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August 27, 2017

Orange County Library System Receives \$25,000 Grant to Continue Hosting Sunshine State Author Series

The Orange County Library System is the recipient of a \$25,000 grant from the Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs. The funding will be used to present the 2017-2018 Sunshine State Author Series, which brings award-winning authors of literature for children, teens and young adults to library branches for readings, book discussions and writing workshops. The goal of the series is to cultivate a love of reading in school-aged children by introducing them to outstanding writers.

The Sunshine State Author Series was launched by the Orange County Library System in 2017 to supplement the Sunshine State Young Readers Award, which recognizes high-quality books that inspire students to read for pleasure. [Writers invited to participate in the series](#) are selected based on their literary value, widespread appeal and multicultural representation, and each author featured in the Sunshine State Author Series has written a book that has been on either the Sunshine State Young Readers or Florida [Teens Read](#) lists. Authors Sharon Draper, Brendan Kiely, Jason Reynolds and Jackson Pearce participated in the inaugural season.

“We wanted to not only recognize these award-winning books, but also to take the reading experience to a higher level by giving the authors a chance to share their insight and inspiration with their audience,” said Mira Tanna, the Orange County Library System’s Youth Services Assistant Manager. “Nearly 3,000 children, teens and adults attended 18 Sunshine State Authors Series events in 2017, our first year for the series. Based on that amazing response, we are looking forward to doing it again [this coming school year.](#)”

Additional details for the Sunshine State Author Series will be announced later this year. To learn more about the Sunshine State Authors series, visit ocls.info/sunshineseries.

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The Orange County Library System serves the community by providing access to collections, facilities, events and services that connect people to new ideas, information and technology. The Dorothy Lumley Melrose Center, made possible by a grant from the Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation, expands the role of the library by providing access to state-of-the art hardware, equipment, software, support and programming to inspire and invigorate creativity and accomplishment. For more information on the Orange County Library system, visit ocls.info.