



# Read in Color<sup>®</sup>

Little Free Library<sup>®</sup>

## Cohort Information



**Everyone should be able to see themselves in the pages of a book.** Little Free Library's Read in Color initiative distributes books that provide perspectives on racism and social justice, celebrate BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other marginalized voices, and incorporate experiences from all identities for all readers.

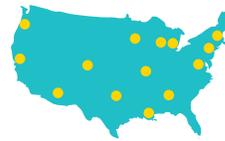
By reading diverse books, we can increase understanding, empathy, and inclusion.

### About Read in Color

Read in Color aims to amplify diverse voices at a grassroots, community level. The program has four key components:

- **Little Free Library installations.** We are establishing new Little Free Library book-sharing boxes filled with culturally relevant books in high-need communities, working in tandem with local partners. We have installed libraries in 14 cities nationwide with more to come.
- **Free diverse books.** When Read in Color launches in a city, Little Free Library stewards in the area can apply to receive shipments of diverse books at no cost, purchased from BIPOC-owned independent bookstores whenever possible.

### Read in Color's Impact



**14**

Read in Color  
Cities Launched



**200+**

Little Free Libraries  
Granted



**40,000+**

Diverse Books  
Shared

**6,700+**

Read in Color  
Cities Pledges

**15**

Publisher  
Partners

**24**

Indie & BIPOC-  
Owned Bookstore  
Partners

- **Recommended reading lists.** Our Diverse Books Advisory Group provides a list of multicultural books for children, adolescents, and adults representing Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian American, Muslim, LGBTQ+, and other communities.
- **Read in Color pledge.** Everyone can sign a pledge indicating their commitment to read and share diverse books. Participants have the option to showcase their commitment on our Pledge Wall and have access to special Read in Color resources. Visit [LittleFreeLibrary.org/programs/read-in-color/](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/programs/read-in-color/).

# Become a Read in Color Community Partner



## What is a Community Partner's Role?

### Core responsibilities include:

- Identify library locations and library caretakers (stewards)
- Store and distribute libraries and books for participating stewards
- Participate in monthly cohort meetings
- Support stewards with library installation and maintenance, stocking books, and leveraging community support and resources

## Cohort Member Criteria

### The ideal Read in Color community partner is:

- An established organization with a mission similar or complementary to Little Free Library.
- Able to receive, store, and distribute hundreds of books and support materials at one time - or arrange for a storage solution.
- Able to fit Read in Color activities into their existing program structure.
- Prioritizing diversity and equity within the organization
- Collaborative - works with other area organizations
- Staff appropriately to support this work - one or two dedicated staff members who are committed to serving as the point of contact for LFL.
- Volunteers to assist/support this project
- US only at this time

## Read in Color - Cohort Model

- Read in Color utilizes a cohort model twice yearly to guide a group of community organizations through the Read in Color launch process collaboratively
- Interested parties submit applications that are reviewed by our selection committee
- 2-3 applicants will be selected to participate in our Fall 2023 cohort

## Application Details

### When you apply, you will be asked:

- About your organization, its mission, funding sources, and your role in the organization
- If/how your organization currently uses book-sharing boxes
- How your community would be impacted by increased access to diverse books and how community need is demonstrated by multiple indicators
- To describe your level of interest and commitment in the Read in Color program

## Project Timeline

### March - November 2023

### The Fall 2023 Cohort project timeline is as follows:

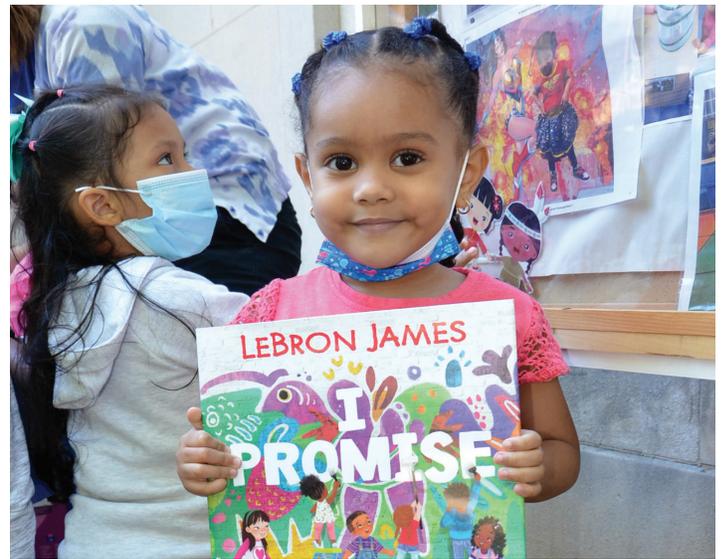
- **March:** application opens
- **April:** selection committee reviews applications
- **May:** final application decisions and applicant notifications
- **June:** cohort kickoff meeting
- **July - November:** monthly cohort meetings





“Being able to offer free and diverse books has been a game changer in our community. The books are literally flying off the shelves each week—especially the bilingual books and those featuring brown and black characters.”

Michael Y., CentroNia



## Package Components

- Up to 10 new Read in Color library packages
- Posts or legs for each LFL
- Read in Color launch packs and official charter sign for each LFL
- \$10,000 in book support
- \$1,500 stipend for launch event and/or associated activities

## Get in touch!

Lexie Neeley, Read in Color Program Manager

Email: [Ineeley@littlefreelibrary.org](mailto:Ineeley@littlefreelibrary.org)

Phone: 715-690-2488 ext. 800

LittleFreeLibrary.org | 2327 Wycliff St.,  
Suite 220, St. Paul, MN 55114 | 715-690-2488



“When children read inclusive books, seeds are planted in their minds, hearts, and souls—seeds of awareness, self-esteem, and connection. If enough such seeds are sown, they will blossom into a society that is far more just and equitable than we’ve ever experienced. Reading in Color is not just fancy for our children’s entertainment. It is necessary for our collective survival.”

– Tameka Fryer Brown, author of *Brown Baby Lullaby* and contributor at The Brown Bookshelf