



## 2023 One Maryland One Book Community Partner Toolkit

One Maryland One Book is coordinated by the Maryland Center for the Book,  
a program of Maryland Humanities.



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*The Maryland Center for the Book at Maryland Humanities would like to thank you for joining us as a Community Partner for the 2023 One Maryland One Book program. We are pleased to offer this resource toolkit to support your local efforts as you present One Maryland One Book events in September, October, and November 2023.*



One Maryland One Book (OMOB) is Maryland’s first-ever statewide community reading project and is the signature program of the Maryland Center for the Book at Maryland Humanities. Initiated in fall 2008, this year-long project culminates with three months of public programs and OMOB is designed to bring together diverse groups of people in communities across the state through the shared experience of reading the same book and participating in book discussions and other related programs and activities. Readers are then invited to participate in book-centered discussions and other events at public libraries, high schools, colleges and universities, museums, bookstores, community and senior centers, and more.

The selected book for 2023 is *There There* by Tommy Orange. Released in 2018, *There There* tells the interconnected stories of a cast of twelve Native characters from across generational lines, as they converge toward the Big Oakland Powwow. Together, the stories give a riveting portrait of the urban Indian experience. *There There* was one of *The New York Times Book Review’s* 10 Best Books of the Year, and won the Center for Fiction’s First Novel Prize, as well as the PEN/Hemingway Award.

*On the pages that follow you will find information such as a press release template, introductory script for programs, program credits and more.*

If you have any questions about this toolkit or One Maryland One Book, please contact either one of:

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## About the Book

### ***There There***

*Reprinted from the book's back cover*

Tommy Orange's wonderous and shattering novel follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize. Among them is Jacquie Red Feather, newly sober and trying to make it back to the family she left behind. Dene Oxendene, pulling his life together after his uncle's death and working at the powwow to honor his memory. Fourteen-year-old Orvil, coming to perform traditional dance for the very first time.

Together, this chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American—grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism. Hailed as an instant classic, *There There* is at once poignant and unflinching, utterly contemporary and truly unforgettable.

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## About the Author



Tommy Orange is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling novel *There There*, a multi-generational, relentlessly paced story about a side of America few of us have ever seen: the lives of urban Native Americans. *There There* was one of *The New York Times Book Review's* 10 Best Books of the Year, and won the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize and the Pen/Hemingway Award. *There There* was also longlisted for the National Book Award and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Orange graduated from the MFA program at the Institute of American Indian Arts, and was a 2014 MacDowell Fellow and a 2016 Writing by Writers Fellow. He is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. He was born and raised in Oakland, California.

## Partnering for Success

We strongly encourage you to develop partnerships within your community to strengthen your One Maryland One Book programming. Participation in OMOB and the Author Tour can be a terrific opportunity to build new institutional relationships as well as raise your organization's profile in your community. We urge you to think outside the box when considering organizations with which to partner for this fall's programs. A partner organization may provide funds or in-kind services to support your programming, or they may take a more proactive role in helping you plan and publicize your program(s). Adding partner logo(s) on your publicity materials may help bring in a larger or more diverse audience.

You may want to consider:

- Asking local businesses to donate goods for your event(s), such as snacks from an area restaurant or bottled water from another local business. This helps raise the company's visibility in the community and serves as an incentive to potential audience members.
- Getting in touch with other local organizations such as libraries, service and civic clubs, historical societies, senior centers, business/professional organizations, and educational institutions. Ask contacts at each organization to send promotional materials to their mailing lists and make announcements to their constituents who might be interested in participating.
- Personally inviting community leaders, representatives from local institutions, and elected officials such as city or county council members and state delegates or senators to participate.
- Building programs collaboratively with an organization or business that services or works with an audience you hope to reach, such as a faith/community center, ethnic restaurant, etc. Create something around their strengths to maximize impact.

