



2022

Programs & Activities



HPL Programs & Activities

HPL offers many system-wide programs in addition to our more regular events such as storytimes and game nights.

For a full list of events, visit our [Events Calendar!](#)

A program can be a single event or a series of events, be a scheduled or a pop-up event, take place inside or outside of a library, or take place online.



Get ready to keep your children entertained and motivated with engaging educational classes, activities, programs, and outreach events.

HPL's free fun activities and programs includes classes, summer reading program, camps, pre-packed activity kits with supplies included and so much more!

All services and privileges that accompany the Houston Public Library MY Link card are free to all residents in the state of Texas.

Linking YOU to the World.



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OUTREACH

All Ages

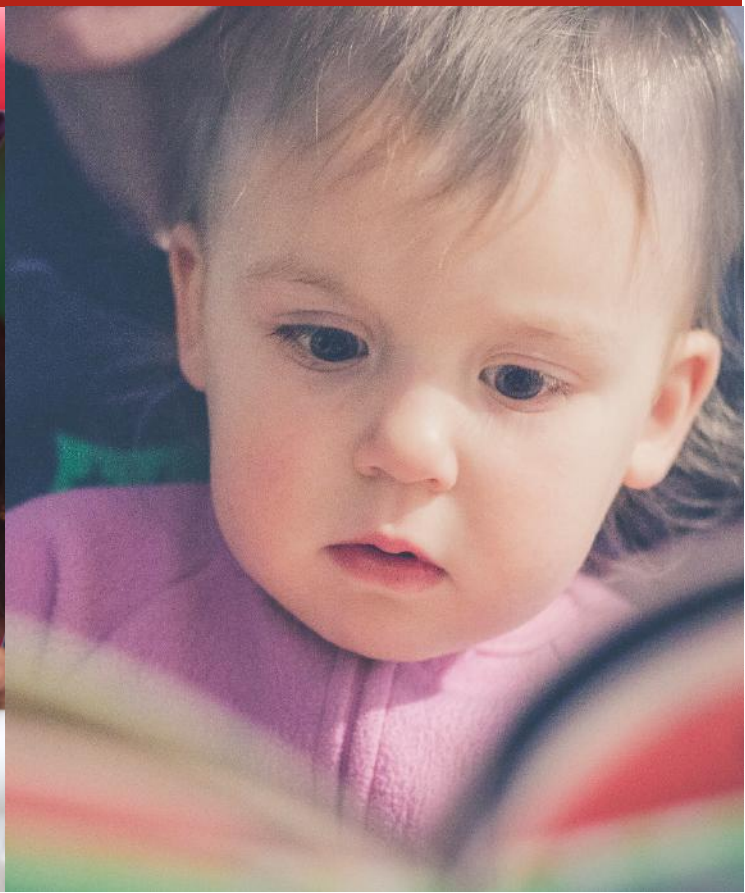
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

All Ages



Kids

Ages 0-10





ABC Jr. Ages: 0-4

Register

Our monthly Activity Boxes for Children (Jr.) introduce fun new experiences for you to explore with your little one (ages 0-4)!

May's activity is Frozen Bath Toy STEM!

All materials needed to do the activity are included, and adult supervision is required for all activities. We include early literacy tips for all activities, so you can see how the activity will help your little one get ready for school (when the time comes).



ABC Ages: 5-10

Register

These prepackaged STEAM boxes include materials to complete a Craft or STEM activity in the comfort of your home.

May's activity is a DIY Harmonica!

Adult supervision suggested for all activities.



Book Box - Kids

Ages: 5-10

Register

This special box contains a themed book and small surprise each month. Participants tell us their age and reading preferences and we select a library book for their box which is checked out to the participant. The box and the book come back to the library but the surprise is yours to keep!

May's theme is Asian American Authors & Characters for AAPI Month!

A Houston Public Library MYLink card is required for HPL Book Box participation. Limit one HPL Book Box per participant per month.

HPL Game Boxes

Now for ages 18 months and up!

[Register](#)

Are you ready to play? Let us know three games you would like to play or have us select a surprise game for you! Game Boxes check out for three weeks then must be returned to an HPL location. Please note that it may take a couple weeks for your game box to arrive.

