



TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL REVEALS FIFTEEN AUTHORS FOR 2021 HYBRID FESTIVAL

The 2021 hybrid Festival will feature Amor Towles, Sandra Cisneros, Colson Whitehead, Elizabeth McCracken, and R. J. Palacio, among others

AUSTIN, TX (July 21, 2021) - The Texas Book Festival is excited to unveil fifteen authors joining the weeklong hybrid Festival this fall.

The Festival will feature Pulitzer Prize–winning author **Colson Whitehead**, Michener Center for Writers instructor **Elizabeth McCracken**, bestselling novelist and 2016 Kirkus Prize finalist **Amor Towles**, National Medal of Arts recipient and 2005 Texas Writer Award recipient **Sandra Cisneros**, bestselling children’s author **R. J. Palacio**, and many more.

Starting October 25, the weeklong hybrid Festival will include a robust, diverse lineup of established, emerging, and debut literary talent for readers of all ages. TBF’s full lineup will be completed and revealed later this summer.

“We are so happy that authors and readers connected with one another through TBF programming last year,” says Claire Burrows, TBF deputy director, “and now we’re thrilled to introduce just a few of the authors that will participate in the 2021 Texas Book Festival. We want to bring these incredible voices to you wherever you are, whether you’re on Congress Avenue in downtown Austin or at home in El Paso.”

Amor Towles, whose bestsellers *Rules of Civility* and *A Gentleman in Moscow* have sold more than four million copies, will present his third novel *The Lincoln Highway*, a multi-perspective story that takes place over ten days and hundreds of miles in 1950s America. **Elizabeth McCracken**, whose *Thunderstruck & Other Stories* won the 2014 Story Prize, will present new book *The Souvenir Museum*, a short-story collection exploring the strengths and fragilities within familial bonds.

Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and bestselling author **Colson Whitehead** will present his latest work *Harlem Shuffle*: part heist novel, part family saga, and all of it a love letter to early-1960s Harlem. Celebrated bestselling author of *The House on Mango Street*, **Sandra Cisneros**, will present *Martita, I Remember You / Martita, te recuerdo*, an intimate tribute to youthful friendships that transcend time. R. J. Palacio, author of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Wonder*, will present her latest book *Pony*, a story set in mid-1800s America about a young boy’s epic horseback journey.

"It's a creative time in the literary events space," says TBF literary director Matthew Patin. "We're in an in-between era, and having both virtual and in-person formats gives us the

opportunity to host conversations among authors and readers in whichever way they prefer. And with so much talent coming to TBF this year, including the authors in this sneak peek, those conversations will be many."

The full list of the sneak peek authors includes:

- Rumaan Alam, *Leave the World Behind*
- Benjamin Alire Sáenz, *Aristotle and Dante Dive into the Waters of the World*
- Sandra Cisneros, *Martita, I Remember You / Martita, te recuerdo*
- Mary Gaitskill, *The Devil's Treasure*
- Gabriela Garcia, *Of Women and Salt*
- Elizabeth McCracken, *The Souvenir Museum*
- Maggie Nelson, *On Freedom: Four Songs of Care and Constraint*
- R. J. Palacio, *Pony*
- Raj Patel, *Inflamed: Deep Medicine and the Anatomy of Injustice*
- Don Tate, *Pigskins to Paintbrushes*
- Amor Towles, *The Lincoln Highway*
- Sergio Troncoso, *Nepantla Familias: An Anthology of Mexican American Literature on Families in Between Worlds*
- Colson Whitehead, *Harlem Shuffle*
- Lawrence Wright, *The Plague Year: America in the Time of Covid*
- Cecily Wong, *Gastro Obscura: A Food Adventurer's Guide*

The 2021 hybrid Texas Book Festival will take place October 25–28 (Virtual) and October 30–31 (Downtown Austin).

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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. This year's hybrid Texas Book Festival will take place from October 25 through October 31, with virtual events October 25–28 and the Festival Weekend taking place on the grounds of the Texas Capitol October 30–31, featuring renowned authors, panels, book signings, and activities. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and 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.