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**Celebrate African-American literature at the 2020 African-American Read-In**

ORLANDO, Fla. (February 10, 2020) – In 1989, the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English came together in hopes of creating an event that would highlight the contributions of African-American authors. The following year, the African-American Read-In was born.

On February 16, enjoy the magic of literature as the African-American Read-In returns to the downtown Orlando library's main stage, with special guest speakers from across the nations. During February, various organizations such as libraries, schools and bookstores host the African-American Read-In, in hopes of making literacy a symbolic part of Black History Month. Since its beginnings, the Read-In has reached over 6 million participants around the world.

This year's guest speakers includes Johnny Magic of XL 106.7 Johnny's House, Commissioner Bakari F. Burns, President and CEO of WMFE Erika Pulley-Hayes, actor and musician Carl MaultsBy, Morning Edition host Talia Blake, Director of Public Relations at Moxē and Friends of the Library board member Jaylen Christie, and performances by Nathi Gcabashe and Orisirisi African Folklore. The annual event celebrates and promotes diversity in literature by highlighting work created by African-American authors.

The African-American Read-In is hosted annually at the Orlando Public Library in conjunction with the National African-American Read-In, the nation's first and oldest event dedicated to diversity in literature.

The African-American Read-In takes place on Sunday, February 16, 2 p.m at the Orlando Public Library, 101 E. Central Ave. For more information and a complete listing of readers and performers, visit [ocls.info/readin](https://ocls.info/readin).

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