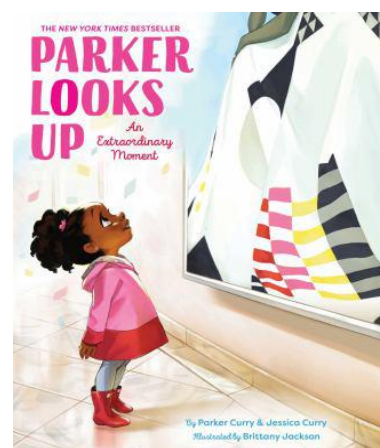
Due to high demand for Game Boxes we can only fill up to two (2) requests per family each month.

A Houston Public Library MYLink card is required for HPL Book Box participation. If you need to sign up for a library card [click here](#).

[Click here to see HPL's Game Box Catalog.](#)

HPL Day at the Museum: Parker Looks Up Storytime at MFAH May 28 | 10 AM

This spring, the **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston**, will host the **Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery tour of portraits of President Barack Obama and Mrs. Michelle Obama** by artists Kehinde Wiley and Amy Sherald, respectively. The acclaimed portraits will be on view from April 3 through May 30, 2022. As a part of the tour, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Houston Public Library Staff come together to invite you to **join a special storytime** featuring the book "Parker Looks Up" with a craft to follow. **This event is geared towards kids aged 0-5. This event will take place at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.**



[Register](#)

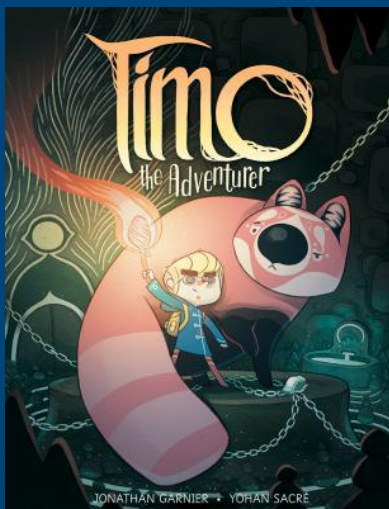
Little Maverick Book Club

Grades 3-5

Ready to read for fun? Ready to discover the latest in graphic novels for kids? Your wait is over, and your cape is waiting for you!* Join the Little Maverick Book Club, **just for kids in grades 3-5!** This Virtual Youth Book Club meets each month to discuss a selected title from the current Little Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List. A Zoom link will be provided after registration!

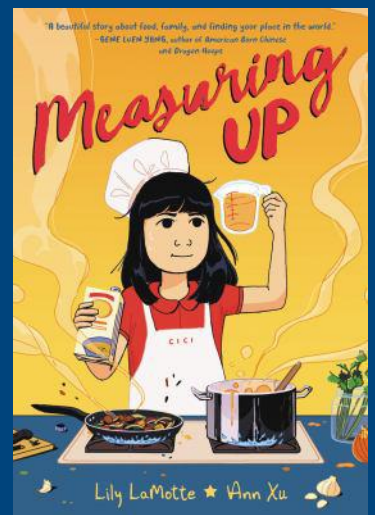


What is the Little Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List? The list is determined by public and school librarians who are members of the Texas Library Association's Children's Round Table, promoting services for children and young people. The Little Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List is a recommended reading list designed for children in grades K-5. The purpose of the list is to encourage students to explore a variety of current graphic novels.



April's Selection is
"Timo the Adventurer" by
Garnier Jonathan and
Yohan Sacré

May's selection is
"Measuring Up"
by Lily LaMotte & Anne Xu



Register April

Place a hold on
your copy today!

Register May

*Registration opens 4/25

*We are not giving out actual capes, but you can wear a cape to the virtual meeting, if that's your thing!

HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

1000 BOOKS

Before Kindergarten

READING PROGRAM



Read to your newborn, infant, and/or toddler. Any book read to your child counts, which can include teachers, siblings, day care providers, and virtual HPL Storytimes!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

1. Visit houstonlibrary.beanstack.org to register.
2. Read with your child.
3. Log the books read.

The goal is to have read 1,000 books before your little one starts kindergarten.



READING MILESTONES:

Receive a small reward for reaching milestones! At the 1,000 books read milestone, receive a backpack with a few basic school supplies to help you get your child ready for kindergarten!

