

Anarchitectural Library: A Reading List

Anarchitectural Library (against the neoliberal erasure of Chicago's common spaces) was a project commissioned by the 2019 Chicago Architecture Biennial from the artist, theorist, and urbanist Adrian Blackwell. The project responded to the Chicago Cultural Center's history as the city's first public library by creating a space to educate the public on issues shaping their city and world. The included materials were submitted by Chicago-based activists, organizers, and researchers focusing on issues including school closures, affordable housing, environmental justice, mass incarceration, and community development. A selection of books submitted by these activists are listed below. All titles are available through the Chicago Public Library.

A Political Education: Black Politics and Education Reform in Chicago Since the 1960s by Elizabeth Todd-Breland

American Hunger by Richard Wright

Are Prisons Obsolete? by Angela Davis

Assata: An Autobiography by Assata Shakur

Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence, and America's Prison Nation by Beth E. Richie

Brown in the Windy City: Mexicans and Puerto Ricans in Postwar Chicago by Lilia Fernandez

Claiming Neighborhood: New Ways of Understanding Urban Change by John Betancur and Janet L. Smith

Death in the Haymarket: A Story of Chicago, the First Labor Movement and the Bombing that Divided Gilded Age America by James R. Green

Dumping In Dixie: Race, Class, And Environmental Quality by Robert D. Bullard

Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds by Adrienne Maree Brown

Ghosts in the Schoolyard: Racism and School Closings on Chicago's South Side by Eve Ewing

High Rise Stories: Voices From Chicago Public Housing by Audrey Petty (ed.)

Improbable Scholars: The Rebirth of a Great American School System and a Strategy for America's Schools by David L. Krip

In The Wake: On Blackness and Being by Christina Sharpe

Making All Black Lives Matter: Reimagining Freedom in the Twenty-First Century by Barbara Ransby

Making the Second Ghetto: Race and Housing in Chicago, 1940-1960 by Anarnold R. Hirsch

Parable of the Sower by Octavia E. Butler

Pedagogy of the Oppressed by Paulo Freire

Steel Barrio: The Great Mexican Migration to South Chicago, 1915-1940 by Michael Innis-Jiménez

South Side Venus: The Legacy of Margaret Burroughs by Mary Ann Cain

Taking a Stand: The Evolution of Human Rights by Juan E. Méndez

The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin

The Mushroom at the End of the World by Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing

The Open Veins of Latin America by Eduardo Galeano

The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation by Natalie Y. Moore

The Wall of Respect: Public Art and Black Liberation in 1960s Chicago by Abdul Alkallmat, Rebecca Zorach and Romi Crawford (eds.)

There Are No Children Here by Alex Kotlowitz

We Gon' Be Alright: Notes on Race and Resegregation by Jeff Chang

Who Really Feeds the World? The Failures of Agribusiness and the Promise of Agroecology by Shiva Vandana