



TEXAS
BOOK
FESTIVAL

LITQUAKE

For more information, please contact:
Brenda Thompson, 512-461-5644
brenda@brendathompson.com

Please note: High-res Festival photos, the 2015 poster image, facts, and news releases are available [here](#). Changes to the Festival schedule will be continually updated and posted here: <http://www.texasbookfestival.org/schedule-updates-2015/>

October 1, 2015

Lit Crawl at the Texas Book Festival, Oct. 17

***Bat Scavenger Hunt, Nerd Jeopardy, Literary Death Match,
Lit Crawl Against Humanity, LGBT storytelling, and more!***

AUSTIN— Lit Crawl Austin returns to the Texas Book Festival on Saturday night, October 17. The annual literary pub crawl, a co-production of the Texas Book Festival and Litquake Foundation, features some of America's most groundbreaking writers onstage at various East Austin venues in a series of offbeat readings, literary games, and performances.

Inspired by San Francisco's long-running Lit Crawl and produced with their participation, the 2015 Lit Crawl Austin will include: Balderdash, the always-popular YA ghost stories in the Texas State Cemetery, tales about personal fiascos, Nerd Jeopardy, a LGBT storytelling showcase, Literary Death Match, Whose Line Is It Anyway, Lit Crawl Against Humanity (a literary version of the popular game Cards Against Humanity), and more.

This year's Lit Crawl program will be designed by Festival author **Zachary Thomas Dodson** (*Bats of the Republic*) and will include a Bat Scavenger Hunt as a part of the design. The Bat Scavenger Hunt will be ongoing throughout the evening, and literary director Steph Opitz says the intricately designed program will be a collector's item.

Co-organizers Jill Meyers and Steph Opitz weigh in. Meyers says, "Lit Crawl this year is going to be insane (in a good way), in celebration of our fifth year in Austin. From spooky ghost stories for all ages in the Texas State Cemetery to R-rated Lit Crawl Against Humanity games—and everything in between—we've got it." Opitz adds, "By day Texas Book Fest authors will talk thoughtfully about their latest books, by night they'll hit up the east side for literary-ish shenanigans."

Without further ado, here's the Lit Crawl Austin 2015 schedule:

Various Venues

****Ongoing** Bat Scavenger Hunt and Lit Crawl map designed this year by **Zachary Thomas Dodson** (*Bats of the Republic*).

The North Door, 502 Brushy St.

7:00-8:00 **Literary Death Match**

Four authors. Three judges. Two finalists. One really epic finale. Judges: **Chuck Palahniuk** (intangibles), **Linda Gray** (performance), and **Attica Locke** (literary merit). Contestants: **David Crabb**, **Helen Philipps**, **Gwendolyn Zepeda**, and **Kirk Lynn**.

8:30-9:30 **Nerd Jeopardy: Booze and Book-Related Trivia**

Taking a cue from a certain game show, this event will pit your favorite writers against one another in a test of literary knowledge and general chutzpah. Hosted by Ryan Chapman, author of *Conversation Sparks: Trivia Worth Talking About*. With authors **Sloane Crosley**, **Austin Grossman**, and **Viet Thanh Nguyen**.

10:30pm **AFTER-PARTY, free and open to the public**

Gelateria Gemelli, 1009 E 6th St

****Ongoing** Lit Crawl Special: Gelato and Amaro for \$10

7:30-8:15 **Balderdash by fields + Deep Vellum**

Join authors **Antonio Ruiz-Camacho**, **Andrew Ervin**, **Mary Helen Specht**, **Téa Obreht**, **Mia Alvar**, and **Dan Sheehan** for a rousing game of Balderdash, where they'll attempt to trick you into thinking they know what they're talking about when it comes to this whole words thing.

Practice Yoga, 1103 E 6th St

7:30-8:15 **ABC/Story Department—Fiasco!**

Authors **Brin-Jonathan Butler**, **Heidi Julavits**, **Rebecca Makkai**, and **Manuel Martinez** bare all with true-to-life tales about a personal fiasco. Want to hear your favorite writer in his most fumbling moment, in the midst of some accidental shenanigans? Now's your chance.

8:30-9:15 **You Should Know These Poets**

You've been missing something in your life. You tried to fill the hole with a truck, a sweetheart, a breakfast taco. You know all the bands and all the clubs. Why aren't you whole yet? Because you've never heard these poets. Come fix that. Sponsored by Sasha West and *Sorin Oak Review*. With authors **Ariana Brown**, **Tomás Morín**, **Paul Otremba**, and more.

Wonderland, 1104 E 6th St

7:30-8:15 **Five Things: The Wild, Wild West!**

This Austin-based reading series features five writers reading on a theme for five minutes apiece. For Lit Crawl, we look westward—to desert and myth, West Texas and Las Vegas, lawlessness, city slickers, hipsters who surf, Will Smith at his '90s steampunk prime. With authors **Carmiel Banasky**, **Matt Diffie**, **Amelia Gray**, and **Kristin Valdez Quade**.

8:30-9:15 **American Short Fiction presents Whose Line Is It, Anyway?**

Award-winning literary magazine *American Short Fiction* hosts this game in which writers try to ID hilarious, lovely, shocking, or moving lines from each other's recent books, and totally fail to recognize their own words. Winner receives a Texas-themed prize. With authors **Lauren Groff**, **Skip Horack**, **Alexandra Kleeman**, **Benjamin Markovits**, and **Elizabeth McCracken**.

