



Six Bridges Book Festival

SEPT. 25–OCT. 1, 2023

SixBridgesBookFestival.org



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CENTRAL
ARKANSAS
LIBRARY
SYSTEM

SIX BRIDGES BOOK FESTIVAL

Schedule At A Glance



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- Noon-1 p.m.** | **Stephen Aryan**, *The Judas Blossom*
Virtual
- 6:30-7:30 p.m.** | **Bart Elmore**, *Country Capitalism: How Corporations from the American South Remade Our Economy and the Planet*
Virtual
- 8-9 p.m.** | **Byron Lane**, *Big Gay Wedding*
Steven Rowley, *The Celebrants*
Virtual

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- Noon-1 p.m.** | **Darrin Bell**, *The Talk*
Élodie Durand, *Transitions: A Mother's Journey*
Virtual
- 6:30-7:30 p.m.** | **Abraham Josephine Riesman**, *Ringmaster: Vince McMahon and the Unmaking of America*
Virtual
- 8-9 p.m.** | **Ananta Ripa Ajmera**, *The Way of the Goddess*
Marita Golden, *The New Black Woman: Loves Herself, Has Boundaries, and Heals Every Day*
Virtual

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- Noon-1 p.m.** | **Caroline Dodds Pennock**, *On Savage Shores: How Indigenous Americans Discovered Europe*
Virtual
- 6:30-7:30 p.m.** | **De'Shawn Charles Winslow**, *Decent People*
Virtual
- 8-9 p.m.** | **Rebecca Makkai**, *I Have Some Questions for You*
Curtis Sittenfeld, *Romantic Comedy*
Virtual

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- Noon-1 p.m.** | **Ben McGrath**, *Riverman*
Ron Robinson Theater
- 5:30-7 p.m.** | **Laura Freeman Art Reception**
Pyramid Art, Books & Custom Framing
Laura Freeman's *Framing History* Exhibition
- 6:30-7:30 p.m.** | **Chris Cillizza**, *Power Players: Sports, Politics, and the American Presidency*
Ron Robinson Theater
- 6:30-8 p.m.** | **Pub or Perish**
Agasi 7: Rooftop Bar + Kitchen
This popular favorite features libations and literature shaken not stirred.
- 8-9 p.m.** | **David Grann**, *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder*; *Killers of the Flower Moon*
Ron Robinson Theater

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- 10-11 a.m.** | **Laura Freeman**, (Illustrator), *I'm an American* by Darshana Khiani
Clinton Presidential Center
- 6:30-7:30 p.m.** | **Julio Vincent Gambuto One-Man Show**
Please Unsubscribe, Thanks!
Ron Robinson Theater
- 8-10 p.m.** | **Party**
Toast the Fest authors.
Ron Robinson Theater

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- 10-11 a.m.** | **Writing Workshop I**
Deb Moore and the CALS Writing Circle
Rock It! Lab
- 10-11 a.m.** | **Cooking Workshop \$**
Stacey Mei Yan Fong, *50 Pies, 50 States: An Immigrant's Love Letter to the United States through Pie*
Eggshells Kitchen Co.
- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** | **Rachel Louise Martin**, *A Most Tolerant Little Town*
Monica Potts, *The Forgotten Girls*
Ron Robinson Theater
- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** | **Eli Cranor**, *Ozark Dogs*
Michael X. Wang, *Lost in the Long March*
UA Little Rock Downtown
- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** | **Writing Workshop II**
Quinn Connor, *Cicadas Sing of Summer Graves*, and CALS's Jobe
Rock It! Lab
- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** | **Cooking Workshop \$**
Susan Gravely, *Italy on a Plate*
Eggshells Kitchen Co.
- 1-2 p.m.** | **Jermaine Fowler**, *The Humanity Archive: Recovering the Soul of Black History from a Whitewashed American Myth*
Ron Robinson Theater
- 1-2 p.m.** | **Hilary Leichter**, *Terrace Story*
Ben Purkert, *The Men Can't Be Saved*
UA Little Rock Downtown
- 1-2 p.m.** | **Regina Black**, *The Art of Scandal*
Nikki Payne, *Pride and Protest*
Rock It! Lab
- 1-2 p.m.** | **Cooking Workshop \$**
Sandra A. Gutierrez, *Latinísimo: Home Recipes from the Twenty-One Countries of Latin America*
Eggshells Kitchen Co.
- 2:30-3:30 p.m.** | **Harrison Scott Key**, *How to Stay Married*
Hannah Pittard, *We Are Too Many: A Memoir [Kind of]*
Ron Robinson Theater
- 2:30-3:30 p.m.** | **Susan Wels**, *An Assassin in Utopia: The True Story of a Nineteenth-Century Sex Cult and a President's Murder*
UA Little Rock Downtown

2:30-3:30 p.m. | Karin Lin-Greenberg, *You Are Here*
Rock It! Lab | Terah Shelton Harris, *One Summer in Savannah*

4-5 p.m. | Elizabeth McKenzie, *The Dog of the North*
Ron Robinson Theater | Glenn Taylor, *The Songs of Betty Baach*
Special guest moderator Jay Jennings, editor
of Charles Portis: *Collected Works*.

4-5 p.m. | Donovan X. Ramsey, *When Crack Was King*
UA Little Rock Downtown | Erin Sharkey, *A Darker Wilderness*

4-5 p.m. | Juliana Lamy, *You Were Watching from the Sand*
Rock It! Lab | Jennifer Maritza McCauley, *When Trying to
Return Home*

4-5 p.m. | Stacey Mei Yan Fong, *50 Pies, 50 States*
St. Mark's Episcopal Church | Susan Gravely, *Italy on a Plate*
Sandra A. Gutierrez, *Latinísimo*

6:30-7:30 p.m. | Christian Cooper, *Better Living through Birding:*
Ron Robinson Theater | *Notes from a Black Man in the Natural World*

8-9 p.m. | Andrew Sean Greer, *Less Is Lost*
Ron Robinson Theater | Justin Torres, *Blackouts*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

Discussion, Noon-1 p.m. | Classic in Context
Screening, 1:15-3:30 p.m. | *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/
When the Rainbow is Enuf* by Ntozake Shange
Ron Robinson Theater | Discussion with Shaina Phenix, *To Be Named
Something Else*

3-5 p.m. | Pie Contest: Traditional Pie Bake-Off
The Root Café | and Recipe Swap Competition

6:30-7:30 p.m. | Kevin Brockmeier, *The Ghost Variations*
Ron Robinson Theater

8-9 p.m. | Maureen Corrigan, "Banned Books; Burned
Ron Robinson Theater | Books: Forbidden Literary Works"

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 LITTLE READERS ROCK

All activities at Hillary Rodham Clinton Children's Library & Learning Center

10 a.m.-2 p.m. | (All-Day) Outdoor Fair

10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Community Created Art Project

