

The Children's Book Council

The CBC, as the national trade association for children's book publishers is the voice of the industry. This industry is all about telling stories that resonate with children and young adults. It's critical that the voices represented in those stories be reflective of the diverse society we live in today. It is, therefore, our responsibility, as the trade association, to make sure our own voice reflects that same diversity.

Creation of CBC Diversity

Several individuals and groups have focused on the question of diversity in children's books before the CBC Diversity Initiative was launched.

In fact, the predecessor of the CBC Diversity Committee was one such group -- a group of brilliant editors united to form a unit of their own to discuss issues with a view toward promoting diversity both in the content of children's books as well as diversity in hiring within the children's book publishing industry. They called themselves Diversity in Books (DIBs) and their mission is at the core of the CBC Diversity Initiative.

DIBs evolved into the CBC Diversity Committee in order to develop a strong infrastructure while enabling the reach of the committee and the work itself to grow beyond the passion of a small group. The committee now includes publishing professionals representing the different departments and positions in traditional publishing houses.

Contact us at cbcdiversity@cbcbooks.org.

CBC DIVERSITY

CBCDIVERSITY.COM



A Children's Book Council Initiative

THE INITIATIVE

CBC Diversity is dedicated to increasing the diversity of voices and experiences contributing to children's and young adult literature.

We endeavor to encourage diversity of race, gender, geographical origin, sexual orientation, and class among both the creators of and the topics addressed by kid lit.

We strive for a more diverse range of employees working within the industry, of authors and illustrators creating inspiring content, and of characters depicted in children's and young adult books.

OUR GOALS

The concrete steps the Committee is currently taking to grow the initiative are:

- 1) ENGAGE IN RECRUITMENT** through high school classroom visits and college career fairs.
- 2) PROVIDE RESOURCES** by maintaining an up-to-date blog and curating a Goodreads bookshelf showcasing all of the books the CBC's members produce that currently highlight diverse voices.

3) HOST EVENTS to encourage those in all levels of the industry to come together and discuss issues we face as a community.

4) ENGAGE IN ONLINE DIALOGUE to stimulate online conversations that share perspectives and invite comments from subscribers.

PROJECTS OF NOTE

CBCDIVERSITY.COM

The initiative's blog consists of industry news, book spotlights, CBC Diversity event information as well as resources for writers, publishing professionals, caregivers, and teaching professionals about the publishing industry and how to find and market books with diverse voices.

BLOG SERIES

Special blog posts within CBCDiversity.com that highlight various voices within the industry that discuss their views and experiences on different subjects and provide resources and information to all interested in diversity in children's books.

DIVERSITY DIALOGUES

Several times a year CBC Diversity Dialogues bring together in-

terested groups of children's book publishing staffers to speak candidly about diversity in the hopes to problem-solve collaboratively in a safe, supportive environment.

DIVERSITY PANELS

These lunch and learn events for industry professionals occur a few times a year. A panel of industry experts are assembled from different realms of publishing to shed light on a myriad of subjects.

SCHOOL VISITS

During Children's Book Week in May and a week in November CBC Diversity Committee members visit high school senior-level classrooms to describe the "Life of a Book" to students through the various jobs in publishing.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The CBC Diversity Committee has amazing plans and ideas, but we need your help. We encourage all connected to the publishing industry to become CBC Diversity Partners.

CBC Diversity Partners are encouraged to:

1. Advocate, be proactive, and show your support by adding our Twibbon to your social networking profiles and our badge to your website or blog.
2. Attend our events if you are an industry professional.
3. Acquire and share non-traditional avenues in which to promote and sell diverse books with the CBC.
4. Agents and editors—seek out books about diversity.
5. Alert those in sales and marketing to initiate in-house conversations about how to sell and market diverse books.
6. Aim to expose children in your life to diverse books and invite your publishing colleagues to talk at their schools about the industry and the jobs within it.
7. Acknowledge the CBC as a resource. Check in regularly on the blog and check in with us with your comments and questions.