



TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL BRINGS READING ROCK STARS AND REAL READS PROGRAMS TO DALLAS/FORT WORTH SCHOOLS MARCH 24-25, 2022

Texas Book Festival Returns to DFW Area for Seven School Visits, Presenting Eleven Authors and illustrators and Donating 2,400 Books to Students

AUSTIN, TX (March 22, 2022) – On March 24 and 25, the Texas Book Festival returns to the Dallas-Fort Worth area to visit six elementary schools as part of the Festival’s annual Reading Rock Stars program. Throughout the two days, ten nationally-acclaimed children’s authors and illustrators will visit each school and present to students, a culmination of weeks of each school’s preparation for the program. Additionally, TBF will gift each student a copy of the visiting author or illustrator’s book.

TBF will donate 2,400 books to classrooms at Frank Guzick Elementary School, N.W. Harlee Elementary School, Dr. MLK Jr. Arts Academy in Dallas and Meadowbrook Elementary School, Van Zandt-Guinn Elementary School, and Bill J. Elliott Elementary School in Fort Worth. With this latest round of Reading Rock Stars, the Texas Book Festival will have given more than 133,000 books to students in elementary schools across Texas since the program’s inception.

The Texas Book Festival’s Reading Rock Stars literacy program brings books to life for children in elementary schools by inviting authors and illustrators into classrooms with entertaining presentations that inspire students to read, write, and create. Thanks to generous support from sponsor H-E-B and many individual donors, 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.

This year’s Reading Rock Stars DFW authors include award-winning author and illustrator and 2021 Texas Writer Award recipient Don Tate, who will be giving students a copy of *Pigskins to Paintbrushes*, the inspiring story of Ernie Barnes, who defined himself on his own terms and pushed the boundaries of “possible,” from the field to the canvas. Award-winning author Angela Shanté will present *When My Cousins Come to Town*, a fun, lively story of Black family and cousin culture that celebrates individuality and embraces differences.

Acclaimed author, Kalynn Bayron, will be joining Skyline High School students for Real Reads, Texas Book Festival’s program that focuses on connecting authors and their work with teens. Students received copies of Bayron’s book, *This Poison Heart*, a 2021 Cybils Award nominee

and ProjectLIT Book Club selection, which they have been reading over the past few weeks. On March 24, those students will have the opportunity to engage with the author about the story and her writing process.

“We are thrilled to be back in Dallas and Fort Worth for Reading Rock Stars and Real Reads,” says TBF School & Community Programs Coordinator Michelle Hernandez. “Reading Rock Stars and Real Reads are the culmination of the partnership and collaboration between school librarians and teachers, authors, and Texas Book Festival staff to bring an exciting and memorable experience to students focused on reading, writing, and the joy and magic of books.”

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

WHO:

Chris Barton
Kalynn Bayron - Real Reads
Bavu & Ellison Blakes
Elisa Chavarri
Lyla Lee
Angela Shanté
Carmen Tafolla
Don Tate
Raúl the Third
Jennifer Ziegler

WHEN: March 24-25, 2022

WHERE:

Frank Guzick Elementary School
N.W. Harllee Early Childhood Center
Dr. MLK Jr. Arts Academy
Meadowbrook Elementary School
Van Zandt-Guinn Elementary School
Bill J. Elliott Elementary School
Skyline High School

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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 elementary school program, the Real Reads 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 2022 Texas Book Festival Weekend will take place November 5-6. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and 1,000 volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Visit texasbookfestival.org for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.