10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Scavenger Hunt

10-10:30 a.m. | Tommy Terrific's Wacky Magic

10:30-11 a.m. | ARTivity

11-11:30 a.m. | Lunch

11:30 a.m.-12 p.m. | SNACKtivity

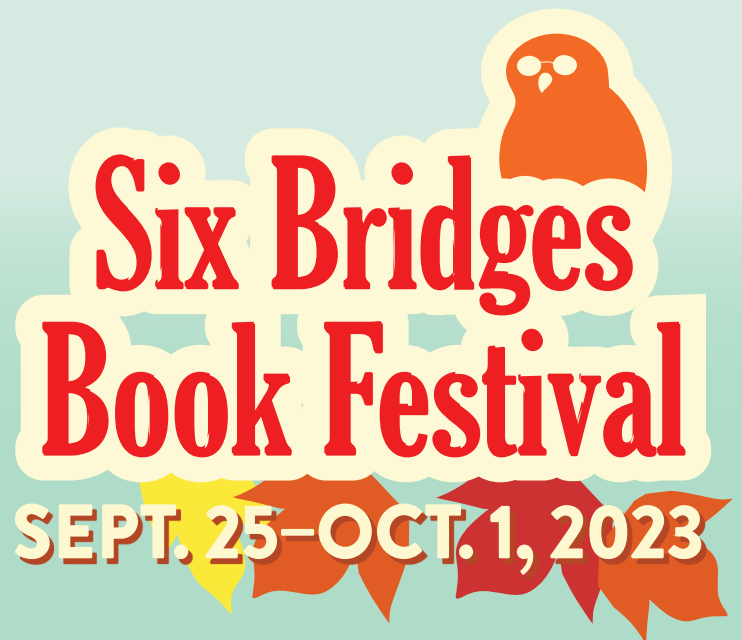
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. | Flurffy and Friends

Noon-12:30 p.m. | Laura Freeman, (Illustrator),
I'm an American by Darshana Khiani

12:30-1 p.m. | STEMtivity

1-1:30 p.m. | Reading Dragons

1:30-2 p.m. | Museum of Discovery



For complete schedule visit SixBridgesBookFestival.org

About the Festival

Table of Contents

Schedule at a Glance	2
About the Festival	4
Session Descriptions	5
Writers in the Schools	11
Little Readers Rock	13
Library Square Map	14
Book Sales & Merchandise	14
Behind the Scenes	15
Sponsors	16

This year marks the twentieth year of Fest excitement. With a major renovation underway at the Main Library, Fest programs have relocated a bit this year. Thankfully, though, the Fest is once again offering some favorite programs—WITS, Classic in Context, and a party, and partnering with the Junior League for Little Readers Rock, The Root Café for the pie contest, and *Arkansas Times* for Pub or Perish. Pyramid Art, Books & Custom Framing is joining WordsWorth Books to handle sales, and the Fest is returning to the Clinton Presidential Center, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Eggshells Kitchen Co., and the Cox Creative Center a.k.a. the Rock It! Lab. The outdoor fair will be at the Children's Library, and the Fest will offer nine virtual programs, plus a whole slate of in-person programs.

With two Pulitzer Prize winners and a Pulitzer finalist, multiple bestselling authors, three cooking workshops, two writing workshops, and even the author who Hollywood loves to produce, this year's leaner Fest is still packing in more than 50 superb programs and 50 presenters. The week-long Fest runs the gamut from historical fantasy in 1260s Persia to modern-day economics and environmentalism in the South to humorous fiction by actress Carrie Fisher's former personal assistant...and that is just the first day. From shipwrecks to the sports of presidents, sex cults to birdwatching, the eye-opening work of the Humanity Archive to how Indigenous Americans discovered Europe, the scope is vast. You'll find an exploration of nature, an examination of a choreopoem, and a discussion of Banned Books, alongside memoirs on marriage, books on mindfulness, tempting cookbooks, and, of course, cutting-edge fiction. Kids can enjoy a magic show, a scavenger hunt, a community created art project, and ever so much more.

We hope the twentieth-anniversary Fest allows for voracious readers to revel in bliss and proves exhilarating for casual readers, too. All sorts of wonderful experiences can happen when you pick up a book.

Happy reading,
Brad Mooy
Six Bridges Book Festival Coordinator

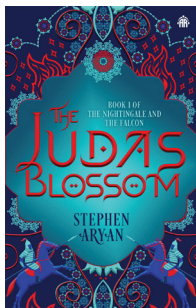


For virtual sessions, please register at SixBridgesBookFestival.org.

Session Descriptions

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

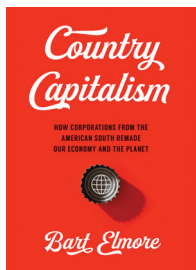
NOON-1 P.M. | VIRTUAL



Stephen Aryan

The Judas Blossom is the first installment in a Persian-inspired fantasy trilogy set in the 13th century. It is an imaginative and sprawling epic fantasy reimagining of the Mongol Empire's invasion of Persia, following the lives and treacherous journeys of four key figures in the heart of war.

6:30-7:30 P.M. | VIRTUAL



Bart Elmore

Country Capitalism: How Corporations from the American South Remade Our Economy and the Planet travels the rural roads running through the American South that led to our planet-changing global economy. Bart Elmore uses the histories of five Southern firms—Coca-Cola, Delta Airlines, Walmart, FedEx, and Bank of America—to investigate the environmental impact of our have-it-now, fly-by-night, buy-on-credit economy. Drawing on exclusive interviews with company executives, corporate archives, and other records, Elmore explores the historical, economic, and ecological conditions that gave rise to these five trailblazing corporations.

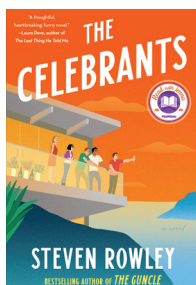
8-9 P.M. | VIRTUAL



Byron Lane and Steven Rowley

Byron Lane is an author, playwright, and screenwriter whose debut novel, *A Star is Bored*, inspired by his time as assistant to actress Carrie Fisher, was hailed by the *New York Times Book Review* as “wildly funny.” He lives in Palm Springs, California, with his husband, author Steven Rowley (who shares this session at the Fest, talking about his book *The Celebrants*), and their rescue dogs. In Lane’s *Big Gay Wedding*, a conservative mother runs

a rescue ranch for misfit animals in rural Louisiana and clashes with her gay son when he wants to have a grand wedding on the family farm. Written with humor and heart, Rowley’s *The Celebrants* is a moving tale about the false invincibility of youth and the beautiful ways in which friendship helps us celebrate our lives, even amid the deepest challenges of living.



