



## **BOOK'EM BOARD MEMBER FEATURED IN PBS SERIES "AMERICAN ANTHEMS"**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (July 20, 2022)** – Meredith McKinney, [Book'em](#) board member and founder of The Black Book Project, was featured in a new PBS series, "AMERICAN ANTHEMS," celebrating everyday heroes.

The six-episode series follows different country artists as they meet a local hero and learn how they are making a positive change in their community. At the end of each episode, the country artist will perform an original song of the powerful anthem by the artist while surrounded by family and friends.

The fifth episode of the series, "[Make Tomorrow Come Today](#)," explores McKinney's childhood experiences with the lack of diversity in children's books, and how that led to her launching The Black Book Project in April 2020 that supports Book'em's mission of getting books to Nashville kids. Only 12% of all children's books published contain African American characters. The mission of the project is to collect and donate books featuring Black characters for children who would otherwise not have access to books that represent them.

"It's an honor to be able to share my story in front of a national audience," McKinney said. "I'm proud of the work that we've been able to do in Nashville to collect and distribute diverse books in our schools. I'm hopeful that other communities will be able to follow our example."

Book'em, in partnership with Nashville Public Television and Nashville Public Library, recently held a viewing party for the fifth episode at the Main Library downtown. Participants were able to view the 25-minute episode and participate in an FAQ with McKinney afterward.

Thanks to donations, The Black Book Project has donated over 2,400 books to Nashville Public Schools as of February 2022. The LeBron James Family Foundation recently donated 500 books this past June to this project. To learn more about The Black Book Project, visit <https://bookem-kids.org/theblackbookproject/>.

### **For further information, please contact:**

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### **About Book'em**

Book'em is a local children's literacy nonprofit focusing on two core areas: providing volunteer readers to local preschools and elementary schools, and collecting and distributing new books to economically disadvantaged children and teens in Davidson County who might not otherwise have books of their own.

The organization's mission is to create a more literate Nashville and to ignite children's passion for reading through book ownership and enthusiastic volunteers. Programs include Reading Is Fundamental (RIF), Ready for Reading, Books for Nashville's Kids and Read Me Day. For more information, please visit [www.bookem-kids.org](http://www.bookem-kids.org).

### **About Nashville Public Television**

[Nashville Public Television](#), Nashville's PBS station, is available free and over-the-air to nearly 2.4 million people throughout the Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky viewing area. NPT's four broadcast channels are NPT, the main channel; secondary channel NPT2 (WORLD Channel); NPT3, a 24/7 PBS Kids channel; and NPT4 (Create TV). NPT is also available to anyone in the world through its array of NPT digital services, including [wnpt.org](http://wnpt.org), YouTube channels and the PBS video app. NPT provides, through the power of traditional television and interactive digital communications, quality educational, cultural and civic experiences that address issues and concerns of the people of the Nashville region, and which thereby help improve the lives of those we serve. Join the conversation at [facebook.com/nashvillepublictelevision](https://facebook.com/nashvillepublictelevision), on Twitter [@npt8](https://twitter.com/npt8) and on Instagram [@nashvillepubtv](https://www.instagram.com/nashvillepubtv).

### **About Nashville Public Library**

With more than 2 million books, movies and music items to choose from – plus great programming and resources to improve early and adult literacy, STEAM, ESL and other key skills – [Nashville Public Library \(NPL\)](#) is Nashville's gateway to some of the best resources our city has to offer. Every year, across our 21-location system, thousands of visitors discover how our library lives up to our philosophy: At NPL, books are only half the story.