### Potential Partners

- County public library
- County historical society
- Community colleges and universities
- Public, private and parochial schools
- Community centers w/after school programs
- Senior centers
- Houses of worship
- Bookstores
- Community theater groups
- Community service organizations
- Local newspapers/publications
- Area bloggers
- Local government community service departments
- Fraternities/sororities and service clubs (Rotary, Kiwanis, Shriners, Masons, etc.)
- Community arts groups
- Art museums and arts organizations

## Program Funding

Programming for year sixteen of Maryland's only statewide community reading program, **One Maryland One Book (OMOB)**, will begin in fall 2023. As a program of the Maryland Center for the Book (MCFB) at Maryland Humanities, OMOB is designed to bring together diverse groups of people in communities across the state, through the shared experience of reading the same book and participating in programs, discussions, and activities of and related to the book.

Maryland Humanities is making funds available to foster creative programming for OMOB around the state. Maryland libraries, nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, and secondary and postsecondary schools are eligible to apply.

These funds are for creation of any free, public event that brings together an audience in your community in an interactive, participatory space, with focus on the themes, subject matter, and contexts of *There There*. In keeping with our strategic plan, we seek to support programs and events that prioritize equity, access, and inclusion to connect with diverse audiences, and use innovative strategies, digital technologies, and experiential learning to foster community engagement.

Up to \$500 may be requested to support programming such as speakers/lecturers, performers, film, storytellers, music, etc. Programs that are **innovative** in topic, format, or method of delivery and engage a new audience for your organization (while relevant to the book's themes) are encouraged.

In this respect, "innovative" refers to programs that:

- Cover topics or subjects historically overlooked in your organization's programming.
- Incorporate fields and practices outside of book club discussions, such as inviting a mental health specialist to lead a discussion on character trauma.
- Utilize new media or technology, such as using streaming video to reach virtual audiences, or holding a 3D printing workshop.

Funding applications will be competitively reviewed. Some requests may or may not be funded or may or may not be fully funded. Provide as much detail as possible in your application. ***Only one funding request will be accepted per organization and should not exceed \$500.***

**You will receive notification regarding your funding request by July 14, 2023.** Note that in addition to overall strength of proposals, geographic location of the requesting organizations will also be taken into consideration as Maryland Humanities seeks to support programming statewide.

***A copy of your completed funding request should be submitted electronically to [adesai@mdhumanities.org](mailto:adesai@mdhumanities.org) and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 16, 2023. Recipients of program support funds will be notified by July 14, 2023.***

## Programming Ideas

In addition to reading and discussion programs about the book, we encourage you to plan programs that touch upon any of the many topics raised in *There There*.

Keep in mind that *There There* is structured as a series of twelve interconnected stories, so many chapters hold on their own, with different themes and topics, and can be used selectively as needed for your event. Use relevant chapters, characters, or storylines from the book to ground discussions or programs. In some cases, you may find it easier to create a program first and then adapt it to meet the book.

Your program should present ways for attendees to access, discuss, and learn about the material if they have not read the book or have cultural context. Your program attendees may be inspired to share their own experiences and make connections to contemporary issues. There are many themes in the book to which you might connect and that might connect well with your audience(s).

You may also invite a local scholar, speaker, or facilitator to speak on a topic featured in *There There*. Please contact us if you need assistance in finding a speaker closer to your community. We'll see if we can help!

Below you will find a list of suggested topics, activities, and resources to build a program. Use as a starting point and create what will best suit your audience.

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### Maryland Native and Indigenous Culture & History Resources

- See what tribal lands participants now occupy using websites like [Native Land](#) and the Maryland State Government's [list of tribes](#). Many tribes have their own websites or social media pages to learn more information.
- The [Native Governance Center](#) also provides services and information.
- Take participants on a self-guided tour of [East Baltimore's Historic American Indian "Reservation."](#)
- Take a visit to the [Chicone Village in Handsell, MD](#), on the Eastern Shore. Tours are available.
- The National Endowment for the Humanities has [several projects and resources](#) on Native American history and heritage.
- Explore the [Native American Archeology toolbox](#) that recounts the Indigenous history of Anne Arundel County from the prehistoric era to today.
- Review the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian's [WE HAVE A STORY TO TELL: The Native Peoples of the Chesapeake Region](#).

## Topics and Themes in *There, There*

### **Addiction**

- Check with county and local agencies to identify resources for those addicted to alcohol and substances. Inquire about educational/outreach programs or individuals who speak about their addiction and recovery.

