

Govans Racial Justice Lending Library Book List

(books are shelved alphabetically by title)

Title	Author/Editor	Description	Publication Year	Category/Shelf
African American Experience, The: Black History and Culture	Kai Wright	This book traces over four centuries of African-American history and culture, with excerpts from over 300 speeches, letters, editorials, poems, songs, and stories. It covers all aspects of history and daily life, from the days of abolition and the Civil War to the Civil Rights movement to current times.	2001	Nonfiction
African Slave Trade, The	Basil Davidson	This book explores the slave trade in Africa, focusing on three areas: the old Congo kingdoms, the city states of the East Coast, and parts of the Guinea coast.	1961	Nonfiction
Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age	Kevin Boyle	Chronicles a 1920s legal case involving Dr. Ossian Sweet, the grandson of a slave who moved to an all-white Detroit neighborhood and was tried for the murder of a member of a white mob threatening his home.	2004	Nonfiction
Audacity of Hope, The: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream	Barack Obama	Senator Barack Obama shares his spiritual and political beliefs as well as opinions on various aspects of American culture. The themes in the book were central to Obama's keynote address at the 2004 Democratic Convention, paving the way to his becoming the 44th president of the United States.	2006	Nonfiction
Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man, The	James Weldon Johnson	This first-ever fictional memoir by an African-American author tells the story of a mixed-race piano prodigy passing for white during the turn of the century. As the main character journeys from college in Jacksonville to an elite New York nightclub to the rural South to Paris and London, the novel examines how our identities shape our lives.	1912	Nonfiction
Baltimore '68: Riots and Rebirth in an American City	Jessica Elfenbein, Thomas Hollowak, & Elizabeth Nix	In 1968, Baltimore was home to a variety of ethnic, religious, and racial communities that, like those in other American cities, were confronting a quickly declining industrial base. In April of that year, disturbances broke the urban landscape along lines of race and class. This book offers chapters on events leading up to the turmoil, the riots, and the aftermath as well as four rigorously edited and annotated oral histories of members of the Baltimore community.	2011	Nonfiction
Barbara Jordan, Politician	Rose Blue & Corinne Naden	This book explores the life of renowned politician, attorney, and educator Barbara Jordan, the first African-American woman to be elected to the Texas Senate.	1990	Nonfiction
Becoming	Michelle Obama	In this memoir, former First Lady Michelle Obama chronicles the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address.	2021	Nonfiction
Between the World and Me	Ta-Nehisi Coates	This book, written as a letter to the author's teenage son, explores the experience of being Black in the United States. The author draws from his youth in Baltimore, detailing how institutions like the school, the police, and even "the streets" discipline, endanger, and threaten to disembody black men and women.	2015	Nonfiction
Black and Blue: African Americans, the Labor Movement, and the Decline of the Democratic Party	Paul Frymer	In the 1930s, fewer than one in one hundred U.S. labor union members were African-American. By 1980, the figure was more than one in five. This book explores the politics and history that led to this integration of organized labor, and how the Democratic Party unintentionally sowed the seeds of labor's decline.	2007	Nonfiction
Black Book, The: Reflections from the Baltimore Grassroots	Lawrence Grandpre & Dayvon Love	This book features a collection of essays that describe important issues that face Baltimore grassroots activists/organizers and can be used to guide thinking and action around issues of racial justice.	2014	Nonfiction
Black Butterfly, The: The Harmful Politics of Race and Space in America (3 copies)	Lawrence T. Brown	This book explores the causes of racial segregation and the historical trauma resulting from inequitable policies, practices and systems. The book's title refers to the shape carved out of redlined Baltimore neighborhoods, and the author proposes strategies for healing and restoring the impacted neighborhoods.	2021	Nonfiction
Black Church in the African American Experience, The	C. Eric Lincoln & Lawrence H. Mamiya	This book offers a historical analysis of the African-American Church, exploring both the internal structure of the Church and the reactions of the Church to societal changes. Drawing on interviews with over 1,800 clergy, the authors examine the Church's relationship to politics, economics, women, youth, and music.	1990	Nonfiction