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

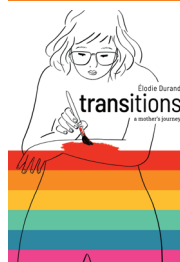
NOON-1 P.M. | VIRTUAL



Darrin Bell and Élodie Durand

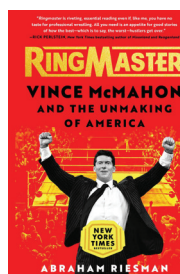


Through evocative illustrations and sharp humor, Darrin Bell examines how “The Talk” shaped intimate and public moments from childhood to adulthood. While coming of age in Los Angeles—and finding a voice through cartooning—Bell becomes painfully aware of being regarded as dangerous by white teachers, neighbors, and police officers, and thus aware of his mortality. And now Bell must decide whether he and his own six-year-old son are ready to have “The Talk.” In



Élodie Durand’s landmark nonfiction comic *Transitions: A Mother’s Journey*—a sympathetic, informative, and moving story of a family’s journey to acceptance—when Anne learns that her 19-year-old is a transgender man, she struggles to understand her son’s new identity.

6:30-7:30 P.M. | VIRTUAL



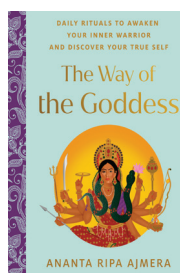
Abraham Josephine Riesman



Ringmaster: Vince McMahon and the Unmaking of America is an investigative biography about how fascism took root in the United States, told through the lens of the life of professional wrestling tycoon

Vince McMahon, former World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) chairman and CEO. Sponsored by CALS Adult Programming.

8-9 P.M. | VIRTUAL



Ananta Ripa Ajmera and Marita Golden



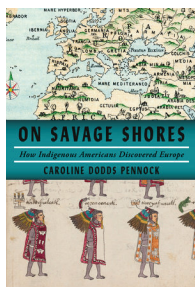
Inspired by the nine-night fall goddess festival of Navratri from the ancient Vedic spiritual tradition, *The Way of the Goddess* is an invitation to embark upon your own sacred hero’s journey. Author and spiritual teacher Ananta Ripa Ajmera shares her story of how she overcame trauma and abuse with the spiritual power of love. Marita Golden’s *The New Black Woman: Loves Herself, Has Boundaries, and Heals Every Day* is a guide to radical self-care and healing of body, mind, and spirit. Part inspiration, part resource guide, the book speaks to all women ready to make a commitment to sustaining healthy practices.



Session Descriptions

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

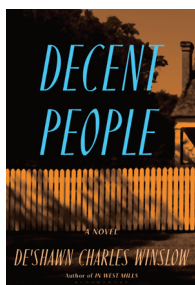
NOON-1 P.M. | VIRTUAL



Caroline Dodds Pennock

Caroline Dodds Pennock, one of the world's leading authorities on the Aztecs, is senior lecturer in international history at the University of Sheffield in England, as well as a public historian, consultant, and writer, appearing in programs from the BBC and Netflix. *On Savage Shores: How Indigenous Americans Discovered Europe* is a landmark work of narrative history that shatters our previous understanding of the Age of Discovery by telling the story of the thousands of Indigenous Americans who journeyed across the Atlantic to Europe after 1492.

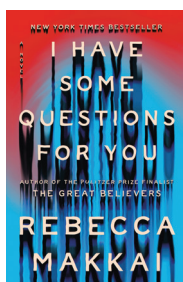
6:30-7:30 P.M. | VIRTUAL



De'Shawn Charles Winslow

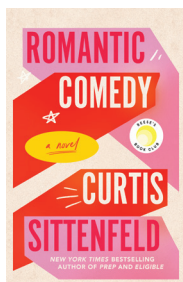
De'Shawn Charles Winslow was born and raised in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. His first novel, *In West Mills*, was the 2019 recipient of the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize, the 2020 American Book Award, and the 2020 Willie Morris Award for Southern Fiction. *Decent People* is a novel about how the residents of a fictional North Carolina hamlet cope with a triple murder, and what those murders reveal about classism, racism, and homophobia.

8-9 P.M. | VIRTUAL



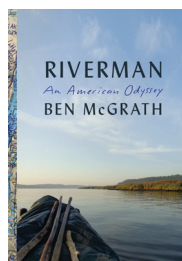
Rebecca Makkai and Curtis Sittenfeld

New York Times bestseller *I Have Some Questions for You* is Rebecca Makkai's most irresistible novel yet: a stirring investigation into collective memory and a deeply felt examination of one woman's reckoning with her past, with a transfixing mystery at its heart. In Curtis Sittenfeld's *Romantic Comedy*, Sally Milz is a sketch writer for a live comedy show that airs each Saturday night. When pop music sensation Noah Brewster appears as a musical guest, Sally hits it off with him instantly and sparks seem to fly. But he's out of her league and this isn't a romantic comedy—it's real life...right?



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

NOON-1 P.M. | RON ROBINSON THEATER



Ben McGrath

Ben McGrath, longtime staff writer for the *New Yorker*, wrote his debut book, *Riverman*, to tell the story of Dick Conant, a modern-day American folk hero who, over the course of more than twenty years, canoed solo along thousands of miles of the country's rivers. Sponsored by *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

5:30-7 P.M. | PYRAMID ART, BOOKS & CUSTOM FRAMING



Laura Freeman Art Reception

This reception celebrates the opening of illustrator Laura Freeman's *Framing History* exhibition. The exhibition runs September 15 to October 14, 2023. Sponsored by *Hearne Fine Art/Pyramid Art, Books & Custom Framing* and *Clinton Presidential Center*.

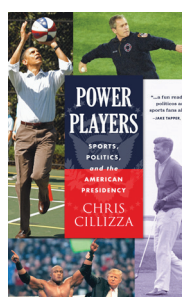
6:30-8 P.M. | AGASI 7: ROOFTOP BAR + KITCHEN



Pub or Perish

One of the few events that has been around since the beginning of the Fest... This popular favorite features libations and literature shaken and stirred. What a mix! Limited open mic slots available. Sponsored by *Arkansas Times*.

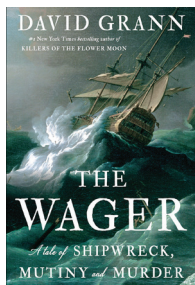
6:30-7:30 P.M. | RON ROBINSON THEATER



Chris Cillizza

Power Players: Sports, Politics, and the American Presidency tells all the great stories of presidents and the sports they played, loved, and spectated. While every modern president has used sports to relate to Joe Q. Public, *Power Players* turns the lens around to examine how sports have shaped our presidents and made for some amazing moments in White House history. Sponsored by *John David Coulter Memorial Fund*.

