

Rhode Island Center for the Book



At Rhode Island Council for the Humanities



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rhode Island Center for the Book at the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities Announces the 2018 Kids Reading Across Rhode Island Book

PROVIDENCE, RI – Kids Reading Across Rhode Island (KRARI), the ‘one book, one state’ initiative to encourage statewide reading and community discussions among students in grades 4 through 6, celebrates its 9th year with the award-winning book, *The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Pérez. On **May 19th KRARI kicks-off** at the State House with a public presentation and book signing by the author, and activities and games presented by Rhode Island libraries and community organizations. Each family in attendance will receive an autographed copy of the book while supplies last.

Governor Gina M. Raimondo chairs the 2018 KRARI program: “I’m thrilled to be the 2018 Kids Reading Across Rhode Island Honorary Chair,” said Governor Gina M. Raimondo. “This program brings together students and families from all over Rhode Island to engage with a book that not only has wide appeal, but also encourages important discussion. As we work towards our goal of doubling the number of 3rd graders reading at grade-level, I’m excited to see the impact of this statewide program.”

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 to inspire young readers to keep their school-supported reading momentum going through summer vacation. Through KRARI, RI schools and public libraries join forces to bring the joys of reading from the classroom to summer vacation. *The First Rule of Punk*’s focus on music and zine creation make it the perfect complement to the 2018 statewide Summer Reading Program, “Libraries Rock!”

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/youth/krari/index.php>)

Kids Reading Across Rhode Island receives major funding from TD Bank, Ocean State Charities, The Andrade-Faxon Charities for Children and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

About This Year's Book

The First Rule of Punk, a 2018 Pura Belpré Author Honor Book and a 2018 Rhode Island Latino Books Month selection, is a wry and heartfelt exploration of friendship, finding your place, and learning to rock out like no one's watching.

About the Author

Celia C. Pérez makes zines inspired by punk and her love of writing. Her favorite zine supplies are a long-arm stapler, glue sticks, and watercolor pencils. She still listens to punk music, and she'll never stop picking cilantro out of her food at restaurants. Originally from Miami, Florida, Celia lives in Chicago with her family and works as a community college librarian. She owns two sets of worry dolls because you can never have too many. *The First Rule of Punk* is her first book for young readers.

About Kids About 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 integrate school and summer reading. KRARI begins in classrooms, school libraries, and public libraries with discussion groups centered on the selected book. 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.

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. The Center was founded in 2003 as 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. As part of this ambitious mission, Rhode Island 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), the state library agency, strengthens, connects and empowers libraries to advance knowledge, connect communities and enrich the lives of all Rhode Islanders. OLIS promotes learning, access, and engagement statewide by facilitating reading programs, supporting youth library services, and collaborating with other state agencies and non-profit organizations, including school/public library cooperation. www.olis.ri.gov

PHOTOS ATTACHED:

2018 Book Cover *The First Rule of Punk*; Author Celia Pérez