



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG LIBRARY LAUNCHES FIRST EQUITY PROGRAM INITIATIVE

Black Lives Matter program provides information and resources to amplify Black stories

Charlotte, NC – September 15, 2020 – Charlotte Mecklenburg Library announces a new systemwide program initiative—titled simply *Black Lives Matter*—to provide materials and educate the community on topics centered on social justice and racial equity while featuring Black stories. The *Black Lives Matter* program will encourage conversations through book clubs, learning circles, book talks and discussion groups, while providing information and resources to help both learn and unlearn what is needed to build a better community. Customers can discover a calendar of events, booklists, Library statements and other content related to the current issues of social justice and systemic racism at cmlibrary.org/black-lives-matter-program.

Each month, the Library will feature a different author as the program's focus. Scheduled for September are the *1619 Project* essays, October is Toni Morrison, November is Daina Ramey Berry and December is Michael Eric Dyson. More information will be released throughout the program, which features a collective of Black stories and authors.

"In June, the Library released a statement committing to the hard work of promoting racial equity and helping to end systemic racism. We begin this month with our *Black Lives Matter* program. This is the most effective way the Library can help our community - by providing unhindered access to free resources, materials, information and the safe spaces where difficult, yet important, conversations are cultivated and where change can happen," says Caitlin Moen, library director and chief customer officer at Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. "This programming initiative is one small piece of a much larger equity strategy for the Library that includes not only Black lives but is inclusive of all people and voices of our staff and in our community."

While locations are open with limited services, the Library has shifted all programming to online and virtual platforms. In addition, cardholders are encouraged to explore and use the Library's digital resources, including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movies and music, online classes, and digital subscriptions to newspapers and magazines. If you need a Library card, apply online and begin using your account immediately. An online chat for assistance is available Monday-Saturday on the Library's website or by calling 704-416-0100 during regular operating hours. Digital resources, Library card sign-up and more are all available at cmlibrary.org.

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About Charlotte Mecklenburg Library:

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 resources, the Library delivers exceptional services and programs, with a mission to improve lives and build a stronger community. For more, visit cmlibrary.org.

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Charlotte Mecklenburg Library newsroom: cmlibrary.org/library-news

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