



TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL PRESENTS KIDS ON CONGRESS

October 27 and 28 Event Features Family Fun Activities with Children's Authors, Entertainment, and More

AUSTIN, Texas (October 16, 2018) – Texas Book Festival is excited to announce **Kids on Congress**, an avenue at the annual Festival on **October 27 and 28** packed with a variety of kids events and entertainment. Children's book and author highlights include **Kazu Kibuishi**, **Matt de la Peña** and **Christian Robinson**, and **Mary Pope Osborne**. This year's children's author lineup also includes **Jacqueline Woodson**, **Dan Santat** and **Minh Lê**, **Yuyi Morales**, **Megan McDonald**, **Sharon Draper**, and **Nathan Hale**,

On Saturday, October 27, and Sunday, October 28, there will be an H-E-B Kids' Reading Retreat, located at 9th and Congress, where young readers can find a quiet place in the middle of all the Festival hustle and bustle. East of 10th and Congress, children will be able to find the TAME Trailblazer, sponsored by Cirrus Logic. The trailer is a hands-on mobile science museum that travels all across Texas, encouraging students to explore and question the world they live in.

Kids can also travel the Festival with their own Passport guiding them through Kids on Congress. When they collect five or more signatures at each Passport session, kids will receive a coupon for a free tiny scoop of Amy's Ice Cream.

Kids on Congress Tents will include the following:

The **Read Me a Story Tent** will feature stories read aloud every half hour by top authors, with illustrators creating picture books for younger readers. Highlighted authors include **Arree Chung**, **Yuyi Morales**, **Jeff Smith**, and more.

The **Latinx Lit Tent** will feature a bilingual storytime in English and Spanish with author **Xavier Garza** and a special conversation in Spanish for young readers with **Yuyi Morales** and **Julissa Arce**. The tent will also host a special presentation by this year's winners of the Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award: **Erika L. Sánchez**, **Celia C. Pérez**, **Xelena González**, and **Adriana Garcia**.

The **Next Chapter Tent** will feature middle grade chapter book authors **Sharon Draper**, **Megan McDonald**, **Soman Chainani**, **Hena Khan**, **Meg Medina**, **Mac Barnett**, and many more, who

will share their new stories and talk about writing in a kid's imagination, enduring hard experiences at a young age, the fun of reading, and more.

New this year will be a big, brand new tent right in the center of the Festival, in partnership with *Kirkus Reviews*. This tent will be home to a ton of a great kids' programming, including:

- **Saturday, 10:30-11:15 a.m.**, Carmela Full of Wishes with Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson
- **Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**, Nathan Hale's Latest Tale: Lafayette
- **Saturday, 1:30-2:15 p.m.**, Drawn Together with Dan Santat and Minh Lê
- **Saturday, 2:30-3:15 p.m.**, Magic Tree House in Texas! with Mary Pope Osborne and Natalie Pope Boyce
- **Sunday, 12-12:45 p.m.**, (Don't) Grow Up, David!
- **Sunday, 1:00-1:45 p.m.**, Friends Forever with Erin Entrada Kelly and Annie Barrows

In addition, the Festival will host two prominent authors for young readers at First United Methodist Church. CEO of Girl Scouts of Central Texas **Sylvia Acevedo** will present her memoir for young readers, *Path to the Sky*, on Saturday, October 27, at 11:30 a.m. Girl Scouts have the opportunity to earn a special Texas Book Festival patch. National Ambassador for Young People's Literature **Jacqueline Woodson** will present her two new books, *Harbor Me*, her first middle-grade novel since *Brown Girl Dreaming*, and *The Day You Begin*, her new picture book, on Saturday, October 27, at 12:30 p.m.

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.

All events at Kids on Congress are free and open to the public. The complete schedule for the 2018 Texas Book Festival, taking place October 27 and 28, is available at www.texasbookfestival.org.

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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.