

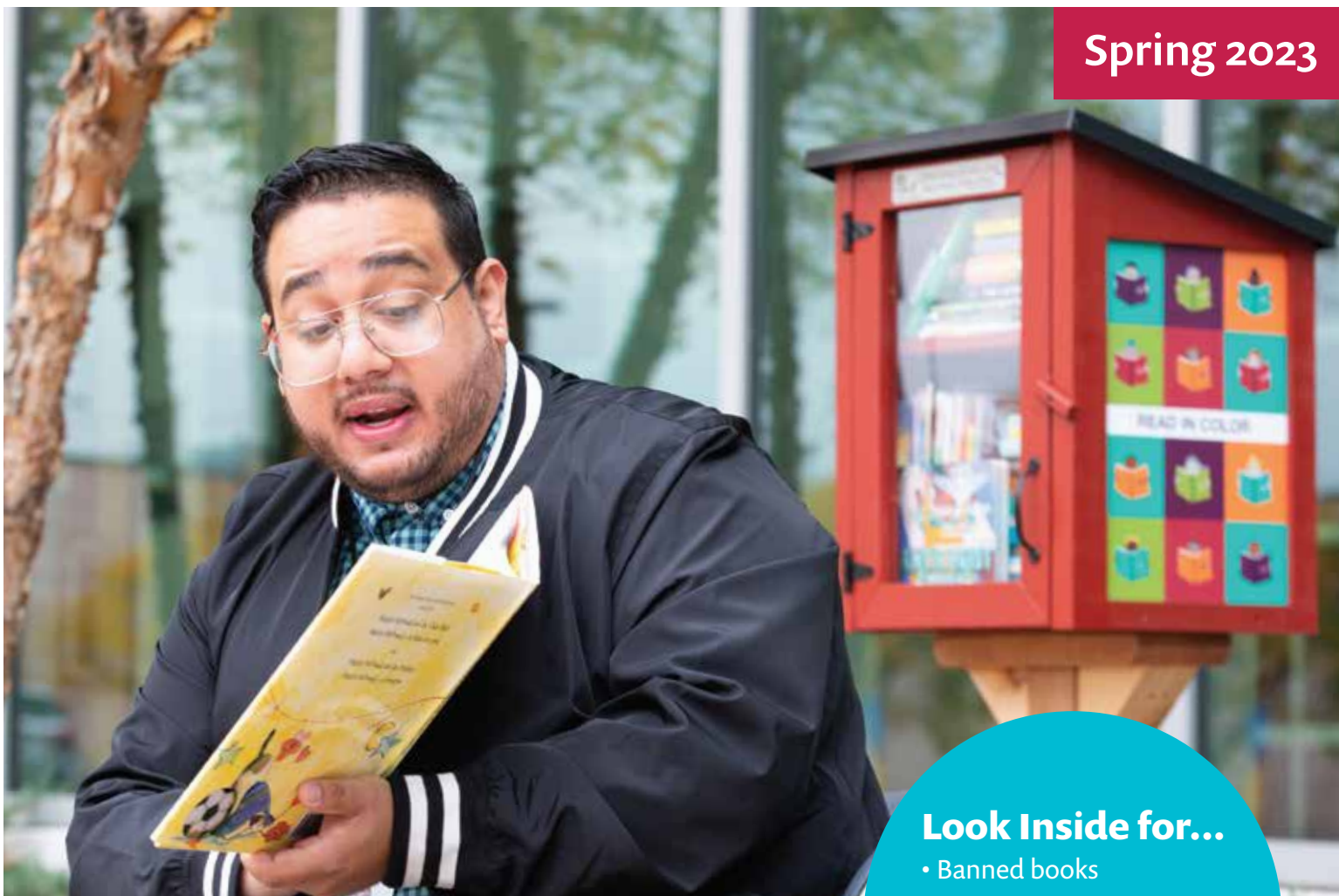


Little Free Library®
Take a Book. Share a Book.

Little Free Library® News

Sharing Books Since 2009

Spring 2023



Look Inside for...

- Banned books
- Our new board chair
- Read in Color's revamp
- Libraries for book deserts
- And more!

Our mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Library book-exchange boxes.



New Board Chair

We are thrilled to announce our new National Board Chair, Nancy Wulkan! Nancy is the founder and executive director of Neighbor to Neighbor, a literacy nonprofit that has established more than 225 Little Free Library book-sharing boxes in Chicago.

“I am a firm believer in the Little Free Library concept as an efficient and creative way to make books accessible to all,” Nancy says. “I’m excited to be part of a platform which brings together so many incredible people in the literacy community and is deeply committed to providing ready access to books in communities across the world.”



What’s in Store

Every purchase from Little Free Library’s online store supports our programs including Read in Color and the Impact Library Program.

Visit our shop to see new library models and accessories, like our Add On Bench and seasonal garden flags, which welcome summer, fall, winter, and spring—our favorite season!

A Letter from Our Executive Director

Greetings to all our Little Free Library friends!

I hope that spring has arrived as you read this, wherever you may be.

I want to take this space to share Little Free Library’s perspective on what has been a growing trend in our communities, the banning of books. To be clear from the start, banning public access to specific books is completely contrary to our mission. Sharing books and providing book access is fundamental to our organization’s DNA.

