

# City of Philadelphia



## Council of the City of Philadelphia Office of the Chief Clerk Room 402, City Hall Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 250387)

### RESOLUTION

Celebrating the selection of *The Upcycled Self: A Memoire on the Art of Becoming Who We Are* by Tariq Trotter for the 2025 One Book, One Philadelphia program.

WHEREAS, Since its founding in 1891, the Free Library of Philadelphia has worked to build an enlightened community devoted to lifelong learning. Now, on its 23<sup>rd</sup> annual season, the Free Library of Philadelphia's One Book, One Philadelphia is a signature project of the Free Library of Philadelphia. It promotes literacy, library usage, and civic dialogue by encouraging the entire greater Philadelphia area to come together through the sharing of ideas and the joy of reading; and

WHEREAS, *The Upcycled Self* is a powerful memoir by Tariq Trotter, chronicling his journey from a turbulent childhood in Philadelphia to becoming a legendary artist. Through vivid storytelling, the author explores themes of resilience, creativity, and personal reinvention, showing how struggles can be transformed into strength. This deeply introspective book is both a testament to survival and an inspiring guide to embracing one's own evolution.; and

WHEREAS, Tariq Trotter, also known as Black Thought, is the platinum-selling, four-time Grammy Award-winning co-founder of The Roots and one of the most exhilaratingly skillful and profound rappers our culture has ever produced. A talented solo artist, actor, writer, producer, and creator, Trotter has won three NAACP Image Awards. He co-produced the Grammy Award-winning original Broadway cast recording of "Hamilton" and made his theatrical debut in "Black No More."; and

WHEREAS, The official One Book, One Philadelphia public reading period lasts from April to June 2025. Programming begins on Friday, April 11 with a Kickoff Conversation with Tariq Trotter. The event will be held at the Parkway Central Library; and

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WHEREAS, The seven-week programming season features dozens of free-to-the-public events, discussions, and creative workshops centering on themes from Tariq Trotter's novel, *The Upcycled Self*, and the youth companion titles *Let Me Hear a Rhyme*, written by Tiffany Jackson, and *The Activist*, written by Nikkolas Smith; and

WHEREAS, Along with presenting two youth companion titles to enrich discussions with younger readers across the city, One Book, One Philadelphia offers curricula, discussion guides, and a list of recommended reading for all ages that celebrates literature and connects with the themes in the featured book; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That we hereby celebrate the selection of Tariq Trotter's *The Upcycled Self* for the 2025 One Book, One Philadelphia program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed Copy of this Resolution be presented to Tariq Trotter evidencing the sincere respect of this legislative body.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty fourth day of April, 2025.

Kenyatta Johnson  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Gilmore Richardson

Sponsored by: Council President Johnson, Councilmembers Gilmore Richardson, Ahmad, Bass, Brooks, Driscoll, Gauthier, Harrity, Landau, Lozada, O'Neill, O'Rourke, Phillips, Squilla, Thomas and Young