

Texas Book Festival Leadership



Lois Kim

Executive Director

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Lois serves as Texas Book Festival's chief executive, responsible for managing staff, programs, operations, external relations, and resource development. An immigrant from Seoul, Korea, Lois grew up in Williamsville, New York. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Michigan and a master's degree and Ph.D. in English from the University of Texas at Austin, where her research focused on Shakespeare and early modern culture. In her early career, she taught high school English at a boarding school and pursued graduate coursework from the Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College. Prior to joining the Texas Book Festival, Lois served as the associate director of University Extension at UT Austin, where she managed student and academic affairs for college credit students. She also served on the board of the Austin Public Library Friends Foundation for six years, four of those as Vice President. Her husband, Phillip Reed, is a principal of Cotera + Reed Architects and they have two children: Sylvia and Nate. She has been a member of her book club for more than 20 years and favorite book genres are contemporary literary fiction and the 19th-century novel.



Julie Wernersbach

Literary Director

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Julie serves as Texas Book Festival's literary director, responsible for developing and implementing year-round literary programming in Austin and other Texas cities, including the annual two-day Festival in Austin. She has ten years of experience as an independent bookseller, most recently serving as marketing director for BookPeople, the largest independent bookstore in Texas and one of the most high profile independent bookstores in the country. Before moving to Austin in 2011, Julie served as publicist and events coordinator for Book Revue, a large independent bookstore on Long Island. She has a B. A. in English from Boston University. In addition to acting as TBF's literary director, Julie is the author of the books *Vegan Survival Guide to Austin* and *The Swimming Holes of Texas*. Her fiction has been published in *Arcadia* magazine, which nominated her short story, 'Happiness,' for a Pushcart Prize. She is currently at work on a novel. Julie loves books of all stripes and is particularly drawn to short and literary fiction.



Claire Burrows

Development Director

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Claire serves as Texas Book Festival's primary development officer responsible for fundraising and ensuring that fundraising efforts support the festival's mission, programs and strategic vision. She has a PhD in Comparative Literature from Stony Brook University and a master's degree in Aesthetic Studies from UT Dallas and a bachelor's degree in Literary Studies from UT Dallas. Before joining the Festival, Claire was an adjunct professor at Stony Brook University teaching film, literature, and cultural studies. Her literary interests include comics and graphic novels, literary fiction, and memoirs.