



NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:**  
June 18, 2019

**Contact information:** Crystal Hicks  
(936) 559-2970

**NACOGDOCHES PUBLIC LIBRARY ONE OF 78 ORGANIZATIONS NATIONWIDE  
TO RECEIVE AN NEA BIG READ GRANT**

***Nacogdoches to Read and Celebrate Into the Beautiful North  
From October 1st to November 2nd***

(Nacogdoches, TX) – Nacogdoches Public Library is a recipient of a grant of \$13,800 to host the NEA Big Read in Nacogdoches. An initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book. NPL is one of 78 nonprofit organizations to receive an NEA Big Read grant to host a community reading program between September 2019 and June 2020. The NEA Big Read in Nacogdoches will focus on *Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea. Activities will take place in October 2019 and will culminate with the annual Dia de los Muertos Fiesta on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Copies of the book will be distributed throughout the summer with related events taking place October 2019. Nacogdoches Convention & Visitors Bureau and Nacogdoches Historic Sites have provided letters of support for the grant and several other organizations and businesses have committed to co-hosting events.

“It is inspiring to see both large and small communities across the nation come together around a book,” said National Endowment for the Arts Acting Chairman Mary Anne Carter. “We always look forward to the unique ways cities, towns, and organizations, like Nacogdoches Public Library, explore these stories and encourage community participation in a wide variety of events.”

The NEA Big Read showcases a diverse range of titles that reflect many different voices and perspectives, aiming to inspire conversation and discovery. The main feature of the initiative is a grants program, managed by Arts Midwest, which annually supports dynamic community

reading programs, each designed around a single National Endowment for the Arts Big Read selection.

For the third year, the library will offer programs for the whole family. From conventional book discussions to exhibits, demonstrations, film screenings, parties, and more, we aim to find unique ways to engage our community. We will also provide related reading suitable for younger readers, as well as teaching materials for teachers and book club leaders. Our goal is to reach a diverse readership, generate excitement about reading and community, and inspire new and different ways to experience and understand literature.

Since 2006, the National Endowment for the Arts has funded more than 1,400 NEA Big Read programs, providing more than \$20 million to organizations nationwide. In addition, Big Read activities have reached every Congressional district in the country. Over the past twelve years, grantees have leveraged more than \$50 million in local funding to support their NEA Big Read programs. More than 5.7 million Americans have attended an NEA Big Read event, approximately 91,000 volunteers have participated at the local level, and 39,000 community organizations have partnered to make NEA Big Read activities possible. For more information about the NEA Big Read, please visit [arts.gov/neabigread](https://www.arts.gov/neabigread).

*Established by Congress in 1965, the **National Endowment for the Arts** is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov) to learn more.*

***Arts Midwest** promotes creativity, nurtures cultural leadership, and engages people in meaningful arts experiences, bringing vitality to Midwest communities and enriching people's lives. Based in Minneapolis, Arts Midwest connects the arts to audiences throughout the nine-state region of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. One of six non-profit regional arts organizations in the United States, Arts Midwest's history spans more than 25 years. For more information, please visit [artsmidwest.org](https://www.artsmidwest.org).*

###