



## IOWA AUTHOR AWARDS DINNER WILL HONOR NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES

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## THOUSANDS OF PARTICIPANTS MAKE ALL SUMMER LONG! A SUCCESS

More than 5,000 Des Moines-area kids and teens logged more than 600,000 minutes of reading and learning activities as part of the 2021 All Summer Long! summer reading program at the Des Moines Public Library.

Every child who signed up for the program received a new book (to keep), then they spent the summer filling in spots on their All Summer Long! game board every time they read for 20 minutes or took part in a learning activity. Thousands of children also received free DMPL sunglasses, attended library programs, were entered into prize drawings, and more! See page 2 for more All Summer Long! details.

# 2021 DMPL All Summer Long!

Des Moines Public Library summer reading initiative makes an impact on childhood literacy

## 5,084

books handed out to All Summer Long! summer reading program participants to help build children's personal libraries.

*"Having books in the home is proven to positively benefit children in myriad ways. A decades-long study found that the mere presence of a home library increases children's academic success, vocabulary development, attention, and future job attainment."*

—Scholarly Culture: How Books in Adolescence Enhance Adult Literacy, Numeracy, and Technology Skills in 31 Societies



## ASL Community Partnerships help increase access to books

By Degrees (314 students) and Spark Foundation (627 students) got early access to register their students with low reading proficiency scores and/or barriers of access to public libraries. These partnerships both grew our number of ASL participants while also connecting the library with community organizations with a shared mission of literacy and learning.

*"DMPL's Summer Reading collaboration with the Spark Foundation not only allowed us to get over 500 books into the hands of the students that need them most, but it also allowed the students to meet and engage with their local librarians. After the very challenging year the COVID pandemic presented everyone, we could not have asked for a better opportunity to remind students that their local libraries will be open to support their Love of Reading all summer long."*

— Akil Clark, Spark Foundation



**13** classrooms, totaling 205 children, took part in the All Summer Long! Community Prize Pack Program.



*"It was fun to participate in this program this summer. We also held a popsicle party at the center if all the classrooms were able to finish the program before the first week of August. The staff and students loved it. Thank you for the wonderful prizes and reading encouragement!" — Lil Scholars Preschool*

*"We enjoyed being a part of this summer program and we love DMPL and all the community engagement they do. It is a wonderful program and highly recommend!" — Conmigo Early Education Center*

## All Summer Long by the #s!

**660,960** minutes logged of reading and learning by ASL participants, the equivalent of 11,016 hours or 459 days

**56** All Summer Long prize winners

**1,380** Library Learning Bags distributed in June and July

**128** kids programs

**4,543** attendees at kids programs

**28** teen programs

**369** attendees at teen programs

**33** teen volunteers

**293** hours of teen volunteer service for the library

**122** new library cards made for kids this summer

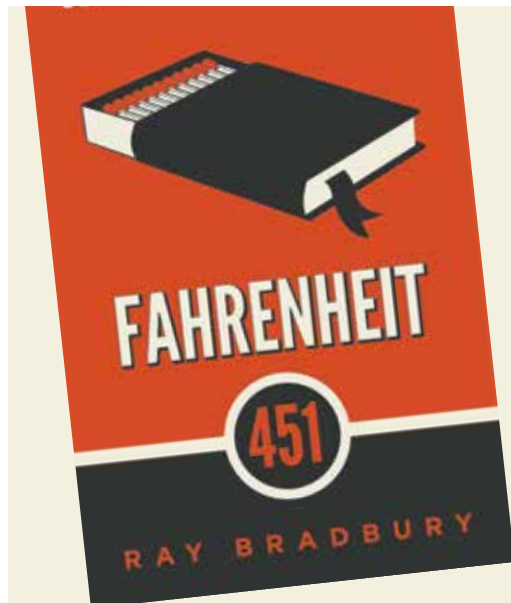


# NEA BIG READ: DES MOINES FALL 2021

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ENDOWMENT for the ARTS  
 **BIG READ**  
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[arts.gov/neabigread](https://arts.gov/neabigread)



*Author Sam Weller will be one of the keynote speakers as part of the library's NEA Big Read: Des Moines program.*



Last spring, the library was one of 84 nonprofits, public libraries, and community organizations nationwide to receive a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read grant. The NEA Big Read program, managed by Arts Midwest, aims to inspire conversation and discovery through conversation and programming about a common book. The Des Moines Public Library selected *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury, for discussion in our community.

After a significant delay as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the library is pleased to announce Big Read: Des Moines events will take place this fall.

"The Des Moines Public Library is thrilled to be a recipient of this prestigious grant and are excited to finally get to bring these programs and events to our communities after a delay," Susan A. Woody, Des Moines Public Library Director, said. Several weeks of programs will "engage the community in dialogue and conversation around this important, timeless work of literature," Woody said.

With the grant, the library, in partnership with the Des Moines Public Library Foundation and various community collaborators, will guide the Des Moines community through a community reading program.

