

# NEA **BIG READ**

**A MONTH-LONG CELEBRATION & COMMUNITY READ**

Art Exhibitions / Performances / Talks / Workshops / Book Discussions



**1 BOOK,  
20 EVENTS:**

Based on the National Bestseller

**STATION ELEVEN**

**MORONGO BASIN  
SEPTEMBER 2019**

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## NEA BIG READ MORONGO BASIN

NEA BIG READ Morongo Basin aims to build community and inspire conversation and discovery through the joy of sharing a good book. Inspired by STATION ELEVEN's themes of survival, legacy and community, our month-long program includes over 20 events from art exhibitions to panel discussions, workshops and more. Join the conversation and participate in one or more of our FREE basin-wide programs.

### OUR GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What makes us human?
- Why is being part of a community important?
- How do we find beauty in even the darkest places?
- In the absence of modern technology, what survives?

### LEARN MORE:

[ArtsConnectionNetwork.org](https://ArtsConnectionNetwork.org)

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Managed by Arts Midwest

NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

# START YOUR BIG READ MONTH AT THE COMMUNITY FAIR & KICK-OFF EVENT!

SATURDAY, SEPT 7 - 9AM-1PM  
THE MOJAVE DESERT LAND TRUST  
- ALL AGES -

Pick-up your FREE copy of the BIG READ book

+ ENJOY



THE BIG READ ART CAPSULE



ORACLE READINGS



MUSIC BY  
SHADOW MOUNTAIN BAND



AND MORE...

# EXHIBITIONS

## CONCOURSE C

### **YUCCA VALLEY VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

OPENING RECEPTION SATURDAY, SEPT 7 6-9PM

EXHIBITION ON VIEW: THROUGH OCT 20, 2019

In the spirit of community, assemblage art, and curio, Yucca Valley Visual and Performing Arts Center presents Concourse C. Inspired by the book *STATION ELEVEN* by Emily St. John Mandel and its post pandemic genesis of an airport community, the exhibition explores the repurposing of discarded waste into potential functioning shelter and as an archive of human enterprise.

Cathy Allen's assemblage shelter installation will be on view alongside selections from Karyl Newman's Waste Wunderkammer collection of objects found lingering in the desert. The collection parallel's *STATION ELEVEN*'s Museum of Civilization, a display of extinct technology housed in the gift shop of Concourse C.

## **SURVIVAL IS INSUFFICIENT: ART AFTER THE APOCALYPSE**

### **BEATNIK LOUNGE**

OPENING RECEPTION SATURDAY, SEPT 14 6-9PM

EXHIBITION ON VIEW: THROUGH OCT 11, 2019

The September group show at the Beatnik Lounge in downtown Joshua Tree will feature work by local artists responding to the theme "Survival is Insufficient: Art after the Apocalypse." Referencing one of the recurring motifs of Emily St John Mandel's novel *STATION ELEVEN*, the show is an invitation for community members to reflect on the role of art to inspire, nurture, and sustain human connectivity in the face of environmental and societal collapse.

# WORKSHOPS

## ASSEMBLAGE ART WORKSHOPS

### YUCCA VALLEY VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

TUESDAY, SEPT 3, 2019 - 10AM TO 4PM

SATURDAYS, SEPT 14 AND 21, 2019 - 2PM TO 5PM

The shelter installation for YVAC's Concourse C exhibition will be the result of open community assemblage workshops, scheduled both prior and during the run of the exhibition. Assemblage artist Cathy Allen will lead the workshops, in partnership with the Mojave Desert Land Trust and their desert cleanup efforts. MDLT will provide collected junk to create the shelter structure within the gallery space of the YVAC. Participants are welcome to bring their own found object materials as additions to the shelter.

Workshop Registration:

<https://bigreadcommunityworkshop.eventbrite.com>

Pre-registration is encouraged. Drop-ins welcome, space permitting.

## READING THE LANDSCAPE, A CONSCIOUS ARTIST'S CHECKLIST

### THE MOJAVE DESERT LAND TRUST

SATURDAY, SEPT 14 10:30AM

The Mojave Desert Land Trust's Reading The Landscape (RTL) workshop will introduce participants to ways of responsibly creating art in a desert environment and to preserve its ecological and landscape values for future generations. RTL is a set of guidelines created by the Land Trust to help artists make informed decisions about engaging with our desert lands and its delicate ecosystems during their creative process. Armed with this knowledge, participants will be invited to put these conventions into practice.

# WORKSHOPS

## FOOD FORAGING FROM NATIVE PLANTS

**HARRISON HOUSE MUSIC, ARTS & ECOLOGY CENTER**  
SUNDAY, SEPT 29 - 10AM TO 12PM

Food Foraging from Native Plants, a workshop led by members of the Chia Café Collective, will include a meander through the desert landscape identifying the use of native plants as food, medicine, and utilities while considering the ethics and best practices in plant gathering and preparation.

The Chia Café Collective is dedicated to protecting, restoring and advocating for California native plant communities and environments. They believe in a way of life connected to honoring and building reciprocal relationships between the natural environment and the indigenous people of southern California.