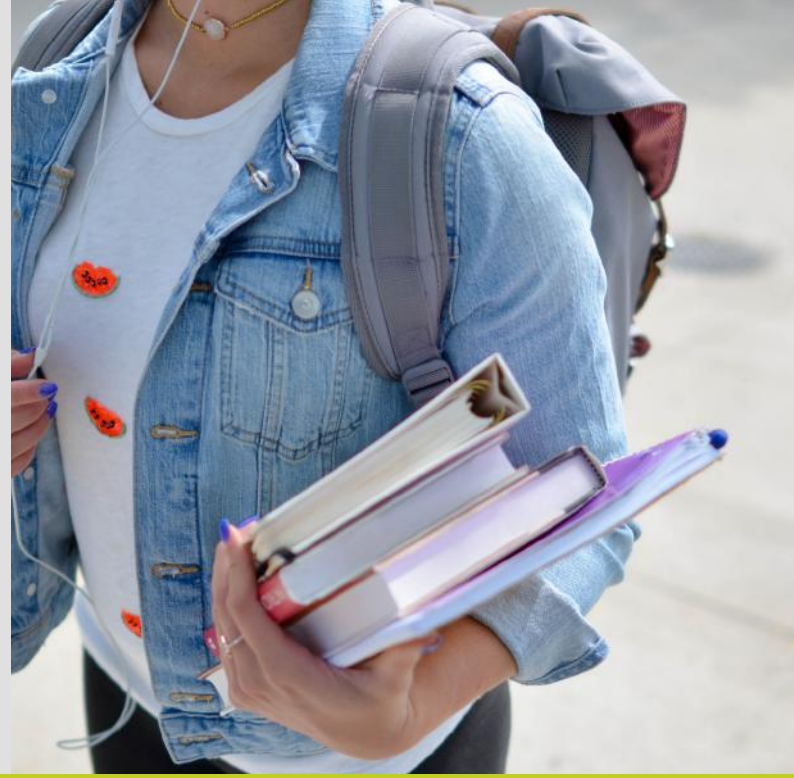
- 250 books read
- 500 books read
- 750 books read
- 1,000 books read

HOW TO TRACK YOUR READING AND MILESTONES:

1. Visit houstonlibrary.beanstack.org to login or download the Beanstack Tracker app on your mobile device.
2. Log the books read.
3. Log in anytime to track your progress.

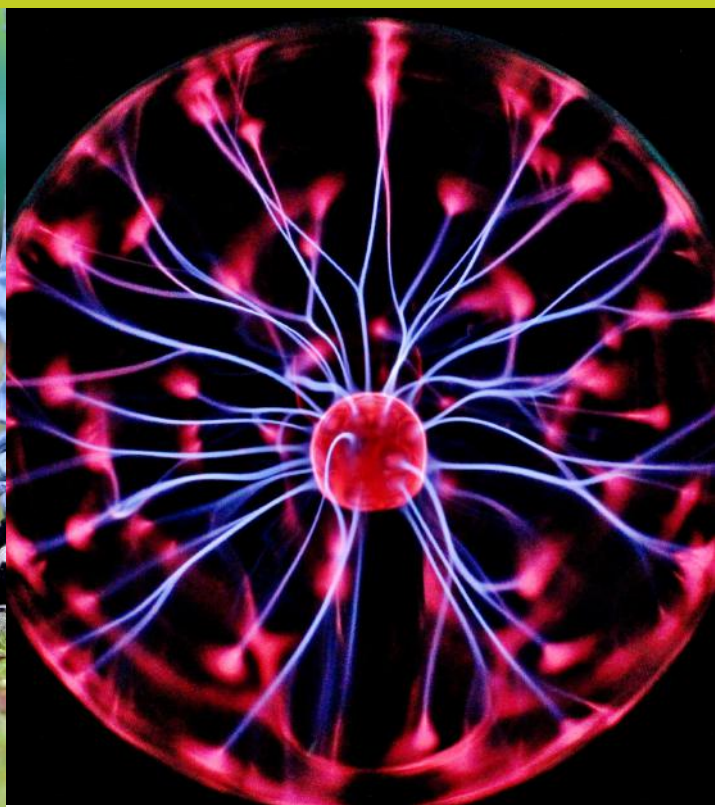
HOW LONG WILL THIS PROGRAM TAKE?

