

Public Library celebrates African American Read-In with author Derrick Barnes

For Immediate Release

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CINCINNATI — Join the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County from **10 a.m.–4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9**, at the Main Library, for a celebration of African-American literature. Explore the Library's collection of books by African-American authors and illustrators, enjoy a full day of public readings and performances and get creative with hands-on activities. The featured guest is Derrick Barnes, author of the award-winning picture book, *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*.

Barnes will read his book and discuss his journey to becoming an author. Books will be for sale courtesy of Joseph-Beth Booksellers. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. The day's schedule is:

- 11 a.m. — Derrick Barnes gives a reading and presentation (*Reading Garden Lounge*)
- Noon — Book signing by Derrick Barnes (*Reading Garden Lounge*)
- 1 p.m. — Local author spotlight (*Reading Garden Lounge*)
- 2 p.m. — Storytime (*Children's Library*)
- 2-3 p.m. — Writing circle led by Women Writing for(a) Change (*Popular Library Lounge*)

ABOUT THE [AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN](#)

The African American Read-In is the nation's oldest event dedicated to diversity in literature. It was established in 1990 by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month.

ABOUT [DERRICK BARNES](#)

Derrick Barnes is from Kansas City, Mo. He is a graduate of Jackson State University, where he earned a B.A. in marketing. He is the author of the critically acclaimed picture book *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*, which won a multitude of literary awards making it one of the most decorated picture books in the history of children's literature. The book's commendations include two 2018 Ezra Jack Keats awards, one for New Writer and an honor for the illustrations. It also a winner at the American Library Association's Youth Media Awards, taking home four Honor awards: the Coretta Scott King Author Honor, Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor, Newbery Honor, and the Caldecott Honor. In October of 2018, *Crown* also took home the Kirkus Prize for Young Readers.

ABOUT [WOMEN WRITING FOR \(a\) CHANGE](#)

For over 25 years, WWf(a)C has provided a safe and non-competitive environment for individuals to develop their writing skills, cultivate their creativity and strengthen their voices. Join them in the writing circle to explore a common theme, write a little, share a little (optional) and have an engaging discussion.



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About the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County is one of the oldest, largest, and busiest libraries in the United States. We serve a population of more than 800,000 people with a collection of more than nine million items. Our mission is to connect people with the world of ideas and information. To learn more, visit CincinnatiLibrary.org or call 513-369-6900.