

# City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 260305)

## RESOLUTION

Celebrating the selection of *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng for the 2026 One Book, One Philadelphia program.

WHEREAS, Since its foundation in 1891, the Free Library of Philadelphia has worked to build an enlightened community devoted to lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, Now, on its 24<sup>th</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 2026 selection for the One Book, One Philadelphia program, *Our Missing Hearts*, is a powerful novel that takes a deep dive into the values of family, resistance, and the impact government policy has on individuals as well as communities. The book tells the story of Bird Gardner and the search for his mother in a dystopian version of America. Following Bird on his quest, the book explores folktales, censorship, and the suppression of art; and

WHEREAS, Celeste Ng is an accomplished American writer and novelist. A Pennsylvania native, Ng has authored several best-selling novels, including *Little Fires Everywhere* and *Everything I Never Told You*. Born to immigrant parents, Ng prides herself on writing authentic stories that reflect her life as well as the stories of many Asian American immigrants. In addition to her novels, Ng has authored several short stories that have appeared in *The Guardian*, the *Kenyon Review*, and *The New York Times*. Ng has also been a fellowship recipient of the Guggenheim Foundation as well as the National Endowment for the Arts; and

WHEREAS, Managed by The Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation, 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. Programming in 2026 runs from April 7 through May 28 with a series of free events, online and in-person, at Free Library locations across the City; and

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WHEREAS, Programming will include sessions to help explore important themes within this year's selection and the youth companion titles, *Somewhere Between Bitter and Sweets* by Laekan Zea Kemp and *How to Grow a Family Tree* by Bea Birdsong & Jasu Hu; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby celebrates the selection of *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng for the 2026 One Book, One Philadelphia program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this Resolution be presented to Celeste Ng evidencing the sincere respect of this legislative body.

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*RESOLUTION NO. 260305 continued*

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the ninth day of April, 2026.

Kenyatta Johnson  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Gilmore Richardson

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