Since this is a self-paced program, completion can take anywhere from a few months to a few years. It all depends on how often you and your little one(s) read together.



Twins

Ages 10 -12





BATT Craft

Ages: 10-18

Register

We're batty about HPL BATTs! These prepackaged STEAM activities include materials to complete a craft or STEM activity in the comfort of your home.

Each BATTs contains the materials needed for one individual to complete the enclosed project. Some activities may encourage adult supervision so caregivers should always review activity instructions.

**May's Craft is
Art inspired by Haejin Park**



Image courtesy of TeacherGeek.com

BATT STEM

Ages: 10-18

Register

We're batty about HPL BATTs! These prepackaged STEAM activities include materials to complete a craft or STEM activity in the comfort of your home.

Each BATTs contains the materials needed for one individual to complete the enclosed project. Some activities may encourage adult supervision so caregivers should always review activity instructions.

**May's STEM is
Mousetrap Vehicle**

TWEEN BOOK CLUBS

Lone Star Book Club

Grades 6-8

Do you like good books and talking about books with friends? Join us for Lone Star Book Club. This Virtual Youth Book Club meets each month to discuss a selected title from the Lone Star Reading List (past and present).

The first 45 registrants in grades 6-8 will receive a free copy of the book that is theirs to keep!
For students in grades 6-8.

May's selection is
"I'll Be the One" by Lyla Lee

Register



Middle School Marvels

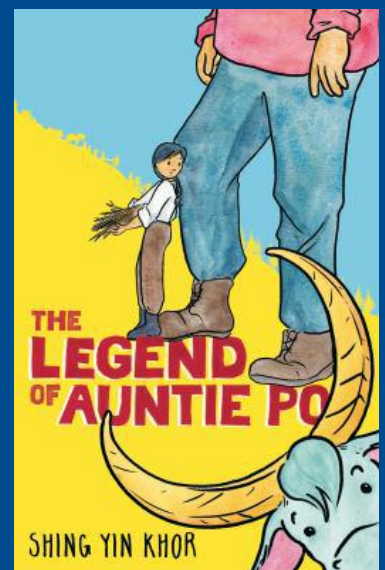
Grades 6-8

Do you like comics? Are you in Middle School? Then you should join Middle School Marvels Virtual Book Club!

Join us for the Middle School Marvels Book Club where we read and talk about graphic novels and manga! This Virtual Youth Book Club meets monthly to discuss a selected title from current Maverick or Great Graphic Novels for Teens reading lists. **The first 25 registrants in grades 6-8 will receive a free copy of the book that is theirs to keep!**
Recommended for students in grades 6-8.

May's title is
"The Legend of Auntie Po" by Shing Yin Khor

Register



HPL Game Boxes

Now for ages 18 months and up!

Register

Are you ready to play? Let us know three games you would like to play or have us select a surprise game for you! Game Boxes check out for three weeks then must be returned to an HPL location. Please note that it may take a couple weeks for your game box to arrive.

A Houston Public Library MYLink card is required for HPL Book Box participation. If you need to sign up for a library card click [here](#).

[Click here to see HPL's Game Box Catalog.](#)

Glassell-on-the-Go

Registration still open!

Grades: 6-8

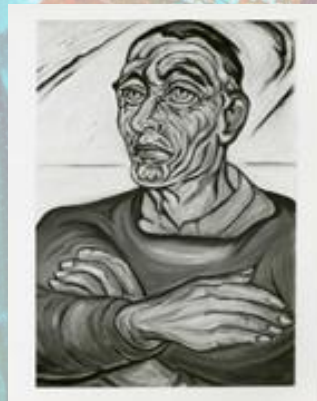
November 2021 thru January 2022

Museum of Fine Art Houston (MFAH) and Houston Public Library have partnered to bring Glassell-on-the-Go to Houston youth! Glassell-on-the-Go is a studio art outreach program designed to bring the esteemed youth art classes of the Glassell Junior School into the surrounding community for underserved youth and their families.

