



TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2023 SCHEDULE

Taking Place on November 11 and 12, the Iconic Annual Festival will Feature Author Panels, Signings, Cooking Demonstrations, Family Activities and More

AUSTIN, TEXAS (October 25, 2023) – Texas Book Festival is excited to announce the 2023 schedule, which features more than 300 national and Texas authors in events spread throughout the Texas State Capitol, along Austin’s Congress Avenue and 11th Street, and in numerous nearby venues on November 11 and 12. The Festival Weekend features acclaimed authors reading from their work, participating on panels and signing their books; exhibitor booths and food vendors; and dozens of family activities, including crafts and drawing sessions, and storytime every half hour by some of the most prominent children’s authors publishing today. The complete schedule is available now at www.texasbookfestival.org.

"For one weekend every year, the Texas Book Festival transforms downtown Austin into a haven for authors, book lovers and those simply looking for an inspiring way to spend the weekend," says Dalia Azim, Texas Book Festival’s Interim Executive Director. "We cannot wait to bring back the magic November 11–12, through our free event that is open to the public. This year, attendees can look forward to a stellar lineup featuring many of the leading voices in contemporary fiction, nonfiction, YA and children’s literature. As always, we were proud to offer something for everyone."

Schedule highlights on Saturday, November 11 include:

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM: Ann Patchett in Conversation About *Tom Lake*

Author(s): Ann Patchett

Moderator: Elizabeth McCracken, American author and prior Texas Writer Award recipient

Tom Lake is a meditation on youthful love, married love and the lives parents have led before their children were born. Both hopeful and elegiac, it explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart. As in all of her novels, Ann Patchett combines compelling narrative artistry with piercing insights into family dynamics. The result is a rich and luminous story, told with profound intelligence and emotional subtlety, that demonstrates once again why Patchett is one of the most revered and acclaimed literary talents working today.

Location: First Baptist Church

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM: *Company* with Amy Thielen

Author(s): Amy Thielen

In her much-anticipated follow-up to *The New Midwestern Table*, Amy writes, "No one will ever care about the food as much as you and I do." *Company* will have you rethinking the way you entertain, throwing dinner parties that are less formal, more frequent and as fun for the cook as for the guests. Preaching leniency, not-guilt pleasures and the art of making it in advance, Amy soothes the most common party

anxieties one by one. Her reflections on writing menus, shopping for produce and how to time a meal are novel but timeless. Not afraid of meat (but obsessed with vegetables), these 125 recipes are arranged in menu form—from intimate dinner parties to larger holiday feasts to parties that serve up to 20.

Location: Central Market Cooking Tent

12:00 - 12:45 PM: Steve Inskeep in Conversation About *Differ We Must*

Author(s): Steve Inskeep

Moderator: Dan Goodgame, Editor in Chief of *Texas Monthly*

In *Differ We Must*, Inskeep illuminates Abraham Lincoln's life through 16 encounters, some well-known, some obscure, but all imbued with new significance. Each interaction was with a person who differed from Lincoln, and in each someone wanted something from the other. While Lincoln didn't always change his critics' beliefs—many went to war against him—he did learn how to make his beliefs actionable. He told jokes, relied on sarcasm and often made fun of himself—but behind the banter was a distinguished storyteller who carefully chose what to say and what to withhold. He knew his limitations and, as history came to prove, he knew how to prioritize. Many of his greatest acts came about through his engagement with people who disagreed with him—meaning that in these meetings, Lincoln became the Lincoln we know.

Location: The Capitol

12:00 - 12:45 PM: Soulful Stories, Melodic Mysteries

Author(s): Brendan Slocumb & Laura Warrell

Brendan Slocumb's *Symphony of Secrets* is a gripping page-turner about a professor who uncovers a shocking secret about the most famous American composer of all time—that his music was stolen from a young Black composer named Josephine Reed. Determined to uncover the truth and right history's wrongs, Bern Hendricks will stop at nothing to finally give Josephine the recognition she deserves. In *Sweet, Soft, Plenty Rhythm*, Laura Warrell delivers a lush orchestration of diverse female voices. Warrell spins a provocative, soulful and gripping story of passion and risk, fathers and daughters, wives and single women and, finally, hope and reconciliation.

