

Rhode Island Center for the Book



At Rhode Island Council for the Humanities

***** MEDIA ATTENTION REQUESTED*****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rhode Island Center for the Book at the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities Announces the 2016 Kids Reading Across Rhode Island Book

PROVIDENCE, RI – Kids Reading Across Rhode Island, the ‘one book, one state’ initiative for students in grades 3-6, kicks off its 7th year with the 2016 Newbery Honor winning book, *Roller Girl* by Rhode Island School of Design graduate Victoria Jamieson. Grammy Award winning storyteller and author, Bill Harley, is the 2016 Chair of Kids Reading Across Rhode Island. A **May 7th kickoff event** with Jamieson at the State House includes a public program and activities and games presented by Rhode Island libraries and community organizations. Every family in attendance receives one copy of the book (while supplies last). Kids Reading Across Rhode Island is a partnership of the Rhode Island Center for the Book at the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities and the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services. Through Kids Reading Across Rhode Island, RI schools and public libraries join forces to bring the joys of reading from the classroom to summer vacation.

About This Year’s Book

The Newbery Honor Award Winner and New York Times bestseller *Roller Girl* is a fast-paced, honest, and funny graphic novel about friendship and surviving junior high through the power of roller derby.

About the Author

Victoria Jamieson received her BFA in Illustration from the Rhode Island School of Design and worked as a children’s book designer before becoming a full-time illustrator. She has also worked as a portrait artist aboard a cruise ship and has lived in Australia, Italy, and Canada. She now lives with her family in Portland, Oregon, where she maintains a not-so-secret identity as Winnie the Pow, a skater with the Rose City Rollers roller derby league. *Roller Girl*, her first graphic novel is a *New York Times* and Indie Bestseller, and the recipient of the 2016 Newbery Honor Award.

About Kids About Reading Across Rhode Island

Kids Reading Across Rhode Island (KRARI), the summer reading initiative for students in grades 3-6, encourages students across the state to read the same book and engage in community discussions and programs that connect school and summer reading. Now in its 7th year, KRARI programming begins in classrooms, school libraries, and public libraries including opportunities to connect through discussion groups centered on the selected book. Students, teachers, parents, and librarians rally at the annual May Kick-Off Event at the State House where they hear from the author in-person, receive a free, signed copy of the book, participate in activities related to the themes of the book, and learn more about summer reading

programs with local libraries and community partners. Programming continues in public libraries throughout the summer, expanding into summer reading programs that introduce new books and encourage continued reading beyond the assigned school curriculum. The 2016 statewide children's summer reading theme is *On Your Mark, Get Set . . . Read!* and focuses on wellness, fitness, and sports. Across the state, public libraries will use this theme and *Roller Girl* as part of their summer reading programs.

Kids Reading Across Rhode Island is a partnership of the Rhode Island Center for the Book at the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities and the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services. The program receives major funding from TD Bank, TD Charitable Foundation, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Sets of books are available to classroom teachers and library discussion groups by contacting kate@ribook.org. Further reading lists, book discussion guides, the author's website, audio interviews and other supplementary material may be found on the websites of Rhode Island Center for the Book (www.ri.book.org) and the Office of Library and Information Services (<http://www.olis.ri.gov/services/children/krari/>)

About Rhode Island Center for the Book at the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities

Rhode Island Center for the Book at the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities is a statewide organization devoted to promoting personal and community enrichment by celebrating the art and heritage of reading, writing, making, and sharing books. Founded in 2003, the RI Center for the Book is the state affiliate of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress and is hosted by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities. The Humanities Council's mission is to seed, support, and strengthen public history, cultural heritage, civic education, and community engagement by and for all Rhode Islanders. The RI Center for the Book promotes a love for books among people of all ages and backgrounds across Rhode Island. www.ri.book.org

About The Office of Library and Information Services

The Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) is the state library agency for Rhode Island. OLIS supports and strengthens library and information services in the state to ensure that all residents will benefit from free and convenient access to library and information resources and services. OLIS supports children's library services statewide by facilitating reading promotion and educational activities, through advocacy for children's library services, and through collaboration with other state agencies and non-profit organizations, including school/public library cooperation. www.olis.ri.gov

PHOTOS ATTACHED:

2016 Book *Roller Girl* Cover; Author Victoria Jamieson; Kids Reading Across RI logo