



Immediate Release
February 26, 2026

Ajonelle Poole, [\(980\) 301-3457](tel:9803013457)
apoole@cmlibrary.org

Magic in the Margins: Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Kicks-Off Community Read 2026

Wednesday included a full day of activities centered around this year's signature book, 'The House in the Cerulean Sea' by TJ Klune.

Charlotte, N.C.- Hundreds of enthusiastic readers, writers, and Charlotte Mecklenburg Library supporters packed into Halton Theater at CPCC Central Campus on Wednesday evening, excited to hear from *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling, Lambda Literary Award-winning author TJ Klune. The sold-out event, *Magic in the Margins: An Author Talk* with TJ Klune, was the Library's feature event to kick off **Community Read 2026**. Community Read is the Library's annual, community-wide book club program centered around a signature book and theme. This year, it's Klune's book, *The House in the Cerulean Sea*. Throughout the evening event, Klune shared insights on his writing journey and the inspiration behind his book and its themes of acceptance, inclusivity, and found family.

"Community Read is a chance for readers across communities to connect through a shared story that embodies themes that matter locally and nationally," said Angie Myers, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library's Interim CEO. "Throughout February and March, Library branches across the system will host programs, community conversations, and events inspired by this year's book."

Wednesday featured a day full of activities. In addition to a sold-out event that Wednesday evening, that morning, CML hosted a small, intimate workshop with Klune and a group of inspiring local writers and writing group participants. There, Klune shared personal stories, answered questions about his writing process, and offered advice on how young writers can find their unique voice.

Later that evening, before the headline event, several community partners, including CharlotteLit, Johnsons & Wales, the Humane Society, and others, held a community fair, featuring several stations with interactive activities and information tables centered around the book's theme and characters. One VOICE Chorus also gave a concert presentation.

Community Read programs and events will occur all month long at branches across the system. To learn more, visit cmlibrary.org/community-read.