



Waukesha Public Library receives grant for Waukesha Reads program

WAUKESHA — To help fund its community reading initiative, the Waukesha Public Library has received a \$15,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Waukesha Public Library is one of 84 nonprofit organizations selected to receive an NEA Big Read grant to support a community reading program between September 2020 and June 2021. The NEA Big Read in Waukesha will focus on the novel “When the Emperor Was Divine” by Julie Otsuka. Activities will take place in October.

“We’re excited to celebrate our 14th year of community-wide reading with Julie Otsuka’s novel ‘When the Emperor Was Divine,’” said Library Director Bruce Gay. “We know this year may look a little different, but we’re still planning great events to help bring the community together.”

The NEA Big Read offers a range of book titles that reflect different voices and perspectives, aiming to inspire conversation and discovery, according to the announcement.

“During this time of social isolation throughout our country, we have become even more aware of the important ways the arts help us connect with others, and how they bring meaning, joy, and comfort to our lives,” said Mary Anne Carter, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. “By bringing the NEA Big Read to Waukesha, Waukesha Public Library will provide thoughtful and fun programming while also strengthening community bonds.”

Since 2006, the National Endowment for the Arts has funded more than 1,600 NEA Big Read programs, providing more than \$22 million to organizations nationwide.

For more information about the NEA Big Read, including book and author information, podcasts, and videos, visit arts.gov/neabigread.