

TBF Leadership

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Lois Kim, Executive Director

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 favorite book genres are contemporary literary fiction and the 19th Matt hew Patin, Literary Director century novel.



Dalia Azim, Deputy Director

Dalia joined the Texas Book Festival as Deputy Director in 2022. Her writing has appeared in The Washington Post, The New York Times, American Short Fiction, Aperture, Glimmer Train, and Other Voices, among other places. Her debut novel, Country of Origin, was published in 2022. Before joining TBF, she was the manager of executive initiatives and chief diversity and inclusion officer at the Blanton Museum of Art, where she helped oversee the realization of Ellsworth Kelly's Austin, the Blanton's new grounds initiative, and the museum's DEAI priorities, among other projects.



Susannah Auby, Development Director

Susannah serves as the Texas Book Festival's Development Director. She received her MBA from Columbia University and her bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley. Prior to joining Texas Book Festival, she was a volunteer in Austin in many roles focused on education fundraising, literacy outreach, libraries, and her greatest passion, introducing children to authors. Her prior professional experience was in New York and included management consulting, strategic planning and financial analysis. She spends her free time keeping up with her four teenagers and the precarious stack of books on her nightstand.

Hannah Gabel, Literary Director



Hannah joined the Texas Book Festival as the Literary Director in 2023. She holds a double bachelor's degree from Boston University in Advertising and History. Hannah has spent the majority of her professional career in corporate event management, marketing, and design. A native Austinite, she previously directed events and marketing strategy at The Real Estate Council of Austin (RECA) and Stream Realty Partners. Prior to joining TBF, Hannah founded HLG Creative, a freelance graphic design and marketing agency, where she worked with a variety of clients on everything from logos and branding to website design and content creation. She is also the founder of the book blog and social community, Bookmarkparty, which has enabled her to connect with authors, publishers, and fellow book lovers around the world. In her free time, she enjoys checking out the latest Austin hotspots, reading as much as possible, and pursuing various creative projects.