Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce
Booklist Recommendations

Adult Fiction

If Beale Street Could Talk by James Baldwin, 2013 (1974)
The Sellout by Paul Beatty, 2015
The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett, 2020
The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates, 2019
Washington Black by Esi Edugyan, 2018
A Gathering of Old Men by Ernest J. Gaines, 1992
The Wide Circumference of Love by Marita Golden, 2017
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston, 1937
The Love Songs of W. E. B. Du Bois by Honorée Fanonne Jeffers
The Fifth Season by N. K. Jemisin, 2017
My Monticello: Fiction by Jocelyn Nicole Johnson
The Known World by Edward P. Jones, 2003
An American Marriage by Tayari Jones, 2018
The Good Lord Bird by James McBride, 2013
The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison, 1970
Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison, 1977
Beloved by Toni Morrison, 1987
Stand Your Ground by Victoria Christopher Murray, 2015
Wench by Dolen Perkins-Valdez, 2010
The Color Purple by Alice Walker, 1982
Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward, 2017
The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead, 2019
The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead, 2016
Another Brooklyn: A Novel by Jacqueline Woodson, 2016
The Man Who Lived Underground by Richard Wright, Library of America, 2021
Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 2003
Half of a Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 2006
Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 2013
Chain-gang all-stars by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah
A Brief History of Seven Killings by Marlon James
Kindred by Octavia Butler
Cane River by Lalita Tademy

Poetry

Inheritance: a visual poem by Elizabeth Acevedo
I am the darker brother : an anthology of modern poems by African Americans by Arnold Adoff

The complete collected poems of Maya Angelou by Maya Angelou
Fantasia for the Man in Blue by Tommye Blount
Black Girl Magic by Mahogany L. Browne
Scorched Earth by Tiana Clark
Good Woman: Poems and a Memoir, 1969-1980 by Lucille Clifton
How To Carry Water: selected poems of Lucille Clifton by Lucille Clifton
The BreakBeat poets : new American poetry in the age of hip-hop by Kevin Coval
On the Bus with Rosa Parks by Rita Dove
Black nature : four centuries of African American nature poetry by Camille Dungy
Head Off & Split by Nikky Finney
Against Which by Ross Gay
Bicycles: Love Poems by Nikki Giovanni
Quilting the black-eyed pea : poems and not quite poems by Nikki Giovannni
American sonnets for my past and future assassin by Terrance Hayes
When Angels Speak of Love: Poems by Bell Hooks
The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes by Langston Hughes
The Weary Blues by Langston Hughes
Some Changes by June Jordan
Punks: New & Selected Poems by John Keene
Knucklehead: Poems by Tony Keith
Light for the World to See by Kwame Alexander
This Is The Honey: An Anthology of Contemporary Black Poets by Alexander Kwame
Finna : poems by Nate Marshall
Poemhood, Our Black Revival: history, folklore, and the Black Experience by Amber McBride
Here in Harlem by Walter Dean Myers
Fortune's Bones: the Manumission Requiem by Marilyn Nelson
Quiet Storm: voices of Young Black Poets by Lydia Okutoro
There are more beautiful things than Beyonce by Morgan Parker
Citizen: An American Lyric by Claudia Rankine
Ain't Burned All The Bright by Jason Reynolds
For Every One by Jason Reynolds
Best Barbarian: poems by Roger Reeves
Angles of ascent : a Norton anthology of contemporary African American poetry by Charles H. Rowell
For colored girls who have considered suicide, when the rainbow is enuf : a choreopoem by Ntozake Shange
Suddenly We by Evie Shockley
The Intentions of Thunder: New and Selected Poems by Patricia Smith
Teahouse of the almighty : poems by Patricia Smith

Unshuttered: Poems by Patricia Smith
Black bone : 25 Years of the Affrilachian poets by Bianca Lynn Spriggs
Native Guard by Natasha Trethewey
Black Girl You Are An Atlas by Renée Watson
African American Poetry : 250 years of struggle & song by Kevin Young
Brown: poems by Kevin Young

Adult Non-Fiction

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou, 2002 (1969)
The Humanity Archive: Recovering the Soul of Black History from a Whitewashed American Myth by Jermaine Fowler
The Black Box: Writing the Race by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
Ghetto Gastro Presents Black Power Kitchen by Jon Gray
The Souls of Black Folk by W.E.B. Du Bois
Black Women Taught Us: An Intimate History of Black Feminism by Jenn Jackson
Black Folk: The Roots of the Black Working Class by Blair Murphy Kelley
Notes From a Young, Black Chef by Kwame Onwuachi
Black Arms to Hold You Up: A History of Black Resistance by Ben Passmore
Black in Blues: How a Color Tells the Story of My People by Imani Perry
The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story - Nikole Hannah-Jones
Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates
Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson
The Cooking Gene: a journey through African American culinary history in the Old South by Michael Twitty
Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass, an American Slave by Frederick Douglass
Women, Race, and Class by Angela Y Davis
The New Jim Crow: mass incarceration in the age of colorblindness by Michelle Alexander
White Rage: the unspoken truth of our racial divide by Carol Anderson
The Matter of Black Lives: writing from the New Yorker by Jelani Cobb
Locking up Our Own: crime and punishment in black america by James Forman Jr
Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and its urgent lessons of our own by Eddie S Glaude Jr.
Four Hundred Souls: a community history of African America, 1619-2019 by Ibram X Kendi
How to be an Anti-Racist by Ibram X Kendi
Sister Outsider by Audre Lorde
The Source of Self-Regard: selected essays, speeches, and meditations by Toni Morrison
Born a Crime: stories from a South African childhood by Trevor Noah
A Promised Land by Barack Obama
Becoming by Michelle Obama
So You Want to Talk about Race by Ijeoma Oluo
Breathe: A Letter to My Sons by Imani Perry
Looking for Lorraine: the radiant and radical life of Lorraine Hansberry by Imani Perry
Me and White Supremacy: combat racism, change the world, and become a good ancestor by Layla Saad

My Vanishing Country: a memoir by Bakari Sellers
Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly
Just Mercy: a story of justice and redemption by Bryan Stevenson
What it is: Race, family, and one thinking Black man's blues by Clifford Thompson
The Fire This Time by Jesmyn Ward
Men We Reaped: a memoir by Jesmyn Ward
The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson
We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For by Alice Walker