### **Adoption and Atypical Family Structures**

- Invite a speaker (family therapist, social worker, or similar) to discuss adoption and/or atypical family structures. How does this impact each generation, elder and youth? Use relevant chapters from the novel to ground the discussion.

### **Gun Violence**

- Gun violence is prevalent in *There There*. It also happens too frequently in the state of Maryland. Look into organizations like [Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence](#) and [Baltimore Peace Movement](#) to learn what can be done to help curb this problem, or ideas for community engagement events.
- Discuss how gun violence stems from systemic failures, and approaches to tackle it outside of the justice system and/or incarceration. Ground the discussion using the relevant chapters and powwow robbery storyline in the novel.

### **Folklore & Cultural Beliefs**

- In keeping with the many reference in *There There* of Native American folklore, create a program where participants share folklore or cultural beliefs and practices from their backgrounds. Use selections from the book about spiderlegs, powwows, and storytelling to discuss how such things were passed down to them, how they shape their lives, etc.

### **Language**

- Many Native American languages are endangered or falling out of use. Language not only binds communities, but preserves histories, folklore, and learning that can also be lost. Create a program where speakers of a language other than English discuss how a connection to language, or lack thereof, impacts their sense of community, heritage, and learning.

### **Stereotypes**

Many stereotypes, clichés, and tropes remain about Native Americans today. *There There's* depiction of Urban Indians interrogates many of these. Using relevant chapters from the book, create a program around:

- What are some stereotypes participants have witnessed? Where did they encounter them? How did they shape our views of Native Americans?
- What are negative media portrayals of Native Americans? What are some positive ones? How do the two present Native Americans in different ways?
- Many sports teams, including the Washington football team, use Native American imagery in their mascots and team identity. How does this harm or impact Native communities? What role do teams and fans have in taking part in using this imagery?



## Activities & Workshops

### **3-D Printing**

- A 3D printed object plays a central role in the plot. If you have access to a 3D printer, consider holding an event or workshop to teach attendees how to use it, responsible use of the technology.
- You may also have attendees 3D print an object that speaks to a theme in the book, such as “Home,” “Place,” “Community,” and so on.

### **Art**

- Many Native tribes and groups have their own unique symbols and styles that not only decorate their wares, but identify who they are to others.
- Create a program about how culture, heritage, or communal ties shape the kinds of artistic styles we showcase in our lives. This can include visual art, fashion/clothing, housewares, architecture, and more.

### **Creative Writing Workshops**

- Work with a local writer to develop and hold your own creative writing workshop themed after the novel. Workshop ideas:
  - What does being in Maryland mean to you? How did you, or your family, arrive here? Is Maryland home, or is that somewhere else? What does home mean to you?
- Create a story collection that ties together the community reflected among your participants – this can be geographical, racial, religious, communal, or any other aspect that is common. Have everyone write a short story that utilizes this as a theme and share. If willing, compile them into an online or print publication.
- Be sure to look at the events and resources that the [Maryland Writers’ Association](#) has to offer.

### **Land Acknowledgement**

Land acknowledgements have become an increasing practice by companies, organizations, and institutions. They are included in missions statements, profiles, or histories to recognize the tribal groups who settled the land prior to American colonization.

- Create a program where participants collaborate on a Land Acknowledgement for the location where the meeting takes place. Discuss what tribes need to be recognized, what language should be used, and places where the acknowledgement should be stated.
- Or, if your organization already has a Land Acknowledgment, create a program around examining it as a group and discussing how it functions as a restorative justice tool, its advantages at starting conversation about colonization, and its value as a practice.
- The Maryland State Arts Council has created a [Land Acknowledgment Guide](#) as a resource for organizations looking to create their own.

### **Music**

- Discuss powwows or invite a performer or speaker to educate your audience on their importance and role in Native communities.
- Like Dene’s experiences of traveling through Oakland, create a soundtrack for your community as a group. Use YouTube or Spotify to make a playlist and discuss what music feels essential and local to you.
- Teach a workshop around powwow dance or playing Native instruments.

