



For more information, please contact:  
Brenda Thompson, 512-461-5644  
[brenda@brendathompson.com](mailto:brenda@brendathompson.com)

June 9, 2014

## Texas Book Festival welcomes new board members

AUSTIN— The Texas Book Festival has appointed four new members to its board of directors and two new members to its advisory council.

The new board members are **Jake Silverstein**, editor in chief of *The New York Times Magazine*; **Amy Paddock**, co-head of global client service for Hill+Knowlton Strategies; **Regina Montoya**, senior vice president of external relations and general counsel at Children's Medical Center Dallas; and **Julie Blakeslee**, owner of Big Red Sun. The new advisory council members are **Hopeton Hay**, host and producer of KAZI Book Review, and **Erin Quinn-Kong**, editor-in-chief of *Austin Monthly*.



**Jake Silverstein** is editor in chief of *The New York Times Magazine*, and formerly editor of *Texas Monthly*. During his editorship at *Texas Monthly*, the magazine was nominated for 11 National Magazine Awards (the industry's equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize) and won two, for general excellence and feature writing. His first book, *Nothing Happened and Then It Did: A Chronicle in Fact and Fiction*, was published in 2010 by W.W. Norton. His work has also appeared in the anthologies Best American Travel Writing 2003 and Submersion Journalism (2008).



**Regina Montoya** is the senior vice president of external relations and general counsel at Children's Medical Center in Dallas, where she oversees several major departments including legal, compliance, governance, government relations, and community relations. One of the first Latinas to earn partnership in a major U.S. law firm, Montoya is currently working on a book about the importance of incorporating Latinas into the economic, political, and social fabric of America. In 2010, she was named a Top 25 Industry Leader by the *Dallas Business Journal*; in 2007 she was named the Latina Lawyer of the Year by the Hispanic National Bar

Association. *Hispanic Business* magazine named her one of the 100 most influential Hispanics in the U.S. and *Hispanic Enterprise* magazine named her one of the top 20 leading Latinas in business.



**Julie Blakeslee** resides in Austin, Texas with her husband John Spong. She owns Big Red Sun, a garden design and installation firm. Past charitable board seats in Austin include Arthouse (president during the capital campaign), Ballet Austin (capital campaign co-chair), Harry Ransom Center, and the Blanton Museum. Blakeslee also served on the Artpace board, as well as the Performa Biennial board in New York City. Currently, she is a member of the Waller Creek Conservancy Board in Austin.



**Amy Paddock** is co-head of global client service for Hill+Knowlton Strategies. Partnering with account teams, Paddock leverages her expertise to achieve clients' business objectives and manages campaign strategies for Fortune 50 clients involved in complex financial transactions and reputational, public image, legislative, and regulatory issues. Prior to joining Hill+Knowlton, she was an associate in the equities division of Goldman, Sachs, & Co. and a financial analyst in Credit Suisse First Boston's Latin American Investment Banking Group. Paddock participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Texas Conference for Women and currently serves on the board of directors for the Good Shepherd School.



**Hopeton Hay** is the host and producer of KAZI Book Review, a weekly talk show featuring interviews with a culturally diverse array of authors, on KAZI 88.7 FM radio station in Austin, Texas. He is also the host and producer of Economic Perspectives, a weekly show featuring interviews with public and private sector business leaders, authors, and experts on small business, finance, and economic development issues. Hay has been a talk show host and producer at KAZI for almost 20 years, and he has more than 25 years of experience leading programs that promote the growth and development of small, minority, and women-owned businesses including his current role as the director of HUB and federal small business programs for The UT System.



**Erin Quinn-Kong** is the editor-in-chief of *Austin Monthly* and the editorial director of *Austin Monthly*, *Austin HOME*, and [austinmonthly.com](http://austinmonthly.com). Previously, Quinn-Kong served as the editor of *Allure* and *Us Weekly*, and also served as a freelance writer for publications including *Self*, *Allure*, and [about.com](http://about.com). During her time at *Austin Monthly*, she has watched the magazine grow in size and reputation—since 2012 its newsstand sales have increased by 33 percent and in March, the magazine won the award for General Excellence, at the City and Regional Magazine Association Awards. She currently resides in Central Austin with her husband, Ray, and their blue heeler, Pepper.

"We are thrilled to welcome these outstanding new board and council members to our organization," says Marc Winkelman, Texas Book Festival board chair.

"The Texas Book Festival is the premier literary event in the nation and will continue to prosper with its new board and advisory council members. The Festival has continued to expand since its founding in 1995, and we are proud to say that we have now donated more than \$2.6 million to Texas libraries, given more than 50,000 books to kids at Title I schools through our Reading Rock Stars program, and continued to promote a love of reading and literacy through our annual Festival, which is free and open to the public," Winkelman says.

###

### **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, 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 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. [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org), [www.facebook.com/TexasBookFestival](http://www.facebook.com/TexasBookFestival), [www.twitter.com/texasbookfest](http://www.twitter.com/texasbookfest), #txbookfest, [www.texasteenbookfestival.org](http://www.texasteenbookfestival.org)