
Youth Civic Action in Libraries

— Don't stop. Get it get it. —

represent.



critical librarianship is here to stay.

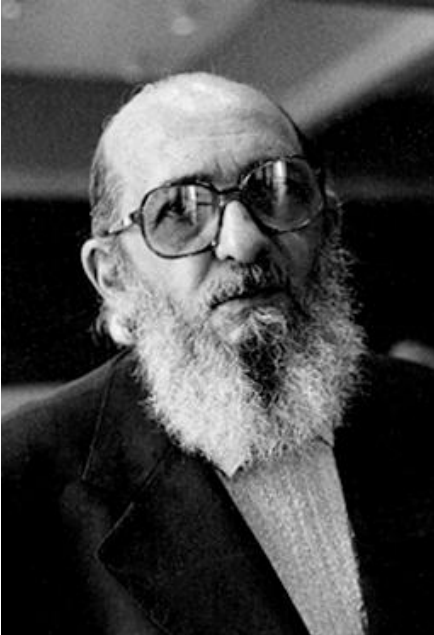
Critical Librarianship has deep roots and is clearly defined. It is the articulation of critical theory in the field of library and information science.

According to ALA:

It places librarianship within a critical theorist framework that is epistemological, self-reflective, and activist in nature. According to Elaine Harger, librarians that practice critical librarianship strive to communicate the ways in which libraries and librarians consciously and unconsciously support systems of oppression.[1] Critical librarianship seeks to be transformative, empowering, and a direct challenge to power and privilege. [2]

other critical theorists.