## Oral Storytelling

Create an oral sharing program, compilation, or documentary, similar to Dene Oxendene's, of participants sharing their response on one of the following question prompts relevant to the themes of the novel (or create one of your own):

- What does "home" mean to you?
- Tell a story about an object, belief, or practice that was passed down in your family to you. How was it shared? What significance does it hold for you, and connecting to your family? How did it impact your life? Will you pass it on, why or why not?
- What are your experiences with addiction? This can, but does not have to be limited to substance abuse.

## Further Resources for Learning

- Understand the history and experiences of Native Americans by listening to these [Ted Talks](#).
- Listen to Tommy Orange respond to [audience questions](#) for *There There*.
- Read or listen to Tommy Orange's short stories "[The State](#)" at *The New Yorker* or "[The Team](#)" at the *New York Times*
- Understand race in America by listening to these [powerful Ted Talks](#) that are bound to spark important discussions.

## Community Service & Connections

### Community Organizations

The following organizations and resources are connected with local Native American populations. Consider inquiring with them for information, guidance, or possible partnership. Many also take donations.

- [Native American Lifelines](#) (NAL) promotes health and social resiliency for Urban Indian communities in the Baltimore metropolitan region, as well as Boston, MA.
- The [Baltimore American Indian Center and Museum](#) has been a fifty-year community space for the relocated Lumbee people and all Native Americans in Baltimore City.
- The Maryland State Archives [MAYIS Indigenous Resources](#) database indexes state records by tribal name. Use this to find out local histories and governmental documents related to tribal lands your area is located on.

### Financial Hardship

Characters in Tommy Orange's *There There* endure financial hardships. If you or someone you know is interested in helping someone struggling financially in your community, learn more about volunteer opportunities in your area with the [Maryland Assistance Programs Resources](#).

### Trauma

Have you or someone you know experienced trauma or suffering from PTSD? There are support groups for trauma and PTSD survivors. Here [are some that already exist in Maryland](#).

**DISCLAIMER: In providing this information, please note that Maryland Humanities has not worked directly with most of these experts and organizations. This guide is provided solely as a resource to spark programming ideas. This list is not exhaustive and the listings should not be interpreted as an endorsement.**

## Sponsor Credit & Logos

Include the One Maryland One Book logo and credit line on all promotional materials—both in print and online. **Credit line:** *One Maryland One Book is a program of Maryland Humanities.* Include the Maryland Humanities logo alongside the One Maryland One Book logo wherever you have room to do so.

Please also credit the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) on your materials with the following language: *This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Maryland State Library.* Where possible, also include the IMLS logo.



Maryland Humanities logos are available on our website: <http://www.mdhumanities.org/news-resources/press-kit/>.

Logos, a photo of Tommy Orange, an image of the book cover, and this toolkit can be found here for download:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-KzS19ovyh-Klv195GPMPgbYtf4EWB8T?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-KzS19ovyh-Klv195GPMPgbYtf4EWB8T?usp=share_link)

The One Maryland One Book, Maryland Humanities, and Institute of Museum & Library Services logos can also be emailed to Community Partners upon request.

## Program Introduction Script

*This script is recommended for your use. You are free to use or adapt as needed.*

Welcome to the [*name of your organization*]. I would like to welcome you to [*name of program*]. Today's program is part of Maryland's statewide community reading program, One Maryland One Book, which is a program of Maryland Humanities. You along with thousands of Marylanders have been invited to read this year's selected book, *There There* by Tommy Orange, and then come together in communities around the state for discussions and special programs.

I would now like to introduce [*name of presenter/facilitator/panelist/performer, then offer a brief description using their biography and program description*].

I hope you enjoy today's program. Your feedback is extremely important to us, so please follow the shared link and complete the brief online survey at the end of the program.

## Program Evaluation

Feedback from audience members and our partner organizations is extremely important for funding and shaping the future of One Maryland One Book.

**Participant Surveys** will be available online and the link or QR code should be distributed to participants during each of your programs or after if you required registration and have their emails. **Starting in late summer 2023, the surveys can be found at [omobfeedback.org](https://omobfeedback.org).**

The staff person present should complete the online Event Review Form for each of your events so we can capture attendance and feedback. This form can also be found at [omobfeedback.org](https://omobfeedback.org).

