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**Diversifying Denver’s Little Free Libraries with ‘Read in Color’ Program**

*Little Free Library book-sharing boxes in Denver now offer diverse books celebrating Black, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous, LGBTQ+ and other marginalized voices.*



Denver (July 29, 2022) – It’s now easier than ever to find inclusive, culturally relevant books to read in Denver. Yesterday the national Little Free Library® (LFL) nonprofit organization introduced its **Read in Color** diverse-books initiative in Denver in partnership with local charity BookGive. Through the initiative, 10 new Little Free Library book-sharing boxes will be established in high-impact areas and more than 2,000 diverse books will be distributed to promote understanding, equity and inclusion.

"Book access is essential, yes. But the right books make all the difference," said Melissa Monforti, Executive Director of BookGive. "That's why we're proud to make diverse books more accessible. So that we all read books reflecting all of our stories."

To celebrate the launch of the first Read in Color Little Free Library in Denver, BookGive hosted an event at Park Hill Station Apartments, an affordable housing community in North Park Hill

managed by Delwest, and home to nearly 300 residents. The launch party included a Little Free Library ribbon cutting and dedication, a book giveaway, community organization booths and a reading by Nyasha Williams, local author of the book *I Affirm Me: The ABCs of Inspiration for Black Kids*.

“It is a pleasure to join our local partner, BookGive, for the Denver launch of Read in Color at the Park Hill Station Apartments,” said LFL Executive Director Greig Metzger. “Little Free Library believes that everyone should have access to personally relevant books and that this opportunity should not be limited by time, space or privilege.”

“Today’s installation typifies Little Free Library’s approach,” Metzger continued. “We are a catalyst, working with local partners to inspire readers at the neighborhood level. The ability to find and choose a book should be an everyday circumstance, not a limited, special event. The key to success is working side by side with local literacy advocates and we are honored to add BookGive as one of our partners.”

As part of the Denver activation, LFL purchased books from local woman-owned bookstore The Bookies, including *Sabrina & Corina* by Kali Fajardo-Anstine, *Your Name is a Song* by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, *Rain Is Not My Indian Name* by Cynthia Leitich Smith and *I Affirm Me* by Nyasha Williams.

To date the Read in Color initiative has launched in 12 U.S. cities, from New York and Washington, D.C. to Atlanta and Phoenix, with plans for even greater expansion this year. More than 150 Read in Color Little Free Libraries and 30,000+ diverse books celebrating Black, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous, LGBTQ+ and other important voices have been shared so far. Learn more at [LittleFreeLibrary.org/read-in-color](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/read-in-color).

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### **About Little Free Library**

Little Free Library® (LFL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that builds community, inspires readers and expands book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Libraries. There are more than 150,000 registered Little Free Library book-sharing boxes worldwide in all 50 states, 115 countries and seven continents. Through them, over 250 million books have been shared since 2009. LFL received the 2020 World Literacy Award as well as honors from the Library of Congress, National Book Foundation and others. The organization grants Little Free Libraries full of books to underserved areas through its Impact Library Program and champions diverse books through its Read in Color initiative. To learn more, visit [LittleFreeLibrary.org](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org).

### **About BookGive**

BookGive is the Denver metro resource for free books. Founded in 2020, BookGive has delivered over 130,000 free books to nonprofits, human service agencies, senior living facilities and schools with the help of over 150 volunteers. To learn more, visit [bookgivedenver.org](https://bookgivedenver.org).