



TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL BRINGS READING ROCK STARS PROGRAM TO FOUR HOUSTON TITLE ONE SCHOOLS FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019

Texas Book Festival Kicks Off 2019 With Four Houston School Visits, Presenting Ten Authors and Donating 1,892 Books to Houston Students

WHAT: Texas Book Festival will host its annual Reading Rock Stars event in four local Houston Title I elementary schools on Friday, January 25. This event, which will bring ten nationally-recognized children’s authors to corresponding grade levels, is the culmination of months of each school’s preparation for the program. TBF will gift each student a copy of the presenting author’s book as part of their mission to promote literacy and reading across the state of Texas.

Texas Book Festival is excited to begin 2019 Reading Rock Stars in Houston, bringing ten participating authors and illustrators to present to students, and **donating a total of 1,890 books** to students and classrooms at **Blackshear Elementary, Kashmere Gardens Elementary, Port Houston Elementary, and Virgil I. Grissom Elementary**. With this latest round of Reading Rock Stars, the Texas Book Festival will have given more than 100,062 books to students in Title I schools across Texas since the program’s inception.

“Promoting literacy has been a central part of our mission since TBF was founded in 1995,” says Lea Bogner, Outreach Manager for Texas Book Festival. “And for our fifth year of Reading Rock Stars in Houston, we’re proud to bring this celebrated, diverse group authors and their important stories to these students.”

Among the authors appearing for Reading Rock Stars are **ESPN Major League Baseball analyst and two-time Olympic medalist [Jessica Mendoza](#)** with her middle-grade baseball book, *There’s No Base Like Home*, and **bestselling, award-winning author and illustrator [Vashti Harrison](#)** with her historical girl-power picture book *Little Dreamers: Visionary Women Around the World*, as well as several authors published by Houston-based bilingual publisher [Arte Público](#).

The Texas Book Festival’s Reading Rock Stars literacy program brings books to life for children in low-income schools by inviting authors and illustrators into classrooms with entertaining presentations that inspire students to read, write, and create. Thanks to support from sponsors, including **H-E-B: Tournament of Champions** and the **Albert & Ethel Herzstein Charitable**

Foundation, the Texas Book Festival gives each student an autographed copy of their author's book and provides the school library with a new set of books by the visiting Reading Rock Stars authors. After each presentation, the author personally hands an autographed copy of their book to each student.

For more information on the Texas Book Festival and its Reading Rock Stars literacy program, please visit www.texasbookfestival.org.

WHO: [Roda Ahmed - *Mae Among the Stars*](#)
[Ana Aranda - *Our Celebración*](#)
[Diane Gonzales Bertrand - *The Empanadas That Abeula Made*](#)
[Ame Dyckman - *Misunderstood Shark: Friends Don't Eat Friends*](#)
[Vashti Harrison - *Little Dreamers*](#)
[Nicolás Kanellos - *The Tongue Twister Tournament*](#)
[James Luna - *Growing Up on the Playground*](#)
[Jessica Mendoza - *There's No Base Like Home*](#)
[Chitra Soundar - *Mangoes and Mischief*](#)
[Lila Quintero Weaver - *My Year in the Middle*](#)

WHEN: Friday, January 25

WHERE: **Blackshear Elementary**
Kashmere Gardens Elementary
Port Houston Elementary
Virgil Grissom Elementary

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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 Texas Teen Book Festival, the Reading Rock Stars Title I elementary school program, the Real Reads Title I middle and high school program, grants to Texas libraries, 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, cooking demonstrations, and children's activities. The 2019 Texas Book Festival Weekend will take place October 26 - 27. 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.