



## Book to Action 2021 Case Study

**Library: Riverside 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.*

Over the past year, we have seen and experienced many movements, protests, and calls to action across the globe, and we are still currently in the worldwide pandemic. These movements, protests, and calls for action not only affect us globally, but also affect us locally. The City of Riverside was no stranger to these movements. In June 2020 protests in Riverside made headlines when one sheriff took a knee in solidarity with the protesters. As Riverside is the 12th largest city in the state of California with a diverse population, it is no surprise that we find ourselves needing and wanting to have these difficult conversations that have impacted the country, state, and our community.

The City of Riverside and Riverside Public Library have seen a need for these talks and wanted to address the topics of equity, sustainability, and health. But a question presented itself when trying to address these topics. How do you have these difficult conversations? The Riverside Public Library took one of the first steps to address this. Riverside Public Library wanted to help build the foundation to these conversations, we wanted to assist in developing guidelines or some form of etiquette. Every year the Library hosts a community engagement program known as Book to Action (Riverside Reads) which is made possible by the Center for the Book. This year we selected *Choosing Civility* written by P.M. Forni. This book gives the reader twenty-five rules of considerate conduct. The rules presented in this book explains there are ways for individuals, groups, or community members to remain in conversation even when we don't necessarily agree with, find pleasant, or result in awkward situations, but that we can remain true to your viewpoint in a civil way. We first wanted to discuss civility a little more in-depth, so we held a meeting with Daniel Buccino M.A., MSW, co-founder of the Johns Hopkins Choosing Civility Project. We also worked with Mariam Lam, University of Riverside Vice-Chancellor and Chief Diversity Officer. Mariam held two workshops on racial equity: Inclusive Cultural Competence and Social Movements. Both workshops were selected based on world events taking place. Aside from working with two amazing partners, the Library held two additional programs. The first was a book discussion and the other was a recap and apply. We gathered a lot of information and possible solutions to city issues. These recommendations, concerns, and insight have been passed along to our city diversity team.

### **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.*

"Appreciate that this topic is being explored and will help formulate ideas on how to improve civility in our community."

"It was a great way for us to see what issues are and how we can community with each other."

### **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?*

Nancy Walker assisted on this program to help develop and operate some of the programs that would take place. While working on the Book to Action program she learned a lot in regards to organizing larger-scale programs. She has learned how to operate a budget and go through proper channels when working with other departments and organizations. Furthermore, with libraries needing to find new ways to provide service, she has also become more proficient in Zoom. She learned about equipment checks and became more comfortable in public speaking. As these might be easy for some people, these have been major developments in her professional career. She has taken everything she has learned and is applying it to other grant programs and doing an amazing job!

### **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?*

My advice would be to create a team that can work together to create a series of programs for your community. Do not be afraid to reach out to other departments or community organizations.

**Total # Programs:** 5

**Total Attendance at Programs:** 100

**Book to Action URL(s):** **Book to Action Images:** <https://riversideca.gov/library/riversidereads.asp>

**Image 1 File Name:**

**Image 1 Caption:** Riverside Public Library 2021 Book to Action Conversation Starter

**Image 2 File Name:**

**Image 2 Caption:** Riverside Public Library 2021 Book to Action Facebook Marketing Promo

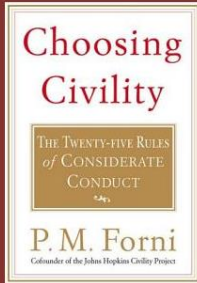
**Book to Action Program Coordinator Name & Title:** Joseph Garcia, Library Associate

**Contact:** JAGarcia@riversideca.gov | 951.826.2258

**May others contact you with questions?**  Yes  No

# RiversideREADS

CONVERSATION STARTER



How can we, as individuals, use our social media posts, videos, and comments to achieve civility?



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.

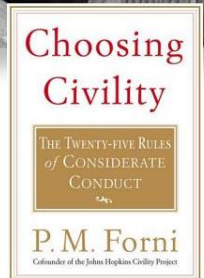
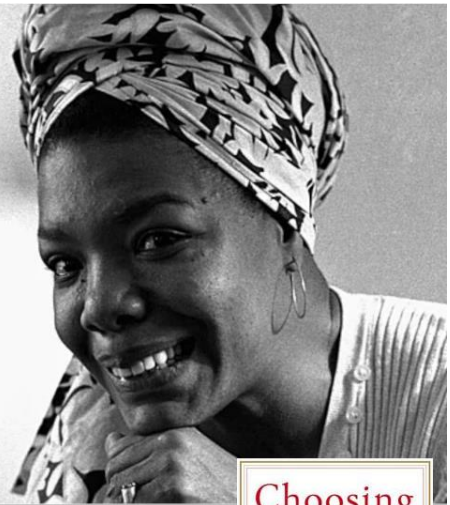


*Image Caption 2: Riverside Public Library 2021 Book to Action Conversation Starter*

RiversideREADS

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

— Maya Angelou



*Image Caption 1: Riverside Public Library 2021 Book to Action Facebook Marketing Promo*