Cash for Blood: the Baltimore to New Orleans Domestic Slave Trade	Ralph Clayton	Between 1800 and 1860, Baltimore was the main port for the selling and shipping of slaves to New Orleans due to labor needs in the South and an overabundance of slaves in Maryland and Virginia. This book tells the story of thousands of families and individuals shipped from Baltimore on their 'final passage.'	2002	Nonfiction
Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents (3 copies)	Isabel Wilkerson	In this Pulitzer-winning book, the author explores 8 pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations and how a hidden caste system has shaped America. Topics include how the Nazis studied America's racial systems, the health costs of caste systems, and effects of these systems on culture and politics.	2020	Nonfiction

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Dear Ijeawele, or a Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	The author, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, received a letter from a childhood friend asking how to raise her baby girl as a feminist; this book is Adichie's letter of response. It includes fifteen invaluable suggestions for how to empower a daughter to become a strong, independent woman.	2017	Nonfiction
Equal Justice Under the Law: An Autobiography	Constance Baker Motley	This memoir chronicles the life and career of Constance Baker Motley, a pioneer in civil and women's rights who became the first African-American woman to argue at the Supreme Court and was a key player in the case of Brown v. Board of Education, as the key attorney assisting Thurgood Marshall.	1988	Nonfiction
Faith That Does Justice, The: Examining the Christian Sources for Social Change	John C. Haughey	A collection of essays that explores such topics as the meaning of faith in relationship to justice; dualism in the faith of the Church; and Biblical perspectives on justice.	1977	Nonfiction
Freedom Is, Freedom Ain't: Jazz and the Making of the Sixties	Scott Saul	In the decade between the mid-fifties and the late sixties, jazz played a role in shaping the social dramas of the Civil Rights movement, the Black Power movement, and the counterculture. With central figures such as John Coltrane and Charlie Mingus, this book chronicles this period in jazz and American history.	2003	Nonfiction
Glory Days: 365 Inspired Moments in African-American History	Janus Adams	This book highlights extraordinary events in African-American history (one for each day of the year) in categories such as science, arts, business, education, politics, and women's studies.	1996	Nonfiction
Gospel Songs: Melody Line, Chords and Lyrics	Various	A collection of 120 Gospel classics keyboard, guitar, and vocal performance.	unknown	Nonfiction
How To Be An Antiracist	Ibram X. Kendi	In this book, the author combines ethics, history, law, and science with his own personal story of awakening to antiracism. It has been described as an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond the awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a just and equitable society.	2019	Nonfiction
I Have a Dream: Writings and Speeches That Changed the World	Martin Luther King, Jr. (edited by James M. Washington)	This collection includes twenty of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s most important writings and orations, including his famed keynote address of the 1963 march on Washington, his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," and his last sermon, "I See the Promised Land," preached the day before Dr. King's assassination.	1992	Nonfiction
Jesus and the Disinherited (5 copies)	Howard Thurman	Famously known as the text that Martin Luther King Jr. sought inspiration from days before the Montgomery bus boycott, this book helped shape the civil rights movement. Acclaimed theologian Howard Thurman examines how the gospel may be read as a manual of resistance for the poor and disenfranchised.	1949	Nonfiction
Live From Death Row	Mumia Abu-Jamal	This collection of prison writings by Mumia Abu-Jamal offers a look into the brutalities of prison life and explores racism and political bias in the American judicial system.	1996	Nonfiction
Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela	Nelson Mandela	This book profiles South African president and anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela's early life, coming of age, education, and the more than a quarter-century he spent in prison.	1994	Nonfiction
Making Neighborhoods Whole: A Handbook for Christian Community Development	Wayne Gordon & John M. Perkins	This book features profiles of longstanding and emerging community development ministries, through which the authors guide a new conversation and empower disciples of Jesus to seek the welfare of their cities to the glory of God.	2014	Nonfiction
Movement in Every Direction, A: Legacies of the Great Migration	Jessica Bell Brown	The Great Migration saw more than six million African Americans leave the South for destinations across the United States, a dispersal of people across the country that transformed Black life and culture. This volume presents immersive photography by artists who investigate their connections to the Deep South through familial stories of perseverance, self-determination, and self-reliance and consider how this history informs their working practices.	2022	Nonfiction
