



Book to Action 2021 Case Study

Library: El Dorado County 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.

The El Dorado County Library system is located in the gold country communities of the Sierra Nevada foothills. Our libraries serve a population of 193,000, and our largest town, Placerville, has a population of 63,000. The community values its history, small town atmosphere and sense of community. When the Covid-19 pandemic hit our area and the subsequent school and business shutdowns began, our citizens almost immediately began to voice concern about the effects of isolation on our children and seniors. When the Book to Action grant began, we knew right away we wanted to focus on the mental health and emotional resilience of our neighbors. In a recent community survey, 97% of participants agreed that libraries help to bring communities together. That same survey reinforced the fundamental value of libraries as a center to read, learn, and connect.

We also wanted our community to think about ideas such as hope, connection, and perseverance, and how the pandemic may have changed the way we think about these ideas. We wanted to encourage our community to think about how 2020 may have realigned their priorities. Therefore, along with one of our community partners, Markham Middle School, we hosted a book discussion group, reading *Murphy's Miracle*, a true story about the Golden Retriever that was lost in the El Dorado National Forest for two years before she was found. The author of *Murphy's Miracle*, Julie Samrick, led a series of writing workshops focusing on expressing how we felt during the pandemic and all the disruptions that were made to our lives. We also hosted a book discussion group featuring *Didn't See THAT Coming* by Rachel Hollis, which deals with how to persevere during life-changing events. We offered a passive program called "A Six-Word Memoir" that entailed participants to write in six words describing how they felt at the beginning of the pandemic and six words "reframing their pandemic" one year later. Our Book to Action series culminated in an author event "A Conversation with Julie Samrick", the author of *Murphy's Miracle*.

All of these events were held virtually, so we were able to reach everyone in our county. We did have small turnouts, which did end up working with our mental health subject matters. The smaller groups engendered a feeling of intimacy, and everyone was able to participate in discussions without feeling rushed.

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 enjoyed connecting with a published writer, Julie Samrick, and the others in the class."

"I think it brought a wide variety of community members together to discuss a common topic which was also very local and something with which all the participants could connect."

Not a quote, but I do want to include that one of our book discussions participants was from Azusa, a town 450 miles away from us. She had participated in one of Azusa City Library's BTA events and had heard about California Center for the Book, visited the 2021 Book to Action page and visited different library websites.

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?

Staff involved in Book to Action developed new skills in networking, developing marketing materials and virtual programming. Improved skills included time management and communicating with colleagues.

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?

Plan early and think about the timing of your programs. Are they competing with summer reading programs, common vacation times, etc. Think carefully about what types of programming works and does not work well virtually.

Total # Programs: 6

Total Attendance at Programs: 24

Book to Action URL(s): Book to Action Images: <https://eldoradolibrary.org/book-to-action-el-dorado-2021/>

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:

Image 1 Caption: Reframing 2020 flyer

Image 2 File Name:

Image 2 Caption:

Book to Action Program Coordinator Name & Title: Kelly Jordan, Sr. Library Assistant

Contact: Kelly.jordan@edcgov.us

May others contact you with questions? Yes No



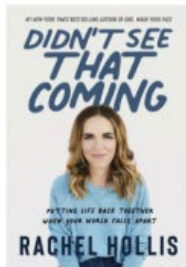
Reframing 2020

El Dorado County's Book to Action Programs

El Dorado County's 2021 Book to Action series of events explores resilience in times of hardship. We'll focus on finding perspective, maintaining connections, and appreciating those closest to us, including our pets.

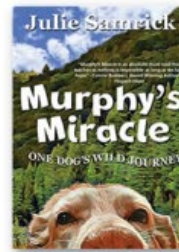
For more information, visit eldoradolibrary.org

Book Discussions



Didn't See THAT Coming

Wednesday, June 30 @7 pm



Murphy's Miracle

Tuesday, July 13 @7pm

Author Event

Join us on Tuesday,
July 20th @6 pm
Presenting Julie Samrick,
author of *Murphy's Miracle*:
One Dog's Wild Journey

Writing Workshops

led by

Julie Samrick

Tuesday, June 8 @6pm

"Getting your ideas"

Tuesday, June 15 @6pm

"Putting your work together"

Tuesday, June 22 @6pm

"Tightening up your piece"