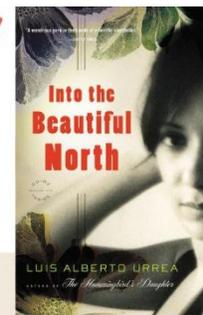




Roswell 2021



It has been over ten years since Roswell has participated in a Big Read program - one that is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The purpose of the Big Read is to promote literacy and unity in a given city or community by having as many people of all ages - from students of middle and high school age through senior citizens - reading the same book and participating in a wide variety of activities that are related to some of the book's main themes.

ENMU-Roswell is the lead organization in the current Big Read project. But it is partnering with a number of different community organizations, including, Roswell Public Library, Friends of the Roswell Public Library, Anderson Museum of Contemporary Art, Roswell Museum and Art Center, Roswell Independent School District, Hispano Chamber of Commerce, and the Roswell Literacy Council to ensure that participation in these events are a community-wide affair.

After reviewing 32 books on the NEA's Big Read list for the 2020-2021 academic year, the Roswell Big Read Committee selected *Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea. The novel, which blends humor and pathos, is a tale that begins in a small town in Sinaloa, Mexico and encompasses adventures and experiences by the main characters in Tia Juana, San Diego and as far away as Kankakee, Illinois.

The novel's themes of friendship, loyalty, perseverance, cross border issues, survival instincts and using one's innate talents to ultimately thrive offer a variety of opportunities for community events. Our community events include numerous book discussions in English and Spanish, writing workshops, writing, art and poetry contests, panel presentations with guest speakers, musical and dance performances, and a personal appearance by the book's author Luis Urrea. Copies of the book will be distributed widely throughout the community to ensure everyone has a chance to read the book and participate in the range of community activities. There will be versions in both English and Spanish available.

- The Big Read Committee recommends 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students of RISD to read *Into the Beautiful North*.
- In grades 7th-9th students read Gary Paulson's *The Crossing*.
- Students in grades 6th-4th read *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan.

These novels are more age appropriate yet contain a similar theme of *Into the Beautiful North*.



- RISD Librarians will be providing a selection of books and activities for students encompassing the theme of Bridges and Borders.
- The Big Read Committee members will be placing break room book displays in businesses and schools (if requested).

As the committee moves forward with planning for virtual and in person activities, the following is a list of confirmed events:

- January 15th - Poetry and Writing Contest Deadline (see attached poetry and writing contest flyer)
- January 15th - Art Contest Deadline (see attached art contest flyer)
- January-March - Various community book clubs will be discussing *Into the Beautiful North*
- January 23rd -NEA Big Read Roswell Kickoff Event**
- January 24th-25th - Guest Speaker Denise Chavez and Writing Workshop
- February 4th - Book Discussion in Spanish with Ricardo Valenzuela
- February 6th - Loteria Game Day (See attached Loteria Art contest flyer)
- February 13th - Tiny Book Workshop
- February 10th - Writing Workshop for Middle and High School Students with Amy Everitt.
- February 21st - Sunday Funday with Dolores Fresquez
- March 5th - Main Street Roswell, 1st Friday Activities
- March 6th - Viewing of *The Magnificent Seven*
- March 7th - Sunday Funday with Jose Chaves
- March 12th - Viewing of *Under the Same Moon*
- March 13th - Keynote Speaker Luis Alberto Urrea**

The NEA Big Read-Roswell Committee Includes: Rollah Aston, ENMU-R; Robin Billington, ENMU-R; Douglas Texter, Formerly ENMU-R/Currently Johnson County Junior College; Leslie Lawner, Retired Sidney Guterrez Middle School Teacher; Jori Flom, Roswell Independent School District; Enid Costley, Roswell Public Library; Nancy Fleming, Anderson Museum of Contemporary Art; Kyle Torke, ENMU-R