



## About Read in Color



**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. Together with community partners, we aim to amplify diverse voices at a grassroots level.

## Read in Color's Impact



**31**

Read in Color  
Cities Launched



**400+**

Little Free Libraries  
Granted



**50,000+**

Diverse Books  
Shared

**9,000+**

Read in Color  
Cities Pledges

**24**

Publisher  
Partners

**60+**

Indie & BIPOC-  
Owned Bookstore  
Partners



## Becoming a Community Partner

Partners participate in a 9-month long cohort experience to increase diverse book access in their communities. The program has 3 key components:

- **New Little Free Library installations**
- **Books from recommended reading lists**
- **Community outreach and celebrations**

### 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
- Collaborating with other area organizations
- Staffed appropriately to support this work with one or two dedicated staff members who are committed to serving as the point of contact for LFL
- Equipped with volunteers to support this project
- Based in the US



# Cohort Information



## Read in Color - Cohort Model

- Read in Color utilizes an annual cohort model to guide a group of community organizations collaboratively through the nine-month Read in Color launch process
- Interested parties submit applications in Sept. that are reviewed by our selection committee in Oct.
- 6 applicants will be selected to participate in our 2027 cohort beginning in Jan. and ending in Sept.

## What is a Community Partner's Role?

### Core responsibilities include:

- Identify 5-10 library locations in book deserts and library caretakers (stewards);
- Store and distribute library packages and books;
- Attend monthly cohort meetings and regular 1:1 meetings with the program manager. Monthly meetings are 1 hour and take place over Zoom;
- Support stewards with library installation and maintenance, stocking books, and leveraging community support;
- Capture photos of the library and community member testimonials as each library is installed.



“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
- Installation option for each LFL
- Read in Color launch packs and official charter signs for each LFL
- \$7,500 in book support and \$1,000 stipend for launch event and/or community outreach activities

## 2027 Cohort Timeline

### January - September 2027:

#### January - March

- Cohort kickoff meeting
- Find library stewards and locations

#### April - July

- Distribute libraries to stewards
- Distribute books to libraries

#### August - September

- Hosting launch event
- Program exit interviews





# Become a Read in Color Community Partner



## Application Details

### 2027 cohort application deadlines:

#### September 2026

- 1st: Application opens
- 30th: Application closes

#### October 2026

- Selection committee reviews applications;
- Final application decisions and notifications

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

- About your organization, its mission, 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
- Your short- and long-term goals for sustaining a network of Read in Color libraries in your community.

“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*

## Apply Online

We open applications each fall to organizations interested in participating in a Read in Color cohort. Once open, access the application and submit online at:

[LittleFreeLibrary.org/programs/read-in-color/](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/programs/read-in-color/)



## Get in touch!

Lexie Neeley, Read in Color Program Manager

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

Phone: 715-690-2488 ext. 800

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