

## How to Amplify Black and Brown Voices in Your Community

**Buy** books that amplify these voices and give them as gifts to friends and family, donate them to local schools and libraries.

**Contact** Black and brown authors and seek to arrange speaking engagements with them in person or virtually.

**Share** the names of authors and books with people you know who are teachers, event organizers, youth workers, etc.

**Ignore** the calendar and seek to amplify these voices year round not just during Black History Month; these voices can be part of any speaker series or book series.

**Speak up** if you see that there is no diversity among the voices being amplified at an event that you attend or are helping to plan.

**Notice** the lack of inclusion in stories, book lists, movie recommendations, speaker series, panels, etc; it should not be accepted as normal for white voices and perspectives to be the only ones presented.

**Invite** neighbors to your home to discuss Black and brown narratives with Black and brown people (Given the ever-changing nature of COVID consider how you can “invite” neighbors virtually in ways that allow for genuine connection and learning while keeping people safe.)

**Invest** in Black and brown people by compensating them adequately for their work; don't expect them to allow you to “pick their brain” for free or speak at your group for free or “in exchange” for free admission or a meal.

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*Note: The preceding suggestions are based on the collective response to an audience question provided by Sheletta Brundidge, Larry McKenzie, and Sagirah Shahid, during a Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries event titled [Amplifying Black Narratives: The Creation of Black Narratives](#) on November 18, 2021. Please acknowledge them when sharing these suggestions.*