

Themed Experience

LANGUAGE IN COLOR: LGBTQIA+ VOICES AND IDENTITY

LGBTQIA+ voices and stories add vibrant color to language. As you move through the exhibits, reflect on the ways gender and sexuality impact our lives — and the language we speak.

Floor

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Where Do Words Come From?

The 22-foot-tall wall of words speaks for itself — literally! Our talking word wall shares the history of the English language. Thanks to the LGBTQIA+ community, many popular words like “fierce” and “work” have taken on a new meaning. These unique and novel lexical entries enrich the English language and make our descriptions more colorful! Try to find “drama” or any newly coined words on the Word Wall.

The Spoken World

Dive headfirst into the awe-inspiring diversity of languages by meeting speakers of languages from around the world. While in this gallery, explore how different languages approach what linguist Kirby Conrod refers to as “social gender” and “noun class systems”. Check out Basque, Vietnamese, Icelandic, Japanese, Arabic, and Hebrew. Unearth which languages have no gender, dozens of gender forms, or binary and heteronormative gender systems.

FROM ABIGAIL TO ZUCCHINI...

After your visit, watch “The Queens’ English: The LGBTQIA+ Dictionary of Lingo and Colloquial Phrases” to learn more about the language that serves as the cultural heartbeat of the LGBTQIA+ community.



THINK AND DISCUSS: Feminist and LGBTQIA+ activists around the globe are now looking for solutions to their languages’ rigid grammatical gender systems. In English, we are seeing innovations in pronouns, with gender-neutral “they” and neopronouns like “ze,” “xe,” or “ve.” What languages do you speak? Are they rethinking gender?

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The Library


In this magical gallery, pick out a book and watch as the stories come to life on the pages in front of your very eyes. Keep your eyes peeled for books by LGBTQIA+ authors or with stories featuring LGBTQIA+ characters such as:

- Better Nate Than Ever by Tim Federle
- Ask the Passengers by A.S. King
- Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli
- Ana on the Edge by A.J. Sass



POETRY NOOK
In this secret room hidden behind the library's shelves, soak up the sounds of poets including but not limited to Chen Chen and Natalie Diaz.

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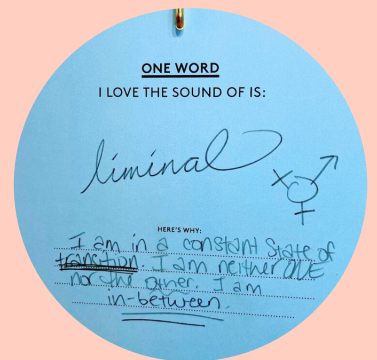
 **WORDS MATTER GALLERY: Language and Identity**

Pull up a seat with Logann Grayce to hear “What Are Your Pronouns?” and reflect on the simplicity and power of honoring a person’s identity with the language we use. Then, share your own experiences in our fully-equipped recording booth.

THINK AND DISCUSS: Is every joke funny to everyone? Why or why not? Then, explore the Words That Wound beacon to consider a few examples.

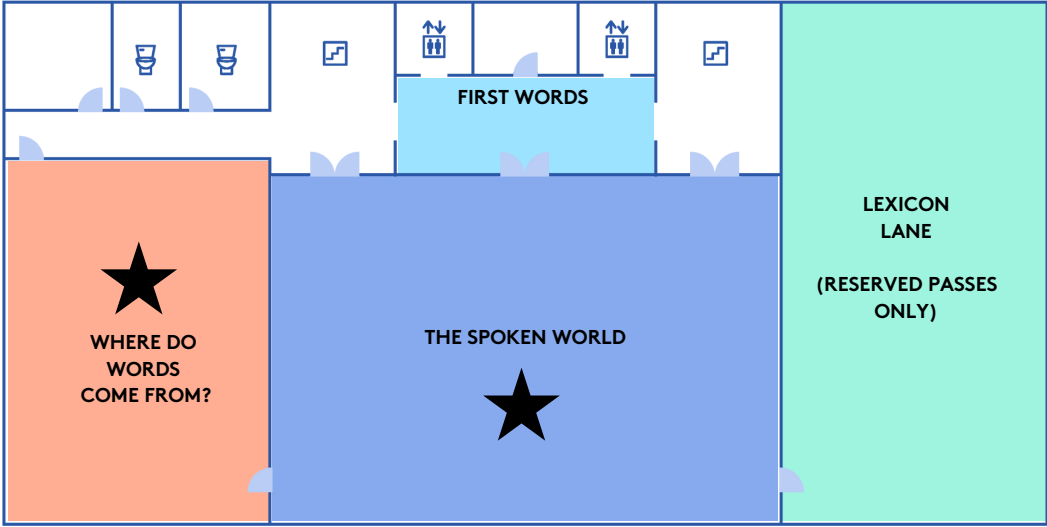
View the Linguistic Bias beacon and reflect on how humans judge people based on how they talk, how we change the way we talk in certain social settings, and how we can be more linguistically inclusive of all speakers.

What word describes you?
Add it to the walls of the Words Matter gallery.

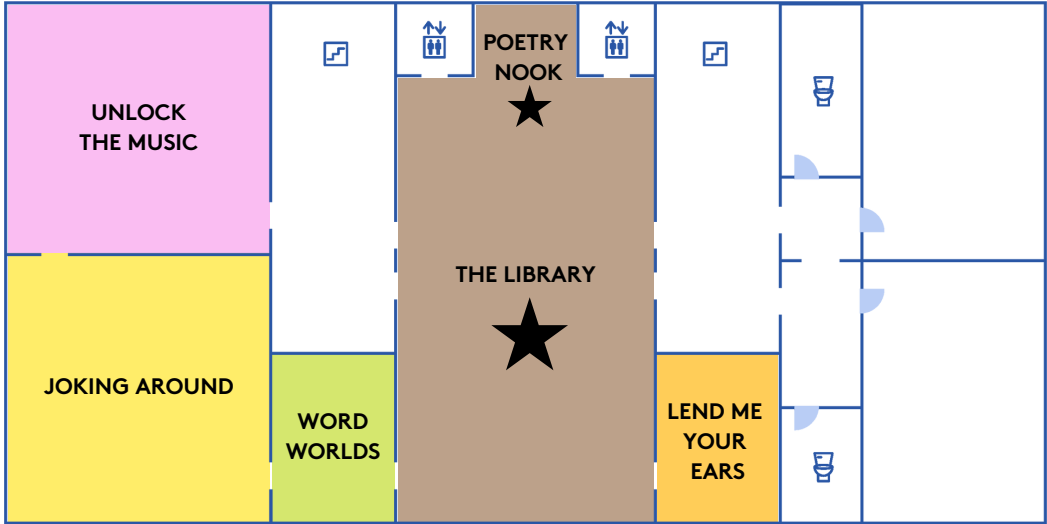


Museum Map

FLOOR THREE



FLOOR TWO



FLOOR ONE

