

# The Big Read returns with 'The House on Mango Street'

## Go! staff

This winter, join readers across Eastern Oregon as Fishtrap presents the NEA Big Read in celebration of the modern American classic "The House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros.

Fishtrap has provided more than 600 free books and resources to schools, libraries and community centers in Wallowa and Union counties and will host weekly online events for the public at fishtrap.org.

According to a Fishtrap press release, "The House on Mango Street" is "acclaimed by critics, beloved by children, their parents and grandparents, taught everywhere from inner-city grade schools to universities across the country, and translated all over the world. This landmark story collection is recognized as one of the most important contributions to modern literature."

Readers of all ages are encouraged to find a copy at their

## THE BIG READ

The 2022 selection is "The House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros. The program kickoff is a live online interview with the author on Wednesday, Feb. 16, at 6 p.m. For information and to join the online events, go to fishtrap.org.



Keith Dannemiller/  
Contributed photo  
Sandra Cisneros



local library or bookstore and join the conversation.

"It's remarkable the number of people who reached out to tell me how much this book has meant to them," said Mike Midlo, Fishtrap program director. "It's an important story, a joy to read, and sure to inspire important conversations."

## KICKOFF

To kick off The Big Read, Fishtrap will host a live online interview on Wednesday, Feb. 16, at 6 p.m. with the author,

Sandra Cisneros, from her home in Mexico.

She will be joined by Fishtrap's Shannon McNerney as they talk about the story and its impact — and take questions from the public.

Viewers can also access the video afterward to share in the classroom, at book group meetings and around the family dinner table. Then, each following week will bring new online events and discussions including resources on Chicano culture, videos and even salsa dance lessons to

practice in your living room.

## ABOUT THE BIG READ

Since 2006, Fishtrap has presented The Big Read as a way to bring a great work of literature to communities by providing public events, discussions and free books to Wallowa and Union county schools, libraries and the general public.

This year, Fishtrap is expanding The Big Read even further by partnering with more Union County organizations including Art Center East, Cook Memorial

Library, Eastern Oregon University Library and Catherine Creek Community Center. The venues are creating their own set of events and they will be added to Fishtrap's Big Read schedule.

The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. The program is supported locally by neighborhood businesses, foundations and organizations including Community Bank, The Bookloft, Oregon Arts Commission and Pacific Power Foundation.



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## FIRST FRIDAY AT CROSSROADS

# Poetic Refraction

By Suzi Butler and Mary Arnold



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