Glassell-on-the-Go offers creative and innovative experiences for youth in grades 6-8 that position art and the MFAH as important parts of a well-rounded education that help provide an impetus toward lifelong learning. Through a combination of video and written instruction, participants study works of art from the MFAH's collection and create their own works of art at home using prepared materials and art supplies.

Glassell-on-the-Go is divided into three sections with four projects in each section. Participants will receive supply packets for each section with instructions and materials to complete the section's four projects.

Register



NEW FOR TWEENS!

100 Books Before High School Grades 6-8

[Register](#)

The 100 Books Before reading programs challenge middle school readers to read 100 books before entering high school!

This multi-year personal reading challenge is open to all current middle school students. Participants will read and log 100 books over the course of this challenge as well as complete at least 15 mini challenges (designed to get you reading outside your comfort zone!). Titles logged toward the 100 books completion may also count towards the mini challenges.

Prizes range from fun bookmarks and pins to journals, hats and totes and are awarded at registration, 25 books, 50 books, 75 books, and 100 books. When you unlock a level, fill out the prize survey to tell let us know which of the available prizes for that level you want and we will send it to a Neighborhood Library or Central Library for you to pick up.

Reading is reading; whether you're holding a physical book, reading an eBook, or listening to an audio book. It all counts as reading!



Teens

Ages 13-18





BATT Craft

Ages: 10-18

Register

We're batty about HPL BATTs! These prepackaged STEAM activities include materials to complete a craft or STEM activity in the comfort of your home.

Each BATTs contains the materials needed for one individual to complete the enclosed project. Some activities may encourage adult supervision so caregivers should always review activity instructions.

**May's Craft is
Art inspired by Haejin Park**



Image courtesy of TeacherGeek.com

BATT STEM

Ages: 10-18

Register

We're batty about HPL BATTs! These prepackaged STEAM activities include materials to complete a craft or STEM activity in the comfort of your home.

Each BATTs contains the materials needed for one individual to complete the enclosed project. Some activities may encourage adult supervision so caregivers should always review activity instructions.

**May's STEM is
Mousetrap Vehicle**

HPL Game Boxes

Now for ages 18 months and up!

[Register](#)

Are you ready to play? Let us know three games you would like to play or have us select a surprise game for you! Game Boxes check out for three weeks then must be returned to an HPL location. Please note that it may take a couple weeks for your game box to arrive.

A Houston Public Library MYLink card is required for HPL Book Box participation. If you need to sign up for a library card [click here](#).

[Click here to see HPL's Game Box Catalog.](#)



Book Box - Teen

Ages: 10-18

[Register](#)

A Book Box is a special box containing a themed book and small surprise each month. Participants let us know their age and reading preferences and we select a library book for their box which is checked out to the participant.

The box and the book come back to the library but the surprise is yours to keep! Please note that it can take a few weeks for your Book Box to arrive as titles are matched to reader interest.

May's theme is Asian American characters and authors for AAPI month!

A Houston Public Library MYLink card is required for HPL Book Box participation. Limit one HPL Book Box per participant per month.

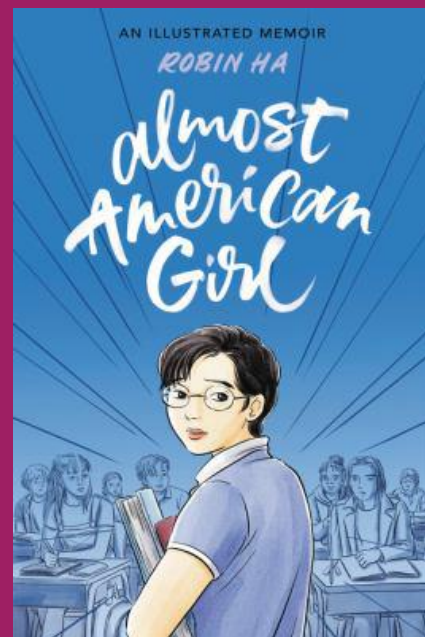
TAYSHAS Book Club

Grades 9-12

Join us for a lively and engaging book discussion with friends. This Virtual Youth Book Club meets each month to discuss a selected title from the TAYSHAS Reading List (past and present).