One Is the Body: Songs of Unity and Diversity	John L. Bell	A collection of Christian worship songs suitable for small choirs, school assemblies, youth groups, praise bands and local congregations.	2002	Nonfiction
Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit	Thomas Sugrue	Once America's "arsenal of democracy," Detroit has become the symbol of the American urban crisis. This book offers a reappraisal of America's dilemma of racial and economic inequality and asks why Detroit and other industrial cities have become the sites of persistent racialized poverty.	1996	Nonfiction
Plantation Jesus: Race, Faith, and a New Way Forward	Scot Welch & Rick Wilson	Through their shared passion for Jesus Christ, the authors detail how racism damages the church's witness. They explore common responses to racial injustice, such as "I don't see color; only people," and they invite readers to encounter the Christ of the disenfranchised.	2018	Nonfiction

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She's Such a Bright Girl: An American Story (2 copies)	Petula Caesar	The story of Petula Caesar, raised in the 1970s and 1980s in Paterson, NJ and Baltimore, Maryland. Because of her light skin, her parents raised her to be as "White" as possible, which results in an identity crisis, massive fears and insecurities for Petula – demons that eventually came to haunt her father as well.	2018	Nonfiction
Single Woman's Guide to Retirement, The	Jan Cullinane	This AARP guide walks readers through the challenges of retired or pre-retired life, from managing finances to staying healthy in body, mind, and spirit, dealing with divorce, looking for love, and job-seeking.	2021	Nonfiction
Songs of Zion (2 copies)	Various	Features gospels, spirituals, ethnic benedictions, chants, and songs from the African-American Liberation that reflect black heritage and traditions and the contemporary black experience.	1981	Nonfiction
Soul of America, The: The Battle for Our Better Angels	Jon Meacham	This book frames modern day U.S. politics and life by looking back at critical times in our history when hope overcame division and fear. The author explores topics including race, civil rights, immigration, and threats to democracy, from a historical perspective.	2018	Nonfiction
Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America	Ibram X. Kendi	This work chronicles anti-black racist ideas and their power over the course of American history. The author uses the life stories of five major American intellectuals to drive this history: Puritan minister Cotton Mather, Thomas Jefferson, abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, W.E.B. Du Bois, and activist Angela Davis.	2016	Nonfiction
Testament of Hope, A: The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr.	James M. Washington	A collection of fifty-seven of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s major speeches and sermons, essays, interviews and book portions, including his "I Have a Dream" sermon, "Letter from Birmingham Jail", and lesser-known works.	1986	Nonfiction
They Can't Kill Us All: Ferguson, Baltimore, and a New Era in America's Racial Justice Movement	Wesley Lowrey	This book explores the standoff between the police and those they are sworn to protect. As the author brings vividly to life, the protests against police killings are also about the black community's long history on the receiving end of perceived and actual acts of injustice and discrimination.	2016	Nonfiction
This Far By Faith: Stories From the African American Religious Experience	Juan Williams & Quinton Dixie	This book uses archival and contemporary photography, historical research, and modern-day interviews to explore the role of the church both in the African American community and in the social history of America.	2003	Nonfiction
Through My Eyes	Ruby Bridges	Ruby Bridges chronicles each step of the historical moment in which she, a six-year old surrounded by federal marshals, walked through an angry mob to enter her classroom and desegregate the all-white William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans, Louisiana.	1999	Nonfiction
To the Realization of Perfect Helplessness	Robin Coste Lewis	This book blends visual memorabilia, poetry, and a collection of the author's grandmother's photographs (found in an old suitcase under the bed of a soon-to-be-demolished home) to tell the story of daily twentieth-century Black life	2022	Nonfiction
Under God: Religion and American Politics	Garry Wills	This book surveys history to show the continuity of present controversies with past religious struggles and argues that the secular standards of the Founding Fathers have been misunderstood. The author explores why the policy of a separate church and state has, ironically, made the position of the church stronger.	1990	Nonfiction
