



TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2018 WEEKEND TO TAKE PLACE ON OCTOBER 27 + 28

Nonprofit Celebrates Successful 2017 Festival Weekend With Record-Setting Attendance and Hurricane Harvey Book Donations

AUSTIN, TX (January 9, 2018) — The Texas Book Festival is proud to announce its 2017 Festival Weekend was the most successful on record, with 50,000 attendees coming together on November 4 and 5 in the largest celebration of books and literacy in the Festival's history. The Texas Book Festival will return for its 23rd year on **October 27 and 28, 2018**, and will once again be held in and around the Texas State Capitol in downtown Austin.

The 2017 Festival Weekend featured 300 authors, including Tom Hanks, Dan Rather, Gail Simmons, Attica Locke, Min Jin Lee, Mark Bittman, Jenna Bush Hager, Barbara Pierce Bush, and Walter Isaacson. Held November 3 at the Four Seasons Hotel, the annual First Edition Literary Gala raised more than \$630,000 for the nonprofit organization and its literacy programs. Additionally in 2017, the TBF gave more than \$100,000 in grants to Texas public libraries, and through its Reading Rock Stars literacy program, provided more than 9,300 books to students in Title I schools. The Texas Teen Book Festival, held on October 7, featured an all-star lineup of YA authors, including Jason Reynolds and Marie Lu, as well as an interactive iTent space, writing workshops, panels, and more.

"2017 was an epic year in so many ways, from standout literary talent across so many genres to incredible attendee turnout. We are as starstruck as anyone about the big marquee names at the Festival, but our true stars are the children, schools, and libraries we are able to impact across Texas, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and supporters," says Lois Kim, executive director of the Texas Book Festival. "We're setting our sights even higher in 2018 for our outreach programming and an amazing Festival Weekend."

During the 2017 Festival Weekend, the TBF hosted a book drive campaign to support Reading Rock Stars Houston and libraries affected by Hurricane Harvey. Attendees were encouraged to donate a Reading Rock Stars book for \$15, and each gift was matched with a book donation from the Tocker Foundation and the Texas Book Festival for libraries whose collections were destroyed. Attendees made nearly 400 donations, resulting in nearly 1,200 books for Reading Rock Stars and Houston/Gulf Coast libraries.

2017 also marked the first year of the organization's partnership with BookPeople, Texas' leading independent bookstore, which served as the official bookseller for the

Festival Weekend, as well as year-round event and media partner. Book sales at the 2017 Festival were up 35% over the 2016 Festival.

In 2018, fans can look forward to the return of all that they love about the Festival—a great author lineup, creative programming, book signings, food trucks, cooking demonstrations, author sessions and panels, live music, a Saturday night Lit Crawl, and more.

Submissions to participate in the Festival will open on Thursday, January 11. For book submission guidelines, please visit www.texasbookfestival.org/submit-book/. Visit www.texasbookfestival.org for more information.

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ABOUT TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL

With a vision to inspire Texans of all ages to love reading, 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 more than 275 renowned authors, panels, book signings, live music, cooking demonstrations, and children's activities. The 2017 Texas Book Festival Weekend took 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 for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.