Participants will receive a free copy of the book that is theirs to keep! Recommended for students in grades 9-12.

May's selection is "Almost American Girl" by Robin Ha.



Register

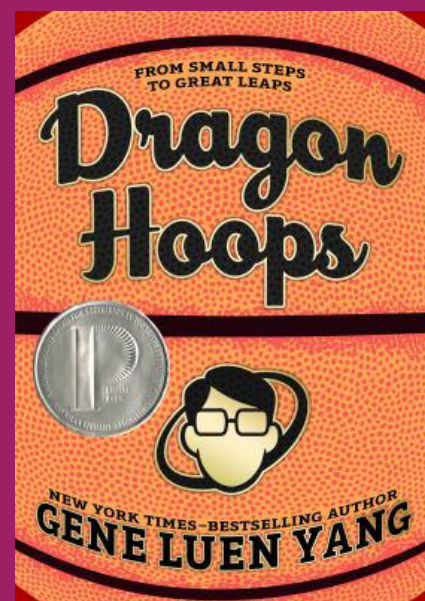
Graphic Novel Nation

Grades 9-12

Calling High School comic lovers! Join us for a lively and engaging book discussion focusing on a different graphic novel each month.

This Virtual Youth Book Club meets monthly to discuss a selected title from either the Maverick Reading List or the Great Graphic Novels for Teens reading list. **The first 25 participants in grades 9-12 to register will receive a copy of the book that is theirs to keep!** Recommended for students in grades 9-12.

This month's selection is "Dragon Hoops" by Gene Luen Yang.



Register

Glassell-on-the-Go

Registration still open!

Grades: 6-8

November 2021 thru January 2022

Museum of Fine Art Houston (MFAH) and Houston Public Library have partnered to bring Glassell-on-the-Go to Houston youth! Glassell-on-the-Go is a studio art outreach program designed to bring the esteemed youth art classes of the Glassell Junior School into the surrounding community for underserved youth and their families.

Glassell-on-the-Go offers creative and innovative experiences for youth in grades 6-8 that position art and the MFAH as important parts of a well-rounded education that help provide an impetus toward lifelong learning. Through a combination of video and written instruction, participants study works of art from the MFAH's collection and create their own works of art at home using prepared materials and art supplies.

Glassell-on-the-Go is divided into three sections with four projects in each section. Participants will receive supply packets for each section with instructions and materials to complete the section's four projects.

Register



ON AIR

Chapter One with HPL

Giving you just enough story to get you hooked!

Our Chapter One with HPL podcast features first chapters of books for tweens and teens read by library staff. New episodes air every Tuesday and Thursday and older episodes are available. All titles featured on Chapter One are available from Houston Public Library!

Listen



Write On! with HPL

Calling Teen writers! This podcast is for you. In each episode Houston Public Library staff will explore different elements, techniques, and exercises to help you improve your creative writing. Stay tuned!

Listen



NEW FOR TEENS!

100 Books Before Graduation Grades 9-12

Register

The 100 Books Before Graduation Reading Program challenges high school readers to read 100 books before graduating high school!

During this multi-year personal reading challenge participants will read and log 100 books as well as complete at least 15 Mini Challenges designed to get you reading outside your comfort zone! Titles logged toward the 100 books completion may also count towards the Mini Challenges.

Prizes range from fun bookmarks and pins to journals, hats and totes and are awarded at registration, 25 books, 50 books, 75 books, and 100 books. When you unlock a level, fill out the prize survey to tell let us know which of the available prizes you want and we will send it to a Neighborhood Library or Central Library for you to pick up.

Reading is reading; whether you're holding a physical book, reading an eBook, or listening to an audio book. It all counts as reading!



Adult Programs



HPL Game Boxes

Now for payers ages 18 months to 100 years!

Register

Are you ready to play? Let us know three games you would like to play or have us select a surprise game for you! Game Boxes check out for three weeks then must be returned to an HPL location. Please note that it may take a couple weeks for your game box to arrive.

A Houston Public Library MYLink card is required for HPL Book Box participation. If you need to sign up for a library card click [here](#).

[Click here to see HPL's Game Box Catalog.](#)

Adult Programs in May

Public Poetry

May 7 | 2 PM

Poetry comes alive the first Saturday of each month at 2 PM with readings performed by a creative mix of artists. Participants are invited to read a piece for Open Mic during featured poets intermission.



