



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 26, 2018

**CONTACT:** Monique Ciofu  
Phone: 906-789-7323  
mciofu@escanabalibrary.org

## Escanaba Public Library to Host 2017-2018 Great Michigan Read Author Kekla Magoon

Escanaba — The Escanaba Public Library will host a 2017-2018 Great Michigan Read event featuring *X: A Novel* by Ilyasah Shabazz and Kekla Magoon on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Kekla Magoon will be at the Escanaba Public Library to talk about her book, her writing process and invite audience members to participate in a reader's theater, bring the opening chapter of the book to life. The 2017-2018 Great Michigan Read is a book club for the entire state, focused on one title.

The book explores the Michigan roots of Malcolm X, including the early life experiences, both good and bad, that molded him into one of the most prominent leaders of the twentieth century. It is a fictionalized account of Malcolm X as a young man with boundless potential but with the odds stacked against him. After losing his father under suspicious circumstances and his mother to a mental health hospital, Malcolm fell into a life of petty crime and eventually went to prison. Instead of letting prison be his downfall, Malcom found a religion, a voice; and the podium that would eventually make him one of the most prominent figures in the burgeoning Civil Rights movement

Kekla Magoon is also the author of other novels including *The Rock and the River*, *How It Went Down*, and the *Robyn Hoodlum Adventure series*. She has received an NAACP Image Award, the John Steptoe New Talent Award, two Coretta Scott King Honors, The Walter Award Honor, the In the Margins Award, and been long listed for the National Book Award. She also writes non-fiction on historical topics.

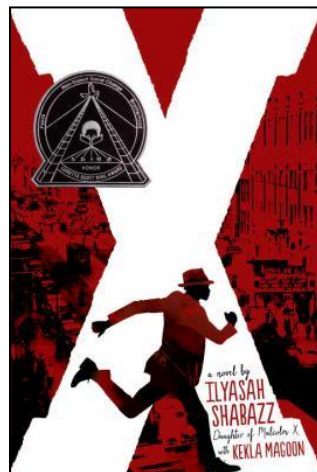
Kekla conducts school and library visits nationwide and serves on the Writers' Council for the National Writing Project. Kekla holds a B.A. from Northwestern University and an M.F.A. in Writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts, where she now serves on faculty. Kekla was born in Michigan. She learned to read at the age of two.

The Great Michigan Read is a free statewide humanities initiative inviting Michigianians to read and participate in book discussions and events in their hometowns. Intended for young adults to senior citizens, the Great Michigan Read aims to make literature more accessible and appealing while also encouraging residents to learn more about their state. The program is presented by the Michigan Humanities Council with support from Meijer and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Print and digital copies of this title are available for check-out from the Escanaba Public Library. For more information, please see the Escanaba Public Library web page for more information on this event, at [www.escanabalibrary.org](http://www.escanabalibrary.org) , (906) 789-7323 or on Facebook/Twitter.

For more information about the Greater Michigan Read, visit

[www.michiganhumanities.org/programs/tgmr/](http://www.michiganhumanities.org/programs/tgmr/)



###