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### **Library Kit**

### **How to Approach Your Local Library to Participate in National Arab American Heritage Month**

**Purpose:**This kit is designed to help individuals and organizations approach local libraries to host events or activities for National Arab American Heritage Month (NAAHM) in April 2025. Libraries are excellent partners in promoting Arab American heritage, providing community engagement, and fostering educational initiatives.

### **Steps to Engage Your Local Library:**

**Identify the Right Contact:**

* + Research your library’s website to find the contact information for the library director, programming coordinator, or community outreach specialist.
	+ Locate the library’s calendar to see the events they typically host.

**Customize Your Pitch:**

* + Emphasize how NAAHM aligns with the library’s mission to educate, inspire, and promote diversity.
	+ Highlight the various programming ideas (see below) that can be customized to the library’s preferences.

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**Propose Programming Options:**Offer the following activities to the library as potential ways to celebrate Arab American Heritage Month:

* + **Children’s Reading Sessions:** Feature [Arab American children’s books](https://www.arabamerica.com/the-ultimate-guide-46-childrens-books-that-celebrate-arab-heritage/), such as *The Arabic Quilt* or *The Olive Tree*.
	+ **Author Talks and Book Discussions:** Highlight works by Arab American authors for adults, such as *The Butterfly’s Burden* by Mahmoud Darwish or *Salt Houses* by Hala Alyan.
	+ **Cultural Demonstrations:** Offer sessions on Arab music, dance (e.g., *dabke*), or calligraphy.
	+ **Food Tastings:** Provide samples of Arab cuisine, such as falafel or baklava, paired with information on the history of Arab food.
	+ **Film Screenings:** Screen films or documentaries that explore Arab American experiences or heritage.
	+ **Website:** Develop a landing page on the library website about National Arab American Heritage Month

**Use the Provided Tools:**

* + Send the **template email/letter** (below) to introduce the initiative and request a meeting.
	+ Share the **proclamation/citation language** to encourage the library to issue an official declaration recognizing NAAHM.

**Follow Up:**

* + After your initial contact, follow up with an email or phone call to confirm their interest and finalize programming details.

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### **Template Email/Letter to the Library**

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**Date:**

**Subject:** Proposal to Celebrate National Arab American Heritage Month at [Library Name]

Dear [Library Director/Coordinator’s Name],

I am writing on behalf of the Arab America Foundation, a nonprofit educational and cultural organization promoting Arab heritage and identity.

April is National Arab American Heritage Month (NAAHM), a time to celebrate the rich contributions of Arab Americans to U.S. history and culture. We propose a partnership with [Library Name] to host programming in honor of NAAHM this coming April.

Programming could include activities such as children’s reading sessions featuring Arab American authors, author talks, cultural demonstrations (e.g., music, dance, calligraphy), and even food tastings or film screenings. We can provide guidance and resources to make these events impactful and engaging for your patrons.

Attached, you will find additional materials, including sample language for a proclamation or citation, should the library wish to recognize NAAHM officially.

We would love the opportunity to discuss this initiative further. Please feel free to reach out at your earliest convenience to [your email/phone number].

Thank you for considering this opportunity to celebrate Arab American heritage and identity with your community.

Warm regards,
[Your Name]
Team Member, National Committee
National Arab American Heritage Month

Contact Info:

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### **Proclamation/Citation Language**

**Proclamation Recognizing National Arab American Heritage Month**

WHEREAS, for over a century, Arab Americans have enriched American society through contributions in fields such as education, medicine, law, business, technology, government, and the arts and;

WHEREAS, Arab Americans have brought with them their vibrant cultural traditions, resilient family values, dedication to education, and diversity in faith, all of which contribute to the fabric of our nation and;

WHEREAS, celebrating Arab American heritage provides an opportunity to foster understanding, counter misconceptions, and highlight the significant role Arab Americans play in our communities and;

WHEREAS, [Library Name] recognizes the importance of cultural heritage and seeks to educate and inspire through its programming;

NOW, THEREFORE, [Library Name] officially designates April 2025 as National Arab American Heritage Month and encourages all patrons to participate in activities and events that honor Arab American heritage, culture, and history.

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**RESOURCES:**

* **Arab America Foundation, National Arab American Heritage Month** [**Page**](https://arabamericafoundation.org/national-arab-american-heritage-month/)
* **Arab America Resource** [**Page**](https://www.arabamerica.com/resources/)
* **Arab American Fun Facts** [**Document**](https://files.constantcontact.com/41d9ec74001/bb09aaad-f86e-4341-8b67-d4616dac016b.png)
* **Alexandria Public Library Arab American Heritage Month** [**Website**](https://alexlibraryva.org/arab-american-heritage-month)
* **The Ultimate Guide:** [**46 Children's Books that Celebrate Arab Heritage**](https://www.arabamerica.com/the-ultimate-guide-46-childrens-books-that-celebrate-arab-heritage/)
* **Booklist:** [**70 Books to Read for National Arab American Heritage Month–NAAHM**](https://www.arabamerica.com/books-to-read-for-national-arab-american-heritage-month-naahm/)