



The 5th Annual Bay Area Book Festival

Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5, 2019

www.baybookfest.org

Call for Author Nominations, Program Proposals, and Exhibitors

We invite you to join us for the fifth anniversary of the Bay Area Book Festival slated for May 4 & 5, 2019 in downtown Berkeley. Featuring over 200 authors and spanning 10 venues and 2 outdoor stages, the Bay Area Book Festival has an international reputation as one of the premier literary festivals in the world.

The San Francisco Bay Area is a region that is teeming with readers, writers, creators, activists, and thinkers. In addition to the audience of more than 25,000 people who attend the Festival, we'll showcase your authors on our highly-trafficked social media channels and in our comprehensive Festival Program Guide, produced in partnership with the San Francisco Chronicle and reaching households throughout the entire nine county region.

We offer a wide scope of programming at the Festival, designed to feed minds, spark conversation, and foster cross-cultural appreciation. We also strive to prioritize programming that highlights the voices of marginalized communities and tackles complex issues. For children and YA, our theme is "Grow a Reader" and we're looking for creative ways to engage young people through interactive presentations that might include cooking, drawing, social justice activism, or even books written by kids for kids. Our events cover a range of topics and genres from translation to travel and from sci-fi to social justice.

Our nominations are now open for speakers and programs. Please reference the guidelines below before submitting.

Nomination Guidelines

We welcome your best authors of literary fiction, memoir, essays, science fiction, mystery/thrillers, current events, politics, history, science, spirituality, travel, poetry, publishing and writing, work in translation, young adult fiction, and children's books. We especially welcome and encourage submissions from authors of diverse backgrounds and experiences.

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 2018 and May 2019 (before May 4). 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 December 1, 2018. Individuals: we are happy to accept your submissions from August through December 2018.

Individuals: 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.

For all nominations, please include

- Author's name(s)
- Most recent book title
- Publication date
- ISBN, price, and format (e.g., hardcover, paper)
- Publisher and imprint
- Short description
- Author's short bio and press kit if available

Send ARCs to:

BABF Program Team

1569 Solano Ave # 635

Berkeley CA 94707

[For more information and to submit a nomination or session proposal, please fill out this form.](#)

Note: Please confirm that the author(s) you are nominating will be available the first week of May before submitting!

Exhibitor Information

If your company is interested in exhibit possibilities, please [submit this form to apply to be an outdoor fair exhibitor](#), or add a request for information to your speaker pitch. We'd love to have you!

Sponsorships

There are so many opportunities for sponsorship of the Bay Area Book Festival. Let us work with you to deliver and maximize your investment in this unique event. Opportunities range from branding or creation of sessions, marketing through our mailing list, special outdoor activations, presence at our Gala, and more. Please visit [our sponsor page](#) if you'd like to receive information on sponsorship, or simply add a request for information to your speaker or program pitch.

Some Background on the Bay Area Book Festival

The Bay Area Book Festival debuted in 2015 in downtown Berkeley. Each year we present between 230-300 authors, totaling 1100 over the three years in nearly 400 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. Past authors have included Dave Eggers, Alice Waters, Viet Thanh Nguyen, Catherine Coulter, Greg Sarris, Shobha Rao, Gary Snyder, Barbara Ehrenreich, Geoff Dyer, Melissa de la Cruz, Joyce Maynard, Robert Reich, Saru Jayaramen, Masha Gessen, T.J. Stiles, Michael Chabon, 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, 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. Past sponsors have included Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, Mother Jones, Chronicle Books, HarperOne, Moon Travel Guides, Farmers Insurance, and numerous consulates and cultural institutes.