



Citizens Project

recognizing Black authors



Particularly in light of *Pikes Peak Library District's decision to skip Black History Month*, we here at Citizens Project would love to continue celebrating and honoring Black history by highlighting some Black authors, poets, and writers. While Black stories and prominent leaders should be recognized year-round, **Black History Month** is an important time to bring Black voices to the forefront.

- **Amanda Gorman**, author of *Call Us What We Carry* and *The Hill We Climb*.
- **Ron Stallworth**, author of *BlacKkKlansman* and *The Gangs of Zion*.
- **Zora Neale Hurston**, author of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and *Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick*.
- **Jason Reynolds**, author of *All American Boys* and *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* alongside **Ibram X Kendi**.
- **Ibram X Kendi**, author of *The Black Campus Movement* and *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* alongside **Jason Reynolds**.

We also recommend supporting **Poetry719**, a Colorado Springs community poetry organization ran by Black artists. They focus on supporting and highlighting marginalized communities and people of color through celebrating their spoken word and written pieces. Check out their website to read more about them, their upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities:

Support Poetry719!

<https://www.poetry719.com/>

Keep reading our newsletter to check out our staff's recommendations on books written by Black authors! For further education on Black history and prominent Black leaders and organizations, check out the websites below:

Support the African-American Historical and Genealogical Society of Colorado Springs!

<https://aahgscs.net/>

History Colorado

<https://www.historycolorado.org/black-history-heritage>

National Park Service

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/npscelebrates/black-history-month.htm>

PBS Learning Media

<https://rmpbs.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/celebrating-black-history-culture/>

farewell reception for patience kabwasa this week!

This week, join us as we celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of our outgoing Board Chair, Patience Kabwasa. Enjoy light refreshments, and meet our new Board Chair, Onnastasia Cole.



When: Friday, February 27, 5PM-7PM
Where: Homa Cafe + Bar (inside Kinship Landing)
415 S Nevada Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

[register here!](#)

also this week: our open house!

Have questions or want to engage in local politics? Are you unfamiliar with Citizens Project? Pop in to meet and mingle with our staff! Make connections with your fellow community members and learn how to get involved in civic engagements. Lunch will be provided.



LOOKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN LOCAL POLITICS?

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, Feb. 28th
11:30AM - 2PM

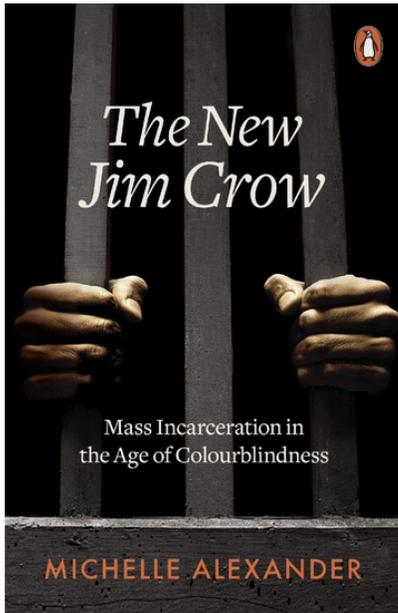
Chinook Center
2551 Airport Road, Suite 107

When: Saturday, February 28th, 11:30AM-2PM
Where: Chinook Center
2551 Airport Road, Suite 107, Colorado Springs, CO 80910

[register here!](#)

staff picks

To continue celebrating **Black History Month**, the Citizens Project staff picked out some books to highlight written by Black authors:



The New Jim Crow

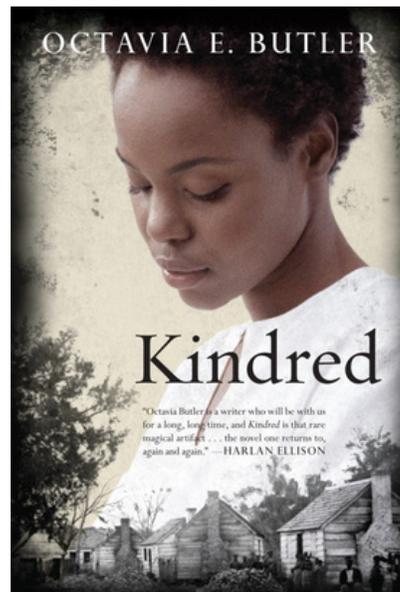
Shay recommends *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colourblindness* by **Michelle Alexander**, a book that dives into the discrimination faced by Black males in the United States. **Alexander** challenges the alleged new era of 'colorblindness,' and points out how the U.S. criminal justice system has targeted and continues to target African-American men.

[click here to read more about The New Jim Crow](#)

Kindred

Steph chose *Kindred* by **Octavia E. Butler** to spotlight, a novel about a time-traveling young Black woman named Dana. As we read Dana's story of transporting between two different times and her roles within them, we explore the lasting impact slavery in the United States has in present times.

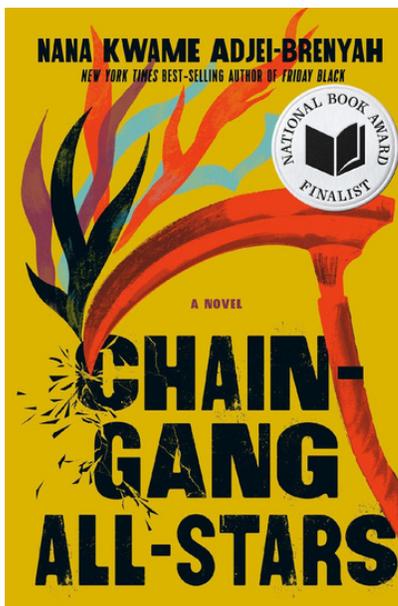
[click here to read more about Kindred](#)



Chain-Gang All-Stars

Chris recently read *Chain-Gang All-Stars* by **Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah**, a dystopian novel set in a near-future America where prisoners fight in televised death matches for a chance at freedom. The book explores themes of mass incarceration, capitalism, and systemic racism.

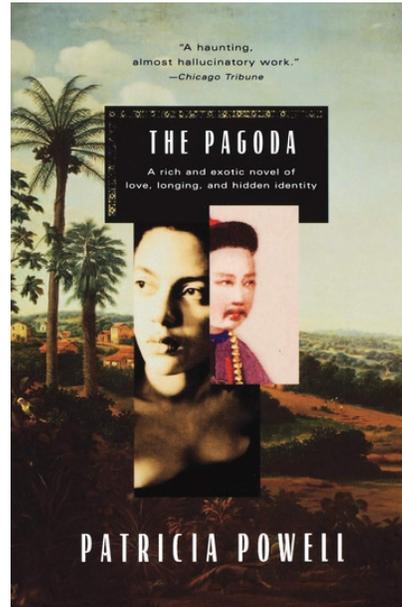
[click here to read more about Chain-Gang All-Stars](#)



The Pagoda

Kane wants to highlight *The Pagoda* by **Patricia Powell**, a book that tells the story of Lowe, a Chinese immigrant who lives in Jamaica in the 1890s. Through letters to his long-estranged daughter, Lowe talks about his life before her birth, the events that occurred since then, and the relationship he has with Sylvie, a light-skinned Black woman.

[click here to read more about The Pagoda](#)



Who are some of your favorite Black authors?

[support our work](#)



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