



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY TO KICK OFF “MKE BIG READ” SATURDAY, APRIL 8**  
***Milwaukee to Read and Celebrate In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez***

Milwaukee Public Library invites the entire City of Milwaukee to read and connect during the MKE Big Read, a program made possible with a grant from the NEA Big Read and a number of local partnerships, including the Milwaukee Public Museum, UWM Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Ex Fabula, Woodland Pattern Bookcenter, Boswell Books, and the Walker’s Point Center for the Arts. The NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

The MKE Big Read will focus on the novel *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez. Activities will take place throughout the months of April and May, **kicking off with an event at Central Library (814 W. Wisconsin Ave.) on Saturday, April 8 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** The kickoff will include readings from the book, Caribbean dances by Pandanza Dance Company, and craft activities.

“We are honored to be selected as an NEA Big Read grantee,” said Milwaukee Public Library Director Paula Kiely. “Books can inspire and create new experiences. *In the Time of the Butterflies* is a poignant novel with themes that will appeal to readers of all ages and relate to members of our Milwaukee community. Bringing our community together around a great work of literature will have a lasting impact, and we look forward to engaging our strong partners in this effort.”

*In the Time of the Butterflies* tells the tale of three women driven by a passion for justice. Discussing questions and issues relevant to our community and connecting these to a work of classic modern literature epitomizes the spirit of the Big Read.

For more information about the MKE Big Read, including a complete list of activities and locations, please visit [mpl.org/mkebigread](http://mpl.org/mkebigread)

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**About Milwaukee Public Library**

Milwaukee Public Library is an anchor institution that helps build healthy families and vibrant neighborhoods – the foundation of a strong Milwaukee. Since 1878, Milwaukee Public Library has been a free provider of education and information for residents of Milwaukee and beyond. With 14 locations, and more than three million items in circulation, MPL offers free access to a rich collection of materials both physical and digital, access to technology, classes, exhibitions, programming and more. From toddlers to scholars, MPL serves more than one million patrons who come through its doors annually and many more around the globe who use its resources at [www.mpl.org](http://www.mpl.org). To offer this wide array of free programming, MPL relies on both public and private funding. Learn more about how to support Milwaukee Public Library at [mpl.org/support](http://mpl.org/support).