Understanding Social Welfare: A Search for Social Justice	Ralph Dolgoff & Donald Feldstein	This textbook places U.S. welfare in philosophical, political, economic, and international contexts, and examines the impact of social structure on people's lives, emphasizing the current concerns of diverse client populations and the search for social justice.	2000	Nonfiction
Vernon Can Read! - A Memoir	Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. with Annette Gordon-Reed	This memoir chronicles the life of civil rights leader Vernon Jordan, whose family's support and courage provided the framework for his future success in America's legal, corporate, and political worlds.	2001	Nonfiction
Vintage Baldwin	James Baldwin	This book features the best of James Baldwin's works, including the the short story "Sonny's Blues"; the civil rights examination "My Dungeon Shook: Letter to My Nephew on the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Emancipation"; and the essays "Fifth Avenue, Uptown: A Letter from Harlem" and "Nobody Knows My Name: A Letter from the South".	2004	Nonfiction
White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism (2 copies)	Robin DeAngelo	Referring to defensiveness that results from being challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions and behaviors that prevent meaningful cross-racial dialogue. This book explores how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what can be done to engage more constructively.	2018	Nonfiction
Words of Martin Luther King, Jr., The - Selected by Coretta Scott King	Martin Luther King, Jr.	This collection includes more than 120 quotations from civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speeches, sermons, and writings as well as an introduction by Coretta Scott King.	1984	Nonfiction

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Beloved (2 copies)	Toni Morrison	This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel takes place during the Civil War and chronicles the life of a formerly enslaved woman named Sethe, who is haunted by her past traumas. The book is based on based on the true story of Margaret Garner, who killed her child to spare them a life of slavery.	1987	Fiction
Black Voices: An Anthology of African-American Literature – Fiction, Poetry, Autobiography, and Criticism	Abraham Chapman	This anthology includes forty-five of the most significant works by African-American authors, including fiction, poetry, autobiography, and criticism. It represents the core of America's African-American literary heritage of America, ranging from slavery days to the post-Martin Luther King era.	1968	Fiction
Giovanni's Room	James Baldwin	Set in the 1950s Paris, this now-classic narrative delves into the mystery of loving, as a young man finds himself caught between desire and conventional morality. The author creates a moving, highly controversial story of death and passion that reveals the unspoken complexities of the human heart.	2013	Fiction
Kindred (2 copies)	Octavia E. Butler	In this novel that explores the intersection of gender, race, and power, the main character, Dana, travels from the 20th century back in time to antebellum Maryland, where she is confronted with the horrors of slavery.	1979	Fiction
Mother Country	Jacinda Townsend	In this novel, the main character Shannon travels from America to Morocco after a series of tragedies. Longing to be a mother, Shannon kidnaps a young girl who appears alone in a marketplace, only to learn that the girl is the cherished daughter of a Mauritanian woman named Souria with her own challenges. The book explores themes of human trafficking, motherhood, intergenerational trauma and healing.	2022	Fiction
On the Come Up	Angie Thomas	Sixteen-year-old Bri, the daughter of an underground rap legend who died before he hit big, wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time, or at least make it out of her neighborhood. Now that her mom has unexpectedly lost her job and bills are piling up, Bri no longer just wants to make it—she has to make it.	2019	Fiction
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry	Mildred D. Taylor	This Newbery Medal-award winning novel is set in rural Mississippi In the Great Depression and follows a family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride, and independence in the face of racism and social injustice.	1976	Fiction
The Hate U Give	Angie Thomas	Starr Carter is a 16-year-old African-American girl from a poor neighborhood who attends an elite private school in a predominantly white, affluent part of the city. Starr becomes entangled in a national news story after she witnesses a white police officer shoot and kill her childhood friend, Khalil.	2017	Fiction
Change Sings: A Children's Anthem (5 copies)	Amanda Gorman	This picture book by presidential inaugural poet and activist Amanda Gorman features a young girl who leads a cast of characters on a musical journey, where they learn they have the power to make changes in the world, their communities and themselves.	2021	Children