8-9 P.M. | RON ROBINSON THEATER



David Grann

Known for his compelling stories, *New Yorker* writer and bestselling author David Grann has been called “the man Hollywood can’t stop reading,” with his book *Killers of the Flower Moon* coming to the big screen this fall, with Martin Scorsese as director and starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro. *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder* is a page-turning story of survival and savagery, culminating in a court-martial that reveals a shocking truth. *This program is part of the CALS Speaker Series and honors J. N. Heiskell.*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

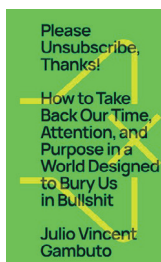
10-11 A.M. | CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL CENTER



Laura Freeman

In *I'm an American* by Darshana Khiani, with Laura Freeman's exuberant illustrations, a classroom of children across many races, cultures, and origins explores the concept of Americanness as they each share bits of their family history and how their past has shaped their own personal American experience. *Sponsored by Hearne Fine Art/Pyramid Art, Books & Custom Framing and Clinton Presidential Center.*

6:30-7:30 P.M. | RON ROBINSON THEATER



Julio Vincent Gambuto One-Man Show



Author and filmmaker Julio Vincent Gambuto's viral essay series “Prepare for the Ultimate Gaslighting” sparked a worldwide conversation reaching over 21 million readers in 29 countries. Following up on the series, Gambuto's

debut book, *Please Unsubscribe, Thanks!*, offers a radical blueprint for how to fight back against the relentlessness of modern life, the coming age of automation, and the stranglehold corporate interests have on our time, focus, money, and power. Gambuto combines elements of his book and background into a one-of-a-kind comic one-man show.

8-10 P.M. | RON ROBINSON THEATER



Party

Toast the Festival authors at this fête featuring hors d'oeuvres and libations. Geared for adults, the party will also have live music by the Hounds and books available for purchase. *Sponsored by Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and Pro Smart Printing.*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

10-11 A.M. | ROCK IT! LAB



Writing Workshop I

Join CALS's Deb Moore and the Writing Circle for an Exquisite Corpse activity, a collaborative game with origins in the Parisian Surrealist Movement. Drop in and add your unique sentence or phrase to an evolving piece of collaborative and creative writing. Breakfast treats, too! *Sponsored by Summit Utilities.*

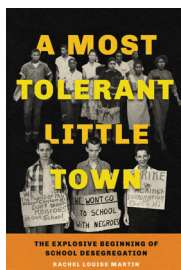
10-11 A.M. | EGGHELLS KITCHEN CO.



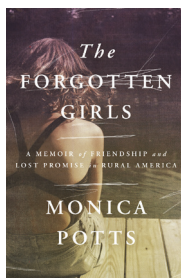
Stacey Mei Yan Fong Cooking Workshop

Come bake pie number one in the *50 Pies, 50 States* journey with author Stacey Mei Yan Fong as she chats about all things American, pie, and, most of all, the friendships that made her decide to call this country her home. Tickets are \$15 and available at SixBridgesBookFestival.org. Limited seating. *Sponsored by Meadors, Adams and Lee.*

11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. | RON ROBINSON THEATER



Rachel Louise Martin and Monica Potts



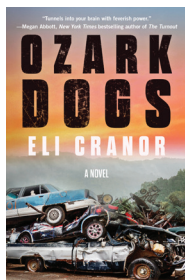
In *A Most Tolerant Little Town*, historian Rachel Louise Martin weaves together over a dozen perspectives to tell the forgotten story of the first school to attempt court-mandated desegregation in the wake of 1954's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. In Monica Potts's *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *The Forgotten Girls*, an acclaimed journalist tries to understand how she escaped the confines of her small town in Arkansas while her brilliant friend could

not, illuminating the unemployment, drug abuse, sexism, and evangelicalism killing poor, rural white women all over America. *Sponsored by CALS Main Library Renovation Architects.*

Session Descriptions

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

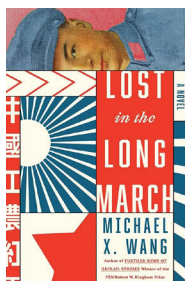
11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. | UA LITTLE ROCK DOWNTOWN



Eli Cranor and Michael X. Wang

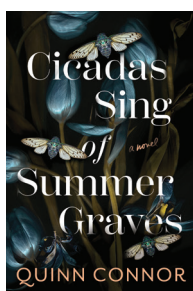


Arkansas author and columnist Eli Cranor's second novel, *Ozark Dogs*, is a Southern noir thriller about a decades-old blood feud between two families in a small Arkansas town.



Michael X. Wang's *Lost in the Long March* is an unflinching debut novel set against the backdrop of Mao's Long March and its aftermath. Set in China in 1934 and going into the 1970s, the novel features naive orphan Ping, who has fallen in love with Yong, a true believer in Mao and the Marxist ideology. Sponsored by WordsWorth Books and Riggs Cat.

11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. | ROCK IT! LAB



Writing Workshop II

Whether you're an aspiring writer or just interested in how the writing process works, don't miss this unique opportunity to talk shop with **Quinn Connor**, dual authors of *Cicadas Sing of Summer Graves*, and CALS's Jobe. Sponsored by Summit Utilities.

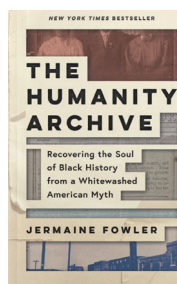
11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. | EGGSHELLS KITCHEN CO.



Susan Gravely Cooking Workshop

Join VIETRI founder Susan Gravely as she prepares recipes and shares stories from her new memoir and cookbook, *Italy on a Plate*, a loving tribute to 40 years of Italian travels and friendships. Tickets are \$15 and available at SixBridgesBookFestival.org. Limited seating. Sponsored by At Home in Arkansas.

1-2 P.M. | RON ROBINSON THEATER

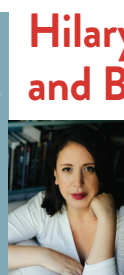


Jermaine Fowler

In the instant *New York Times* bestseller *The Humanity Archive: Recovering the Soul of Black History from a Whitewashed American Myth*,

Jermaine Fowler takes a sweeping survey of human history to show how Black humanity has been erased and relate how its recovery can save the humanity of us all. *This program is part of the CALS Speaker Series and honors Rabbi Ira Sanders.*

1-2 P.M. | UA LITTLE ROCK DOWNTOWN

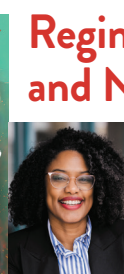


Hilary Leichter and Ben Purkert

In Hilary Leichter's *Terrace Story*, Annie, Edward, and their daughter find a beautiful terrace hidden in the closet of their cramped apartment. But every bit of extra space has a hidden cost, and the terrace sets off a seismic chain of events, forever changing the shape of the world. Ben Purkert's comedic debut novel *The Men Can't Be Saved* tackles a haunting question: What do our jobs do to our souls? In this startlingly

original examination of work, sex, addiction, religion, branding, and ourselves, Seth is a junior copywriter whose latest tagline just went viral. He tries to discover his spiritual self by day, while popping illegal prescription pills by night and straying farther from salvation.

