

The Big Read

The Arizona Center for the Book partnered with the West Valley Arts Council to host a Big Read program at the Carnegie Center in September 2007. The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) designed to restore reading to the center of American culture.



Noted Speaker and Writer Stella Pope Duarte. Photo by Sarah Weber

The NEA presents the Big Read in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. Big Read brings together partners across the country to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment.

In the fall of 2007, nearly 60 organizations in the Phoenix Valley hosted Big Read Programs to celebrate the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. The Arizona Center for the Book was one of these organizations. It hosted noted speaker and writer, Stella Pope Duarte, who discussed the novel's characters, themes, and lessons learned. Forty-four book lovers attended this program.