



San Francisco Public Library

Statement from San Francisco Public Library

The San Francisco Public Library stands with the **#BlackLivesMatter** movement and supports all efforts to end the structural, systematic and institutional racism and inequality in our communities.

As if living through a pandemic isn't hard enough, the murder of George Floyd on the heels of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, is too much to bear, especially in light of reports that COVID-19 has impacted African Americans and our most vulnerable communities the most. Our hearts are heavy and we share the compounded pain and trauma many are experiencing in our city, in the country and the world.

Public libraries have a unique and vital role to play in advancing equity and addressing racial divides. This means taking a closer look at our services and being honest about how our institution has failed to help advance racial equity.

"Our black colleagues, neighbors and friends have spent lifetimes living with anxiety and uncertainty while too many leaders are silent and complicit" said Dr. Mary Wardell-Ghirarduzzi, president of the San Francisco Library Commission. "Now is the time for leaders everywhere to take a stand against racism and commit to doing the work to uncover their own biases, prejudices and anti-black behaviors that perpetuate structural and institutional racism."

Though the library remains closed, as we plan our re-opening, be assured our work will be centered on racial equity and we will continue the efforts we have already started under the direction of the citywide Office of Racial Equity. Prior to the shut-down library staff had begun to hold conversations on race and hosted forums for the public to learn more about how to have constructive conversations about race. We are anxious to start these again while at the same time doing the intentional work of examining our services and policies with racial equity in mind. In the meantime, we have been sharing recommendations on social media to help patrons educate themselves on the issues. Below is a list for your convenience.

We are all responsible for this work and hope you will join us to help us foster a twenty-first century library built on inclusion, justice and mutual respect.

San Francisco Public Library resource lists

[How to Be an Antiracist](#)

[Kids Who Care - Kids Take Action](#)

[More Than a Month: Activism](#)

[Understanding Structural Racism](#)

[Black Lives Matter: An SFPL Watch List](#)

[Black Family Joy](#)

[Black Stories Matter: Picture Book Films for Kids](#)

[Police, Prisons, and Young Black Lives](#)

San Francisco Public Library is one of more than 164 urban libraries across the country who have [joined together](#) to advance racial and social equity