If you have questions, please contact **Eden Etzel**, Program Assistant, at [eedzel@mdhumanities.org](mailto:eedzel@mdhumanities.org).

**If you are a high school educator, you will be asked to offer your feedback via an online survey in winter 2023/spring 2024.**

[Edit/Adjust the information below to create the appropriate fit for your program.]

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT**

**DATE:**

**CONTACT NAME:  
TELEPHONE:  
EMAIL:**

**TITLE/HEADLINE**

[Your Organization Name] Holds [Program Name]  
as Part of One Maryland One Book Program

**DATE/TIME, LOCATION**

(Date – Town, MD) [Program title] will take place at [your organization location] on [date, time] as a part of the 2023 One Maryland One Book program. *Provide more details about the event, high-profile attendees, or other local details.*

**BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION**

One Maryland One Book is Maryland’s only statewide community reading project and is the signature program of the Maryland Center for the Book at Maryland Humanities. This year-long project culminates with two months of public programs, using literature to spur conversations in communities around the state. One Maryland One Book is designed to bring diverse groups of Marylanders together in library, school, or community settings to share a common reading experience by discussing a work of literature and participating in related events.

**QUOTE**

*Quote from organization director, program coordinator or local official involved in the program. SAMPLE QUOTE:* “We are delighted to be a part of the One Maryland One Book program,” said **Organization Director**. “Our community is very excited about reading *There There* and participating in the great variety of programs we have planned for this fall.”

The selected book for 2023 is *There There* by Tommy Orange. Released in 2018, *There There* tells the interconnected stories of a cast of twelve Native characters from across generational lines, as they converge toward the Big Oakland Powwow. Together, the stories give a riveting portrait of the urban Indian experience.

**RELATED PROGRAMS**

*If appropriate, list other upcoming One Maryland One Book programs at your organization.* In addition to the programs being held at [your organization name/location], a free Reader’s Guide—including discussion questions, suggestions for additional reading, and films—is available online through the Maryland Humanities website, mdhumanities.org.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

*The final paragraph should include your boilerplate information, the information that you use at the bottom of news releases or other materials to list your organization’s name, location, mission/description, hours and website address.*

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## One Maryland One Book Event Form for Web Calendar

Maryland Humanities wants to help publicize your programs by posting each event on our events calendar (<http://www.mdhumanities.org/events/>). We also need to be aware of programs happening across the state. Complete the form for every OMOB *public* program you are planning, including virtual, and email the form(s) to Eden Etzel at [etzel@mdhumanities.org](mailto:etzel@mdhumanities.org) by August 4 or at least two weeks before the program. This form will be sent to all partners via email in Summer 2023.

### Social Media

Social Media is a great way for Maryland Humanities to support your efforts and for you to support ours. It helps extend the reach of our publicity efforts. Here's how to connect to Maryland Humanities/OMOB:

facebook

- Like us on **Facebook** and promote to your OMOB participants:  
<http://www.facebook.com/MDCenterfortheBook>

twitter

- Follow us on **Twitter**: **@MDHumanities** (we do not have a separate OMOB Twitter account)

YouTube

- Connect with the Maryland Humanities **YouTube** Channel:  
[www.youtube.com/user/MDHumanitiesCouncil](http://www.youtube.com/user/MDHumanitiesCouncil)



- Follow us on **Instagram**: **mdhumanities**
- **Blogs** – Maryland Humanities welcomes guest bloggers. We'd love to have you submit one or more blog posts before and/or during your programs or alert us to a blog post done for your organizational blog that we can repost to the Maryland Humanities website. The post can be from the perspective of someone on your staff, your program speaker/performer, a community partner, etc. If you would like to brainstorm topics, please contact us. Length should be about 500 words. We can post videos and photos to the blog, so don't hesitate to send them, too.
- Use the hashtag **#1MD1BK** when posting about OMOB on all social media platforms. If you are participating in the Wandering Books promotion, that hashtag is **#MDwanderingbooks**.

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*Thanks so much for your partnership! If you have any questions, please contact Aditya Desai; Program Officer, Literature at [adesai@mdhumanities.org](mailto:adesai@mdhumanities.org).*