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BAY AREA BOOK FESTIVAL FEATURES FREE LIVELY OUTDOOR FAIR, FAMILY FUN ZONE, LIVE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT

4TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL APRIL 28 AND 29 IN DOWNTOWN BERKELEY

Berkeley, CA, April 17, 2018 – The fourth annual **Bay Area Book Festival** (BABF)—one of the premier literary events of its kind in North America—will feature a free lively outdoor fair with hundreds of book-related exhibitors and artisans, two stages, a Cal Pavilion, an array of food vendors, and a Family Fun Zone spanning nearly three city blocks. On hand will be Oakland’s Grammy Award-nominated **Alphabet Rockers**, the acclaimed **Bay Area Children’s Theatre** and many other groups and organizations. Festival-goers can gather to shop, explore, enjoy live performances, eat great food and get up close and personal with 200 exhibitors including scores of popular and emerging authors, artisans, publishers, independent bookstores, literature groups and much more. For complete information about the 2018 Bay Area Book Festival April 28 and 29 in downtown Berkeley, including outdoor fair, Family Fun Zone and programming on the outdoor stages, visit www.baybookfest.org

The BABF outdoor fair is a chance for participants to experience presentations from thought-provoking authors at an outdoor stage sponsored by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Authors include former U.S. Poet Laureate **Juan Felipe Herrera**, commentator **Sally Kohn**, bestseller **Geneen Roth**, **Robert Reich**, **Rebecca Solnit** and **Alice Waters**, among others.

The more than 200 literary exhibitors include bookstores such as City Lights Booksellers and Publishers, East Bay Booksellers, Green Apple Books, Half Price Books, Moe's Books, Point Reyes Books, and more; publishers such as AK Press, Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Chronicle Books, Counterpoint/Catapult/Soft Skull, North Atlantic Press, and Parallax Press; journals such as Alta Magazine and Bookforum; writing organizations such as 826 Valencia and Left Margin Lit; groups such as the Authors Alliance and Prison Literature Project; book artists and vendors such as Recover Your Thoughts and Red Barn Collective; and educational organizations such as the California Institute for Integral Studies and the University of San Francisco MFA in Writing.

The BABF Family Fun Zone will be jam-packed with fun, enriching activities where children and families can create their own books, make handmade art with found objects, play on a giant scrabble board, add personal touches to the LegoJeep, make Monsterbots, and find treasures at the annual free book give-away.

The Family Fun Zone will showcase authors that cater to younger readers, ranging from picture books to chapter books. Kids can romp in a festive carnival with inflatables, bouncy houses, arcade games and rides, and explore Astro Botanicals — a series of giant inflatable flower sculptures that create a fun, interactive space for socializing and reading.

The festival's annual ShowTime Stage spotlights live music, dance, readings and performances. New this year: on Saturday, April 28, the Festival presents a community hip-hop party hosted by Oakland's **Alphabet Rockers**. On Sunday, April 29, author readings, book illustrators and performances by renowned family-friendly comedians, jugglers, and **Bay Area Children's Theatre**.

UC Berkeley's Student Store & ASUC Student Union will host a **Cal Pavilion** where festivalgoers can browse and enjoy books in a lounge-like setting. The Pavilion will serve as a welcome center and reading lounge for festival attendees, showcasing books written by Cal faculty past and present as well as books about the University. A mini student store will sell Cal-branded merchandise including a commemorative canvas tote bag created exclusively for the festival. There will also be some surprise giveaways, in addition to a program of spoken word, poetry and presentations by student authors.

Some of the popular area children's museums and organizations that will host an array of hands-on activities for all ages:

826 Valencia: Booklets for kids to write and draw stories through writing games, spinning wheel, and make your own bookmarks

Alphabet Rockers: Hip hop crafts — create your own bookmark, button making and "who do you stand for?" community board. **Saturday, 4/28 only.**

Bay Area Children's Theatre: Enjoy read-alouds and giveaways with the award-winning children's theatre program. **Sunday, 4/29 only.**

Bay Area Libraries: Live story times, craft projects

Booklandia: Curl up with Spanish-language and bilingual books for kids (also available for purchase)

Chabot Space & Science Center: Hands-on science and space exploration activities

East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse: Bookmaking and art fun with discarded and recycled materials

Habitot Children's Museum: 20th Anniversary celebration with hands-on water play, arts & crafts, chalk stenciling, Monsterbot Maker and giant block building activities

Half Price Books: Find a treasure among thousands of titles at the annual free book give away sponsored by the nation's largest family-owned retailer for new and used books

Hands-On Berkeley: Invent, create and discover through STEAM-centered arts & crafts

Hip Hop For Change: Graffiti art wall, DJ workshop, reading area with Hip Hop books

Lawrence Hall of Science: Create art with Sunprint® paper and build large geo-structures with dowels and planks

LEGOJeep: Kids love adding pieces to this ever-changing and fun artwork shaped by all who contribute. **Sunday, 4/29 only**

Peace Chain Joe: Make your own peace-word charm (keep it for free) and/or buy "peace" word charms in many languages of the world

Sticky Art Lab: Up-cycle art book making

Writopia Lab: Giant scrabble and writing activities, student-written books and themed wares for sale

For a complete listing of exhibitors in the 2018 BABF outdoor fair, visit <https://www.baybookfest.org/exhibitor-list/>

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