

The Library Page

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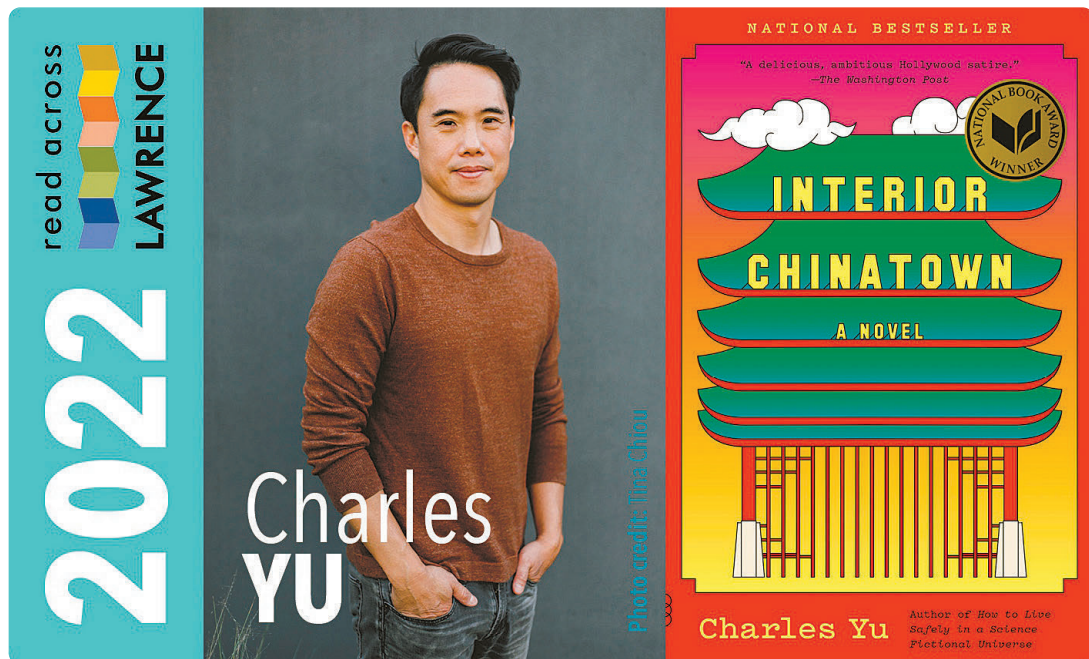
Library's community read events explore Charles Yu's bestselling novel "Interior Chinatown"

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Lawrence Public Library is thrilled to host Charles Yu, the author of the 2020 National Book Award winner, and our 2022 Read Across Lawrence selection "Interior Chinatown" Thursday, April 21st at 7pm on Zoom. Yu will be in conversation with Derek Kwan, Executive Director of the Lied Center of Kansas. They will discuss screenwriting, representation, and identity in Yu's playful but heartfelt latest work, "Interior Chinatown". Yu's most moving, daring, and masterful novel yet is a send-up of Hollywood tropes and Asian stereotypes—a deeply personal novel about race, pop culture, immigration, assimilation, and escaping the roles we are forced to play.

Publisher Penguin Random House writes: "Charles Yu has received the National Book Foundation's 5 Under 35 Award, been nominated for two Writers Guild of America awards for his work on the HBO series 'Westworld', and has also written for shows on FX, AMC, Facebook Watch, and Adult Swim. His fiction



Join us on Zoom for an Evening with Charles Yu and Derek Kwan Thursday, April 21st at 7pm. Get more information and the Zoom event link on the library's website at lpls.org.

and non-fiction have appeared in a number of publications including *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, *Wired*, *Time* and *Ploughshares*."

According to the Lied Center's website, "Derek Kwan began his tenure as the Executive Director of the Lied Center of Kansas in January 2014. Derek came to the Lied Center from Jazz at Lincoln Center, where he served as Vice President of Concerts & Touring, managing all activities related to performances under the Jazz at Lincoln Center brand.