I Am Perfectly Designed	Karamo Brown with Jason "Rachel" Brown	In this story that celebrates the bond between parent and child, a father and son spend a day walking in the city and talk about what they love about each other. In the course of the day, the discover all the ways they are perfectly designed for each other.	2019	Children
Thank You, Omu!	Oge Mora	This story centers around Omu, a generous woman known for her aromatic homemade stew that draws each of her neighbors for a taste until the stew is all gone. The book celebrates community and sharing, with characters based on the strong female role models in the author's life.	2018	Children
50 Great Curries of India	Camellia Panjabi	This book explores the philosophy of Indian food, planning an Indian meal, suggested menus, how to use spices, herbs, and chilis, and how to add taste, aroma and color to create perfect curry.	2005	Cookbook
Coconuts & Collards: Recipes and Stories from Puerto Rico to the Deep South	Von Diaz	This recipe-packed memoir of growing up Latina in the Deep South features stories centered on the women in the author's family who have used food to nourish and care for one another.	2018	Cookbook
Complete Cooking for Two Cookbook. The (2 copies)	America's Test Kitchen	Features 650 America's Test Kitchen recipes including the trickiest dishes, from soups and stews to stir-fries and meatloaf, and cakes and pies, all scaled down to serve two people.	2017	Cookbook
Daring Pairings: A Master Sommelier Matches Distinctive Wines with Recipes from His Favorite Chefs	Evan Goldstein	This companion to Perfect Pairings, explores the flavors and pairing potential of thirty-six distinctive grapes from around the world, including Argentina, Spain, Italy, Greece, and France.	2010	Cookbook
Monet's Table: The Cooking Journals of Claude Monet	Claire Joves	A collection of recipes featured in French Impressionist painter Claude Monet's cooking journals, including dishes he encountered in his travels and in frequently-visited Paris restaurants.	1990	Cookbook

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New Low-Country Cooking, The: 125 Recipes for Coastal Southern Cooking with Innovative Style	Marvin Woods	For centuries, Low-Country cooks have taken the diverse foods of Africa, France, Spain, and the Caribbean and turned them into one of the most intriguing regional cuisines. In this book, the author offers a new take on this extraordinary cuisine.	2000	Cookbook
New Provencal Cuisine, The	Louisa Jones	Using fresh, seasonal ingredients, fifteen of Provence's top chefs offer sixty of their most innovative recipes, all designed for the home cook, with simple, easy-to-follow instructions and a wealth of full-color photographs.	1995	Cookbook
On Rue Tatin: Living and Cooking in a French Town	Susan Herrmann Loomis	Chronicles the author's journey from an apprenticeship at La Varenne École de Cuisine to lifelong immersion in French cuisine and culture. The book includes delicious recipes that evoke the essence of Normandy, such as Apple and Thyme Tart and Braised Chicken in White Wine and Mustard.	2001	Cookbook
Perfect Pairings: A Master Sommelier's Practical Advice for Partnering Wine with Food	Evan Goldstein	A guide to wine, wine terminology, and wine-growing regions featuring 58 companion recipes that showcase each type of wine. This book combines in-depth explorations of twelve grape varieties, sparkling wines, and dessert wines with guidance about foods that enhance the range of styles for each varietal.	2006	Cookbook
Taste of Cuba, A : Recipes From the Cuban-American Community	Linette Green	A collection of recipes for authentic Cuban specialties such as pasteles (spiced meat patties), tostones (fried green plantains), churros (fried dough with sugar), and refreshing batidos (fruit milkshakes) as well as gourmet-style recipes for the contemporary Caribbean dishes found in Cuban restaurants.	1994	Cookbook
Thrill of the Grill, The: Techniques, Recipes, & Down-Home Barbecue	Christopher Schlesinger & John Willoughby	This collection of 190 recipes also includes tips for grilling food to perfection, a list of indispensable grilling tools, advice on setting up a grill, and a guide to barbecuing.	2002	Cookbook
Van Gogh's Table: At the Auberge Ravoux	Alexandra Leaf & Fred Leeman	This unique cookbook/art book explores the role of the cafe in postimpressionist painter Vincent van Gogh's life and features more than 50 traditional recipes in addition to letters, photos, engravings, postcards, and a selection of Van Gogh's paintings.	2006	Cookbook
Wine and Cheese Pairing Swatchbook (2 copies)	Max McCalman	This guide offers a practical twist on wine and cheese pairings including detailed information about the history, production and unique flavor of fifty of the world's finest cheeses. It also includes accompanying information about the best wine varieties and vintages to pair them with.	2013	Cookbook