



TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL TO DISTRIBUTE NEARLY 800 BOOKS TO 2 EL PASO-AREA TITLE I ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FOR READING ROCK STARS PROGRAM

AUSTIN, TX (March 29, 2024) – On Friday, April 5, Texas Book Festival (TBF) will bring its annual Reading Rock Stars (RRS) program to El Paso. Three celebrated children's authors and illustrators will present their latest books to students in two Title I schools throughout the El Paso area.

Texas Book Festival's Reading Rock Stars literacy program enlivens books for children by bringing authors to schools to share stories that ignite curiosity and excitement among young readers and provide memorable experiences to support a lifelong love of reading, writing, and creativity.

Author visits are the culmination of several weeks of planning on the part of students, educators, and TBF staff and conclude with each student taking home a signed copy of the author's book. Since 2001, TBF will have donated 175,046 books to children across Texas through this initiative as of April 5, 2024. El Paso Community Foundation and Jordan Foster Construction are the presenting sponsors for Texas Book Festival's Reading Rock Stars program in El Paso.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

- Aoy Elementary School
- Hart Elementary School

PARTICIPATING AUTHORS

- Pedro Martín Mexikid
- Andrea Cáceres My Dog Just Speaks Spanish/Mi perro solo habla español
- Mirelle Ortega (illustrator) Free to Learn

For media coverage inquiries, please contact Texas Book Festival Communications & PR Coordinator Jose Rodriguez at Jose@texasbookfestival.org.

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ABOUT TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL

With a vision to inspire Texans of all ages to love reading, 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 Reading Rock Stars Title I elementary school program, the Real Reads Title I middle school, high school, and early college program, grants to Texas libraries and year-round literary programming. The 2024 Texas Book Festival will take place from November 16–17, with events taking place in downtown Austin and at the Texas Capitol, featuring renowned authors, panels, book signings, and activities. Thanks to generous donors,

sponsors, and volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Learn more at $\underline{www.texasbookfestival.org}$ or follow along on $\underline{Instagram}$, $\underline{Facebook}$, and \underline{X} @texasbookfest.