Derek is a voting member of the Recording Academy and he has production credits on over 60 albums, including the Grammy-winning *Bebo De Cuba* and New York Times Album of the Year *Lagrimas Negras*. In Kansas, he is proud to serve as a board member for KU Innovation Park, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, LMH Health Foundation, Lawrence Children's Choir and advisory board member for Kansas Public Radio."

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For more info about Read Across Lawrence, call or email Polli Kenn at pkenn@lpls.org (785-843-3833 x132)

Let's Read Together!

Once a year, Lawrence Public Library invites all adult readers in our community to come together to read the same book, explore its major themes, and take part in discussions and interactive programs.

Read Across Lawrence (RAL) promotes literacy, fosters community, and provides common ground for cross-cultural and civic-minded educational discussions. It's also, to put it simply, a really fun and social way to get the most out of a book.

In 2012, Lawrence Public Library expanded their RAL program to include a teen and kid selection. A variety of programs and events specific to these age groups ran parallel throughout Read

Across Lawrence. In 2022, the library shifted Read Across Lawrence back to an adults-only event, using its annual Summer Reading Challenge as the library's major youth-focused literacy initiative.

"When we read the same story together, we can focus on the similarities of our human experience. It endears us to each other, builds empathy, and ultimately a stronger community."

—Brad Allen, Executive Director
Lawrence Public Library



Spring BOOK SALE

All items are \$2 or less!

FRI, Apr 22 | 10-6
SAT, Apr 23 | 10-6
SUN, Apr 24 | 12-4

LPLFF Garage on the back side of the library at 7th & Kentucky

books • CDs • DVDs • audiobooks

Visit lpls.org or call 785-843-3833 to get a copy of "Interior Chinatown"

read across LAWRENCE EVENTS

Film Screening: Iron Monkey

FRI | Apr 1 | 6-8 PM
Library Auditorium

Watch the film, then discuss where the trope "Kung Fu Guy" came from and how the Kung Fu film genre gained popularity in the west.

Affordable Housing Panel Discussion

MON | Apr 4 | 5:30-7 PM
Library Auditorium

Affordable housing is a major theme in *Interior Chinatown*. Hear from local leaders about what Lawrence is doing to address this issue and get the chance to ask questions.

Generic Asian American: Hollywood's Invisible Role

TUE | Apr 12 | 6:30-8 PM

Library Auditorium

Drawing from the motif of the Generic Asian Man to depict invisibility in *Interior Chinatown*, KU's David Mai will talk about Asian Americans in Hollywood by mapping their depictions and how these depictions were influenced by racist ideologies, namely the Yellow Peril, which led to caricatures such as Fu Manchu—or other stereotypes—but never fully seen as individuals.

Stage Combat with Ronin Stunt Company

SAT | Apr 16 | 2-3:30 PM
Library Lawn

Learn some basics of stage combat and stunting with professionals from this Kansas City-based stunt team. Register anyone age 12 or older for live, in person instruction on martial arts based fighting that's true to themes in *Interior Chinatown*.

Dessert & A Movie: The Grace Lee Project

WED | Apr 20 | 7-8 PM
Online on Zoom

Whip up your favorite dessert and join friends (and the director Grace Lee herself!) online to discuss her film about common stereotypes associated with the name that she shares with the film's subjects.

An Evening with Author Charles Yu

THU | Apr 21 | 7-8 PM
Online on Zoom

We'll close this year's community read with a conversation between Charles Yu and Derek Kwan, Executive Director of the Lied Center about identity, screenwriting, and representation.



The Ross & Marianna Beach Author Series presents

Colson Whitehead

SAT | Apr 9 | 7-8:30 PM | Liberty Hall
646 Massachusetts | Lawrence, KS 66044

National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Underground Railroad* and *Harlem Shuffle*. Offered in partnership with The Commons at KU, The Hall Center for the Humanities, and Paper Plains Literary Festival.

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