

CITY OF OCEANSIDE NEWS RELEASE



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OCEANSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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COMMUNITY-WIDE READING PROGRAM KICK-OFF IN OCEANSIDE MARCH 17

The Oceanside Public Library and Oceanside Museum of Art invite the public to a Kick-off event for the Big Read on Saturday, March 17 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Oceanside Museum of Art, 704 Pier View Way in downtown Oceanside. An initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book. The whole community will be reading *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel. The Big Read Kick-off event features the opening of three exhibits inspired by this year's selection: *Artifacts*, *Survival is Insufficient* and *The Museum of Civilization*. Free copies of the book will be given away at the event, one per family, while supplies last.

Station Eleven is an audacious, darkly glittering story set in the eerie days of civilization's collapse. A fictional swine flu epidemic, known as the "Georgia Flu," has devastated the world, killing most of the population. The spellbinding story follows the Travelling Symphony, a nomadic group of actors and musicians, roaming the scattered outposts of civilization, risking everything for art and humanity.

For more information on the Big Read in Oceanside or other Library programs, please visit the Library's website at www.oceansidepubliclibrary.org or call 760-435-5600.

The Big Read in Oceanside is funded through a grant from the NEA, with contributions from the Friends of the Oceanside Public Library and the Oceanside Public Library Foundation, and with generous support from many community partners including the Oceanside Museum of Art. All programs are free and open to the public.

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