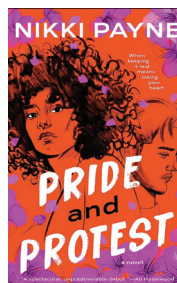
1-2 P.M. | ROCK IT! LAB



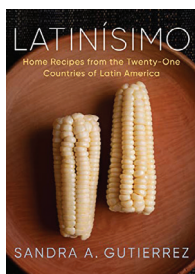
Regina Black and Nikki Payne

Regina Black's *The Art of Scandal* is a steamy contemporary romance about a Black trophy wife who agrees to fake a perfect marriage for her cheating husband's political campaign in exchange for a large divorce settlement but starts questioning her life choices when she falls for a handsome young artist. In Nikki Payne's debut novel *Pride and Protest*, hailed as "incandescent" by the *Washington Post*, a woman goes

head-to-head with the CEO of a corporation threatening to destroy her neighborhood in this fresh and modern retelling of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.



1-2 P.M. | EGGSHELLS KITCHEN CO.



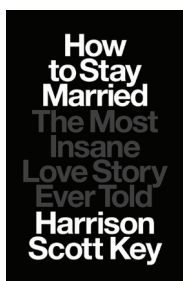
Sandra A. Gutierrez Cooking Workshop



Share an hour with Sandra A. Gutierrez, acclaimed food journalist, professional cooking instructor, recipe developer, and author of *Latinísimo: Home Recipes from the Twenty-One Countries of*

Latin America. Tickets are \$15 and available at SixBridgesBookFestival.org. Limited seating. Sponsored by Boyette Strategic Advisors.

2:30-3:30 P.M. | RON ROBINSON THEATER

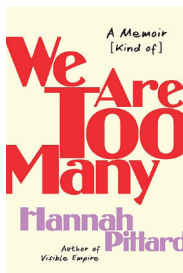


Harrison Scott Key and Hannah Pittard

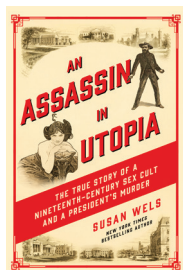


Harrison Scott Key is the executive dean at Savannah College of Art and Design and is the author of three books, including *The World's Largest Man* and *Congratulations, Who Are You Again?*, the inspiration for his TEDx talk, "The Funny Thing About the American Dream." *How to Stay Married* tells the hilarious, shocking, and spiritually profound story of the author's journey through hell and back when infidelity threatens his

marriage. Hannah Pittard's *We Are Too Many: A Memoir [Kind of]* is an unexpectedly funny, unflinchingly honest, and genre-bending memoir about a marriage-ending affair between the author's husband and her charismatic best friend. Sponsored by Oxford American.



2:30-3:30 P.M. | UA LITTLE ROCK DOWNTOWN

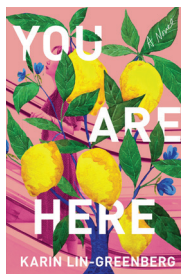


Susan Wels

The deeply researched true-crime odyssey *An Assassin in Utopia: The True Story of a Nineteenth-Century Sex Cult and a President's*

Murder tells the interlocking stories of the Oneida Community and its radical founder, John Humphrey Noyes; eccentric newspaper publisher Horace Greeley; the gloomy, indecisive President James Garfield; and Garfield's demented assassin, who was connected to all of them in surprising ways.

2:30-3:30 P.M. | ROCK IT! LAB



Karin Lin-Greenberg and Terah Shelton Harris

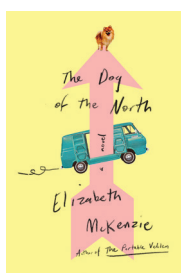


Exploring how the stories we tell ourselves about ourselves are inextricably bound to the places we call home, Karin Lin-Greenberg's novel *You Are Here* is a keenly perceptive and deeply humane portrait of a community in transition. Terah Shelton Harris's debut novel *One Summer in Savannah* features a young poet who returns home to run her father's bookstore and finds she must protect her gifted daughter—



and herself—from the powerful family of the man who raped her, something made even more difficult when she falls in love with his twin brother. Sponsored by Friends of CALS.

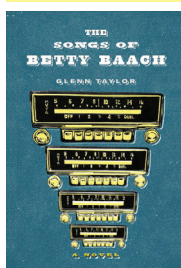
4-5 P.M. | RON ROBINSON THEATER



Elizabeth McKenzie and Glenn Taylor



In Elizabeth McKenzie's slyly humorous novel *The Dog of the North*, Penny Rush has problems. But she is a virtuoso at what's possible when all else fails. In Penny's quest for a fresh start, there will be a road trip in the Dog of the North, an old van with gingham curtains, a piñata, and stiff brakes. There will be questions: Why is a detective investigating her grandmother, and what is "the scintillator"? And can

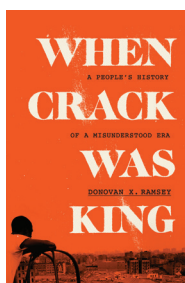


Penny recognize a good thing when it finally comes her way? A novel set in West Virginia, Glenn Taylor's *The Songs of Betty Baach* follows the lives of the Baaches of Keystone and the Knoxes of Mosestown as they twist and connect in a tale of survival and retribution that crosses three centuries. Special guest moderator Jay Jennings, editor of *Charles Portis: Collected Works*. Sponsored by CALS Foundation.

Session Descriptions

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

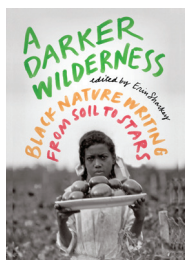
4-5 P.M. | UA LITTLE ROCK DOWNTOWN



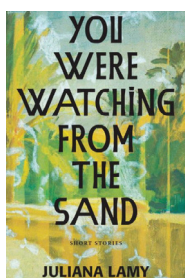
Donovan X. Ramsey and Erin Sharkey



Weaving together riveting research with the voices of survivors, Donovan X. Ramsey's *When Crack Was King* is a crucial reevaluation of the crack epidemic of the 1980s and '90s and a powerful argument for providing historically violated communities with the resources they deserve. Erin Sharkey's *A Darker Wilderness* is a vibrant collection of personal and lyric essays in conversation with archival objects of Black history and memory. In its pages, luminary writers reflect on the significance of nature in their lived experience and on the role of nature in the lives of Black folks in the United States.