Location: The Capitol

1:15 - 2:00 PM: Jonathan Lethem in Conversation About *Brooklyn Crime Novel*

Author(s): Jonathan Lethem

Moderator: Noah Hawley, director, producer, author of *Anthem*

Lethem's latest book, *Brooklyn Crime Novel*, explores familiar territory from a new point of view in a style new to him. It unfolds through passages ranging in length from less than a page to a dozen, each labeled and dated. And it leaps between decades and then into liminal spaces that exist across time to cast a light on forgotten exchanges and actions. This kaleidoscopic, fragmentary quality is no lark; it is essential to Lethem's project. Emmy Award-winning television and film producer Noah Hawley will serve as the moderator for this session, joining Lethem for a conversation about the world within and story behind *Brooklyn Crime Novel*.

Location: The Capitol

1:30 - 2:15 PM: Abraham Verghese in Conversation About *The Covenant of Water*

Author(s): Abraham Verghese

Moderator: Megan Labrise, Editor at Large of *Kirkus Reviews*

A shimmering evocation of a lost India and of the passage of time itself, *The Covenant of Water* is a hymn to progress in medicine and to human understanding, and a humbling testament to the hardships undergone by past generations for the sake of those alive today. A 2023 Oprah's Book Club selection, *The Covenant of Water* has been hailed one of the most masterful literary novels published in recent years.

Location: First Baptist Church

2:15 - 3:00 PM: Walter Isaacson in Conversation About Elon Musk

Author(s): Walter Isaacson

Moderator: Evan Smith, cofounder and former CEO of *The Texas Tribune*

From the author of *Steve Jobs* and other bestselling biographies, this is the astonishingly intimate story of the most fascinating and controversial innovator of our era—a rule-breaking visionary who helped to lead the world into the era of electric vehicles, private space exploration and artificial intelligence. Oh, and took over Twitter.

Location: First United Methodist Church

3:00 - 3:45 PM: Southern Cooking, Global Flavors with Kenny Gilbert

Author(s): Kenny Gilbert

Moderator: Michael Fojtasek, Olamaie Executive Chef & Restaurateur

Drawing on his experiences cooking around the world, a celebrated chef revisits his Southern cooking roots by reimagining iconic dishes of the American South with bold international flavors.

Location: Central Market Cooking Tent

3:30 - 4:15 PM: We Are the Future: Centering Black Youth in Fiction

Author(s): Jacqueline Woodson & Angie Thomas

National Book Award winner Jacqueline Woodson brings *Remember Us*, a powerful story that delves deeply into life's burning questions about time and memory and what we take with us into the future. Internationally bestselling author Angie Thomas makes her middle-grade debut with the launch of *Nic Blake and the Remarkables*, an inventive, hilarious and suspenseful new contemporary fantasy trilogy inspired by African American history and folklore. Woodson and Thomas will join together for a conversation about their respective books, Black girlhood, fantasy, history and community.

Location: First Baptist Church

4:00 - 4:45 PM: Jeff Goodell in Conversation About *The Heat Will Kill You First*

Author(s): Jeff Goodell

As an award-winning journalist who has been at the forefront of environmental journalism for decades, Goodell's new book may be his most provocative yet, explaining how extreme heat will dramatically change the world as we know it. Masterfully reported, mixing the latest scientific insight with on-the-ground storytelling, Jeff Goodell tackles the big questions and uncovers how extreme heat is a force beyond anything we have reckoned with before.

