



TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES FEATURED AUTHORS AT THE FIRST EDITION LITERARY GALA ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

*Renowned Authors Michael Beschloss, Luis Alberto Urrea, Celeste Ng, and
Jacqueline Woodson, Along with Emcee Jake Silverstein*

AUSTIN, TEXAS (August 7, 2018) – The **Texas Book Festival** is excited to host an exciting lineup of authors at the 2018 First Edition Literary Gala, including presidential historian and author of *Presidents of War*, **Michael Beschloss**; award-winning essayist, poet, and highly acclaimed author of *The House of Broken Angels*, **Luis Alberto Urrea**; **Celeste Ng**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Little Fires Everywhere*; and **Jacqueline Woodson**, the 2018-2019 National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature, and award-winning author of *Harbor Me* and *The Day You Begin*. **Jake Silverstein**, writer and *New York Times Magazine* editor-in-chief, will emcee this year’s gala on Friday, October 26 at the Four Seasons Hotel Austin.

"As our annual First Edition Literary Gala nears, we are excited to present another round of award-winning authors," says Lois Kim, Texas Book Festival Executive Director. "Each year, we look forward to hosting a special evening for our supporters, and we are so thankful that they help keep our Festival Weekend free and continue to support our year-round literary programming that aims to inspire children across Texas."

A popular and elegant prelude to the Festival Weekend, the First Edition Literary Gala draws literary luminaries, dignitaries, and cultural arts patrons in support of the TBF Festival Weekend and the statewide literacy programs the nonprofit organization offers throughout the year. Anna Near and Carrie Healy are this year’s Gala co-chairs.

Last year’s gala, held November 3 at the Four Seasons Hotel, raised more than \$630,000 for the Texas Book Festival. Through the funds raised, the annual Festival Weekend and Texas Teen Book Festival remain free and open to the public. In addition, 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. This year’s co-chairs have set a goal to raise \$700,000.

The year's featured authors include the following:

Michael Beschloss: Named "the nation's leading Presidential historian" by *Newsweek*, Beschloss will be presenting his upcoming book, *Presidents of War*, which is a fresh, magisterial, intimate look at a procession of American leaders as they took the nation into conflict and mobilized the country for victory. He has written nine books on American Presidents, including, most recently, the *New York Times* bestsellers *Presidential Courage* and *The Conquerors*. He is the NBC News Presidential Historian as well as contributor to PBS's *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*.

Luis Alberto Urrea: A 2005 Pulitzer Prize finalist for nonfiction and member of the Latino Literature Hall of Fame, Urrea is an award-winning and critically acclaimed author of 17 books, winning numerous awards for his poetry, fiction, and essays. Last year, Urrea won an American Academy of Arts and Letters Fiction award, and his collection of short stories, *The Water Museum*, was a finalist for the 2016 PEN-Faulkner Award and was named a best book of the year by *The Washington Post* and *Kirkus Reviews*, among others. His newest book, *The House of Broken Angels*, is the quintessential story of what it means to be the first generation to live two lives across one border. The book is an unforgettable portrait of the De La Cruz family as they celebrate the lives of two of their most beloved members over the course of one raucous and bittersweet weekend.

Celeste Ng: Award-winning author of *Little Fires Everywhere*, a riveting novel that traces the intertwined fates of a picture-perfect family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives. The national best seller is currently being made into a miniseries starring Kerry Washington and Reese Witherspoon, along with being named a best book of the year by more than 25 publications. Ng's debut novel, *Everything I Never Told You*, was a *New York Times* bestseller and a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2014.

Jacqueline Woodson: The 2018-2019 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and author of more than two dozen award-winning books for young adults, middle graders, and children. Woodson received the 2018 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award and the 2018 Children's Literature Legacy Award, and is the 2014 National Book Award Winner for her *New York Times* bestselling memoir *Brown Girl Dreaming*, which was also a recipient of the Coretta Scott King Award, a Newbery Honor, the NAACP Image Award, and a Sibert Honor. In 2015, Woodson was named the Young People's Poet Laureate by the Poetry Foundation. Her most recent books include *The Day You Begin*, a poignant yet heartening book about finding courage to connect, even when you feel scared and alone; and *Harbor Me*, the middle-grade novel that celebrates the healing that can occur when a group of students share their stories.

Jake Silverstein: Emcee for the evening, he is a writer and editor-in-chief at *The New York Times Magazine*. Previously, Silverstein was the editor of *Texas Monthly*, during which time the magazine won four National Magazine Awards in 12 nominations. He is also the author of the hybrid memoir-novel, *Nothing Happened and Then It Did: A Chronicle in Fact and Fiction*.

Limited First Edition Literary Gala tables and seats are available by calling 512-477-4055. Individual tickets cost \$500, with various sponsorship levels to purchase tables for 10 or 12 guests available as well.

The 2018 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, Central Market, *Texas Monthly*, *Austin American-Statesman*, and Pentagram.

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

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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, the 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 250 renowned authors, panels, book signings, cooking demonstrations, and children's activities. The 2018 Texas Book Festival Weekend will take place October 27 – 28. 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.