer to listen and take things in. Both types of engagement are equally valid and can lead to participants making a lasting commitment to learning about a program's themes in the future.

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?

Take time to assess your community's needs and whether there are staff who are interested in working with you on the theme you're contemplating, as a program series is a very time-consuming (as well as very worthwhile!) undertaking. Also ask your library system to market your programs continuously on your Web site, on social media and in paper materials for branches to display.

Total # Programs: 9

Total Attendance at Programs: 190

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

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

Image 1 File Name: Book to Action Racial Equity Graphic Novel Author Talk.png

Image 1 Caption: Book to Action Racial Equity Graphic Novel Author Talk social media post

Image 2 File Name: Book to Action Racial Equity social media.png

Image 2 Caption: Book to Action Racial Equity Virtual Book Discussion social media post

Book to Action Program Coordinator Name & Title: Anna Dalin, Librarian I

Contact: anna.dalin@occr.ocgov.com

May others contact you with questions? Yes No

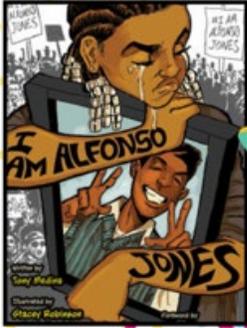
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OC Public Libraries Presents

ZOOM AUTHOR TALK

TONY MEDINA

**MAY 1
2021
2:00PM**

Take part in a discussion of the graphic novel *I Am Alfonso Jones*. Registrants receive a copy of the book to keep. (Available while supplies last)

BOOK & ACTION 

Image 1: Book to Action Racial Equity Graphic Novel Author Talk social media post

Book to Action: Racial Equity
www.ocpl.org/booktoaction



Virtual Racial Equity Panel
 Sat, 5/22 at 2:00pm
 Featuring:

- **OC Human Relations**, Alison Edwards, CEO of OC Human Relations
- **UCI Office of Inclusive Excellence**, Dr. Douglas Haynes, Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer
- **100 Black Men of Orange County / OC Black Chamber of Commerce**, Robert McDonald, President and CEO of the Chamber
- **ACLU of Southern California**, representative to be determined

Virtual Book Group Discussions of "So You Want to Talk About Race"

Thurs, 5/20 at 1pm: CM Donald Dungan
 Tues, 5/25 at 1pm: Fountain Valley
 Tues, 6/8 at 11am: GG Main
 Tues, 6/15 at 10:30am: Aliso Viejo

Virtual Graphic Novel Book Discussion of "I Am Alfonso Jones"
 Sat, 5/1 at 2pm

Virtual Racial Equity Challenge Reflection Meeting
 Sat, 6/5 at 2pm



Image 2: Book to Action Racial Equity Virtual Book Discussion social media post