

## Learn More About Tailored Skills

Have you ever wanted to learn a new skill or hone your skill in a specific area, but didn't know where to begin your educational journey? Enter Tailored Skills. This unique online service is a place where customers of all ages can fill out a form about a topic they're interested in and a library volunteer will prepare a getting started email with library and community resources to help them begin their learning.

The program was modeled after the Seattle Public Library's "Your Next Skill" service, which includes a list of curated resources to help customers pursue education in a particular skill area. Our engagement staff are working on curating content for over 60 lists, including skills in cooking, computer coding, gardening, crafting, job searching, personal finance and more.

"I'm so excited for our staff to have the opportunity to showcase their expertise and provide our customers with reliable information and sources to help them learn something new!" said Katherine Hickey, Belle Isle Library children's librarian.

Each list is printable, making it easy for staff to keep some printed lists at the desk to share with customers who inquire about a particular skill in person. Each list will also be tailored to our local community, so they may include community courses, resources and organizations.

Mary West, youth engagement specialist at the Community Libraries, has been working on three different Tailored Skills,

including "How to Make Slime," "How to Code" and "How to Create a Stop Motion Video." She said she begins her research process using books and other library materials and then moves to free and easily understood videos, blog posts, apps and classes that relate to each theme. West said she is most excited to create the "How to Make Slime" Tailored Skill because of the popularity of slime-making programs.

"I think Tailored Skills will be one of those services that customers didn't realize they wanted until they see it," West said. "Especially as adults, it's easy to think that we want to learn a new skill, but we often fail to take the necessary steps to get there. Providing pre-made lists with resources already available is putting people one step closer to bettering themselves."

The Tailored Skills program also gives staff the opportunity to put talents and hobbies into practice. Paula Joseph-Johnson, library manager III at the Community Libraries, shared that she has varied interests and was so excited for the

Tailored Skills program that she signed up to complete six lists over topics like massage, Reiki, yoga, mindfulness and others.

"I think of these as a place people can start their journey to learning something new, to expanding their knowledge, or to helping them find a new interest or hobby," Joseph-Johnson said.

Joseph-Johnson said she starts with what she knows when she begins a Tailored Skills list and then she starts to assemble a big picture view with materials from



## Learn More About Tailored Skills (continued)

the library's collection. She has also reached out to personal contacts to get input on local facilities to add to the list.

"I want the Tailored Skills program to spark interest in learning and exploring and doing new things," she said. "I am hopeful the past year encouraged people to look beyond the unhealthy level of importance we put on our outward-facing selves and helps us turn our attentions to learning and being and making our own lives more gentle and more impactful at the same time."

Bethany librarian, Mitch Leasure, is working on several Tailored Skills lists including "How to Write a Novel," "How to Play Guitar" and others.

"The process for creating my lists was straightforward. I always started with library materials and resources,"

Leasure said. "My next step was to reach out to my friends and other local experts for helpful online resources and local destinations. Finally, I filled in the gaps using online research."

Engagement staff can contribute anytime by pitching their ideas for Tailored Skills. Interested staff can email [katherine.hickey@metrolibrary.org](mailto:katherine.hickey@metrolibrary.org), [kdelaney@metrolibrary.org](mailto:kdelaney@metrolibrary.org) or [tim.spindle@metrolibrary.org](mailto:tim.spindle@metrolibrary.org).

"MLS staff have such a wide range of expertise in so many different areas, we want to make sure they can share it with our community!" Hickey said. "We are hoping to include lists related to learning about LGBTQ+ inclusion and advocacy — if that's a topic you are interested in helping out with, we hope you'll reach out!"

# Tail-Wagging Good Summer Programming

We can look forward to a somewhat more normal Summer Reading program this year with the ability to assist our customers in person while staying socially distanced and meeting customers' programming needs using virtual and hybrid formats. We will continue to offer our beloved summer programs that include collaborations with the Arts Council of Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma Museum of Art, Science Museum Oklahoma, and the Museum of Osteology.



# Pride Month

## June 1 - 30

In celebration of Pride Month, we are excited to feature engaging programs for all ages including storytimes, take-home kits, book clubs and more. The following programs, and more, are listed on our website at [metrolibrary.org/pride](http://metrolibrary.org/pride).

