



OKLAHOMA
HUMANITIES

PRESS RELEASE

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**Oklahoma Humanities Announces Sites for
*Let's Talk About It: Abridged Version***

(Oklahoma City— June 18, 2025) – Due to the immediate termination of federal funds that provide vital operations support for Oklahoma Humanities (OH) were terminated, OH made the difficult decision to pause its standard, seasonal *Let's Talk About It (LTAI)* program, starting with the Fall 2025 session.

OH is instead pivoting to *Let's Talk About It: Abridged Version*, a new, shortened program that still offers communities a chance to start a new chapter together!

Oklahoma Humanities (OH) invited libraries, nonprofit organizations, and correctional centers to apply for a one-time, scholar-led reading and discussion program exploring one book instead of the standard five book-format. Hosting communities will receive a stipend to cover all program costs.

From August 1st through September 30th, eleven public sites will be hosting *Let's Talk About It: Abridged Version* at a location near you, including: Claremore, Duncan, El Reno, Elgin, Hulbert, Lawton, Miami, Oklahoma City, and Stillwater. OH is excited to welcome the Seminole Nation Historical Society and Stroud Public Library as they host their first-ever programs. In addition, seven correctional centers in Atoka, Boley, Hogden, Holdenville, McLoud, and Taft will host the program, serving those experiencing incarceration.

Readers will explore diverse themes that span centuries and subjects, including: “Hope Amidst Hardship,” “Myths Made Modern,” “The Cowboy,” “Mysterious Fears and Ghastly Longings,” and more. Featured authors include Bram Stoker, Alice Walker, Madeline Miller, Homer, Rilla Askew, and others.

“*Let's Talk About It* is the longest-running program at Oklahoma Humanities, celebrating its 40th anniversary this year,” said Program Officer Rayne McKinney. “It’s this longevity and stability that allowed us to quickly adapt the program to the current, uncertain circumstances. We hope communities enjoy this abridged model.”

An expert opens each book discussion with an analysis of the text, its recurring themes, revelations about the author's life, and historical context, before readers reflect on their experiences, exchange thoughts and ideas, consider different perspectives, and gain new insight. These programs are made possible with generous funding from the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, Oklahoma City University, and the McCasland Foundation.

Find a program near you at: okhumanities.org/events

About Oklahoma Humanities:

Oklahoma Humanities (OH) is an independent, nonprofit organization whose mission is to strengthen communities by helping Oklahomans learn about the human experience, understand new perspectives, and participate knowledgeably in civic life. As the state partner for the National Endowment for the Humanities, OH is a grantmaking organization that provides a free educational magazine, Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibits, reading and discussion groups, and other cultural opportunities for Oklahomans of all ages. OH engages people in their own communities, stimulating discussion and helping them explore the wider world of human experience, through humanities disciplines such as history, literature, film studies, ethics, and philosophy.

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