



**TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL PRESENTS KIDS ON CONGRESS**  
*November 4 and 5 Event Features Family Fun Activities with Children's Authors,  
Games, and More*

**AUSTIN, Texas (Oct. 26, 2017)** – The Texas Book Festival is excited to announce **Kids on Congress**, an avenue at the annual Festival on **November 4 and 5** packed with some of the nation's most beloved children's authors and picture book illustrators, family-friendly activities, and live music. Children's book and author highlights include: Matt de la Peña, Margarita Engle, and Sarah Dessen. This year's children's author lineup also includes Mac Barnett, Lemony Snicket, Javaka Steptoe, Stuart Gibbs and Ellen Oh.

On Saturday, November 4 and Sunday, November 5 at 1 p.m., there will be a live performance of the new H-E-B Buddy League Training Academy, a high-energy show with song and animation, at the H-E-B Children's Tent on Congress Avenue. Kids can travel the Festival with their own Passport guiding them through Kids on Congress. When they collect four or more stickers at each Passport session, kids will receive a coupon for a free scoop of Amy's Ice Cream.

Art activities, crafts, and live entertainment can be found at the Children's [Activity Tent](#) and [Entertainment Tent](#). Kids on Congress Tents will include the following:

The **Read Me A Story Tent** will feature stories read aloud every half hour by top illustrators and authors creating picture books for younger readers today. Highlighted authors include **Matt de la Peña, Lesléa Newman, and Dan Santat**.

The **¡Ahora Si! Tent!** will feature bilingual storytimes celebrating stories in English and Spanish by authors **Juana Martinez-Neal, Monica Brown, Cynthia Leonor Garza, Jorge Argueta**. The tent will also host a special presentation by this year's winners of the Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award, **Francisco X. Stork, F. Isabel Campoy, Theresa Howell, and Rafael López**.

The **Next Chapter Tent**, brand new this year, will feature middle grade chapter book authors **Andrew Clements, Margarita Engle, Gene Luen Yang, Ellen Oh**, and many more talking on panels about everything from being funny on the page to dealing with family drama to being an inclusive friend, reader, and citizen.

The **YA HQ Tent** will include two days of panels featuring young adult authors **Sarah Dessen, Erika L. Sanchez, Jeff Zentner, Tochi Onyebuchi, Maggie Stiefvater** and more discussing fantasy, real life, writing mega-bestsellers, and brand new, buzz-worthy debuts.

In addition to the tents on Congress Avenue, the Festival will welcome many other great kids' authors at venues around the Festival grounds. The schedule can be found [here](#).

- **Saturday 11:00-11:45 We Love You, Mac Barnett!**
  - Location: Capitol Auditorium
- **Saturday 1:15-2:00 Raid of No Return: Nathan Hale and His Hazardous Tale!**
  - Location: Capitol Auditorium
- **Saturday 12:30-1:15 Katherine Paterson and Peter Sís In Conversation**
  - Location: First United Methodist Church
- **Saturday 1:00-1:45 The Whiz Mob and the Grenadine Kid with Colin Meloy and Carson Ellis**
  - Location: Omni Hotel Ballroom
- **Saturday 2:30-3:15 Illustrating American History with Kadir Nelson and Don Tate**
  - Location: Capitol Auditorium
- **Sunday 11:00-11:45 Bad Moods, Be Gone! with Lemony Snicket**
  - Location: House Chamber
- **Sunday 12:30-1:15 The Wonderful World of William Joyce**
  - Location: Capitol Auditorium

All events at Kids on Congress are free and open to the public. The complete Texas Book Festival schedule is available at <http://www.texasbookfestival.org/festival-schedule/>.

The 2017 Texas Book Festival is co-presented by H-E-B and AT&T. Other major sponsors include *Kirkus Reviews*, Brigid Cockrum and Family, Tocker Foundation, Buena Vista Foundation, C-SPAN 2/Book TV, St. David's HealthCare, Texas Capital Bank, *Texas Monthly*, *Austin American-Statesman*, and Pentagram.

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### **ABOUT TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL**

The 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 one-day Texas Teen Book Festival, the Reading Rock Stars program, grants to Texas libraries, Fresh Ink Fiction Contest, and year-round literary programming. The Festival is held on the grounds of the Texas Capitol each fall and features 300 renowned authors, panels, book signings, live music, cooking demonstrations, and children's activities. The 2017 Texas Book Festival Weekend will take place on November 4 and 5. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and 1,000 volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Visit [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org) for more

information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.