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Sally Gomez, Director and County Librarian

NEWS RELEASE

Fresno County Public Library Communication
(559) 600-6273

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 22, 2026

Fresno Raised Children's Author JaNay Brown-Wood Returns to Her Childhood Library

Fresno County, CA – JaNay Brown-Wood is returning to her childhood library, this time as an award-winning, New York Times bestselling children's author. The Fresno-raised author will be at Sunnyside Library for a free event Saturday, September 26, at 1 p.m.

The event will center on Brown-Wood's newly released picture book, "Acacia: A Rapunzel Tale," a fresh take on the classic fairy tale featuring two young Black heroines. Written for children ages 4–7, the story follows Acacia, a girl locked away in a tower who dreams of seeing the world beyond its walls. With help from her new friend Mahogany, Acacia uses storytelling, creativity, and courage to take control of her own story and plan her escape.

Brown-Wood is an award-winning, New York Times bestselling children's author, poet, educator, and scholar. She has written more than 30 books, including "Imani's Moon," "Grandma's Tiny House," the "Where in the Garden" series, and Little Golden Book biographies of Harriet Tubman and Simone Biles.

"I grew up and was educated right here in this community—Aynesworth Elementary, Computech Middle School, Sunnyside High School—so coming back as an author and educator feels incredibly special," said Brown-Wood. "Libraries are such important spaces within the community. They expose children to stories, knowledge, and wonderful community members who welcome them into a space where they can be themselves. I'm looking forward to sharing 'Acacia' with Fresno families and showing young readers that classic stories can make room for them, too."

Brown-Wood grew up in Fresno before earning degrees from UCLA, California State University, Sacramento, and UC Davis. Her work as an author and educator focuses on literacy, learning, and representation in children's literature.

"JaNay's return gives local children the opportunity to meet an accomplished author whose own story began in their community," said Sally Gomez, Director of the Fresno County Public Library. "Her path from a young reader at Sunnyside Library to a nationally recognized author is something Fresno families can celebrate."

The event is free and open to children and families. It will be held at:

Saturday, September 26

1 p.m.

Sunnyside Library

5566 E. Kings Canyon Road
Fresno, CA 93727

MEDIA AVAILABILITY: JaNay Brown-Wood is available for interviews ahead of the event on Thursday September 24th and Friday September 25th. To schedule an interview or arrange event coverage, contact Susan Renfro at Susan.Renfro@fresnolibrary.org or 559-970-1135

For more information on JaNay Brown-Wood, PhD, please visit janaybrownwood.com

For more information about the Fresno County Public Library and the event, visit fresnolibrary.org.

About Fresno County Public Library

For over 100 years, the Fresno County Public Library has been a place to connect, grow, and be inspired. With 33 branches countywide, the Library offers free access to books, technology, educational programs, and community resources for all ages. To learn more, visit fresnolibrary.org.

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