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## NONPROFIT TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL TO LAUNCH PUBLISHING IMPRINT

*Burro Libro Press will publish debut literary fiction and amplify Texas stories*

AUSTIN, TX — Texas Book Festival (TBF), the nonprofit organization behind the largest literary event in Texas, announced today the launch of Burro Libro Press, a new publishing imprint dedicated to discovering and publishing debut literary fiction by emerging writers with strong ties to Texas.

Created with support from Deep Vellum Publishing, Letterpress PLAY and the Tejemos Foundation, Burro Libro Press represents a significant expansion of Texas Book Festival's mission to connect authors and readers while investing in the future of Texas storytelling.

The inaugural publishing prize will award publication to one debut literary novel by an emerging author with Texas ties, with the selected work to be released in Fall 2027 in conjunction with Texas Book Festival weekend in the fall.

“Burro Libro Press reflects our belief that literary culture is not only about celebrating established voices, but also about creating meaningful pathways for emerging writers to be discovered,” said Marianne DeLeón, CEO of Texas Book Festival. “We are thrilled to partner with Deep Vellum and our collaborators to invest in the future of literary fiction and to help bring bold new Texas stories into the world.”

The selected author will receive:

- Professional editorial development with Deep Vellum
- Publication under the Burro Libro Press imprint
- A print edition with an inaugural print run of 2,000 copies
- A professionally produced audiobook
- A \$5,000 cash prize
- Promotion connected to Texas Book Festival Weekend 2027
- Participation as a featured author at the Festival

**[Submissions for the inaugural cycle will be open from June 1–30, 2026.](#)**

All manuscripts will be reviewed by the editorial team at Deep Vellum and Texas Book Festival staff, with selections based on literary merit, originality, and artistic vision. By November 2026, five finalists will be selected, with one winning manuscript chosen by the end of the year. The selected project will enter the editorial process in January 2027 ahead of publication in Fall 2027.

“We are excited to partner with Texas Book Festival on a program that creates new opportunities for debut fiction writers connected to Texas,” said Jill Meyers of Deep Vellum. “Deep Vellum has always believed in championing ambitious literary voices, and this collaboration allows us to support emerging authors in a meaningful and lasting way while deepening our partnership with Texas Book Festival.”

Texas Book Festival launched in 1995 and has grown into one of the nation's premier literary festivals, welcoming nationally recognized authors and tens of thousands of readers each year while supporting literacy and literary programming across Texas.

[Authors interested in submitting to Burro Libro Press can learn more and apply here.](#)



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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 the annual Texas Book Festival, the Reading Rock Stars Title I elementary school program, the Real Reads Title I middle and high school program, grants to Texas public libraries, and year-round literary programming. The 2026 Texas Book Festival takes place Nov. 14–15 in downtown Austin, in and around the Texas Capitol and nearby venues, and will feature renowned authors in 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](https://texasbookfestival.org).