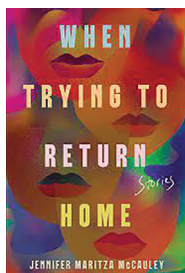
4-5 P.M. | ROCK IT! LAB



Juliana Lamy and Jennifer Maritza McCauley



Playful, kinetic, and devastating in turn, Juliana Lamy's *You Were Watching from the Sand* is a story collection written in a mixture of high lyricism, absurdist comedy, and Haitian cultural witticisms. Jennifer Maritza McCauley's *When Trying to Return Home* is a dazzling debut short-story collection spanning a century of Black American and Afro-Latino life in Puerto Rico, Pittsburgh, Louisiana, Miami, and beyond—and an evocative meditation on belonging, the meaning of home, and how we secure freedom on our own terms. Sponsored by University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Literary and Performing Arts.

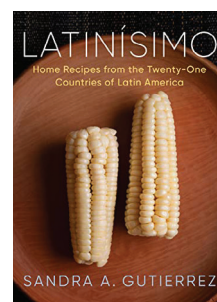
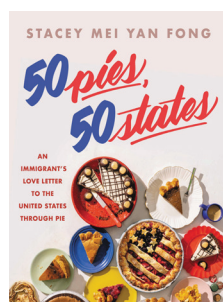


4-5 P.M. | ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

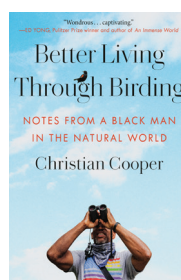
Stacey Mei Yan Fong, Susan Gravelly, and Sandra A. Gutierrez



Each pie in Fong's *50 Pies, 50 States: An Immigrant's Love Letter to the United States through Pie* is a whimsical tribute that encapsulates a state's unique flavors and honors its culture. With recipes organized like the all-American road trip we've all wanted to complete, this book is a journey through the wonders of pie for bakers of all skill levels—and also the story of one extraordinary woman who chose to make this place her home. In her debut cookbook, *Italy on a Plate*, Gravelly celebrates forty years of her lifestyle brand VIETRI and explores what makes Italy so magical: its staggering beauty, unparalleled style, artistic legacy, and incredible food. In *Latinísimo: Home Recipes from the Twenty-One Countries of Latin America*, Gutierrez shares more than 300 everyday dishes—plus countless variations—that home cooks everywhere will want to replicate. Divided by ingredient and featuring an extensive pantry section that establishes the fundamentals of Latin American cooking, *Latinísimo* brings together real recipes from home cooks throughout Latin America.



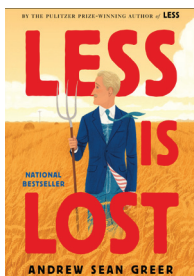
6:30-7:30 P.M. | RON ROBINSON THEATER



Christian Cooper

Equal parts memoir, travelogue, and primer on the art of birding, *Better Living through Birding: Notes from a Black Man in the Natural World* tells the story of Christian Cooper's extraordinary life leading up to the now-infamous incident in Central Park and shows how a life spent looking up at the birds prepared him, in the most uncanny of ways, to be a gay, Black man in America today. Sponsored by Alan Ross Kump Memorial Endowment and Rebsamen Fund.

8-9 P.M. | RON ROBINSON THEATER



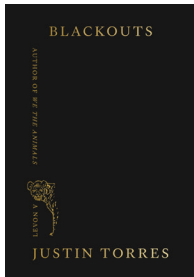
Andrew Sean Greer and Justin Torres



Andrew Sean Greer is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of six works of fiction, including the bestsellers *The Confessions of Max Tivoli* and *Less*. In the *Less* sequel *Less Is Lost*, for Arthur Less, life is going surprisingly well. But nothing lasts: the death of an old lover and a sudden financial crisis have Less running away from his problems yet again as he accepts a series of literary gigs that send him zigzagging across the country. Justin Torres's



extraordinary novel of creative imagination, *Blackouts*, mines lost histories—personal and collective. Out in the desert in a place called the Palace, a young man tends to a dying soul, someone he once knew briefly but who has haunted the edges of his life. As Juan waits for his end, he and the narrator trade stories—moments of joy and oblivion—and resurrect lost loves, lives, mothers, fathers, minor heroes. *Sponsored by Dr. Elizabeth Fletcher Dishongh Charitable Trust.*



Stay up to date. Get the latest news
about the Fest, register for sessions,
and purchase books and tickets
at SixBridgesBookFestival.org.



Writers in the Schools (WITS) Initiative

Sponsored by Wright, Lindsey & Jennings LLP.

The Six Bridges Book Festival's Writers in the Schools (WITS) program is a beacon of literary inspiration, nurturing the next generation of readers and writers. It brings Fest presenters to area elementary, middle, and senior high schools, as well as local colleges and provides a set of books to each school. This initiative transcends the confines of traditional classrooms, making the magic of storytelling accessible to young minds. This year's participating authors include **Christian Cooper, Eli Cranor, Laura Freeman, Terah Shelton Harris, Juliana Lamy, Karin Lin-Greenberg, Jennifer Martiza McCauley, Elizabeth McKenzie, Shaina Phenix, Erin Sharkey, and Glenn Taylor.**

WITS is about more than just teaching writing skills; it's a journey of self-discovery and empowerment. Students encounter diverse literary genres, styles, and voices, witnessing the creative process up close. Workshops and interactions with authors encourage them to explore their own creativity, fostering a lifelong love for writing and literature.

The program instills confidence and self-expression, empowering students to share their unique stories with the world. It champions diversity and celebrates the transformative power of words.

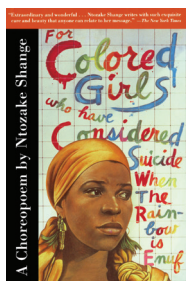


Session Descriptions

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

DISCUSSION, NOON-1 P.M.
SCREENING, 1:15-3:30 P.M.
RON ROBINSON THEATER

Classic in Context: *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf*



The author Sapphire, *Push*, might have said it best: “If there are shoulders modern African American women’s literature stands upon they belong to Ntozake Shange.” Chosen by audience members this past year, Shange’s extraordinary choreopoem will be explored by the Miller Williams prizewinning poet Shaina Phenix. Then, grab some popcorn and sit back to watch a screening of the 2010 film adaptation. Discussion with Shaina Phenix. Make sure you vote for the 2024 Classic in Context at CALS Fest venues and online at SixBridgesBookFestival.org.

Sponsored by Dr. Elizabeth Fletcher Dishongh Charitable Trust.



3-5 P.M. | THE ROOT CAFÉ



Pie Contest

To participate in the Traditional Pie Bake-Off and Recipe Swap Competition, entrants should be at The Root Café at 2:45 p.m. with

their best pie and copies of the recipe. Monetary and other prizes will be awarded, and the restaurant will be open during the event as well. Special guest judge Stacey Mei Yan Fong, *50 Pies, 50 States*. Sponsored by The Root Café.

