



PRESS RELEASE

WRL and William & Mary Libraries Initiative “One Book One Community” Returns with Author Eric Klinenberg

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Jan. 24, 2022) – Williamsburg Regional Library and William & Mary Libraries are once again partnering for One Book One Community, an initiative that brings the community together for shared experiences related to a socially relevant book. This year’s book selection is *Palaces for the People* by Eric Klinenberg.

One Book One Community is a collaborative community reading project hosted by Williamsburg Regional Library and William & Mary Libraries, with additional funding provided by the Friends of the Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation.

One Book One Community events this year will include lectures, group discussions, a panel discussion, and other activities and events related to the book theme, culminating in a visit by Klinenberg on February 24. Named one of the best books of the year by NPR and longlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction, *Palaces for the People* examines how the places where we meet – schools, libraries, playgrounds – create social bonds that strengthen communities.

“Eric Klinenberg offers readers a vision of how to move beyond the current climate of divisiveness and social isolation by embracing the importance of shared public spaces,” said Betsy Fowler, Williamsburg Regional Library director. “This year’s One Book One Community events will help our community explore the critical role social infrastructure plays in our everyday lives.”

The event series kicks off on February 2 with popular WHRO radio host Barbara Hamm Lee (*Another View*), who will moderate a panel of special guests as they discuss ways people with opposing views can maintain civil dialogue while fully participating in a democratic society.

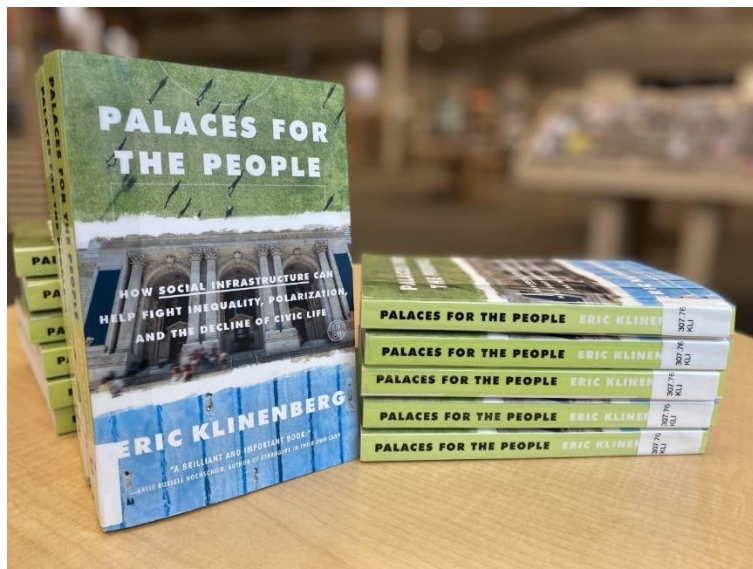
Other notable events in the series include a talk about community gardening led by the Williamsburg Community Growers, as well as several book discussions centered on *Palaces for the People*.

Author Eric Klinenberg will give the keynote presentation at 6:30 p.m. on February 24 at the Williamsburg Library.

“A library is an excellent example of the type of public spaces that are so important to bringing people together in the way that Klinenberg describes, so what better place than a library to host community discussions on the topic,” said Carrie Cooper, dean of university libraries at William & Mary. “We are honored to welcome Eric Klinenberg in February and to offer the community an opportunity to hear more about his important research.”

For more information about One Book One Community programs, visit wrl.org/onebook.

Previous One Book One Community books included *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Dr. Ibram X. Kendi (2020 book selection), and *There There* by Tommy Orange (2019 book selection).



Copies of *Palaces for the People* by Eric Klinenberg, the 2022 One Book One Community selection, are available at Williamsburg Regional Library and William & Mary Libraries. High res photo available upon request.

One Book One Community programs:

Civil Participation in a Democratic Society (panel talk), February 2, 6:30 p.m. – Williamsburg Library & online

Chapter 1 Quiet Reading Party (read and discuss), February 7, 2 p.m. – Stryker Center

Bowling Tournament, February 9, 5:30 p.m. – Stryker Center

Rags to Riches (documentary & discussion), February 12, 10:30 a.m. – Williamsburg Library

Chapter 2 Quiet Reading Party (read and discuss), February 15, 3 p.m. – Swem Library

Turning Pages Book Group, February 15, 6:45 p.m. – Williamsburg Library & online

Fake or Fact? Spotting Fake News, February 17, 2 p.m. – Stryker Center

Designing for Public Spaces, February 17, 6:30 p.m. – Stryker Center

Public Book Discussion, February 19, 2 p.m. – James City County Library & online

Community Gardening (talk), February 22, 10 a.m. – James City County Library

Aging and Community (presentation), February 22, 2 p.m. – Stryker Center

Novel Ideas Book Group, February 23, 2 p.m. – James City County Library & online

The Williamsburg Regional Library (WRL) is an award-winning regional library system that consists of the Williamsburg Library on Scotland St. in Williamsburg, the James City County Library on Croaker Rd. in James City County, the Stryker Center on N. Boundary St. in Williamsburg, and its Mobile Library Services vehicles. The WRL service area includes the City of Williamsburg, James City County, and York County.

William & Mary Libraries is an academic library system that serves William & Mary students, faculty and staff, as well as the surrounding communities of Williamsburg, James City County and York County.

MEDIA CONTACTS: Desiree Parker, Marketing and Communications Manager
dparker@wrl.org
(757) 741-3330

Tami Back, Director of Communications, W&M Libraries
tback@wm.edu
(757) 634-7736