

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **BOOK-LOVERS OF ALL AGES ARE INVITED TO EPICFEST, NOV. 9**

**Charlotte, NC, - November 6, 2019** – *EpicFest* is an extraordinary, free literary festival that joyfully connects children, teens and families with books and the people who write them through activities that encourage a love of reading and learning. In its fifth year, *EpicFest* has become a family tradition.

*EpicFest* is hosted by Charlotte Mecklenburg Library and Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation. Twelve nationally-recognized children's and young adult authors and illustrators will spend two days in Charlotte to share their latest books, their experiences and their passion for libraries with kids of all ages. On Friday, Nov. 8 authors and illustrators will visit select Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools to speak with students, and will headline a daylong literary festival on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019 at *ImaginOn: The Joe & Joan Martin Center*, 300 E. Seventh St., Charlotte.

*EpicFest* is presented to the community by Wells Fargo, with community partner Read Charlotte. It is made possible through the generous support of many more corporate citizens, foundations and individual sponsors. For more information visit [www.cmlibrary.org/epicfest](http://www.cmlibrary.org/epicfest).

#### ***EpicFest* Family Festival | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

This year's festival includes group art, early learning stations, gaming, face painting, dance performances, book giveaways, storytimes, author presentations, book signings and much more.

#### **Family concert | 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.**

Eric Litwin will play a concert at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. in the McColl Family Theatre at *ImaginOn*. Seats are limited, and admission will be first-come, first-served. Eric Litwin is a song singing, guitar strumming, #1 *New York Times* best-selling, award-winning author who brings early literacy and music together. He is the original author of the *Pete the Cat* series and author of *The Nuts* and *Groovy Joe*.

#### **Teen Writers' Workshop | 2 - 3 p.m.**

Join *New York Times* best-selling author, Tracey Baptiste, for a writing workshop just for teens. Writers of all experience and skill levels are encouraged to attend and participate. Hear from an author, and learn about story structure, publishing and so much more.

#### **Believe in Your #Selfie: Teen Art Studio | 2 - 3:30 p.m.**

Create unique self-portraits using a blank puzzle to piece yourself together or express yourself through collage. Have your voice heard by contributing to various art projects throughout the studio or recreate a mini book cover. Some artwork may be displayed in The Teen Loft at *ImaginOn* throughout the month of November.

#### **YA Author Panel | 4 - 6:30 p.m.**

Authors Tracey Baptiste, Elizabeth Eulberg, Kimberly Jones and Gilly Segal will sit on a YA author panel at 4 p.m. in Wells Fargo Playhouse at ImaginOn. Following the panel, authors will host a VIP Meet & Greet for teens from 5-5:30 p.m., and then attend a reception with book sales and signings for all ages until 6:30 p.m.

### ***EpicFest's 2019 featured guests***

**Tracey Baptiste** is a *New York Times* best-selling author who grew up in Trinidad and Tobago on jumbie stories and fairy tales. She is the author of The Jumbies series, *Minecraft: The Crash*, *Angel's Grace*, and *The Totally Gross History of Ancient Egypt*.

**Patrice Barton** is the award-winning illustrator of more than 30 picture and chapter books for children, including *The Invisible Boy* by Trudy Ludwig. Her most recent picture book is *Remarkably You* by Pat Zietlow Miller.

**Debbie Dadey** is the author and co-author of 168 traditionally published children's books, including The Adventures of the Bailey School Kids series and Mermaid Tales series.

**Elizabeth Eulberg** is the author of internationally best-selling young adult novels *The Lonely Hearts Club* and *Better Off Friends*, and the acclaimed Great Shelby Holmes middle-grade series.

**Gordon C. James** is an award-winning illustrator whose works include of *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*, written by Derrick Barnes and *Let 'er Buck* by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson.

**Kimberly Jones** hosts the Atlanta chapter of the popular Well Read Black Girl book club. Her forthcoming YA novel, *I'm Not Dying With You Tonight* is co-authored with Gilly Segal.

**Cindy Lin** is a Peabody Award winning journalist and author of *The Twelve*, her debut novel.

**Trudy Ludwig** is an award-winning author of 10 children's books, including *The Invisible Boy*. Trudy's next book, *The Power of One*, will be released in Summer 2020.

**Vaunda Micheaux Nelson** is the award-winning author of many books, including her most recent, *Let 'er Buck! George Fletcher, the People's Champion*, a true story of an African American rodeo legend.

**Gilly Segal** is a lawyer by day and an author by night. Her debut young adult novel, *I'm Not Dying With You Tonight*, is co-written with Kimberly Jones

**K-Fai Steele** is the illustrator of *Noodlephant* by Jacob Kramer and the author-illustrator of *A Normal Pig*. She is currently the Brown Handler Writer in Residence at the San Francisco Public Library.

**Jessica Young** is the award-winning author of *Play This Book* and *Pet This Book*. When she isn't writing, she loves visiting schools and sharing the creative process with students and teachers.

### **About Charlotte Mecklenburg Library:**

The Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is one of America's leading urban public libraries, serving a community of more than one million citizens in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Through 20 locations, targeted outreach and online, the Library delivers exceptional services and programs, with a mission to improve lives and build a stronger community. For more, visit [cmlibrary.org](http://cmlibrary.org).

**About Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation:**

The Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation exists to help the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library improve lives and build a stronger community. Created as a non-profit 501(c)(3) in September 2012 in partnership with Foundation For The Carolinas and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, the Foundation supports the Library through advocacy, fundraising and building relationships with others who share a passion for the Library's work. The Library Foundation supports library services, expands the Library's collection of print and digital books and materials, enhances programming for all ages, invests in innovative initiatives, and strives to grow its endowment for future generations. Learn more at [foundation.cmlibrary.org](http://foundation.cmlibrary.org).

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