

Semicolon Books and Burst Into Books Join Forces for the 100 & Change Challenge

Semicolon Books and Burst Into Books team up for the 100 & Change Challenge, aiming for a \$100M grant to promote literacy and equity nationwide.

CHICAGO, IL, UNITED STATES, September 6, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Semicolon Books, a Chicago Black woman-founded nonprofit independent bookstore, is proud to announce a groundbreaking partnership with Burst Into Books, a local nonprofit championing literacy for children and families, to compete in the MacArthur Foundation's esteemed 100 & Change Challenge.



Semicolon Logo

The 100 & Change Challenge offers a \$100 million grant to fund a single, bold solution to a critical problem. Semicolon Books and Burst Into Books have joined forces to propose an innovative project focused on dismantling barriers to literacy, providing [equitable](#) access, and fostering inclusive education in underserved communities across the United States.

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Danielle Moore

Semicolon's Community Liaison, Dr. D'Annette Mullen, is also a member of the community-focused dream team. Her background as a tenured teacher in New York City and minor in research and evaluation methodology will help to ensure that the methods of the programming are as effective as possible.

A Vision for Transformative Change

This partnership aims to create a comprehensive, sustainable literacy initiative that integrates community engagement, culturally relevant literature, and educational resources to empower

students, educators, and families. The proposed project will focus on four key areas:

Expanding Access to Diverse Books: Distributing culturally relevant and inclusive books to schools, libraries, and community centers in underrepresented communities.

Creating Safe and Inclusive Reading Spaces: Establishing community-based reading hubs that offer free access to books, tutoring, and literary events.

Developing Literacy Programs for All Ages: Creating an app that can be implemented worldwide and launching interactive workshops, storytelling sessions, and mentorship programs for children, parents, and educators.

Building a National Literacy Support Network: Partnering with schools, nonprofits, and local governments to create a national coalition dedicated to promoting literacy and educational equity.

A Partnership Rooted in Shared Values

Danielle Moore, founder of Semicolon Books, expressed her excitement: “At Semicolon Books, we see reading as a revolutionary act—a means to challenge norms and create new futures. Teaming up with Burst Into Books allows us to amplify our [impact](#), turning a love for reading into a force for societal change.”

Burst Into Books’ Executive Director, Jurema Gorham, added: “This partnership is a unique opportunity to extend our reach and deepen our impact. Together, we will craft a program that not only inspires a love of reading but also addresses the systemic inequities that keep communities from thriving.”

Proven Impact and Community Support

Both organizations bring a strong track record of success to the challenge. Semicolon Books has become a cultural hub in Chicago, known for its innovative programming and community-building events, while Burst Into Books has impacted thousands of young readers through its literacy programs, workshops, and community outreach initiatives. Their combined expertise and passion position them uniquely to propose a truly transformative project for the 100 & Change Challenge.

Looking Ahead

With a shared commitment to empowering underserved communities and fostering a love for reading, Semicolon Books and Burst Into Books are poised to make a significant impact. The 100 & Change Challenge is a catalyst for bold ideas, and this partnership represents a vital step toward a more equitable and literate future.

For more information about the partnership and their 100 & Change Challenge proposal, please visit the project website, www.literacyis.com. You can also visit www.semicolonchi.org or www.burstintobooks.org to learn more.

About Semicolon Books:

Founded by Danielle Moore, Semicolon Books is a Chicago Black woman-founded nonprofit bookstore and gallery space. It prides itself on its out-of-the-box approach to promoting literacy, community, and inclusion through a carefully curated selection of books that celebrate diverse voices and experiences.

About Burst Into Books:

Burst Into Books is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting literacy and fostering a love of reading among children and families in Chicago. Through programs, workshops, and community events, Burst Into Books aims to empower young readers and create lifelong learners.

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