



NEWS RELEASE

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD, OH (Sept. 18, 2020)

CultureRead Will Replace CultureFest in 2020

In lieu of its traditional celebration on the City Plaza, CultureFest will take a social-distanced form this year with CultureRead 2020, organizers announced.

During this pandemic year when the annual CultureFest was cancelled due to concerns for public safety, the CultureFest Steering Committee is instead inviting community members to participate in learning about antiracism by reading a book and engaging in discussion. The selected books are:

- “How to be an Antiracist” by Ibram X Kendi
- “White Fragility” by Robin DiAngelo
- “Me and White Supremacy” by Layla Saad.

Other organizations may also select alternative books on antiracism, based on their organizational needs and beliefs.

Those who might be willing to lead a reading group can go to springfieldohio/culturefest to watch a helpful video prepared by Lori Askeland, Ph.D (Wittenberg English Chair) and Winkie Mitchell. Additional information will be available on the website soon, for those wishing to participate.

Limited copies of the books are available at the Clark County Public Library for checkout. Priority will be given at this time for those wishing to lead a group. These books are provided by the project sponsors: the Springfield Foundation; First Energy Foundation; Southfield Village Apartments; the City of Springfield; and the Clark County Public Library. Please also note that Me and White Supremacy is available for unlimited check out as an audio or ebook on the library’s digital app – Hoopla.

The Clark County Public Library will be hosting a group on “Me and White Supremacy” led by Reference Librarian Steve Frock. Participants are encouraged to consider starting a group in his or her religious organization, business, workplace or other community group.

Plans are for the book reading and discussions to occur during the months of October through December. In January, organizers will convene those who participated for discussion and consideration of response.

For more information, contact the Springfield Community Development Department at (937) 324-7380 and Steve Frock at the Clark County Public Library (937) 328-6903.

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