



City of New Bedford
Office of the Mayor
Contact: Jonathan Carvalho
(508) 979-1410
jcarvalho@newbedford-ma.gov

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

Date: August 5, 2019
For Immediate Release

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Award-winning authors Chen Chen and Rebecca Makkai to appear at New Bedford Library

New Bedford, Massachusetts– As part of a summer program through the National Book Foundation, New Bedford has been selected to host award winning authors Chen Chen and Rebecca Makkai for a conversation at the New Bedford Free Public Library.

The two authors will appear as part of AHA! Night on Thursday, August 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Meeting Room of the New Bedford Free Public Library, 613 Pleasant Street.

The conversation is part of the National Book Foundation’s NBF Presents: Summer with the National Book Awards, bringing National Book Awards-honored authors to libraries across the country.

Join the National Book Foundation and the New Bedford Free Public Library for AHA!, New Bedford’s arts and culture celebration featuring a conversation with poet Chen Chen (*When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities*, National Book Award Longlist) and novelist Rebecca Makkai (*The Great Believers*, National Book Award Finalist) on narratives spanning Chinese-American millennials to the height of the AIDS epidemic in Chicago. The event will be moderated by Joseph O. Legaspi.

About the Authors

Chen Chen is the author of *When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities*, which was longlisted for the National Book Award. His work has also appeared in many publications, including Poetry, Tin House, Poem-a-Day, The Best American Poetry, Bettering American Poetry, and The Best American Nonrequired Reading. Chen earned his MFA from Syracuse

University and is pursuing a Ph.D. in English and Creative Writing as an off-site Texas Tech University Student. Chen is the 2018-2020 Jacob Ziskind Poet-in-Residence at Brandeis University.

Rebecca Makkai is the Chicago-based author of the novel *The Great Believers*, a finalist for both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, one of the *New York Times*' top ten books for 2018, winner of the ALA Carnegie Medal, the Stonewall Award, and the Chicago Review of Books Award, and a pick for the New York Public Library's 2018 Best Books. Her other books are the novels *The Borrower* and *The Hundred-Year House*, and the collection *Music for Wartime*—four stories from which appeared in *The Best American Short Stories*. Makkai is on the MFA faculties of Sierra Nevada College and Northwestern University and is Artistic Director of StoryStudio Chicago. Visit her at www.rebeccamakka.com or on Twitter @rebeccamakka.

About the Moderator

Joseph O. Legaspi is the author of the poetry collections *Threshold* and *Imago*; and three chapbooks: *Postcards*; *Aviary, Bestiary*; and *Subways*. His works have appeared in *Poetry*, *New England Review*, *World Literature Today*, *Best of the Net*, and the Academy of American Poets' Poem-a-Day. He cofounded Kundiman, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to nurturing generations of writers and readers of Asian-American literature.

###