



Official Organization Statement

We Need Diverse Books is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that runs twelve exciting initiatives united under one goal—to combat systemic racism and oppression by creating a world where everyone can find themselves on the pages of a book. Established in 2014, WNDB strives to support and amplify diverse literature by mentoring marginalized creators, providing resources to diverse publishing professionals, and donating diverse books to schools and libraries nationwide. **Learn more at diversebooks.org.**

CURRENT DIVERSITY STATS:

- [Research shows](#) that Black and Latinx readers are more avid, engaged readers that the industry needs to do a better job of reaching.
- [CCBC statistics on Multicultural Children’s Books](#) and [a closer look and observations about these trends](#). [CCBC Infographic for 2018](#). CCBC statistics for 2019 on percentages of books depicting main characters from diverse backgrounds: **11.9%** Black/African, **1%** Native/First Nations, **5.3%** Latinx, **8.7%** Asian/Asian American, **.05%** Pacific Islander, **41.8%** white, **29.2%** animal/other.

2019 stats: **3.4%** books with disabled main characters, **3.1%** LGBTQIAP+. 2019 percentage of books written and/or illustrated by authors and/or artists of the same race: **68.2%** Native/First Nations, **46.4%** Black/African, **80%** Pacific Islanders, **95.7%** Latinx, and **100%** Asian/Asian American.
- In 2018, only **11%** of books were written by people of color and **89%** were written by white writers, according to research from [the New York Times](#)
- Lee & Low’s [2019 Diversity in Publishing Baseline Study](#).
Stats: **76%** white, **7%** Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander/South Asian/South East Indian, **6%** Latinx/Mexican, **5%** Black/Afro American/Afro Caribbean, **3%** biracial/multiracial, **<1%** Middle Eastern, **<1%** American Indian/Alaskan Native/First Nations/Native American. **74%** cis women, **23%** cis men, **1%** genderfluid/genderqueer/nonbinary, **<1%** each for trans men, intersex people, and trans women. **81%** straight, **10%** bisexual/pansexual, **4%** gay, **2%** lesbian, and **1%** asexual. **89%** nondisabled.

- **Malinda Lo's [2019 LGBTQ+ in young adult books](#) statistics.**
108 LGBTQ+ young adult books published in 2018, **84** published in 2017.
- **Statistics on [New York Times bestselling books by race](#).** Stats: Bestseller titles by author race **69%** white, **9%** East Asian, **2%** Latinx, **2%** South Asian, **9%** Black, **3%** unspecified, **2%** Afro-Latinx, **2%** Middle Eastern, **2%** Southeast Asian.

HOW WNDB'S PROGRAMS HAVE CHANGED THE PUBLISHING WORLD:

- **The Internship Grant Program** has given **83 Internship Grants** to interns at Big 5 and independent publishing houses and literary agencies of all sizes from across the country. Of the **58 grantees** who have graduated college, **54** are now employed in the publishing industry, with many of our grantees busy making acquisitions. WNDB has also introduced internships in adult book publishing, beginning in 2020.
- **WNDB in the Classroom** has donated **over 73,000 children's books**, including Walter-award winning titles, to public schools in **48 states** across the country. These titles were sent to schools with no libraries, and children who often have no books at home.
- **The Black Creatives Fund** is completing its first cycle with the launch of its six-month mentorship program, and has been able to support, at present, **over 25 Black creatives** through the Revisions Workshop and Marketing Symposium.
- **LitUp, in partnership with Hello Sunshine and Madcap Retreats**, launched in 2021 and has welcomed its inaugural cohort of **six emerging writers**. LitUp is a fellowship for unpublished, underrepresented women storytellers. The chosen fellows will receive mentorship from the best in the business, an all-expenses-paid retreat, and marketing support from Reese's Book Club.
- **The Native Fund** has launched a Native Children's and YA Writing Intensive. Alumnx of this workshop have received more than **7 book deals** and many are now contracted with literary agents. The Native Fund has also donated books by Native, Indigenous, and First Nations authors to several United States public schools.
- **The Penguin Random House and We Need Diverse Books Creative Writing Awards** has provided **\$150,000** in scholarship awards to public high school seniors.

- **Our Mentorship program** has mentored over **85 emerging authors and illustrators** as of its 2022 cycle, among them Lisa Brathwaite, Diana Ma, Dane Liu, and A. M. Dassu. Recently, Angeline Boulley, a 2019 mentee who worked with author Francisco X. Stork, [sold her debut YA novel after a 12-bidder auction](#). Several past mentees have given back by returning as mentors, including Valerie Bolling and Olivia Aserr.
- **Inaugurated in 2016, the annual Walter Dean Myers Awards have celebrated 30 titles of children's and young adult authors**, among them Jason Reynolds, Elizabeth Acevedo, Ibi Zoboi, Yusef Salaam, Mariko Tamaki, Jewell Parker Rhodes, John Lewis, Nate Powell, Margarita Engle, Kacen Callender, Akwaeke Emezi, and Nicola Yoon.
- **The Walter Dean Myers Grant** has honored and provided financial support to **34 aspiring creators from marginalized communities**, and past honorees include Angie Thomas, Yamile Saied Mendez, Arriel Vinson, and Jennifer De Leon.