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Press Release

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Fresno County Public Library Receives Big Read Grant

The Fresno County Public Library has been awarded a \$15,000 grant by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), administered through Arts Midwest. It will be used to fund next year's Big Read program, which will encourage everyone in the County to read Claudia Rankine's book, *Citizen: An American Lyric*.

An initiative of the NEA and Arts Midwest, the Big Read seeks to broaden our understanding of our world and the communities we live in through the bond of a good book. The program supports 75 communities on an annual basis, and each community picks a book that inspires impactful and relevant conversation.

Citizen: An American Lyric, published in 2014, is the first work of poetry to become a New York Times bestseller. The book combines art, poetry and prose to explore the subject of race in contemporary America. It's a fitting book for Fresno, as it's the fifth largest city in California and one of the most ethnically diverse.

The Big Read will collaborate with many local organizations, such as the African American Cultural Museum, Fresno City College, Fresno State, the Central Unified School District, Inner Ear Production and West Fresno Family Resource Center. Programs are planned for the early part of the year 2020.

For more information about the Big Read, other Library programs, services, and specific branch hours, please go to www.fresnolibrary.org or call the Library at (559) 600 – READ (7323).

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