Location: BookTV on C-SPAN2 Tent

4:15 - 5:00 PM: Ticketed Session: Michael Cunningham in Conversation About *Day: A Novel*

Author(s): Michael Cunningham

Moderator: Greg Cowles, Editor at *The New York Times Book Review*

Cunningham, the brilliant mind behind the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Hours*, presents his latest novel, *Day*, a searing, exquisitely crafted meditation on love, loss and the struggles and limitations of family life—how to live together and apart. Tickets (which include a copy of the book) can be purchased at <https://www.texasbookfestival.org/2023-ticketed-sessions-now-on-sale/>.

Location: Central Presbyterian Church

4:15 - 5:00 PM: An Exploration of “Latinx” Identity in Family, Community & Culture

Author(s): Héctor Tobar & Ingrid Rojas Contreras

Moderator: Rubén Degollado, author of *The Family Izquierdo*

In *Our Migrant Souls*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Héctor Tobar delivers a definitive and personal exploration of what it means to be Latino in the United States right now. In her debut memoir, which was a finalist for both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, Ingrid Rojas Contreras summons stories from the living and the dead to connect her own experiences to those of her Colombian ancestors in *The Man Who Could Move Clouds*.

Location: The Capitol

Schedule highlights on Sunday, November 12 include

10:00 - 10:45 AM: Ticketed Session: Roxane Gay in Conversation About *Opinions*

Author(s): Roxane Gay

Moderator: Miwa Messer, creator, executive producer and host of *Poured Over*, the Barnes & Noble podcast

Opinions is a collection of Roxane Gay's best nonfiction pieces from the past 10 years. Covering a wide range of topics—politics, feminism, the culture wars, civil rights and much more—with an all-new introduction in which she reflects on the past decade in America, this sharp, thought-provoking anthology will delight Gay's devotees and draw new readers to this inimitable talent.

Tickets (which include a copy of the book) can be purchased at

<https://www.texasbookfestival.org/2023-ticketed-sessions-now-on-sale/>.

Location: Stateside Theater

10:15 - 11:00 AM: Fact or Fiction? Crimes in the Elite World of Academia

Author(s): Rebecca Makkai & Max Marshall

Moderator: Amanda Eyre Ward, author of *The Lifeguards*

In her novel *I Have Some Questions for You*, award-winning author Rebecca Makkai crafts a stirring investigation into collective memory and a deeply felt examination of one woman's reckoning with her past, with a transfixing mystery at its heart. Timely, hypnotic and populated with a cast of unforgettable characters, *I Have Some Questions for You* is at once a compulsive page-turner and a literary triumph. In his nonfiction book, *Among the Bros*, Max Marshall's compassion, rigorous reporting and terrific eye for detail add up to an unusual accomplishment—a page-turner of a crime caper, humbly but righteously engaged with the nation's ongoing injustices.

Location: Kirkus Tent

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM: Mythomania: Tim O'Brien in Conversation About *America Fantastica*

Author(s): Tim O'Brien

Moderator: Tom Grimes, Novelist and Playwright

America Fantastica marks the triumphant return of an essential voice in American literature. Just as O'Brien's modern classic, *The Things They Carried*, so brilliantly reflected the unromantic truth of war, *America Fantastica* puts a mirror to a nation that has become dangerously unmoored from truth and greedy for delusion.

Location: The Capitol

12:15 - 1:00 PM: Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah in Conversation about *Chain-Gang All-Stars*

Author(s): Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah

Moderator: Roger Reeves, author of *Dark Days: Fugitive Essays*

Shortlisted for the 2023 National Book Award for Fiction, *Chain-Gang All-Stars* exposes the criminality of the prison industrial complex through a dystopian lens. In this groundbreaking novel, incarcerated individuals become "high-action sports" heroes as they fight to the death in the hopes of winning their freedom (while the world eagerly watches). Accentuated with footnotes addressing the modern, real-life state of the prison industrial complex, the book offers a timely look at the brutal treatment of inmates and the systemic racism that permeates an American institution.

