



**READ
SAINT PAUL
BRAVE**



**SAINT PAUL
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Meg Medina visits Creative Arts Academy (April 25, 2019).

2019 IMPACT REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

Read Brave Saint Paul is a citywide, intergenerational reading program set around a common theme relevant to the city. **The 2019 Read Brave theme was housing, a critical topic in Saint Paul where thousands of people struggle to afford housing.** The program featured six book selections spanning all ages and reading levels, from children’s picture books to Pulitzer Prize-winning nonfiction. It forged partnerships with educators at 40 local schools and with more than 20 community organizations and gave away 6,000 books to students and community partners. Library staff members coordinated nearly 30 complementary events for all ages — from pre-school to older adults. The program culminated with a visit by Newbury Award-winner Meg Medina, author of *Burn Baby Burn*, the 2019 Read Brave Saint Paul young adult novel.

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

READBRAVE.ORG

BOOKS & PARTNERS

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

OTHER ENGAGEMENT

2X
Read Brave print titles had almost twice the checkout rates compared to other books purchased in the past year.

675 
Students participated in author events with Meg Medina at local schools, including Johnson High and Saint Paul College.

42,695 
Views of “When Saint Paul Reads Brave” promotional video on social media and on the library’s website.

5,500 
Copies of *Burn Baby Burn* and *Evicted* were distributed to students and community members.

200 
Community members attended a special storytime with Mayor Carter and librarian Rose Oyamot at Highland Park Library.

1,347 
Public interactions with the library’s Civic Lab — an on-site display with information, public polls, and a quiz about housing.

620 
Copies of Read Brave children’s books — *Shelter*, *Rich*, *Crenshaw*, and *Yard Sale* — were distributed to community partners.

80 
Community volunteers created hygiene kits at two Care Brave events at Dayton’s Bluff and Highland Park libraries.

96%
Of teen survey participants would recommend Read Brave Saint Paul to a friend.

60 
Read Brave engaged 40 school partners and 20 community partners in reading and discussing the books.

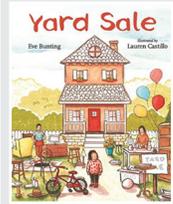
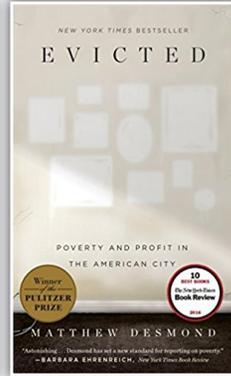
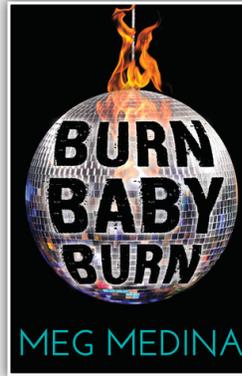
40 
Community members attended the Rethinking Eviction: Options for Landlords seminar at Sun Ray Library.

50 
More than 50 local book clubs signed up with The Friends to win a Read Brave book club meeting hosted by Mayor Carter.

READ BRAVE SAINT PAUL | 2019 IMPACT REPORT

2019 BOOK SELECTIONS

The 2019 book selections included *Shelter* by Celine Claire; *Yard Sale* by Eve Bunting; *Rich* by Nikki Grimes; *Crenshaw* by Katherine Applegate; *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond; and, *Burn Baby Burn* by Meg Medina. Because we were able to order 4,000 copies of *Burn Baby Burn*, Candlewick Press printed a custom edition of the book that is now in the Library of Congress.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Programs included book club meetings; storytimes with Mayor Carter and with the City Council President; housing workshops and information sessions; film screenings; and special events, like Speak Brave, where six individuals shared their personal experiences with homelessness and housing insecurity.



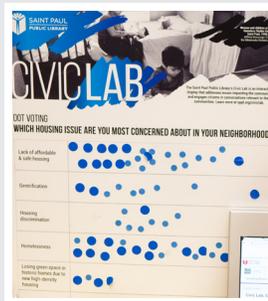
Storytime with Mayor Carter at Highland Park Library (January 26, 2019).



Care Brave volunteer event with HandsOn Twin Cities at Dayton's Bluff Library (January 26, 2019).



Gingerbread house making event for young children and their families at Hayden Heights Library (December 27, 2018).



Civic Lab display at all libraries engaged people around their biggest housing concerns and invited them to share their concerns with local elected officials.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"I LOVE EVERYTHING THAT IS GOING ON WITH READ BRAVE. I'VE BEEN ABLE TO HAVE SOME REALLY HONEST CONVERSATIONS WITH MY STUDENTS ABOUT WHAT HOME MEANS TO THEM. JUST GOT A BUNCH OF OUR FOURTH GRADERS TO CHECK OUT ALL OF MY 'RICH' BOOKS BY NIKKI GRIMES."

"KEEP CHOOSING TOPICS THAT ENLIGHTEN AND HAVE MEANING FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND HIGHLIGHT SOCIAL AND RACIAL ISSUES."

"IT WAS REFRESHING TO HAVE YOUNG PEOPLE JOIN THE CONVERSATION."

"I LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE MY STUDENTS WITH MEANINGFUL, ENGAGING BOOKS, AND I WAS EXCITED THIS YEAR ABOUT THE DIVERSITY OF EVENTS AROUND THE TOPIC!"



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SPONSORED BY



The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library provided financial support for programming and marketing, through sponsorships from Bremer Bank, Saint Paul Saints, and the Pohlada Family Foundation. Through their strong relationship with Penguin Random House they made it possible for us to purchase and distribute over 5,000 free books across the city!