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## **YLC's One Book One New Orleans Celebrates Tens Years of Literacy** *Community project announces Unfathomable City: A New Orleans Atlas as 2014 book selection*

**NEW ORLEANS** – Young Leadership Council (YLC) is celebrating the tenth anniversary of its One Book One New Orleans literacy awareness campaign during this year's reading period from Thursday, September 11 to Thursday, October 30, 2014.

To commemorate its tenth year of service to the community, One Book One New Orleans, a project of YLC, will host a kickoff party on Thursday, September 11 at 5:30 p.m. at the PubliQ House located at 4528 Freret Street. The party, which will include food, beverages, and entertainment, will officially launch this year's reading period.

The volunteer leadership team managing the project chose *Unfathomable City: A New Orleans Atlas*, co-authored by Rebecca Solnit and Rebecca Snedeker, as this year's book selection. *Unfathomable City* assembles more than 20 essays from local geographers, musicians, writers, activists, and others from across the city and juxtaposes them against an assortment of vibrant and detailed maps.

"This year's book selection is a thought-provoking representation of our city," said Megan Holt, volunteer co-project leader for One Book One New Orleans. "It has inspired a schedule of events in various neighborhoods to not only celebrate New Orleans but to also bring awareness to the challenges our community faces."

The goal of the campaign is to facilitate a dialogue about the city's low-literacy rate. According to the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, the available data suggests a probable

26% low-literacy rate in the New Orleans metropolitan area among the working-age population of 18- to 64-year-olds.

“Literacy is important to everyone everywhere,” said co-author Rebecca Solnit. “It gives you access to the world, to ideas, to power, to resources, to the law, to your ancestors, and the past; it gives you power to help shape the future.”

YLC will donate over 400 editions of the book to local adult literacy learning centers and through its events as part of the campaign. The books are provided courtesy of generous funding from Shell.

The community is encouraged to take part in One Book One New Orleans this year by reading the book and by attending several special events that will be held in coordination with the campaign. A list of events can be found below; all events are free and open to the public.

#### **List of 2014 One Book One New Orleans Events:**

##### **September 11**

##### **Kickoff: Unfathomable City**

PubliQ House, 4528 Freret St.

5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

##### **September 18**

##### **Benefit Party: Louisiana Books 2 Prisoners**

Clouet Gardens, 707 Clouet St.

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

##### **September 25**

##### **Literacy in New Orleans: A Panel Discussion**

New Orleans Public Library, Main Branch, 219 Loyola Ave.

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

##### **October 2**

##### **Come Together: A Community Book Discussion**

Dillard University Library Commons

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

##### **October 16**

##### **Mental and Spiritual Health: A Panel Discussion**

Ashe Cultural Arts Center, 1712 O.C. Haley Blvd.

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

##### **October 23**

##### **Mapping Adult Literacy: An Art Exhibit**

Pearl Wine Co., 3700 Orleans Ave.  
6:00 – 8:30 p.m

**October 30**

**Wrap Party: Unfathomable City**

New Orleans Pharmacy Museum, 514 Chartres St.  
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Events are free and open to the public. For more information on these events, the book, and the initiative, visit [www.facebook.com/onebookoneneworleans](http://www.facebook.com/onebookoneneworleans) or follow @onebookonenola on Twitter.

**About YLC**

*The Young Leadership Council (YLC) is a non-profit, non-partisan civic organization created to develop leadership through community projects. Through volunteer-created community projects, the YLC recruits and retains young professionals to New Orleans and has a positive impact on the quality of life in the region. The oldest, independent young professionals' organization (YPO) in the country, the YLC has raised more than \$25 million to support community projects in and around the New Orleans area since 1986.*

*The YLC has more than 1,300 member-volunteers, and is led by a 25-member board of directors and four staff members. Each community initiative is led by one or more volunteer project leaders.*

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