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Book.ish- the first adult only bookfair coming to Grand Rapids

Providing literature, art, and healing.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH (June 6th, 2023) We all remember scholastic bookfairs. Receiving the catalog early and circling everything you wanted to buy. Nostalgic, right? What if those bookfairs were not a positive experience for all?

"I remember being so excited about scholastic bookfairs. Circling items on every page!" says Phalesha Kyes, owner of By Phalesha Events and co-host of Bookish. *"However, my mom was a single mom of four, so we were left wanting more than we ever were able to buy."*

That is why Nye Aririguzo and Phalesha Kyes decided to host Book.ish. The first ever adult only book fair focused on literature, art, and healing. Sunday, June 11th from 11am – 2pm at the Center for Community Transformation. This event is free for those 21+ and [ask that you register online](#).

"This event is a way to foster community." says Aririguzo, thought originator and co-host of Book.ish. *"I'm adamant that relationships create the most healing. Art also has a unique ability to be a medium for such healing. I want this event to be a space that promotes not only individual healing (for those of us who were left wanting when it came to bookfair selections either due to lack of funds or lack of representation) but also community belonging."*

Representation matters. [We Are Lit GR; a multicultural book](#) store is providing all books for sale, ensuring they are representative of the Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) in our community; along with items that represent our LGBTQIA+ population. In addition, all the vendors and performers are reflective of our BIPOC community:

- [Event Manager: Phalesha Kyes with By Phalesha Events](#)
- [Graphic Designer and Catalog Creator: Pretty in Ink Press](#)
- [Food Trucks- Street Chef Shaw](#)
- [Mimosa bar- Motu Viget](#)
- [Coffee Bar – Last Mile Café](#)
- Live Performances by Venus Fly Trap (DJ), Tevyona (painting) and the Diatribe (poetry)
- Door prizes and giveaways from the [Grand Rapids Public Museum](#) and [Civic Theatre](#).

Book.ish is made possible by generous sponsors who understand the power of healing and know the importance of representation: [DGRI](#), [Community Foundation – Black Legacy Fund](#), [Office of Equity and Engagement](#), [Mobile GR](#), [Xibitz](#), [American Advertising Federation-West Michigan Chapter](#).

This event benefits [The Diatribe](#). *Using restorative art to disrupt historical systems of oppression through education, art and poetry.* z