



**Read
in Color®**
Little Free Library®

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.

Read in Color's Impact



21

Read in Color
Cities Launched



250+

Little Free Libraries
Granted



50,000+

Diverse Books
Shared

7,800+

Read in Color
Cities Pledges

15

Publisher
Partners

30

Indie & BIPOC-
Owned Bookstore
Partners



About Read in Color

Read in Color aims to amplify diverse voices at a grassroots, community level. The program has three 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.
- **Recommended reading lists. Our Diverse** Books Advisory Group provides a list of multicultural books for children, adolescents, and adults representing Black, Indigenous, Latine, 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/.



Become a Read in Color Community Partner



What is a Community Partner's Role?

Core responsibilities include:

- Identify library locations in book deserts 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
- Collect and report library usage data, including but not limited to visitor numbers and insights on the number of books exchanged
- Capture photos of the library and community member testimonials as each library is installed

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
- Staffed 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
- 3 applicants will be selected to participate in our Spring 2025 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

January - June 2025

The Spring 2025 Cohort project timeline is as follows:

- **November:** application opens
- **December:** selection committee reviews applications; final application decisions and applicant notifications
- **January:** cohort kickoff meeting
- **February- June:** monthly cohort meetings



“This program has really helped expand the work we had in mind. We're seeing an increase in the number of volunteers that our organization has because of this program. And we also saw a tremendous amount of press locally and nationally, which has been huge for us.”

– Lorin T., 904WARD



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
- \$7,500 in book support
- \$1,000 reimbursement for launch event and/or associated activities

Get in touch!

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“The cohort experience was hugely impactful for me and how I think that the firm can shift and grow in the future. This program came at the perfect moment for us as an organization. Our launch event was amazing! It was such an incredible moment to bring in all of our community collaborative partners and have them do a joint ribbon cutting, all of us together, which was so special.”

– Cate T., Bookworm Gardens