6:30-7:30 P.M. | RON ROBINSON THEATER



Kevin Brockmeier

The Ghost Variations is a collection of 100 very short stories about ghosts, hauntedness, and the afterlife. Brockmeier will be reading from new work. Sponsored by Windstream.

8-9 P.M. | RON ROBINSON THEATER



Maureen Corrigan

For more than twenty years, Maureen Corrigan has been the book critic for NPR’s *Fresh Air*. She is also a columnist for the *Washington Post* as well as the *Nicky and Jamie*

Grant Distinguished Professor of the Practice in Literary Criticism at Georgetown University, where her courses are very popular and her lectures have been described as “brilliant,” “hilarious,” “passionate,” and “eloquent.” She is the author of *Leave Me Alone, I’m Reading: Finding and Losing Myself in Books* and *So We Read On: How the Great Gatsby Came to Be and Why It Endures*, which was named one of the ten best books of 2014 by *Library Journal*. Corrigan knows a lot about books considered too dangerous to read and is the author and presenter of “Banned Books; Burned Books: Forbidden Literary Works”—a unique program on the subject of book bannings and burnings in America and Great Britain. Sponsored by Fred K. Darragh, Jr. Foundation and Little Rock Public Radio.



Little Readers Rock

In partnership with the Junior League of Little Rock

All activities at Hillary Rodham Clinton Children's Library & Learning Center

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

10 A.M.-2 P.M.

(All-Day) Outdoor Fair

Enjoy all-day family fun outside with games, inflatables, crafts, roving characters, face painting, music, and special appearances.

10 A.M.-2 P.M.

Scavenger Hunt

Calling all young explorers! Join us for a library quest to follow clues, solve puzzles, and uncover hidden treasures.

10 A.M.-2 P.M.

Community Created Art Project

Create your own collaborative art installation inspired by Natasha Bowdoin's *Spring Song* site-specific installation on view at the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts. Using paper, cardboard, markers, and glue, make your own nature-inspired shape and add it to the Little Readers Rock community installation at HRC Children's Library. *Sponsored by Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts.*

10-10:30 A.M.



Tommy Terrific's Wacky Magic

A magic trunk contains a huge comic book full of magic tricks representing classic comic book superheroes. The audience guides Tommy through a fun, interactive adventure. Along the way, kids discover how books inspire imagination and make their favorite superheroes come to life.

10:30-11 A.M.

ARTivity

This educational art activity celebrates Hispanic Heritage Awareness and revolves around axolotls and their meaning in Hispanic culture.



11-11:30 A.M.

Lunch

Grab something to eat on site before engaging in more activities.

11:30 A.M.-12 P.M.

SNACKtivity

Come by for a fun and delicious session on crafting the perfect easy snack.

11:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

Flurffy and Friends

Join the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts' puppet-in-residence, Flurffy, and his puppet friends for a drop-in, interactive storytime. Flurffy and Friends will lead you through an impromptu immersive experience of puppetry, music, storytelling, and art. *Sponsored by Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts.*

NOON-12:30 P.M.



Laura Freeman

A second opportunity to see Laura Freeman's program on *I'm an American* by Darshana Khiani, featuring Freeman's exuberant

illustrations. In Khiani's book, a classroom of children across many races, cultures, and origins explores the concept of Americanness as they each share bits of their family history and how their past has shaped their own personal American experience. *Sponsored by Hearne Fine Art/Pyramid Art, Books & Custom Framing and Clinton Presidential Center.*

12:30-1 P.M.

STEMtivity

Ready for high-flying fun? Join us to create a paper masterpiece and then compete in a friendly competition to see who can get their plane to soar the farthest.

1-1:30 P.M.

Reading Dragons

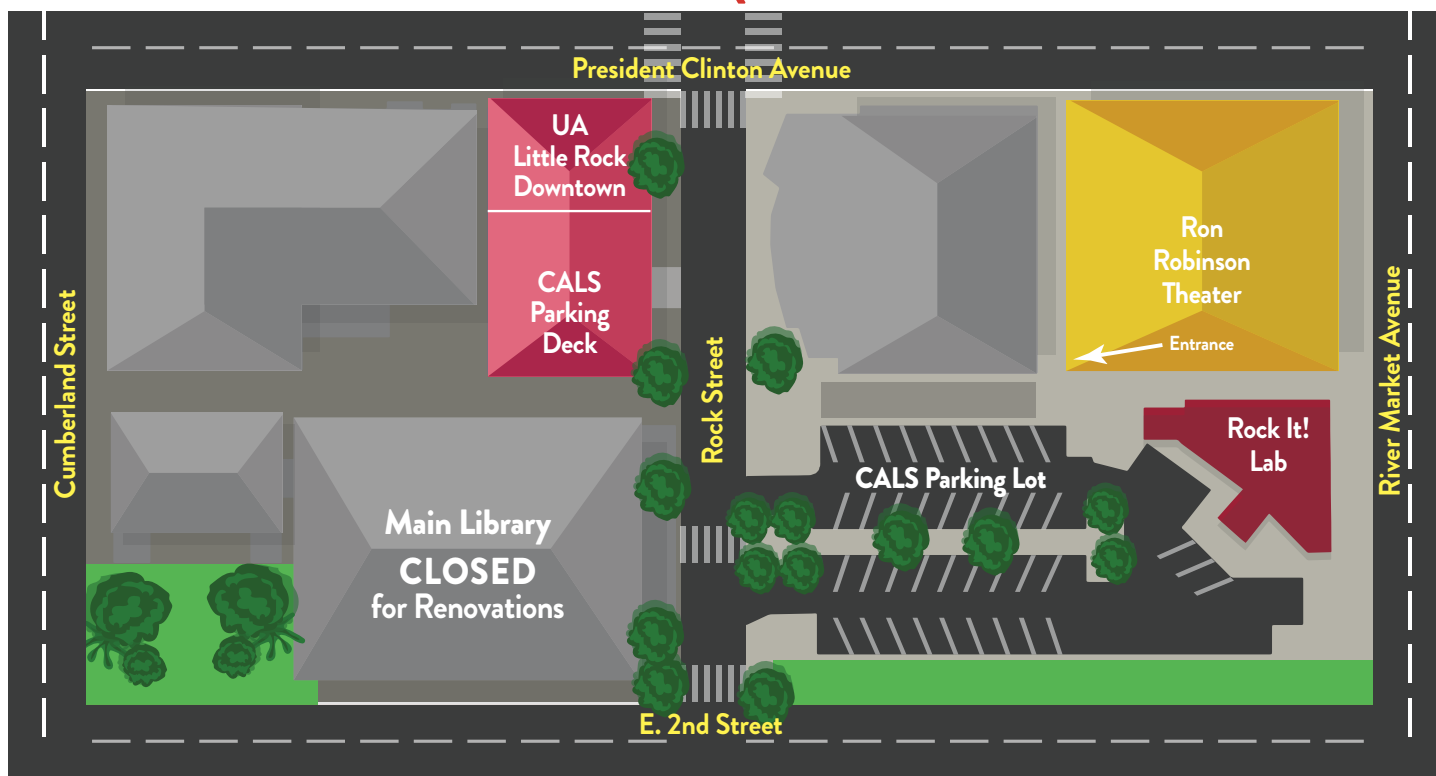
Unleash your imagination by designing trading cards as part of CALS's Reading Dragons program, which encourages kids to read. Attend this session to learn how to join.

