



The 4th Annual Bay Area Book Festival

Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29, 2018

**** NEW DATES! ****

CALL FOR AUTHOR NOMINATIONS, PROGRAM PROPOSALS, AND EXHIBITORS

Now embarking on its fourth year, the Bay Area Book Festival (www.baybookfest.org) is one of the most exciting literary weekends in the United States. Each year, the international festival presents between **200-300 top authors across broad categories** to tens of thousands of engaged readers in a **highly influential book-buying region**. As described below, the Bay Area Book Festival in downtown Berkeley has become a favorite of writers and publishers alike.

For its first three years, the Festival took place in early June. We have moved to late April—this year, **April 28-29, 2018**—as part of a robust partnership with UC Berkeley, the nation’s top-ranked public university, that will swell our audiences. We expect **50,000-60,000 highly educated, frequent book buyers** of all ages.

We are open to nominations for speakers and programs. Please review the guidelines below before submitting nominations. You also may wish to skim the Archives at www.baybookfest.org to learn more about our scope.

Authors/Speakers:

The Bay Area Book Festival has become known for its focus on “literature for social change,” which encompasses fiction, non-fiction, and poetry that has both high literary quality and a relevance to current issues.

We welcome your best authors of **literary fiction, memoir, science fiction, mystery/thrillers, current events, politics, history, science, spirituality, travel, poetry, publishing and writing, work in translation, young adult fiction (a major focus this year), and children’s books.**

Please note that we rarely present business or self-help books, and our romance offerings are limited to sessions that we design around themes.

We especially welcome authors who come from diverse backgrounds and experiences. Each year we also have exceptional programming on women’s issues. Other focus areas are human rights, LGBT, environment, and progressive politics.

Concerning work in translation, we regularly present authors traveling to the festival from a dozen or more countries, plus many more authors who originally hail from outside the U.S. But to appear at the festival, the author must be able to present fluently in English.

With some exceptions, our speakers' most recent books should bear **publication dates between July 2017 and April 2018**. Book sales are a big part of the festival, and they must be readily available to the array of independent booksellers that serve the event.

Festival programs will include keynotes, both day and evening; conversations/interviews; group (panel) discussions; storytelling with and without drawing demos; literary performances; and a limited number of workshop-style sessions.

Publishers: we welcome your nominations any time throughout the year. For maximum consideration, please send them before November 1.

Individuals: we are happy to accept your submissions from August through December 15.

For all nominations, please include

- Author's name
- Most recent book title
- Publication date
- ISBN, price, and format (e.g., hardcover, paper)
- Publisher and imprint
- Short description
- Author's short bio and current photo
- Indication if a visual presentation may be desired by the speaker

Send two (2) galleys, ARCs, or finished books to BABF Program Team, 1569 Solano Ave, # 635, Berkeley CA 94707. (If e-galleys or mss are the only possibility, please attach those to your nomination email.)

Please confirm that the author(s) you are nominating will be available the last weekend of April before submitting!

Email nominations to Melissa Mytinger, Program Director, melissa@baybookfest.org.

Program Proposals:

BABF's program team develops and curates nearly all festival programs on its own, but we welcome suggestions, and occasionally we will present a session created by someone else . If you would like to propose a specific talk, interview, panel, or combination festival event, please [send us](#) a one-paragraph description of what you have in mind, why you think it a good and timely fit, the intended audience, and what you see as the goal or take-away for the proposed session. We will consider all suggestions, and will respond if we're able to incorporate your suggestion into the schedule. (Due to volume, we aren't able to respond to suggestions we cannot incorporate.)

Exhibitor Information:

If your company is interested in exhibit possibilities, please contact exhibits@baybookfest.org, or add a request for information to your speaker pitch. We'd love to have you!

Sponsorship Information:

If you or your company is interested in sponsorship opportunities, we'd be happy to provide information and to work with you to maximize a sponsorship. Opportunities range from branding or creation of sessions, marketing through our mailing list, special outdoor activations, presence at our Gala, and more. Please contact our CMO, Erin Skidmore, at erin@baybookfest.org, or add a request for information to your speaker or program pitch.

About the Bay Area Book Festival:

The Bay Area Book Festival debuted in 2015 in downtown Berkeley. Each year we have presented between 230-300 authors, totaling 820 over the three years in nearly 300 carefully curated keynotes, interviews, panels, and performances. Authors have included dozens of Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winners, U.S. and California Poet Laureates, top best-selling writers from the United States and more than 20 other countries around the world, and political and business leaders, such as a U.S. Senator and a senior vice president at Google, among others.

Authors have included Masha Gessen, T.J. Stiles, Michael Chabon, Viet Thanh Nguyen, Adam Johnson, Judy Blume, Rebecca Solnit, Layli Long Soldier, Robert Hass, Cory Doctorow, Scott Turow, Jane Hirshfield, Laleh Khadivi, Mona Eltahawy, Jack Kornfield, Adam Hochschild, Roxane Gay, Yiyun Li, Pico Iyer, Sherman Alexie, Cornelia Funke, Geoff Dyer, Walter Mosley, Nisi Shawl, Daniel Handler, John Scalzi, Laurie R. King, Rob Bell, Hannah Tinti, Dan Santat, and hundreds more esteemed writers. International authors we have hosted include Colm Tóibín (Ireland), Jonas Hassen Khemiri (Sweden), Jussi Adler-Olsen (Denmark), Sjón (Iceland), Guadalupe Nettel (Mexico), Eric Axl Sund (Sweden), and Krys Lee (South Korea), among many others. A full list of festival speakers and sessions for each year appears on www.baybookfest.org.

Key partners include the San Francisco Chronicle (which distributes a 32-page Festival Program Guide in its Sunday newspaper), KQED, KALW, UC Berkeley, and the City of Berkeley. Examples of sponsors last year are The New Republic, Mother Jones, the Center for the Art of Translation, and numerous consulates and cultural institutes.

Festival attendees are exceptionally highly educated, enthusiastic readers, and as diverse as the Bay Area itself. The festival is a non-profit organization, and admission is free or very low-cost to attract large audiences.