



KIRSTEN B. CAPPY

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CuriousCityDPW.com

ImYourNeighborBooks.org

I'm Your Neighbor Books *Portland, Maine*

ImYourNeighborBooks.org

Founder, 2012-Present

Executive Director, 2019-Present

With a team of children's literature creators and immigrant community members, Kirsten Cappy founded I'm Your Neighbor Books, a project that builds welcoming communities for New Arrivals and New Americans—using children's literature. Cappy founded and executes the following activities:

- Innovates and shares the Welcoming Library, a pop-up conversation on immigration, welcoming, and belonging featuring a curated collection of New Arrival / New American picture books with unique embedded discussion questions. Designed to travel, the book collection, book display, and teaching materials travel between schools, libraries, and community groups for temporary loan.
- Curates and categorizes New Arrival / New American K-12 books by the community they represent. With these community markers and more than 100 cross-cultural themes, this one-of-a-kind cultural database helps schools, libraries, and organizations build and engage with diverse collections.
- Builds cultural and SEL engagement guides for picture books and novels that demonstrate that strong communities are built when New Arrivals are actively welcomed.
- Speaks on creating welcoming spaces for New Arrivals using books and book engagement and on using story to build allyship in long-term communities.

- Co-founded and co-produces the Beautiful Blackbird Children's Book Festival, an annual event with year-long teaching materials that celebrates the roots, identity, and resilience of Black people across the Africa Diaspora.

Curious City *Portland, Maine*

CuriousCityDPW.com

Owner, Children's Book Engagement Consultant, 2003-Present

With a team of educator advisors, Cappy creates engagement materials for children's literature. These cross-curricular tools, free for librarians, educators, literacy consultants, caregivers, and others, introduce featured books through play, conversation, and social action.

Raising Readers *Portland, Maine*

RaisingReaders.org

Book Consultant, 2003-Present

Selects the board books and picture books for the largest single-state literacy organization in the U.S. The organization has gifted 3 million books to Maine children.

Education

B.A. Cum Laude, Wheaton College, Norton, MA, 1992

Major: Anthropology, Minor: Women's Studies

Honors: Wheaton College Leadership Award 1991 & 1992,

Anthropology Prize 1992, and Dean's List 1988-1992.

Honors & Affiliations

Association of Library Services for Children Member, 2012-Present

Association of American School Libraries Member, 2016-Present

Diverse Bookfinder Advisory Board, 2019-Present

Wheaton College Alumni Achievement Award, 2020

Association of American School Libraries Commendation for the Welcoming Library, 2020

References

Pious Ali, City Councilman, I'm Your Neighbor Books Co-Founder

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Anne Sibley O'Brien, Author, I'm Your Neighbor Books Co-Founder

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Phillip Hoose, National Book Award-Winning Author

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