9:30-10:15 **Slice Literary's Exquisite Corpse**

Slice Literary presents a short story stitched together by writers **Marisa Marchetto**, **Sarah McCoy**, **Keija Parssinen**, **Neal Pollack**, and **Sung J. Woo**. How the exquisite corpse game works: One person writes the first few paragraphs. We send the final line of those paragraphs to the next writer, who continues the story. Then the writers come together to read their collective tale, without knowing where it began or where it will end.

Clayworks Studio/Gallery, 1209 E 6th St.

****Ongoing Cocktails and Coloring**

Featuring *Latin Twist's* own **Vianney Rodriguez** mixing Tequila 512 drinks and Little, Brown Coloring Books coloring contest.

7:30-8:15 **Bat City's Round-Robin**

Three authors tap in and out of one another's readings. Enjoy the juxtaposition and collaboration of this literary mash-up presented by *Bat City*

Review. With authors **Jynne Dilling Martin, Benjamin Percy, and M.O. Walsh.**

8:30-9:15 ***Gulf Coast*—Back to the Futurismo**

The future is a raw, beautiful machine, brought to you fast and fabulous by authors **Matt Bell, Kelly Link, Lincoln Michel** and **Laura van den Berg**, and *Gulf Coast*. Expect words to dazzle and games to delight.

9:30-10:15 **NANO SEHR Flash: Fiction Becomes Music**

Flash fiction comes to life in this special collaboration between NANO Fiction writers **Kelly Luce, Jessica Richardson, Matthew Salesses**, and **Vincent Scarpa** and classical music composers Russell Podgorssek and Hermes Camacho. Includes very short fiction performed alongside the Cordova Quartet.

The Texas State Cemetery, 909 Navasota St.

7:30- 8:15 **Are You Afraid of the Dark? ALL AGES EVENT**

Gripping, eerie, and spooky tales from a raft of YA stars. This event is for all ages. The cemetery can be dark—bring a flashlight! With authors **Jake Halpern, Stephen Graham Jones, Peter Kujawinski, Nova Ren Suma**, and **April Genevieve Tucholke**.

The Volstead, 1500 E 6th St.

7:30-8:15 **Catapult—Writers Catapulting Writers**

Every emerging writer needs a strong catapult. Three established authors share short odes to the mentors who propelled their careers forward and then introduce a favorite future lit star. A night of signal-boosting, tequila, and bookish camaraderie. With authors **Geoff Dyer, Sarah Hepola**, and **Jonathan Lethem**.

8:30-9:15 **Lit Crawl Against Humanity**

This party game for horrible people goes literary. Prepare to be shocked, disgusted, amused, and titillated? Maybe? Presented by Awst Press and Newfound. With authors **Kendra Fortmeyer, Jessica Hopper, Chip Kidd, Matt Summell**, and **Caroline Zancan**.

9:30-10:15 **Super Fun Party**

Fun Party is an Austin-based reading series where art, literature, and film connect. With authors **Thea Brown, Nick Flynn, Rachel Eliza Griffiths**, and **Robin Beth Schaer**.

The Liberty, 1618 1/2 E 6th St

7:30-8:15 **Greetings from Queer Mountain**

Austin's own LGBT storytelling showcase hosted by Micheal Foulk and Ralphie Hardesty. With authors **Jamie Brickhouse, Saeed Jones, and Maggie Thrash.**

8:30-9:15 ***The Austin Review Presents: You Talkin' to Me?***

Come join us for a night of dialogue as authors read from works that best highlight their gift of the gab. "It's your move. . . . You talkin' to me?" With authors **Elisa Albert, Jennine Capó Crucet, Catherine Lacey, and Thomas H. McNeely.**

9:30-10:15 **Kickstarter Presents: Who Said It?**

In this quick-fire trivia match, authors must suss out who said these alternatively deep, cryptic, and absurdly hilarious quotes—Elena Ferrante, Karl Ove Knausgaard, or Taylor Swift? With authors **Jami Attenberg, Amy FitzHenry, Daniel José Older, and Karolina Waclawiak.**

Lit Crawl Austin is a project of the Texas Book Festival and the Litquake Foundation. San Francisco's Litquake literary festival runs October 9-17, 2015, with affiliated Lit Crawls in San Francisco, Manhattan, Brooklyn, Miami, Austin, Los Angeles, Iowa City, Seattle, London, and Helsinki.

The 2015 Texas Book Festival is co-presented by AT&T and H-E-B. Other major sponsors include Brigid Cockrum and family, Kirkus Reviews, the Texas College Savings Plan, Texas Monthly, the Tocker Foundation, C-SPAN2 Book TV, St. David's HealthCare, Buena Vista Foundation, Pentagram, Central Market, and the Austin American-Statesman.

The complete 2015 Texas Book Festival schedule, Oct. 17-18, is available at www.texasbookfestival.org.

###

About the Texas Book Festival

The Texas Book Festival celebrates authors and their contributions to the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. Founded in 1995 by 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, a youth fiction writing contest, and year-round literary programming. The Festival is held on the grounds of the Texas Capitol each fall and features more than 250-plus renowned authors, panels, book signings, live music, cooking demonstrations, and children's activities. 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](https://www.facebook.com/txbookfest); and @txbookfest on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/txbookfest) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/txbookfest).