Some of the library events that will be part of Big Read: Des Moines:

- A series of library and community book clubs and film discussions
- Writing workshops with Des Moines high schools
- Keynote speakers, including Sam Weller, a Ray Bradbury biographer and historian
- And much more

The Des Moines Public Library chose *Fahrenheit 451* for a number of reasons, including: to encourage the reading of classic works of literature; and to explore themes in the novel still relevant today on the conflict between free expression and censorship, the value of

authentic human interaction, the role technology plays in people's lives, and more. Programs and discussions will also explore how the themes of the book can and should be updated and modernized to include more inclusive viewpoints and characters.

NEA Big Read: Des Moines events will be a combination of in-person and virtual. Go to [dmpl.org/big-read](https://dmpl.org/big-read) to see updated event schedules and more information.

## DMPL PROGRAMS THIS FALL

The Des Moines Public Library will continue to offer in-person programming in as safely a manner as possible in light of COVID-19. Before attending an event, please check [dmpl.org/events](https://dmpl.org/events) for the latest updates.

# IOWA AUTHOR AWARDS DINNER NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

LOCATION: TBD

Please join us in person as we honor Nikole Hannah-Jones as the 2021 Iowa Author. A 2020 Pulitzer Prize winner for *The 1619 Project*, Hannah-Jones grew up in Waterloo, Iowa.

According to the author’s website, Hannah-Jones got hooked on journalism after joining her high school newspaper, and began writing about students like her, who were bussed across town as part of a voluntary school desegregation program.

Hannah-Jones is the creator of *The 1619 Project*, a groundbreaking look at the impact of slavery 400 years after the first slaves arrived in what would eventually become the United States of America.

She has written on such topics as: federal failures to enforce the Fair Housing Act, the resegregation of American schools, policing in America, and more. Her reporting and writing have earned her a Pulitzer Prize, a National Magazine Award, a Peabody Award, and a Polk Award.

In mid-November, Hannah-Jones’ new books *The 1619 Project: Born on the Water*, a children’s picture book, and *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* will be released. On her website Hannah-Jones states: “This is a book that speaks directly to our current moment, contextualizing the systems of race and caste within which we operate today.”



Her book, *The Problem We All Live With* (Random House) was released in 2020. Other writings include *Ghosts of Greenwood: Dispatches from Freedom Summer* and *Living Apart: How the Government Betrayed a Landmark Civil Rights Law* (ProPublica).

It was recently announced that Hannah-Jones will be the first Knight Chair in Race and Journalism at the Howard University School of Communications. In this new position, she will launch the Center for Journalism and Democracy.

In 1998, Hannah-Jones received a bachelor’s degree in history and African American studies from Notre Dame. She earned a master’s degree in 2003 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she was a Roy H. Park Fellow. Hannah-Jones’ successful investigative journalism career took her around the country working for *The Oregonian*, *ProPublica*, and most recently *The New York Times*.

In addition to the Pulitzer Prize, Hannah-Jones has been recognized in numerous ways including: election to the Academy of Arts and Letters, 2021; a MacArthur Fellowship, the “Genius Award” in 2017 for her work on educational inequality; Society of Professional Journalists, Fellow of the Society Award, 2020; Teachers College Medal of Distinguished Service, Columbia University, 2020; Society of American Historians Fellow, 2020; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Distinguished Alumna Award, 2019; and Gannett Foundation Innovation in Watchdog Journalism Award, 2012.

For sponsorship and ticket information, check our website [www.dmpl.org/foundation](http://www.dmpl.org/foundation) or email [dorybriles@dmplfoundation.org](mailto:dorybriles@dmplfoundation.org).

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Library Foundation raises funds for the library to purchase all the computers used by the public – for both children and adults.



The Library Foundation raises all the funds for the annual Summer Reading & School Readiness program.



YOU HELP THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION SUPPORT

87%

OF THE FREE PROGRAMMING THE DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY OFFERS TO INDIVIDUALS OF ALL AGES



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With gift matching opportunities, like company matching of charitable gifts or volunteer time, your giving will increase. Ask your Human Resources Office for the required forms.

## Please consider a gift to the Des Moines Public Library Foundation.

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### LIBRARY AFTER DARK: TRIVIA SMACKDOWN

We had so much fun we forgot we were at a fundraiser on August 7 at the Central Library. Thanks to the Iowa State Fair for helping to make this a special themed event. The State Fair decorations, prizes and trivia questions were outstanding. Please see a list of all the in-kind donors in the Thank You to Our Donors section under In-Kind. Join us in thanking them for their generosity.



## WE LOVE OUR DONORS

Heartfelt thanks to:

Principal for an \$8,000 contribution from their employee volunteer effort, Summer Ready, to promote children reading all summer long.

Frederick "Fritz" James for his \$5,000 gift and wise counsel.

The John Ruan Foundation Trust for their \$5,000 donation.

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The following donations were received by the Des Moines Public Library Foundation from May 11, 2021 through August 9, 2021. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact us, and we will make corrections.

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**Fall Closures:**

- Thursday, November 11
- Thursday and Friday, November 25-26



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