

PRESS RELEASE

Jersey City Free Public Library
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AUTHOR KEVIN POWELL LAUNCHES NEW MEMOIR AT SLOANE SQUARE BOOK SIGNING

JERSEY CITY-NATIVE FEATURES GREENVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY & P.S. NO. 34 AS LIFE-NURTURING

JERSEY CITY, N.J. October 22, 2015 – Acclaimed **author and Jersey City-native Kevin Powell** is coming home with a special book signing of his new memoir, **THE EDUCATION OF KEVIN POWELL**, which details his powerful life story and his growing into manhood in post-Civil Rights America. Both the Greenville Branch Library and P.S. #34 are featured significantly in Powell’s memoir.

The book signing event, part of the Jersey City Free Public Library’s commitment to expanded programming for residents, will be held **from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, October 24, 2015 at Sloane Square, 150 Bay Street. WORD Bookstore, a partner in the homecoming event, will be working in conjunction as a bookseller of the memoir.**

“Kevin Powell is the voice of his generation, and we are happy to present him at Sloane Square,” said Library Director Priscilla Gardner. “Kevin will be speaking throughout the Jersey City library system as his book tour goes on.”

Powell describes the Greenville Branch Library as the place where he found solace from the streets and discovery in learning. As the memoir unfolds, Powell vividly recounts the horrific poverty of his youth, his struggles to overcome a legacy of anger, violence, and self-hatred, and his journey to be a man and a voice for others.

Driven by his single mother’s dreams for his survival and success, Powell became the first in his family to attend a university, where he became a student leader keenly aware of widespread social injustice. But the struggle to define himself and break out of poverty continued into adulthood, with traumatic periods of homelessness and despair. For more information, please visit www.kevinpowell.net.

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ABOUT JERSEY CITY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Since 1889, the Jersey City Free Public Library has served New Jersey's second largest city, consisting of a Main Library, nine branches, and a wheelchair-accessible mobile branch, the Bookmobile, that was custom-designed and built, and on the road since May 2008. The Jersey City library system provides access to a diversified collection of 400,000+ pieces of printed, audiovisual, and electronic resources that addresses the needs of the truly multicultural clientele of 247,597 residents (U.S. Census 2010). The Library offers patrons automated catalog and circulation services, for searching at home or from library Public Access computers. The Main Library is the repository of two special collections: New Jersey Room, a collection of about 20,000 volumes with an emphasis on Jersey City, and the Biblioteca Criolla, a collection of 18,000 volumes (11,000 adults / 7,000 children) in Spanish from different Latino cultures. Both departments hold special programs in deference to their respective collections. On August 17, 2004, the Library held the grand opening of its first new branch in 42 years, the Glenn D. Cunningham Branch Library & Community Center, which serves the Martin Luther King, Jr. Redevelopment Area.

ABOUT SLOANE SQUARE

Nationally recognized and locally grown interior designer Courtney Sloane is bringing her interior design swagger to downtown Jersey City with "Sloane Square," her new design studio and retail showroom located in the PAD (Powerhouse Arts District). Courtney Sloane Design has been providing interior design services to the residential and commercial markets for over a decade. Their retail showroom at 150 Bay Street focuses on handmade and innovative design products sourced from local, national, and international manufactures, artists, artisans, designers and fabricators across a variation of mediums to bring you an interesting product assortment.

ABOUT WORD Bookstores

WORD Bookstores are independent community bookstores located in Downtown Jersey City, 123 Newark Avenue, and in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, N.Y., 126 Franklin Street.

For the latest on programs, events, and special announcements please follow the Library on *Facebook* (<https://www.facebook.com/JerseyCityFreePublicLibrary>), *Twitter* ([JCFPL_NJ](#)) or *Pinterest* (www.pinterest.com/jerseycityPL) at *Jersey City Free Public Library*. Visit us on the web at www.jclibrary.org for all information on the Library, including all press releases in The Press Room. As of yesterday, **October 21, 2015**, the Jersey City Free Public Library has **196,078** valid card members.

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