Location: Stateside Theater

1:30 - 2:15 PM: Celebrated Texas Novelists Writing Across Genres

Author(s): Justin Cronin, Ben Fountain & Paulette Jiles

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Passage* comes *The Ferryman*, a riveting stand-alone speculative fiction novel about a group of survivors on a hidden island utopia where the truth isn't what it seems. *Devil Makes Three's* depiction of blood politics, the machinations of power and a country in the midst of upheaval is urgently and insistently resonant. This new novel is sure to cement Ben Fountain's reputation as one of the 21st century's boldest and most perceptive writers. Consumed with grief and driven by vengeance, in *Chenneville*, a man undertakes an unrelenting odyssey across the

lawless post–Civil War frontier seeking redemption in this fearless novel from Paulette Jiles, the award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author of *News of the World*.

Location: First United Methodist Church

1:45 - 2:30 PM: Power Players: Plunging Democracy into Darkness?

Author(s): Martin Baron & Stephen Vladeck

Moderator: Sewell Chan, Editor in Chief of *The Texas Tribune*

Collision of Power, Martin Baron's memoir about his tenure as *The Washington Post's* executive editor, is a gripping chronicle of politics and journalism in a period of instability for both. In *The Shadow Docket*, nationally recognized constitutional law expert Stephen Vladeck argues that the shadow docket of the U.S. Supreme Court — an arcane, little-understood process of issuing behind-the-scenes rulings — threatens the rule of law and American democracy.

Location: BookTV on C-SPAN2 Tent

1:45 - 2:30 PM: Curtis Sittenfeld in Conversation About *Romantic Comedy*

Author(s): Curtis Sittenfeld

A comedy writer thinks she's sworn off love, until a handsome, charming and extremely famous musician flips the script on all her assumptions. *Romantic Comedy* is a hilarious, observant and deeply tender novel from *New York Times*–bestselling author Curtis Sittenfeld.

Location: Stateside Theater

1:45 - 2:30 PM: Traversing the Racial Periphery

Author(s): Charif Shanahan, Anastacia-Renee & Aire D. Matthews

In *Trace Evidence*, the urgent follow-up to his award-winning debut *Into Each Room We Enter Without Knowing*, Charif Shanahan continues his piercing meditations on the intricacies of mixed-race identity, queer desire, time, mortality and the legacies of anti-Blackness in the U.S. and abroad. *Side Notes from the Archivist* is a preservation of Black culture viewed through a feminist lens. *The Archivist* leads readers through poems that epitomize youthful renditions of a Black girl coming of age in Philadelphia's pre-funk '80s; episodic adventures of "the Black Girl" whose life is depicted through the white gaze; and selections of verse evincing affection for self and testimony to the magnificence within Black femme culture at large. This powerful and timely collection of autobiographical poems, *Bread and Circus*, from Yale Young Poets Award Winner and Philadelphia's former Poet Laureate Aire D. Matthews about the economics of class is a brilliant intellectual and artistic contribution to the ongoing conversation about American inequality.

Location: The Capitol

2:30 - 3:15 PM: Ticketed Session: Stacey Abrams in Conversation About *Rogue Justice*

Author(s): Stacey Abrams

Moderator: Mark Updegrove, President and CEO of The LBJ Foundation

The no. 1 bestselling author of *While Justice Sleeps* returns with another riveting and intricately plotted thriller, in which a blackmailed federal judge, a secret court and a brazen murder may lead to an unprecedented national crisis. Drawn from today's headlines and woven with her unique insider perspective, Stacey Abrams combines twisting plotlines, wry wit and clever puzzles to create another immensely entertaining suspense novel.

Tickets (which include a copy of the book) can be purchased at

<https://www.texasbookfestival.org/2023-ticketed-sessions-now-on-sale/>.

Location: First Baptist Church

3:00 - 3:45 PM: YA Horror: Haunted Houses & Mysterious Murders

Author(s): Trang Thanh Tran & Linda Cheng

In *She is Haunting*, Jade Nguyen arrives in Vietnam for a visit with her estranged father with one goal: survive five weeks pretending to be a happy family in the French colonial house Ba is restoring. She's always lied to fit in, so if she's straight enough, Vietnamese enough, American enough, she can get out with the college money he promised. *Gorgeous Gruesome Faces* is a perfect blend of folk horror and dazzling showbiz that will grip you from page one.