Paolo Freire



bell hooks



Henry Jenkins III

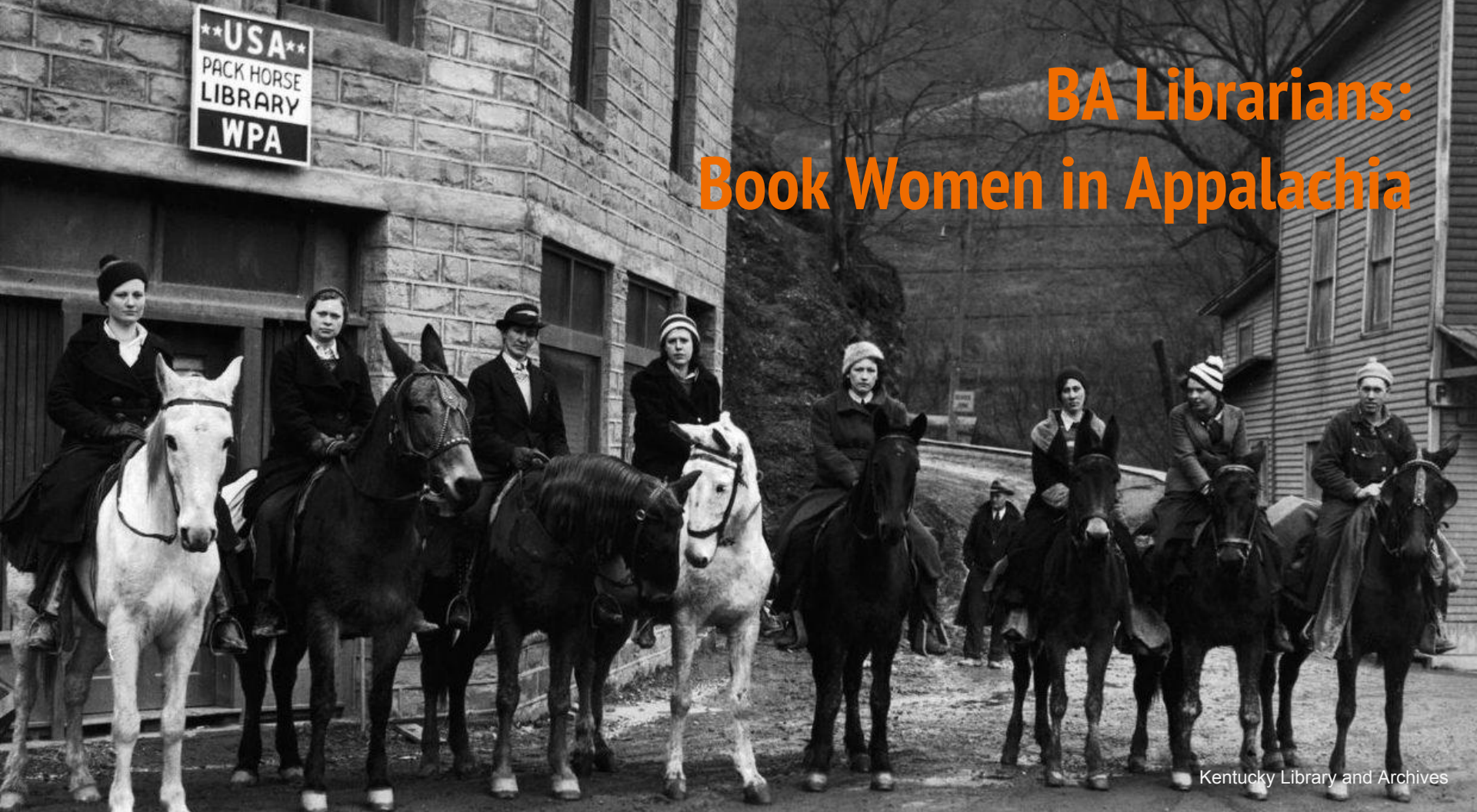


BA Librarians: Regina Anderson

- American Playwright and Librarian
- Librarian at the New York Public Library
- Organized a dinner at the Civic Club that helped launched the Harlem Renaissance
- Helped W.E.B Du Bois found the Krigwa Players: black actors performing plays by black authors.
- The first African American to head a branch of the New York Public Library



BA Librarians: Book Women in Appalachia



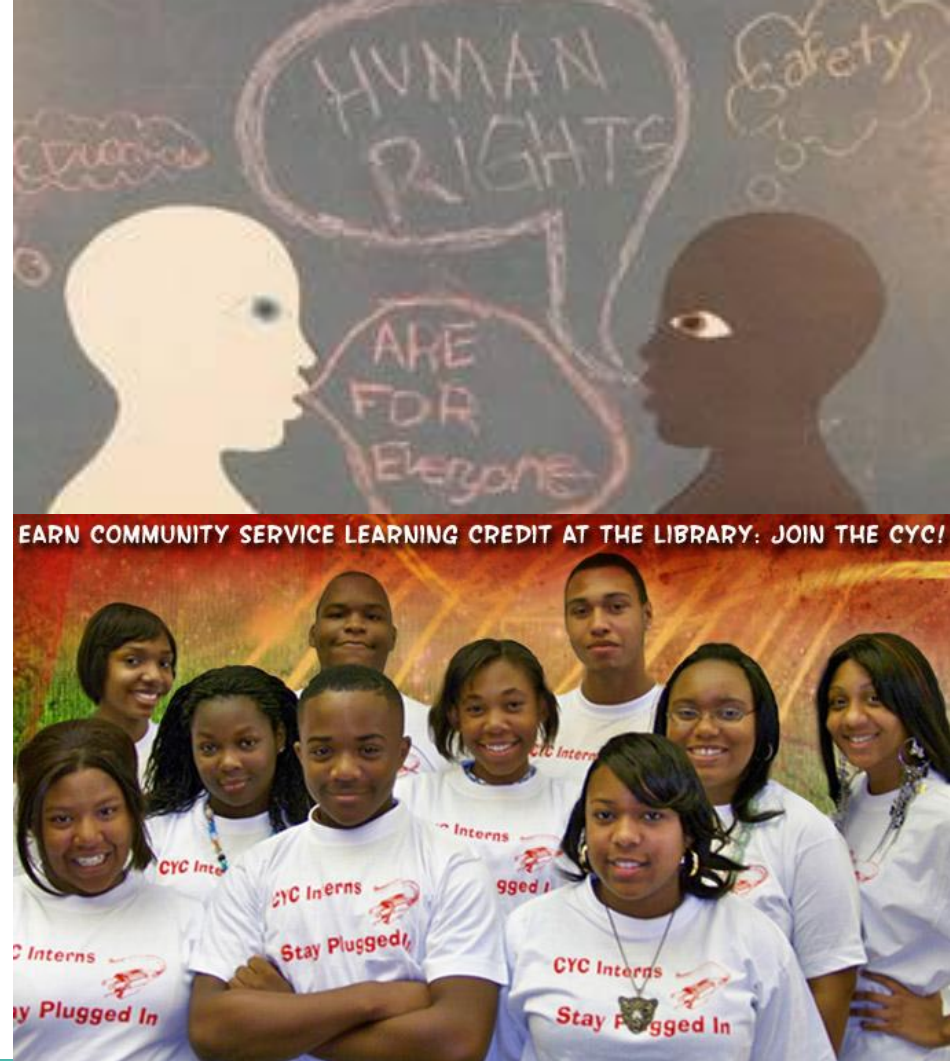
BA Librarians: YOU!

