

Themed Experience

WOMEN WRITERS, ORATORS, AND CHANGEMAKERS

Planet Word rings with the brave voices of women who have sparked social change. As you move through the exhibits, reflect on the impact of the following works and connect with the legacies of these groundbreaking women.

Floor

Winona Beamer TEACHER AND ADVOCATE

Featured in the Endangered Languages interactive exhibit on the third floor, Winona Beamer is a champion of Hawaiian culture and history. Following the U.S. ban on the Hawaiian language from 1896-1986, Beamer inspired a generation of new speakers to take pride in the Hawaiian language and culture. As a result of her efforts, there are now nearly 5,000 Hawaiian speakers.



Dolly Parton

SINGER AND PHILANTHROPIST

A country musician by trade, Dolly Parton's song "Jolene" is featured in our Unlock the Music gallery. Her lyrical genius has earned her a spot on the Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart for six consecutive decades. Parton founded Imagination Library, an organization that gives free books to children around the globe.



Lorraine Hansberry AUTHOR AND PLAYWRIGHT

A Member of the National Women's Hall of Fame, Lorraine Hansberry was a groundbreaking essayist and advocate for change. Her acclaimed play, A Raisin in the Sun, can be found on the shelf of our Library gallery. Hansberry was the first Black woman to have a Broadway show produced, and frequently explored gender and racial inequalities through her creative works.



Gwendolyn Brooks

AWARD-WINNING POET

The powerful verses of Poet Gwendolyn Brooks's "We Real Cool," can be heard in our Poetry Nook within the Library. Brooks is regarded as one of the most influential American poets of the 20th century. Her extraordinary accolades include winning the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1950 and being named the Poet Laureate of Illinois in 1968.



Malala Yousafzai

SOCIAL ACTIVIST AND ORATOR

A master public speaker and advocate for women's education, Yousafzai is the world's youngest Nobel laureate. She was shot by the Pakistani Taliban in 2012 when she spoke out publicly on behalf of women's education. Her Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech is featured in our Lend Me Your Ears gallery and serves as a call to action for education equality.





WORDS MATTER GALLERY:

#metoo is a social movement, founded by women, that publicizes experiences of sexual harassment and abuse. Starting as a Myspace hashtag, this now well-known social media hashtag has empowered women to bravely speak out against their abusers and connect with other survivors as a way to heal.

#metoo 2006, 2017

Susan B. Anthony was one of the many women who dedicated their lives to fighting for women's rights. In Anthony's newspaper, "The Revolution," she addressed women's suffrage and gender equality. The quote found on the walls of the Words Matter Gallery was the courageous motto of the newspaper that later became the official voice for the Women's Suffrage Movement.

Men's rights, and nothing more; women's rights, and nothing less. 1868

Museum Map





