

April 7, 2021

A March 16th shooting spree in Atlanta killed eight people, including six Asian women. This horrific event sparked a much-needed, deeper examination of the increase in violence and discrimination directed at Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) during COVID-19. Lawrence Public Library stands with our AAPI community and calls to Stop Asian Hate.

Discrimination against the AAPI community has deep roots in American history. The subjugation and later ghettoization of Chinese immigrants workers who built this country's railroads, the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, and the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II name just three pieces of historical evidence of how Asian immigrants and Asian-American citizens have been treated with brutality. This violence and discrimination must end.

Lawrence Public Library is committed to being an antiracist organization, and we will continue to champion a more inclusive and equitable world by providing access to information that showcases the diversity of American culture and heritage. This includes connecting readers to stories that explore the AAPI experience, especially from creators from the AAPI community. The more curious all of us become about cultures that aren't our own, the more open and empathetic we can become to the diverse communities in which we live. Our stories overlap more than we realize, and the library is one of the best places to find — and embrace — our common, human thread.

Our library's mission statement is simple. Imagine More: a place to learn, connect, create, and grow. We mean every word of it. This mission fuels our commitment to antiracism and stopping hate wherever it lives.

In solidarity,



Brad Allen
Library Director