Workshop Registration:  
<https://louharrisonhouse.org/shop>

# ACTIVITY

## ORACLE READINGS

**JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS**  
**ART EXPO AT THE 29 PALMS INN**  
SUNDAY, SEPT 15 10AM-12PM

During its annual Art Expo at the 29 Palms Inn, the Joshua Tree National Park Council for the Arts will facilitate one-card oracle readings to help participants focus on what surrounds them throughout the day. Inspired by STATION ELEVEN's Museum of Civilization, the deck draws upon things we would consider in the event civilization collapsed. The activity will begin with a reading before participants are invited to follow a series of interactive writing and drawing prompts.

# PANEL

## LOCAL AUTHORS ON SCI-FI & WHAT DEFINES LITERARY GENRE

### SPACE COWBOY BOOKS

SATURDAY, SEPT 21 - 3PM

As part of the BIG READ Morongo Basin, Space Cowboy Books will host a panel discussion featuring local authors Jon Christopher, Susan Rukeyser, Gabriel Hart and Jean-Paul Garnier, each having authored novels in different sub-genres of science fiction. The panelists will discuss the differences and similarities between speculative, literary, dystopian and science fiction and the themes of STATION ELEVEN. The book's author Emily St. John Mandel has been surprised to see STATION ELEVEN categorized as each of these genres.

# COMMUNITY READINGS

## CHOLLA NEEDLES COMMUNITY READINGS

ARTFX - FRIDAY, SEPT 13 - 7-9PM

SPACE COWBOY BOOKS - SUNDAY, SEPT 15 - 5-7PM

LANDERS BREW - THURSDAY, SEPT 26 - 6-8PM

THE ART COLONY - SATURDAY, SEPT 28 - 12-2PM

THE PALMS - SUNDAY, SEPT 29 - 1-3PM

Cholla Needles Art and Literary Library invites readers (young and old) participating in the BIG READ and finding themselves inspired by STATION ELEVEN to come read their own original work, and/or a small portion of the book that especially influenced them.

# PERFORMANCES

## **TRUST IN TIMES OF CRISIS - SPOKEN WORD**

**JOSHUA TREE LAKE RV & CAMPGROUND (SANCTUARY)**  
SATURDAY, SEPT 14 - 5PM

Join Mil-Tree for a spoken word event on the theme of trust and hear veterans and veteran family members Martin Milas, Ashley Estabrook, Stormie Ingram, Brian Jernigan and Richard Finn share their stories. The event will take place at the Joshua Tree Lake RV & Campground's Sanctuary, built by the community as a public gathering space for veterans, active duty and civilians to come together.

## **URINETOWN THE MUSICAL! - EXCERPTS**

**THEATRE 29!**  
SATURDAY, SEPT 21 - 7PM  
SUNDAY, SEPT 22 - 2:30PM

Playing on STATION ELEVEN'S post-apocalyptic themes, Theatre 29! will host matinee and evening performances of select musical numbers from Urinetown's Tony award-winning musical score.

## **TRAVELING SYMPHONY - DRAMATIC READINGS**

**ART TRAP - SATURDAY, SEPT 28 - 7PM & SUNDAY, SEPT 29 - 4PM**  
**WONDER VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER - SATURDAY, SEPT 28 - 2PM**

As part of the BIG READ, Thought Theatre will present the Traveling Symphony, a group of actors and the like who, among other things, do snippets of Shakespeare and other writers. Join the Traveling Symphony as they bring an exciting sound presentation of STATION ELEVEN as written by Emily St. John Mandel to life.



# BOOK DISCUSSIONS

## JOIN A STATION ELEVEN BOOK DISCUSSION AT A LIBRARY OR BOOK CLUB NEAR YOU

**YUCCA VALLEY LIBRARY - WEDNESDAY, SEPT 11 - 3:30PM**

**COPPER MOUNTAIN COLLEGE LIBRARY - TUESDAY, SEPT 17 - 6:30PM**

**JOSHUA TREE LIBRARY - TUESDAY, SEPT 24 - 4PM**

**HI-DESERT CONTEMPORARY BOOK CLUB - TUESDAY, SEPT 24 - 7PM**

**TWENTYNINE PALMS LIBRARY - WEDNESDAY, OCT 2 - 11AM**

**COMBAT CENTER LIBRARY (BASE ACCESS REQUIRED)**

# ONGOING EVENTS

## TUMBLEWEED GALLERY'S TRAVELING ART CAPSULE

### VARIOUS BIG READ LOCATIONS

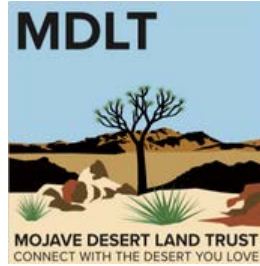
Playing on STATION ELEVEN's dystopian narrative, Tumbleweed Art Co.'s '72 Winnebago Mobile Gallery will travel its exhibition of "vital works for humanity", as reinterpreted by local artists, to BIG READ events throughout the Morongo Basin.

## LITTLE READ: I AM AN ARTIST BY PAT LOWERY COLLINS

Throughout the month of September, Spark Growth will use the companion book I AM AN ARTIST by Pat Lowery Collins to engage K-6 Yucca Mesa and Morongo Valley Elementary students in a discussion about the importance of art, a strong theme in STATION ELEVEN. Readings will be followed by hands-on enrichment activities matching the students' grade levels.



NEA BIG READ Morongo Basin is presented by Arts Connection, the Arts Council of San Bernardino County and made possible through the support of our numerous program partners and sponsors.



Beatnik Lounge