- What's something you wish you had or had more of?
- What inequities do you see in your community?
- What are you doing to address them?

get local.

What's happening here?

- Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland
 - Baltimore Speaks Out!
 - Community Youth Corps Program



get hyper local.

1. What are your community's most visible strengths & opportunities? How do you know?
2. What are your community's most pressing needs? How do you know?
 - a. WRITE 1 EACH ON A STICKY NOTE! We'll use them later.
3. On what scale do you feel capable of addressing injustice in your community and why?

choose one pressing need.

Put it on the wall.

If it's past 1:45 at this point, hold onto your seats!

social justice

What's it? And how does it relate to civic engagement?

“Distinctions among civil, political, and social rights functioned more as a framework for debate than a conceptual scheme of any legal precision.”
- Reva Siegal, 1997

political

primarily voting

civil

property + contracts

social

education, marriage

storytime underground - take it away!



StorytimeUnderground

@StorytimeU



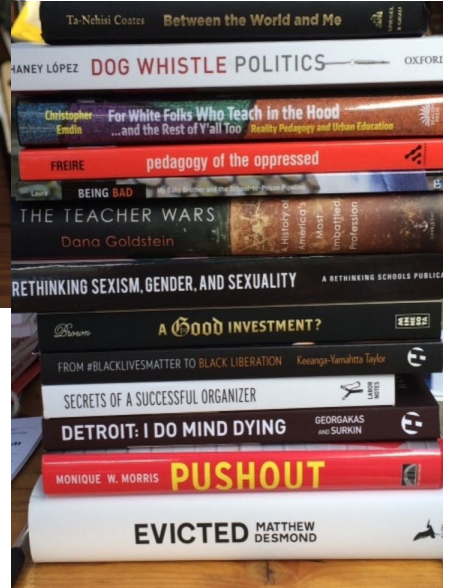
LIBRARIANS ARE NOT NEUTRAL AND LIBRARIES ARE
NOT NEUTRAL SPACES.

3:26 PM - Jul 12, 2016

♡ 996 💬 594 people are talking about this



critical librarianship start pack



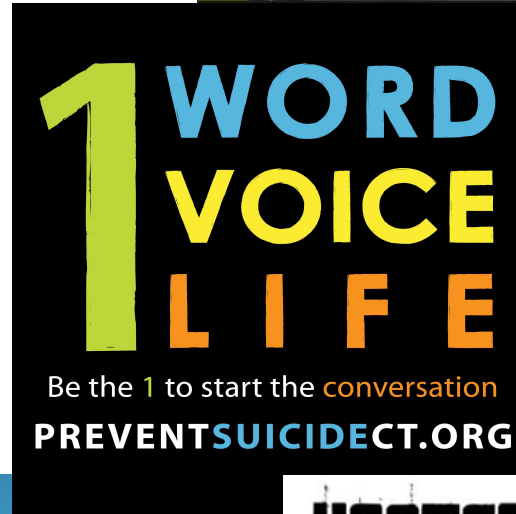
no library is an island.

Intersectionality and partnerships are vital.

LA - Bus Riders Union + Civil Rights Orgs

CT CORE - Organize Now

- What was your pressing need? Who is addressing it in your community already? How can you help them? How can they help you?



 **Planned
Parenthood®**
of Southern New England, Inc.

**HARTFORD
DECIDES!** REAL MONEY,
REAL POWER:
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

adults have power.

