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Celebrate Black Children's Book Week In Phoenix: Inaugural Events Highlight Black Authors, Literacy

Special to the Informant

The inaugural Black Children's Book Week will take place Feb 23-March 2, in Phoenix. This inaugural weeklong celebration will shine a spotlight on local Arizona Black authors and their contributions to children's literature, providing an opportunity to engage local students, families, and communities in the power of storytelling and literacies.

This event is being held in conjunction with the Black Children's Book Week global celebration of Black children and the people who ensure that Black children are represented in books and other children's media (blackbabybooks.com). Events promote and celebrate Black authors,

illustrators, publishers, businesspeople, community advocates, librarians, educators and students.

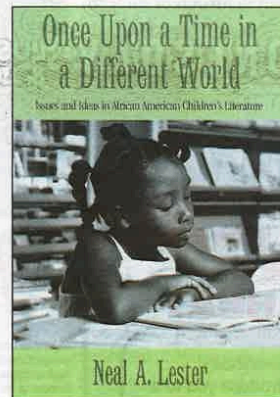
The week will kick off with a special Authors Reception 2-4pm Sunday, Feb. 23, at Arizona Heritage Center (1300 N. College Avenue, Tempe), offering local authors a chance to meet and network with community members, educators, and other creators passionate about diverse children's literature.

Throughout the week, from Feb. 24-28, participating Black authors will visit local schools to engage with students, share their stories, and excite and inspire the next generation of readers. These school visits provide students with exposure to positive Black role

models in literature and life, fostering a deeper connection with books that reflect their experiences and communities.

The celebration will culminate 12noon-4pm Sunday, March 2, with a family-friendly event at Grassrootz Bookstore & Juice Bar (1145 E. Washington Street #200, Phoenix). This final gathering will feature story time sessions, literacy-centered activities, and raffles, creating an exciting atmosphere for children and families to interact with authors and explore new books.

"We are thrilled to host this inaugural Black Children's Book Week here in Phoenix," said Erica Maxwell, event lead organizer, children's book author,



and educator. "This celebration offers an invaluable opportunity to elevate Black authors and ensure that Black

children see themselves reflected in the stories they read. We hope to inspire a love of reading, foster literacy, and create lasting connections within various communities."

The week will provide a platform for local Black authors to showcase their books and engage with new readers. The event at both the Arizona Heritage Center and Grassrootz Bookstore are open to the public, and authors will have the chance to sell and sign books during the event.

Local Black authors interested in participating in the March 2 event or author visits to schools can register through the provided link. A \$25 participation fee is required for the final event at Grassrootz Bookstore.