1:30-2 P.M.

Museum of Discovery

In Awesome Science, a presentation by the Museum of Discovery, witness swirling vortexes and be amazed by the coolest cryo demonstrations around!

FEST VENUES ON LIBRARY SQUARE



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Thursday, Sept. 28–
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Available at SixBridgesBookFestival.org
and in person at Ron Robinson Theater.

SIX BRIDGES BOOK FESTIVAL

Behind the Scenes



Fest Coordinator: Brad Mooy

Book Sales: WordsWorth Books and
Pyramid Art, Books & Custom Framing

Zoom Squad Commander: Nathan Smith

Marketing: Tameka Lee

Webmaster: Jeff Matika

Volunteer Coordinator & Swag: Polly Deems

WITS Chair: Jennifer White

Fest Guides Chairs: Betsy Johnson, Ginger Young

Little Readers Rock Chair: Sarah A. Morris

(All-Day) Outdoor Fair: Roby Brock

Editor: Ali Welky

Festival Art: Phillip Rex Huddleston

Fest Program Graphic Designer: Robin Stauffer

Social Media: Stewart Fuell

Press Releases: Kelli Marks

Special Assistance: Madelyn Ganos

Talent Committee: Eliza Borné, Kevin Brockmeier, Jeffrey Condran, Tom DeBlack, Garbo Hearne, Phillip Rex Huddleston, Michelle Bailey Keahey, Frederick McKindra, Stephanie Maxwell Newton, Susan Santa Cruz, Vaughn Scribner, Latina Sheard, Dorian Stuber

Moderators & Introducers: Danielle T. Afsordeh, Eliza Borné, Jeffrey Condran, Tom DeBlack, Jen Fawkes, Jay Jennings, Jajuan Johnson, Janis Kearney, Karen Martin, Philip Martin, Jessica McDaniel, Frederick McKindra, Karama Neal, Stephanie Maxwell Newton, Felicia Richardson, Katie Robertson, Michael Rosenow, Skip Rutherford, Vaughn Scribner, Jonathan Seaborn, Steve Straessle, Dorian Stuber, Gregory Wagnon, Alexandria Washington, Wyndham Wyeth

Zoom Squad: Danielle T. Afsordeh, Aaron Campbell, Karmen Cooper, Camille Davis, Stewart Fuell, Karen Guthrie, Mark Hotchkiss, Joseph Hudak, Riley Lucas, Felicia Richardson, Sarah Sewell, April Smith, Andre Thornton, Justin Vess, Jakeob Ward, Matthew Wilson, Heather Zbinden

Festival Guides: Marian Berry, Lynn Christie, Sara Cooke, Susan Cooper, Mary Dillard, Jane Doty, Susan Fleming, Pam Kiser, Suzanne Mackey, Mary Sha Moriarty, Cas Rifkin, Lynna Shonert, Marcy Welch

Central Arkansas Library System: Griffen Birdsong, Eliza Borné, Shekia Carlock, Marilyn Cash, Mark Christ, Carol Coffey, Joey Cole, Nate Coulter, Jamie Diaz, Lisa Donovan, Linda Ellis, Brandin Gibbons, Lance Ivy, Jasmine Jobe, Chris Ketterman, Ellen Samples, Hannah Sautler, Jo Spencer, Colin Thompson, Shya Washington

Additional Presenters: Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Discovery, Tommy Terrific

Special Thanks: Jama Best, Phyllis Britton, Kevin Brockmeier, Amanda Copley, Jan Emberton, LeRoi Emerson, Natalie Ghidotti, Garbo Hearne, Lia Lent, Gary Miller, Lynne Phillips, Skip Rutherford, Steve Straessle, Donovan Suitt, Nate Thomas, Kandi West, Mary Rimmel Wohlleb, Grace Zafasi

Six Bridges Presents and Speaker Series since 2022 Fest: Stephen Markley, *The Deluge*, moderator Steve Straessle; Tom Rob Smith, *Cold People*, moderator Wyndham Wyeth; Benjamin A. Carp, *The Great New York Fire of 1776: A Lost Story of the American Revolution*, moderator Vaughn Scribner; Lizzie Gottlieb, *Turn Every Page* (screening), moderator Nate Coulter; Suzanne Park, *The Do Over*, moderator Ginger Smith; Ronnie Woo, *Did You Eat Yet?*, moderator Joel DiPippa; Nicola Harrison, *Hotel Laguna*, moderator Rosemary Hallmark; Nicole A. Fleetwood, *Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration*, moderator Matthew Fields



Save the Date

Yuyi Morales: Sonadora

Acclaimed children's author and illustrator **Yuyi Morales** will unveil her exhibition, *Yuyi Morales: Sonadora*, at CALS in partnership with the Six Bridges Book Festival, Latino Art Project, and Seis Puentes. On October 14, coinciding with the close of Hispanic Heritage Month, Morales will grace the Children's Library in person. This exhibition showcases over 50 pieces of her art and will be open to the public until November 15. Additionally, Morales will engage with Chicot Elementary School

Exhibition: October 14-November 15
Day 1 of special programs: October 14
Day 2 of special programs: October 21

through the Festival's WITS program, and CALS will distribute 200+ books authored or illustrated by Morales. Stay tuned for further details.

This exhibition was organized by the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, Abilene, Texas. The program is supported with funding from the Arkansas Arts Council, a division of Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism.

SIX BRIDGES BOOK FESTIVAL

2023 Sponsors, Partners, and Supporters

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PARTNERS



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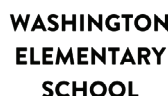


ROCK ISLAND BRIDGE

JUNCTION BRIDGE



BARING CROSS BRIDGE



I-30 BRIDGE

ADDITIONAL DONORS

Robert L. Brown; Mark Christ; Annick Dellmann-Schafer; Lawrence Diaz; LaReina R. Fuentes-Cook; Tameka A. Lee; Brad Mooy; Bonnie Nickol; and Sandra Kathleen Reed.

The Six Bridges Book Festival is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Central Arkansas Library System gratefully acknowledges the support of the Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau and the many other donors and partners who make this festival possible. The Junior League of Little Rock is a partner for the Little Readers Rock events.