Register

A Virtual Evening with Vanessa Hua

May 10 | 6 PM

Join us in celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month with Vanessa Hua, author of *River of Stars*, speaking about her new book *Forbidden City!* A novel about a teenage girl living in 1960s China who becomes Mao Zedong's protégée and lover--and a poster child for the Cultural Revolution. Fans of Jeffrey Deaver and Gish Jen will enjoy this talk.



Register

AAPF Festival - Celebrating our AAPF Community!

May 14 | 11 AM

Let's celebrate AAPF Heritage Month with a unique and colorful festival! AAPF Festival emphasizes the cultural contribution of the Asian American communities to the culture and unity of America. Enjoy dancing, performances, poetry readings, bilingual storytimes, crafts, food and more. Featuring: Dance of Asian America - a wide range of dances from various regions and ethnicities of China and surrounding countries. This interactive performance involves audience members with dance props and dance movements. This event is free. Social Distancing and masks encouraged. This program is sponsored in part by Young Audiences of Houston.



Register

Adult Programs in May

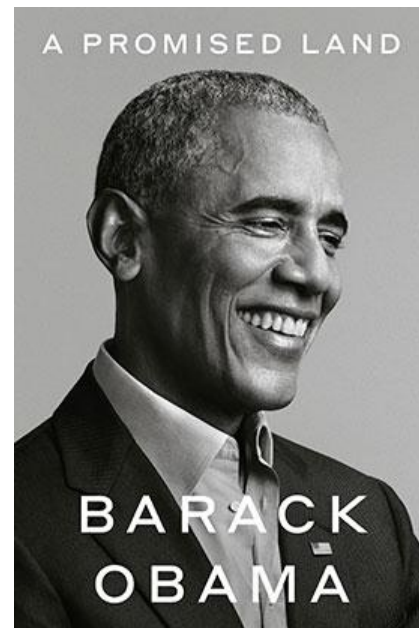
HPL Day at the Museum: Adult Reading Circle of Barack Obama's "A Promised Land" at MFAH

May 21 | 10 AM

This spring, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, will host the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery tour of portraits of President Barack Obama and Mrs. Michelle Obama by artists Kehinde Wiley and Amy Sherald, respectively. The acclaimed portraits will be on view from April 3 through May 30, 2022.

As a part of the tour, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Houston Public Library Staff come together to invite you to an Adult Reading Circle of **Barack Obama's "A Promised Land"** at MFAH where will discuss the book moderated by a Houston Public Library staff member.

This event will take place at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.



Register

Plant-it-Forward

May 25 | 11 AM

Plant-it-Forward returns for the second part of their urban farming program, featuring general tips for growing in Houston and seasonal planting times!



Register

Community Engagement



Linking YOU to the World
www.houstonlibrary.org

LDV
LAWSON DAVIS VETERAN

These programs are provided by the Houston Public Library's Community Engagement Team and may be requested by community groups. Community Engagement (CET) serves as the outreach service arm for the Houston Public Library, providing library services to the Houston area that range from outreach events, technology training, and classroom instruction.

Want to host a group event for kids or teens? We offer the needed support for you to sponsor your own learning activity for any age group of 6 or more.

Climb aboard one of our mobile libraries to teach students valuable skills in unique learning environments equipped with an interactive technology center for trainings or jumpstart the fun with the mobile gaming cube. Let us bring the classroom to you and create a dynamic educational experience!

New Mobile Express



Jumpstart your next library service with the new Mobile Express! This mobile is well suited for technology training, flexible classroom delivery, and providing library services anywhere. Dynamic classroom flow coupled with the latest and greatest technology available creates an engaging environment inside. This mobile also has a hydraulic lift making the lab and all it has to offer accessible to everyone who wants to come aboard.



Game Cube 1 05 mins

Gaming Cube

Challenge one another to gaming tournaments in the Mini-mobile gaming cGaming Cube! This mobile is designed to host small groups while they play on the console of their choice. A dedicated table arrangement makes this mobile great for hands on activities and outreach at your events.



