



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 25, 2016**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Linnea Sheldon

508-799-1654

[lsheldon@mywpl.org](mailto:lsheldon@mywpl.org)

***Youth Services at the Worcester Public Library Welcomes  
Children and Parents to a World Languages Storytime Festival***

*The event on Saturday, August 27 at 2 p.m. will include storytelling,  
musical entertainment, and refreshments.*

Worcester, MA – The Youth Services Department at the Worcester Public Library will host a World Languages Storytime Festival and Cultural Celebration on Saturday, August 27 at 2 p.m. at the Main Library, 3 Salem Square, Worcester. The event will include storytelling in Spanish, Albanian, Vietnamese, and Portuguese, and will be accompanied by musical entertainment, face painting and refreshments.

The Worcester Public Library has been offering World Language Storytimes in Vietnamese and Portuguese for the past two years thanks to a grant from the Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA). The LSTA is the only federal program exclusively for libraries, and is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

The World Languages Storytimes began in October 2014. This two-year project made it possible for children and families who don't frequent the Worcester Public Library to be exposed to the Library and its services while attending storytimes in their own language. (Vietnamese and Portuguese). It also allowed this new audience to engage in other cultural and educational events offered at the Library.

Community members were invited to participate as presenters conducted storytimes in their native language, with the help of a Children's Librarian. A dozen patrons and Youth Services staff participated in an all-day training with professional storyteller Shannon Schinagl. Presenters learned the basics of storytelling, including how to choose

the best books for children, reading aloud, and the resources and supplies needed. They also had a tour of the Library and became familiar with the Children's Room.

The grant helped develop and increase the World Languages area, adding books, videos, music, posters and decorations, children's musical instruments, and storytime supplies. In February, the Library hosted a Chinese New Year and Kung Fu Demonstration by Leaders Way Kung Fu Academy in Worcester, with a traditional Lion Dance, and in April a Brazilian Cultural Stories and sing-along was offered.

The Librarians involved worked to build a solid foundation to continue the world languages storytimes program for the future. "It is important to be inclusive in offering these and all types of services to children and families," said Iris Delgado, Youth Services Manager. "This grant gave us the opportunity to develop a reciprocal relationship between the Library and these communities. While attending World Language Storytimes they have become aware of the Library's rich services, and we have learned through the presenters and participants the value of their communities to our library."

Saturday's event will include guest performances from the Southeast Asian Coalition and members from Worcester's Brazilian Festival.

For more information please contact Linnea Sheldon, Community Relations and Communications Manager at 508-799-1654 or [lsheldon@worcpublib.org](mailto:lsheldon@worcpublib.org).

**3 Salem Square, Worcester, MA 01608 508.799.1655**  
**[mywpl.org](http://mywpl.org) [facebook.com/worcesterpubliclibrary](https://facebook.com/worcesterpubliclibrary)**  
**Worcester Public Library, A department of the City of Worcester**