



## 2024 Texas Book Festival Organization & Programs Fact Sheet

Texas Book Festival (TBF) is a nonprofit organization that connects authors and readers through year-round, statewide programs that celebrate the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. TBF brings authors to Title I elementary, middle, and high schools, awards grants to Texas public libraries, and engages tens of thousands of attendees at the annual Festival. Above all, TBF inspires all Texans to love reading.

### READING ROCK STARS

Reading Rock Stars is Texas Book Festival's signature literacy program that brings nationally recognized authors to Title I elementary schools in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Rio Grande Valley, and El Paso. Teachers receive a custom curriculum, preparing their students for each author's presentation, and, as the event's culmination, each student receives their very own signed copy of the author's book.

- 171,446 books given to students in Texas
- 777 author visits

### REAL READS

Modeled on our successful year-round Reading Rock Stars program, the Real Reads program aims to inspire a love of reading in Texas middle and high school students from underserved groups by connecting celebrated authors with students. Teachers and mentors receive a customized curriculum to prepare their students for each author's presentation and, as the event's culmination, each student receives their very own signed copy of the author's book.

- 4,290 books given to students in Texas
- 26 author visits

### TEXAS PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANTS

Texas Book Festival is committed to supporting literacy across Texas through its Texas Public Library Grants program. The organization awards these collection enhancement grants to ensure that reading is accessible and available to all Texans.

- \$3,532,541 in grants awarded to 1,402 libraries

### HISTORY

Founded in 1995 by Laura W. Bush, a former librarian and then First Lady of Texas, along with Mary Margaret Farabee and a dedicated group of volunteers, Texas Book Festival set out to honor Texas authors, promote the joys of reading, and benefit the state's public libraries. The first Festival took place in November 1996 and has grown into one of the nation's premier literary events.

### LEADERSHIP STAFF

Marianne DeLeón, Chief Executive Officer  
Dalia Azim, Chief Operations Officer  
Susannah Auby, Development Director  
Hannah Gabel, Literary Director  
Michelle Hernandez, Director of Youth Programs

### MEDIA CONTACT

Communications & PR Coordinator  
Jose Rodriguez  
Jose@texasbookfestival.org

### ONLINE:

[www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org)

[Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [X](#) (formerly known as Twitter): @texasbookfest.