Unfortunately, too often the books being pulled from shelves represent the work and lives of BIPOC, LGBTQ, and other marginalized communities. Our programs, be it Read in Color or our Impact Library program, are all focused on greater awareness and support of these under-represented voices and under-resourced neighborhoods. We believe greater book access strengthens our communities through connection, understanding, and empathy. We believe that a Little Free Library book-exchange box is one way to nurture this growth.

That said, we also firmly believe that volunteer stewards can manage what is in their Little Free Library as they see fit. We encourage stewards to curate their supply to be attractive to those who visit their library. Stewards want to share books that they like and many have orientated their collection thematically and with pride. And we should recognize the practical space limitations of four cubic feet. So prioritization of what books are displayed is not book banning.

Our last hope is that no matter the situation or place, we encourage everyone to have conversations—not shouting matches—when we discuss books.

Peace,

M. Greig Metzger
Executive Director



FREE Little Free Libraries for Book Deserts



Building equitable book access is at the heart of our mission. Little Free Library’s strategic plan reflects our commitment to expand book access in under-resourced communities.

Over the next three years, we will place and sustain a Little Free Library book-sharing box in every book desert in the United States. Our goal is to establish 2,500 Little Free Libraries in high-impact areas.

Join us! Your organization can apply to help bring Little Free Libraries to book deserts across the country. *Learn more and fill out our Community Partner Application at LittleFreeLibrary.org/strategic-plan.*

ON THE COVER: *Read in Color* first launched in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 2020 and is getting improvements in 2023. ABOVE: Readers at a Little Free Library box in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Read in Color

Since launching in Minneapolis in 2020, our Read in Color® initiative has provided more than 40,000 diverse books and 200 Little Free Library book-sharing boxes in dynamic communities like New Orleans, pictured here. We could not do this important work without the help of community partners.

This year, we are excited to introduce a cohort model to our Read in Color program. Twice yearly, we will open applications to organizations interested in participating in a Read in Color cohort. A selection committee of Little Free Library staff and stakeholders will review applications and invite the strongest applicants to participate in a six-month cohort experience.

Do you want to bring Read in Color to your community? The application for the Fall 2023 Read in Color cohort is open until April 21, 2023. [Learn more about the program and cohort system at LittleFreeLibrary.org/read-in-color/get-involved.](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/read-in-color/get-involved)



Impact Library Program

Each month, our Impact Library Program grants Little Free Libraries full of books to underserved neighborhoods across the United States and Canada. We recently granted a little library to Alicia Kokkinis of North Charleston, South Carolina, who says:

“Our Little Free Library is on the corner of a busy street that gets lots of foot traffic due to the metered parking and public bus stop. Our community is historically working class, and our technical school—which applied for and received the Impact Library—serves low-income high school students from across the city.

“On any given day, our library will have copies of children's books, best-selling novels, and graphic novels. The motley collection represents our diverse community. We are so honored to be part of the Little Free Library community!”

The Impact Library Program is made possible by individual donors and partner organizations dedicated to spreading the joy and power of reading. [Learn more at LittleFreeLibrary.org/impact-library.](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/impact-library)

Find and Share Banned Books with the Little Free Library App



Did you know you can use our mobile app to find and share banned books? Start by downloading the (free!) Little Free Library app. Open the app and tap the magnifying glass icon to show the search filters screen. By default the filters will be set to **Near Me** and will show you libraries within five miles of your current location. Tap the **Banned Books** indicator. That will filter your search to show libraries that are near you and share banned books!

Attention stewards who share banned books:

Have you turned on the Banned Books indicator for your library? Here's how:

- First, you must have a steward account for the following steps to work. Visit LittleFreeLibrary.org/docs to learn how to set up your steward account.
- Log in to your steward account from the mobile app.
- Tap on **My Library** then tap on the library you wish to edit.
- In the **Indicators** section, tap **Banned Books**.
- Scroll to the top and tap **Save**.

Congratulations! You successfully turned on the Banned Books indicator for your library. Now when people search for Little Free Libraries in your area that share banned books, your library will appear in the search results.

Don't have the app yet? [Download it at LittleFreeLibrary.org/app.](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/app)

87 percent of Little Free Library stewards say they share banned books, according to our recent e-newsletter poll.





Library of Distinction: Atlanta, Georgia

“I've chosen to honor iconic Atlanta landmarks for my Little Free Library builds. In this case, Atlanta's last remaining theater palace—The Fox Theatre. With my LFL, I'm proud to do my small part in keeping the theater, and its story, alive for future generations to enjoy.”

—Rick Schroeder,
Little Free Library #7453

Keep in touch    
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You Can Empower Readers



Little Free Library is a proud 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The gifts that donors like you give to Little Free Library directly and immediately support our signature initiatives: the Impact Library Program, the Indigenous Library Program, and Read in Color. With your help, we grant libraries and books to communities who need them the most through these initiatives.

Please help us to provide marginalized children greater access to books featuring characters of their own identities, creating opportunities for self-empowerment through education and literacy.

Your gift today, in any amount that is meaningful to you, is needed now and greatly appreciated. Donate online at LittleFreeLibrary.org/donate or by using the enclosed envelope.



A young reader finds the book *Where Wonder Grows* at the Little Free Library Read in Color launch in Portland, Oregon.

Your donation puts books into kids' hands. **Thank you for your support!**