



OKLAHOMA
HUMANITIES

PRESS RELEASE

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**Oklahoma Humanities Receives Citizen’s Recognition Award
from the Oklahoma Library Association for *Let’s Talk About It***

(Oklahoma City—March 18, 2025) – Oklahoma Humanities is proud to announce it is the 2025 recipient of the Oklahoma Library Association’s (OLA) Citizen’s Recognition Award for its dynamic book club, *Let’s Talk About It (LTAI)*. The award was presented by OLA President Gail Oehler at the 2025 Awards and Scholarships Reception on March 13.

Groups, individuals, and other non-library organizations who have demonstrated a focused interest in libraries and their services state-wide are considered for this award. The selecting committee considered the duration of this commitment; the community impact; the promotion of reading and local libraries; and the overall effect of this program.

“We are honored to receive this award,” said Executive Director Caroline Lowery. “For forty years, we have worked with libraries across Oklahoma to bring communities together through conversation and contemplation. We are grateful to OLA for this recognition and the work they do to elevate libraries and library services throughout the state.”

Let’s Talk About It is a free annual reading and discussion program celebrating its 40th anniversary. It employs literature and meaningful conversation to encourage cultural, intellectual, and social connections in the discussion groups who then take these new perspectives to the broader community. With an average of 45-50 book clubs that each meet five times for a total of 250 yearly programs, *Let’s Talk About It* serves on average over 3,500 people statewide in locations like libraries, veterans centers, correctional centers, community centers, and museums.

Oklahoma Humanities incurs all program costs, including books, shipping, and scholar fees. Each *Let’s Talk About It* program consists of five sessions, including five books examining one of 42 discussion themes from multiple perspectives.

“Free and open to all, the large number of programs offered this year ensures that many Oklahomans are close to a program site,” said *LTAI* Program Officer Rayne McKinney. “We invite everyone to join us for one session or an entire series.” 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.

These programs are made possible by a grant from Oklahoma Humanities with generous funding and support from the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, Oklahoma City University, the McCasland Foundation, and individual donors and readers across the state.

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

About the Oklahoma Library Association: The Oklahoma Library Association (OLA) works to strengthen the quality of libraries, library services and librarianship in Oklahoma. Members of OLA work in public, school, academic and special libraries of all sizes. Members include professional, paraprofessional and clerical library staff, library trustees, Friends, students, volunteers, vendors of library products and services and many others.

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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