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Texas Book Festival Honors Author and Poet Naomi Shihab Nye with 2024 Texas Writer Award

(Austin, Texas) - The [Texas Book Festival](#) (TBF), an annual literary event celebrating books and authors from a wide range of genres, today announced that **Naomi Shihab Nye**, a Palestinian-American poet, editor, and educator, is the 2024 recipient of the Texas Writer Award.

Each year, TBF presents the prestigious Texas Writer Award (formerly the Bookend Award) to a writer from the Lone Star State who has profoundly impacted Texas literature.

A resident of San Antonio, Nye is known for her diverse body of work which spans poetry, fiction, and children's literature. Her celebrated books include *Everything Comes Next*, *The Tiny Journalist*, *Voices in the Air*, *Sitti's Secrets*, *Habibi*, *This Same Sky*, *The Tree is Older than You Are: Poems and Paintings from Mexico*, *19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East*, *The Turtle of Oman*, and *The Turtle of Michigan*.

"Naomi Shihab Nye is not only a profoundly gifted and accomplished writer, but also a dedicated educator and cherished figure in the Texas literary community," said TBF Literary Director Hannah Gabel. "We're thrilled to celebrate her remarkable body of work with this year's Texas Writer Award."

Nye will be honored with a pair of custom handmade boots from El Paso-based artisanal bootmaker [Rocketbuster](#) during a special Festival Weekend ceremony. Festival attendees will also be able to see Nye during Festival Weekend sessions for her two 2024 releases: [I Know About a Thousand Things: The Writings of Ann Alejandro of Uvalde, Texas](#) (edited by Naomi Shihab Nye and Marion Winik) and [Grace Notes](#), her poetry collection for young adults.

"It's an honor and a pleasure to be acknowledged in the amazing state I have embraced as my own for so many years," said Nye.

Nye has garnered recognition throughout her writing career for her various literary achievements, including Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Texas Institute of Letters, the

National Book Critics Circle, and the Arab American Museum. Additionally, she has served as the Young People's Poet Laureate for the U.S. Poetry Foundation and was the poetry editor for *The New York Times* magazine and the *Texas Observer*. A graduate of Trinity University, Nye is a visiting writer in schools and is currently a writer-in-residence at Texas State University.

To learn more about Nye's background and work to date, click [here](#) to read her interview with TBF's Literary Director, Hannah Gabel. Author assets are available [here](#).

This year's Festival begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 16, and 11 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 17, in and around the State Capitol. Admission is free with the exception of [two ticketed programs](#) for headlining authors Matthew McConaughey and Malcolm Gladwell. Festival goers can participate in author readings, panel discussions, and signings as part of the weekend's events. There will be exhibitor booths, food vendors, and an array of family activities. Public transportation is strongly encouraged.

For more information about the Texas Book Festival, including Nye and the 2024 author lineup, visit www.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 and high school program, grants to Texas libraries, and year-round literary programming.

This year's Texas Book Festival will take place November 16 and 17, with events happening 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.

TBF can host this large-scale event thanks to its presenting sponsor H-E-B. Other major sponsors include Brigid Cockrum and Family, Tejemos Foundation, Tres Grace Family Foundation, *Kirkus Reviews*, the City of Austin Economic Development Department, Tocker Foundation, Still Water Foundation, The Rea Charitable Trust, Buena Vista Foundation, Tapestry Foundation, Downtown Austin Alliance, Central Market, RNDC, Jordan Foster Construction, *Texas Monthly*, and the *Austin Chronicle*. BookPeople is the official Festival bookseller.