### Show Your Pride Take-Home Kit

Mon, June 7 - Wed, June 30

Available while supplies last at all Metro Library locations

### Historically Speaking: Protests

Thur, June 3 @ 6:30pm, Facebook

### Pride Storytime with Civic Leaders

Tue, June 8 & 22 @ 9:30am, Facebook

### Drag Queen Storytime

Tue, June 15 @ 9:30am, Facebook

### Pride Book Club: Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe

Tue, June 15 @ 6:30pm, Zoom

### OKC StorySLAM: Stories of Pride

Sun, June 27 @ 7pm, Facebook

### Pride Book Club: Juliet Takes a Breath

Tue, June 29 @ 6:30pm, Zoom

### OKC Pride Alliance Pride Fest

Come visit us at our vendor booth on

Sat, June 26, and Sun, June 27, @ Scissortail Park

## PRIDE IS...



# Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial “Remember & Rise”

In early 1920s Tulsa, segregation was everywhere. One segregated Black community, called Greenwood, came to be known as Black Wall Street for its thriving Black-owned businesses. Many people, even people who grew up in Oklahoma, may not have heard of Greenwood or Black Wall Street. The prosperous business community was burned down in its prime. Violent crimes against the Black community that took place in Tulsa May 31- June 1, 1921, came to be known as the Tulsa Race Massacre.

A Black teenager named Dick Rowland was accused of assaulting a white woman in an elevator and fleeing the scene. The next day he was arrested. That evening, an angry white mob formed outside the courthouse demanding that the sheriff hand Rowland over to them. The sheriff refused.

Following the incident with Rowland at the courthouse, white Tulsans committed violent crimes against the Black community. During a shooting in a movie theater an unarmed man was shot. Thousands of white Tulsans looted and burned homes and businesses in Greenwood, covering an area of 35 city blocks. Armed rioters threatened firefighters to leave. Over 1,200 homes were burned, and among those destroyed were newspaper facilities, a school, a library, a hospital, churches, hotels and many other Black-owned businesses.

You may be wondering what happened to Dick Rowland. Charges against Rowland were dropped. Police concluded that he stumbled into the young woman or mistakenly stepped on her foot. Rowland was kept safe in jail during the riots. After he was released, Rowland left Tulsa and never returned.

The Tulsa Race Massacre has become known as one of the deadliest riots in U.S. history. While the Oklahoma Bureau of Vital Statistics officially recorded 36 dead (26 Black and 10 white), historians estimate as many as 300 died.

Following the massacre, violent crimes against Black Tulsans only escalated. Archival documents went missing. Those included the front-page article of the Tulsa Tribune that began the chaos and state militia documents. It wasn't until 2009 that the Tulsa Race Massacre was included in Oklahoma history books, 88 years after the event.

Today, 100 years later, the Tulsa Race Massacre is gaining attention. A [Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission](#) is working on ways to commemorate the event, including a nationally televised event, “Remember & Rise.” The event will include voting rights activist, politician and author Stacey Abrams and acclaimed musician and activist John Legend.



**HELLO!****Crystal Gillette***BI Engagement Specialist II HT***GOODBYE****Antonio Nelson***1 yr, BE Library Aide***Tyler Gosdin***1 yr, NW Library Aide***Jana Kelsay***2 yrs, DN Access Specialist***Brittany Alfred***1 yr, AL Library Aide***Estefania Martinez-Vazquez***1 yr, SO Library Aide***Craig Wolf***35 yrs, CIS Virtual Engagement Specialist II***CONGRATULATIONS**  
**Promotions & Transfers****Joseph Burleigh***NW Access Specialist FT to CIS Virtual Engagement Specialist II FT***Emily Wolfgeher***VI Library Aide PT to WA Engagement Specialist II HT***Jessica Roark***ED Library Aide PT to ED Access Specialist FT***RETIREMENTS****Deborah McPherson***12 yrs, BE Access Manager II***Larry Upchurch***4 yrs, DN Security Officer***COMING UP****June 1***2021 Summer Reading Program Tails & Tales Begins***June 17***Metro Library Commission Meeting @ the Downtown Library***July 5***All Metro Libraries Closed for Independence Day*

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**DIY Development**  
**Niche Academy Webinar**  
**– The Efficient Library**

Libraries are constantly being called to respond to change. Whether the change needs to be in the type of service that builds a vibrant community, the technologies that are required to deliver information or response to health and safety concerns, librarians must adapt quickly to continue to provide the kind of service that the community depends upon.

Join Elizabeth Barrera Rush to learn about simple changes that librarians and administrators can make to save time and improve service in any type of library (academic, school, special) so they can continue to provide outstanding service by responding quickly to the changing needs of stakeholders.

>>Begin Course in [Edubrite](#)