



AFTER TEN YEARS AT TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL, LOIS KIM TO STEP DOWN AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AUSTIN, TX (April 4, 2023) - Lois Kim announced today that she will step down later this month as Executive Director and CEO of the storied literary nonprofit organization founded by Laura Bush and Mary Margaret Farabee. Continuing her lifelong dedication to education and the humanities, Kim will join the Harry Ransom Center at The University of Texas at Austin as Chief Development Officer on May 1. The Harry Ransom Center is an internationally renowned humanities research library and museum where Kim will direct development activities to fund the Center's research and teaching mission.

During Kim's ten-year tenure at the Texas Book Book Festival, she led the growth of its signature fall book festival, doubled its annual budget, increased diversity in the organization and programming, and expanded Reading Rock Stars, the nonprofit's Title I elementary school literacy program, to Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, and El Paso. She built up the base of major donors, forged lasting partnerships with other literacy and cultural organizations, and with her team, took on the challenges of the pandemic as an opportunity to adapt and innovate.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank Lois for her dedicated service," said Gigi Edwards Bryant, Texas Book Festival Board Chair. "It has been a privilege to work with Lois and see the impact her dedication has made on Board members, staff, volunteers, and the community as she guided TBF's growth and standards of excellence in delivering on our mission to connect authors and readers. We wish her the best in her new role at the Ransom Center."

A Korean immigrant raised in Buffalo, New York, Kim started her career as a high school English teacher in Delaware before moving to Texas to pursue graduate study in English literature at The University of Texas at Austin. After earning her PhD, she worked in continuing education at UT Austin where she discovered a passion for event production and community outreach. Kim began her tenure at the Texas Book Festival in 2013, and the nonprofit proved to be the perfect place for her, with its community-oriented educational mission and focus on authors and their books. Her tenure was marked by a rapid period of growth as the Festival landed celebrity authors and literary stars including Tom Hanks, Colson Whitehead, Supreme Court Justice Sonya Sotomayor, Margaret Atwood, Celeste Ng and many more, while the organization also worked on its brand as a welcoming place for everyone and sharpened the purpose and intention in its statewide school and community outreach programs.

“It’s been an honor and privilege to work with such outstanding people at every level of the organization,” said Kim. “TBF attracts remarkably talented people, each of whom has contributed heart and soul to make TBF’s mission shine—board members, fellow staff, authors, moderators, donors, and dedicated volunteers, many who out-tenure me by a decade or more of service. I’ll be joining their ranks soon as a forever friend to TBF.”

Today the organization named Deputy Director Dalia Azim to serve as Interim Executive Director upon Kim’s departure and through the search for the organization’s next Executive Director. Other key TBF leadership staff include Development Director Susannah Auby and Literary Director Hannah Gabel.

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ABOUT TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL

With a vision to inspire Texans of all ages to love reading, the 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, Reading Rock Stars Title I elementary school program, Real Reads Title I middle and high school program, grants to Texas libraries, and year-round literary programming. The 2023 Texas Book Festival will take place from November 11-12, with events taking place in downtown Austin and at the Texas Capitol, featuring renowned authors, panels, book signings, and family activities. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Visit www.texasbookfestival.org for more