

150th Speaker Series

Confirmed December 5: Tommi Laitio

Bio

Learning Grounds for Conviviality - Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation (jhu.edu)

“What this range of conversations tells me is that parks and libraries can be inspiring and safe learning grounds for living in a diverse world – and thus an essential component of democratic society, especially in times like today when polarized political conversations can cause us to feel divided. Parks and libraries allow us to share resources without forcing us to shared action.”

Pursuing March 2024: Eve Ewing

Bio

Hear Eve Ewing on the podcast Library for the People: Accelerators of Social Impact

“Libraries are places that are repositories of people's memories, people's intentions, people's questions, the puzzles they were trying to figure out, their lost loves, you know, all of these things. Their correspondence and so on and so forth. And so that to me is a very magical thing about archives and it's a very like Afro-futuristic and very time travel-y thing about archives.”

Pursuing March 2024: Luvvie Ajayi Jones

Bio

Luvvie Ajayi Jones appeared as Closing Speaker at the American Library Association's 2022 Annual Conference and Exhibition.

“Jones explained that speaking up in the face of injustice is not an intuitive skill, and people often don't do it for one of three reasons: They don't believe it's their charge (“not my circus, not my clown”), they are afraid of punishment, or they're always the person who is speaking up (“I'm not going to do it today”). She asked the audience to move beyond those reasons and ask themselves: ‘Am I leaving my privilege behind and ignoring the power that I'm wielding?’”

Pursuing June 2024: Ari Shapiro

Bio

Ari Shapiro's newest book *The Best Strangers in the World* embodies the principal of conviviality that we will hear about in December when we launch our celebration.

“Ari Shapiro keeps seeking ways to help people listen to one another; to find connection and commonality with those who may seem different; to remind us that, before religion, or nationality, or politics, we are all human.”

Confirmed September 24, 2024: Margaret Atwood

Bio

What Would a World Without Public Libraries Be Like?

“This is why the library matters so much. It is a democratizing and liberating force like none other. The library encourages new thinking in unexpected directions. It offers support to immigrants, students, to anyone with a well-developed curiosity or deep need for community. It is a place for minds to meet minds and hearts to move hearts.”

Other Names/Pricing to be considered for library Signature Events or this series if we are unable to secure one of these speakers. *Note, the 150th Speaker Series will focus on individuals who will speak to the support of and the future of public libraries.*

Donna Brazile: \$20,000-\$25,000

Frank Bruni: \$20,000-\$30,000

Neil Gaiman: \$45,000

Henry Louis Gates, Jr.: \$50,000-\$100,00

Eddie Glaude: \$20,000-\$30,000

Amanda Gorman: \$75,000

Sharon McMahon: \$16,000

Ebony Janice Moore: \$10,000-\$20,000

Nick Offerman: \$100,000

George Takei: \$80,000

D. Danyelle Thomas: \$3,000

Jacqueline Woodson: \$25,000