- What's happening in this picture?



power:

visible

hidden

invisible



adults have power.

- What power exists in this picture?
- How about in the little boy's situation?



relationships

worldview - yours

- what do you believe about the world?
- how might your beliefs impact your expectations of youth?
- how does your worldview motivate you to advocate for youth?



relationships

worldview - teens

- how is their world different than yours?
- what things can you learn about their world and how?
- what can you imagine but never understand?

where's the overlap?



making space - emotional

Step 1: Build Trust

- Youth first, always.*
 - This work is about their communities + needs, you're just here to help them do it.
 - Long-term mentorship is key
 - Be responsive to needs, issue spot
- Positive Youth Development - meet youth where they are.
- Trauma-Informed Practice - understand where they came from.

physical/virtual space

- Access to resources should be clear, consistent, and enthusiastically encouraged by staff.
- Privacy v. Publicity - have both on hand.
- Feedback can be hard to give, offer multiple options.





- Cultural representation in books, magazines, marketing photos, programming, staffing, etc.
- Engage specialized anti-oppression organizations
 - Connect youth directly, where appropriate
 - Schedule PD for staff (invite other youth-serving organizations, to be cool!)
 - Vet your presenters; one meeting could save a lot of cringing!
 - If it doesn't work, stop it.
- Know your wheelhouses and stay within them. Experiential knowledge is key - if you don't have it, import it.
- Build culture on purpose.

inquiry - find the worldview overlap.

race.

injustice.

power.



woke teen forum.

when teens own civic engagement

Tuesday, 10/11, 5-7PM : **Orientation & Types of Oppression**

****We will have more opportunities for orientation each day in YOUmedia until 10/25, See Gabbie for details**

Monday 10/17 and 10/24, 4-6PM : **Graffiti & Social Justice with local artists**

Tuesday, 10/25, 3:30-5:30 : **Pop Culture & Representation**

Tuesday, 11/8, 1-3PM (HPS schools closed) : **Voting & Race**

Monday, Nov. 14 4-6PM : **Education & School-to-Prison Pipeline**

Monday, Nov. 21 5:30 – 9:30 : **Housing & Race (5:30-7), Plus a Field Trip! (7:30-9:30)**

Monday, Dec. 5, 4-6PM : **Food & Race**

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 1-3PM (Half Day) : **War on Drugs: Weed & Race**

Monday, Dec. 12, 4-6PM : **Mass Incarceration**

Monday, Dec. 19 4-6PM : **Healing, Reflecting, Inspiring, Education: Where do we go from here?**

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mondays 4-6 p.m.

YOUmedia
HARTFORD



**they clean
up parks.**

they
lead
talks.





they
recognize
others'
struggles
and
successes.

they provoke action.



it's probably about 3:00 now, right?

power-mapping at lightning speed

At your table, work with the folks interested in the issues you're trying to address.

- Who do you know who can help you do this work? (write 1/sticky)
- Group potential supporters by how they can help - funding, influence, etc.
- Map them on the power matrix (example in next slide!)
- Choose 3 that are less engaged but more supportive.
- Decide what you're going to ask for first, second, and then the big ask.

Serious Power.

power matrix.

Lights Out.

No Engagement.

Fully Engaged.

move people left to right and bottom to top.



do your homework.

- What program will you run?
Why is this program first?
 - When will you run it? Why?
 - Where will you run it? Why?
 - Is this the most accessible place?
 - Who will come to it? Why?
 - Who will support it? Why? How?
 - Could this be ongoing?
 - Are these the most qualified people?
- Link About -

<http://bit.ly/2JMzu8q>

GO
ON

how will you level them up?

Ongoing program with targeted goals and social justice action.

Social justice action.

Social justice lens.

Equality >> Equity >> Inclusion >> Ownership

what now?

- Share contact information and keep going.
 - Create a virtual location to house this work.
 - If applicable, set 2 meeting dates for the people you will work with.
 - Draft agendas for those meetings.
- Talk to your teens
 - What do they want? When? Where? Why?
 - What will they get out of your programs? Network? Resources?

Questions?

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Madysen Frame - Film Student & Spoken Word Artist, Stevenson University

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