Original Mobile Express

Mobile Express

Find your next technology class onboard the original Mobile Express! This mobile equipped with 11 desktop computers, and outfitted with webcams and headsets, a high-speed mobile internet connection, wireless printing, two 55" smart TV's (one inside, and one outside), and an Apple TV. This mobile also has a hydraulic lift making the lab and all it has to offer accessible to everyone who wants to come aboard.



Support Fleet



Support Fleet



Improv Puppet Theatre Mini Mobile



Improv Puppet Theater



[Click here to see the full Community Engagement catalog.](#)





Outreach



Groomed

FOR LITERACY



The Houston Public Library (HPL), Put It In a Book Foundation, Little Free Libraries and Friends of the Houston Public Library partner on a new and innovative program called Groomed for Literacy. Groomed for Literacy aims to address the literacy gap for underserved youth, with specific emphasis on young boys of color. The mission of this program is to support barbers in serving as reading mentors and to distribute books to children in need.

Research has shown that only one book is available for every 300 children in low-income areas, as opposed to 13 books, on average, in homes of middle-and-high income children. Unfortunately, books are a luxury that many families cannot afford, yet they are essential to a child's development. Without access to age-appropriate reading materials, children are already behind when they start the school year. In order to break the cycle of low literacy within families and reduce the performance gap, which constrains the education system and fuels the achievement gap in later years, we must work together to provide Houston's children with adequate literacy resources.

Groomed for Literacy will increase the books available through the placement of Little Free Libraries stocked with books in barber shops. In addition to supplying the communities in need with books, the program will increase public awareness of the importance of access to books and literacy. Little Free Libraries will contain My Link library card applications and information on the nearest HPL library location and hours of operation. Each partnering barber shop will be assigned a local HPL library. The HPL library location assigned to the partnering barber shop

will be responsible for “refreshing” the books within the Little Free Library, as well as picking up and processing the library card applications. The books will be replenished by the Houston Public Library, Friends of the Houston Public Library and book donations received in support of the program. Youth will be asked to sign in/log in each time they read a book in the barber shop or take a book home. Incentives (i.e., discount/free haircuts, new books for home library, etc.) will be provided by participating barbers and HPL based on books read.

ANNUAL SHEPARD- ACRES HOMES LEGENDS: PAST AND PRESENT STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST CELEBRATION



SUBMISSION

Submit Entries and Awards Program Location:

Beulah Shepard-Acres Homes Neighborhood
Library
8501 West Montgomery
Houston, TX 77088

Include:

- Student's name & age
- School & grade
- Phone number
- Email address
-

Prizes:

Prizes may include: Game Console, laptop and other exciting prizes

Contest Deadline:

Saturday, January 15, 2022

Awards Program:

Saturday, February 19, 2022 | 10 AM

The Acres Homes community was established during

World War I and is considered to be one of the largest Black communities in the southeast region. In honor of Black History Month, students in Pre-K through 12th grade are encouraged to research and write an essay about Acres Homes leaders (past and present) who are community legends.

Students may choose one or more Acres Homes community leaders to profile. Suggestions for community leaders are Mayor Sylvester Turner, Loretta Devine, Jewel Houston, Ruby Mosely, Dorothy Hubbard, Beulah Shepard, Pastor F.N. Williams, Pastor Edwin Davis, Pastor Floyd Flakes, the Jefferson family or a student may choose another Acres Homes legend that is not listed. Entries will be judged on originality, grammar and creativity. All entries will be kept upon submission by the Friends of the Beulah Shepard Legacy Committee.

Requirements:

- **Pre-K – 1st grade:** Provide collage or drawing of the community leader and a one sentence description of this leader. Child must make the collage/drawing and adult may write the sentence using the child's words.
- **2nd – 3rd grade:** 20 – 50 word paragraph with a collage or drawing of the community leader.
- **4th – 5th grade:** 250+ word, well written, original essay on a community leader(s).
- **6th – 8th grade:** 500+ word, well written, original essay on a community leader(s).
- **9th – 12th grade:** 750+ word, well written, original essay on a community leader(s).

For more information please call 832-393-1700 or [CLICK](#)

This event is part of the Houston Public Library's Black History Month activities. The contest and program are free and open to the public.





Follow us on social media