Location: YA HQ Tent

4:00 - 4:45 PM: Adventures in Love, Loss & Friendship: The Sublime State of Contemporary Queer Stories

Author(s): Andrew Sean Greer & Steven Rowley

In *Less Is Lost*, the sequel to his Pulitzer Prize–winning comic novel, *Less*, the author’s protagonist, a writer who is now over 50 and in need of cash, takes to the road once again. *The Celebrants* is a *Big Chill* for our times, celebrating decades-long friendships and promises—especially to ourselves—by the bestselling and beloved author of *The Guncle*. While American life often feels like an enigma, these celebrated authors remind us of the beautiful, hilarious and tender moments that make life worth living.

Location: Central Presbyterian Church

4:00 - 4:45 PM: Wholly Unholy: Sins & Sinister Secrets

Author(s): Ashley Winstead & Rachel Harrison

From the critically acclaimed author of *In My Dreams I Hold a Knife* and *The Last Housewife* comes *Midnight Is the Darkest Hour*, a Southern Gothic thriller about a killer haunting a small Louisiana town, where two outcasts—the preacher’s daughter and a boy from the wrong side of the tracks—hold the key to uncovering the truth. In *Black Sheep*, a cynical 20-something must confront her unconventional family’s dark secrets in this fiery, irreverent horror novel from the author of *Such Sharp Teeth* and *Cackle*.

Location: Kirkus Tent

4:15 - 5:00 PM: Ali Hazelwood in Conversation About *Check & Mate*

Authors: Ali Hazelwood

In this clever and swoon-worthy YA debut from Booktok sensation Ali Hazelwood, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Love Hypothesis*, life’s moving pieces bring rival chess players together in a match for the heart in this enemies-to-lovers romance.

Location: First United Methodist Church

4:15 - 5:00 PM: S. A. Cosby in Conversation About *All the Sinners Bleed*

Author(s): S. A. Cosby

Powerful and unforgettable, *All the Sinners Bleed* confirms S. A. Cosby as “one of the most muscular, distinctive, grab-you-by-both-ears voices in American crime fiction” (*The Washington Post*). While investigating a recent death in his small town, Sheriff Titus Crown uncovers dark secrets and a serial killer lying in wait. Titus will stop at nothing to bring the perpetrator to justice.

Location: Stateside Theater

The 2023 Texas Book Festival is presented by H-E-B. Other major sponsors include Brigid Cockrum and family, Tocker Foundation, Kirkus Reviews, Still Water Foundation, The Rea Charitable Trust, Amplify Credit Union, City of Austin, Buena Vista Foundation, Tapestry Foundation, Pentagram, Central Market, Texas Monthly, Jordan Foster Construction, Austin Chronicle and Univision Austin. BookPeople is the official Festival bookseller.

For more information on the Texas Book Festival, please visit www.texasbookfestival.org and follow along on Facebook @texasbookfestival and Twitter and Instagram @texasbookfest.

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ABOUT TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL

With a vision to inspire Texans of all ages to love reading, Texas Book Festival connects authors and readers through experiences that celebrate the culture of literacy, ideas and imagination. Founded in 1995 by former first lady Laura Bush, Mary Margaret Farabee and a group of volunteers, the nonprofit Texas Book Festival promotes the joys of reading and writing through its annual Festival Weekend, the

Reading Rock Stars Title I elementary school program, the Real Reads Title I middle and high school program, grants to Texas libraries and year-round literary programming. This year's Texas Book Festival will take place from Nov. 11–12, with events taking place in downtown Austin and at the Texas Capitol, featuring renowned authors, panels, book signings and activities. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors and volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Learn more at texasbookfestival.org.