



Book to Action 2021 Case Study

Library: Whittier Central 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.

Whittier was founded in 1887 as a Quaker colony, Whittier's strong sense of history and vision for the future has made it an up-scale and dynamic residential community. Through a balance of economic, social, political, cultural, and recreational opportunities, the City Council has encouraged an atmosphere conducive to community spirit and active participation in the affairs and progress of the community. Such efforts have been made to ensure a visually pleasing community in which the City's identity and character are preserved and enhanced.

The Whittier Public Library focused on the theme of sustainability, prompted by the events of 2020, a record-setting year for wildfires that burned across the state of California. Wildfires affect all of us, and the more our communities are informed and prepared we will be able to work better together. Going from a reactive to proactive approach is such a beneficial tool that allows the community to find very specific solutions.

The Whittier Public Library Book to Action events included a virtual screening of *Kiss the Ground*, and discussion with author Josh Tickell. A conversation with Christopher Diaz, a Chumash Fire Keeper and Indigenous Activist (in partnership with Monrovia Public Library), a virtual screening of the documentary *Wilder Than Wild: Fire, Forests, and the Future*, and panel discussion with the directors, Kevin White and Stephen Most and special guest Elizabeth Azzuz from the Cultural Fire Management Council of the Yurok tribe (in partnership with Monrovia Public Library). Our final program, A book discussion with author Brian Fies about *A Fire Story*, a graphic novel depicting his personal experience losing a home during the 2017 Northern California wildfires. Whittier Public Library put together a calendar of ways for patrons to challenge themselves by taking part in doing some—or all—of the actionable ideas on the topic of sustainability listed for the month of June.

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 review heightened my awareness of the issues at hand and the importance to educate our community. The documentary was excellent!"

"I will take care of the soil better and not use pesticides and harmful chemicals. I will eat less meat. I will garden and grow fruits and vegetables. Thank you!"

"I learned so much about Wildfires and how to do my part to help prevent them by making sure my home is a defensible space."

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 the Book to Action program allowed me to gain and practice new skills, including hosting virtual programs, networking, program management, and organizational skills. Due to the pandemic, I had the opportunity to collaborate on two programs with the Monrovia Public Library. This was a valuable learning experience that logistically may not have taken place in ordinary times.

Some of the takeaways I would share to improve engagement with adults & intergenerational groups would be to use as many community partners as possible to reach far and wide out into the community. Having people from within the city participate would be a great way for the community and members of the city government to be more familiar with names and faces. As for the action part of the Book to Action, I learned this year that many people are not comfortable with zoom, social media, and technology in general. Next time, I would have a variety of activities to participate in rather than limiting it to technology-based actions.

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?

I encourage anyone who hasn't participated in the Book to Action program to do so at least once. This has been a great learning experience and has allowed me to get to know the members of the Whittier community better. An important part of successfully participating in this program is having the support from management and the marketing staff.

Total # Programs: 4

Total Attendance at Programs: 367

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

[Whittier Public Library Book to Action Website](#)

[Whittier Public Library Book to Action YouTube Playlist](#)

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: a fire story book discussion_June10.png

Image 1 Caption: Book to Action 2021 Book Discussion Promo Flyer

Image 2 File Name: Wilder than Wild_May15

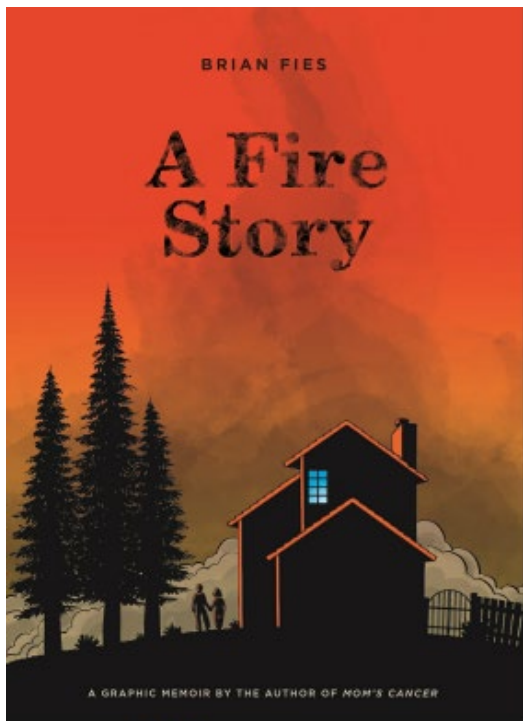
Image 2 Caption: Book to Action 2021 Documentary Screening Promo Flyer

Book to Action Program Coordinator Name & Title: Rachel Fiore, Librarian I

Contact: rfiore@whittierlibrary.org

May others contact you with questions? Yes No

California Center for the Book is a program of the [California Library Association](#), supported in whole or in part by the [U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the [State Librarian](#).



A Fire Story
Book Discussion
with author
BRIAN FIES

**June 10th
6:30 PM**



@CaliforniaCenterfortheBook
#BookToAction

Register in advance at
Whittierlibrary.org/events




Image 1 Caption: Book to Action 2021 Book Discussion Promo Flyer

Film Screening and Panel Discussion

Watch *Wilder than Wild: Fire, Forests, and the Future*, an award-winning documentary, followed by a panel featuring: Kevin White and Stephen Most (Film Directors) Elizabeth Azzuz (Secretary of Cultural Fire Management Council) and a local fire professional.

Saturday, May 15 10 AM- 12 PM

Whittierlibrary.org/events/book-to-action

Screening 10am -10:55am
Intermission 10:55am – 11am
Panel discussion 11am-12pm

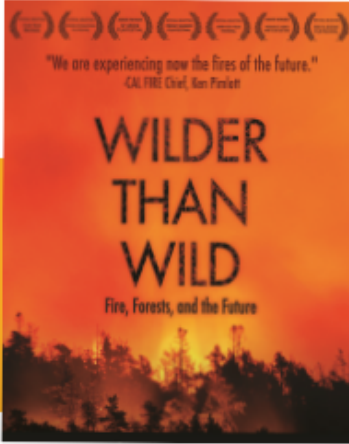


Image 2 Caption: Book to Action 2021 Documentary Screening Promo Flyer