

OLA 2024 Conference
“How to Start Your Very Own EDI Book Club”
Getting Started Kit

By Max H. Robinson and Hannah Tauriainen



SLOW/WSL EDI Book Club - Statement of Purpose:

Stimulating empathy and understanding by walking in the shoes of others through literature; creating an accessible opportunity for library staff and volunteers to be involved in the reflective and iterative practice of equity, diversity, & inclusion (EDI).

Have questions? Please contact us at: max.robinson@slo.oregon.gov & hannah.tauriainen@sos.wa.gov

Title	Author	Genre	Subject	Year Published	Month	Link	Page Count
Free: Two Years, Six Lives, and the Long Journey Home	Lauren Kessler	Non-Fiction	Penal System	2022	January	Free — Lauren Kessler	320
Letter from Birmingham Jail	Martin Luther King Jr.	Non-Fiction/Letter	Civil Rights	1963	February	Letter From Birmingham Jail - MLK Jr.	3
Finding Me	Viola Davis	Non-Fiction/Memoir	Women's Stories, Black Stories	2022	March	Finding Me by Viola Davis — HarperCollins	304
A Woman is No Man	Etaf Rum	Fiction	Arab Stories, Women's Stories	2019	April	A Woman Is No Man by Etaf Rum Goodreads	339
Yes to Life In Spite of Everything	Viktor E. Frankl	Non-Fiction	Jewish History	1946	May	Books by Viktor Frankl	136
Melissa (previously known as George)	Alex Gino	Middle Grade Fiction	LGBTQIA2S+	2015	June	MELISSA « Alex Gino	224
Isabel Wilkerson TEDTalk, The Warmth of Other Suns, Caste	Isabel Wilkerson	Non-Fiction	Black History, Racism, Immigration	2017	July	Isabel Wilkerson: The Great Migration and the power of a single decision TED Talk	17:46
Dolly Chugh TEDTalk, The Person You Mean To Be	Dolly Chugh	Non-Fiction	Wild Card	2018	August	Dolly Chugh: How to let go of being a "good" person -- and become a better person TED Talk	11:39
The Last Cuentista	Donna Barba Higuera	Middle Grade Fiction	Hispanic-Latino Heritage	2021	October	The Last Cuentista Donna Barba Higuera (dbhiguera.com)	320
Red Paint: The Ancestral Autobiography of a Coast Salish Punk	Sasha taq ^w šəblu LaPointe	Memoir	Indigenous Stories	2022	November	Sasha Lapointe - Indigenous Author, Poet, Artist portfolio (sasha-lapointe.com)	225
The People Remember	Ibi Zoboi	Picture Book	Heritage	2021	December	The People Remember — Ibi Zoboi	64
Hanukkah Bear	Eric A. Kimmel	Picture Book	Jewish Heritage	2013	December	Hanukkah Bear by Eric A. Kimmel Goodreads	32
It's Navidad, El Cucuy!	Donna Barba Hig	Picture Book	Hispanic-Latino Heritage	2023	December	It's Navidad, El Cucuy! Donna Barba Higuera (dbhiguera.com)	40

EDI Book Club Example Questions

1. What were your initial thoughts after reading this book/essay/letter OR watching this TEDTalk/lecture?
2. Let's talk about new terms that we learned while reading/watching.
3. Why do you think the author/speaker chose this topic?
4. Who do you think this book/discussion is for? Are you/we part of the audience?
5. Who was your favorite character in the story? Why?
6. How do we create a culture of understanding, accommodation, and empathy around this issue?
7. What impressions of this community/person/culture did you have prior to reading? After?
8. Why are these stories important?
9. How can we as librarians and library staff better serve these patrons?

Author Talk Example Questions

1. Author Introduction: Tell us a little about yourself
2. What got you on the path to writing this book?
3. How did your experience impact your writing?
4. What is something you hope readers will take away from this book?
5. Can you talk about the research process for this book?
6. What does this book mean to you?
7. What can we do to support marginalized readers as librarians and library staff?

EDI Book Club - Author/Speaker Initial Outreach

Hello Mr./Miss _____,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is <First Name> and I am a <Job Title> with the <Library Name>. In <Date>, we started an EDI Book Club, and as a part of our work for the month of <Month>, we have chosen <to read and discuss your book, "Book Title">. OR <to focus on the experience of X people, and would love to hear more about your work in this field.>

Example of an additional explanatory paragraph: <With this reading, we are hoping to open some minds to the reality, challenges, and potential horrors of immigration and the experience of undocumented peoples. I read your book a few months ago, and found the story and its themes to be incredibly impactful on my understanding of this subject, and am looking forward to discussing this with my group of colleagues at the end of July.>

All this being said, we are hoping to bring in <authors/speakers> to discuss their work whenever possible, *leave in or out based on author/speaker <especially if they call Washington home, as I believe you currently do>*. Would you be interested and available to join our discussion?

Thank you and regards,

EDI Book Club Signature

EDI Book Club - Author/Speaker Thank You for Coming Letter

Hello _____,

I hope this message finds you well. We wanted to reach out to take a moment and thank you for your recent visit to the <Library Name> EDI Book Club. Thank you for providing us with your time and thoughts, we are so grateful for the additional insights into your incredible <book/work>.

Please feel free to reach out anytime and know that you are always welcome and invited to visit our library in person in beautiful <City/Town>, Washington. Wishing you a wonderful day!

Thank you and regards,

EDI Book Club Signature