



## 2024 Texas Book Festival 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.

Key messages:

- TBF celebrates authors, readers and books.
- TBF believes access to books is essential.
- TBF invites everyone to be a part of our story.
- TBF creates conversations that inspire empathy, imagination, and joy.

Key programming includes:

### **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.

- 167,232 books given to students in Texas during 759 author visits since 2001 (through the end of 2023)
- In 2023, TBF distributed 15,131 books during 80 author visits across 28 schools

### **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 through 26 authors visits in Texas since 2017 (through the end of 2023)
- In 2023, TBF distributed 966 books during 6 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.

- \$3,666,544 in grants awarded to 1,447 libraries since 1997 (through 2024)
- In 2024: \$112,500 in grants awarded to 45 Texas public libraries



## **TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL**

The Texas Book Festival, the largest book event in Texas and one of the premier literary Festivals in the nation, returns for its 29th year on November 16–17 in downtown Austin! Free and open to all, attendees can look forward to a star-studded lineup of more than 250 authors, engaging programming for all ages, book signings, food trucks, cooking demonstrations, and a Saturday night Lit Crawl in East Austin. Learn more at [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org).

## **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**

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