



OKLAHOMA
HUMANITIES

PRESS RELEASE

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Start the New Year with New Chapters and New Conversations with *Let's Talk About It!*

(Oklahoma City—December 12, 2024) – The new year will usher in a new season of *Let's Talk About It*, a dynamic book club and program of Oklahoma Humanities (OH) that has connected curious readers across the state since 1985. Free and open to all, the large number of programs offered this year ensures that many Oklahomans are close to a program site.

From January through June, twenty-five public sites will be hosting *Let's Talk About It* at a location near you, including: Ada, Ardmore, Cherokee, Claremore, Duncan, Elgin, Enid, Grove, Guthrie, Hulbert, Jay, Lawton, Locust Grove, Miami, Oklahoma City, Pauls Valley, Ponca City, Stillwater, Woodward, and Yukon. OH is excited to welcome the Tahlequah Public Library, Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library in Oklahoma City, and Quapaw Tribal Library to the *LTAI* community as they host their first-ever programs. In addition, nine correctional centers in Atoka, Boley, Hodgen, Holdenville, Lexington, McAlester, McLoud, and Taft will host the program.

Readers will explore diverse themes that span centuries and subjects, including: “Native American Identity from Past to Present,” “Myth and Literature,” “The Worst Hard Time Revisited: Oklahoma in the Dust Bowl Years,” and “Working to Survive: Surviving to Work.” Featured authors include F. Scott Fitzgerald, Joseph Campbell, Upton Sinclair, Herman Melville, Tommy Orange, Louise Erdrich, and many more.

“We invite everyone to connect with their local libraries, museums, and nonprofits and meet other people who share a love of books,” said Program Officer Rayne McKinney. “*Let's Talk About It* is not just about reading but talking and sharing viewpoints. Join us for one session or an entire series, and if there isn't a program near you, let your local nonprofit organizations know you're interested, and have them reach out to me.”

Experts open each book discussion with an analysis of the text, its recurring themes, revelations about the author's life, and historical context, before readers reflect on their experiences, exchange thoughts and ideas, consider different perspectives, and gain new insight. These programs are made possible by a grant from Oklahoma Humanities with generous funding and

support from the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, Oklahoma City University, and the McCasland Foundation.

Find a program near you at: okhumanities.org/events

About the National Endowment for the Humanities: Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at neh.gov.

About Oklahoma Humanities:

Oklahoma Humanities (OH) is an independent, nonprofit organization whose mission is to strengthen communities by helping Oklahomans learn about the human experience, understand new perspectives, and participate knowledgeably in civic life. As the state partner for the National Endowment for the Humanities, OH is a grantmaking organization that provides a free educational magazine, Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibits, reading and discussion groups, and other cultural opportunities for Oklahomans of all ages. OH engages people in their own communities, stimulating discussion and helping them explore the wider world of human experience, through humanities disciplines such as history, literature, film studies, ethics, and philosophy.

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