

5TH ANNIVERSARY
BAY AREA
BOOK
FESTIVAL

MAY 4 + 5, 2019
DOWNTOWN BERKELEY
225 AUTHORS • 100 SESSIONS
FREE OUTDOOR FAIR



FOR TICKETS + INFO:
BAYBOOKFEST.ORG

The Power of the Page: Activism Programming

Saturday, May 4

11:45 - 1:00

Dance & Do Battle: Writers and Translators on Art and Activism (Brower Center, Tamalpais Room)

Aaron Coleman, Innosanto Nagara, Katherine Silver, moderated by Michael Holtmann

These writers and translators engage with the world in ways that go well beyond the books they've published. Acclaimed translator Katherine Silver has aided families detained on the border in the convoluted process of applying for asylum. Aaron Coleman's new book, "Threat Come Close," takes on the policing of Blackness and masculinity. Innosanto Nagara's "A is for Activist" books teach kids the art of resistance. In the words of poet D.A. Powell: "Remember the lesson of West Side Story: one can dance and do battle at the same time."

3:00 - 4:15

Dear America: An Interview with Jose Antonio Vargas (Chronicle Stage)

Jose Antonio Vargas interviewed by Kate Campbell

Jose Antonio Vargas was sixteen when, signing up to take a driver's test at his local DMV, he discovered his green card was fake. Now he's a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, Emmy-nominated filmmaker, and the founder of Define American, an organization that fights anti-immigrant hate through the power of storytelling. But his future still hangs in the balance. In "Dear America," Vargas divulges how he came out first as gay and then as undocumented, reflecting on

the high cost of hiding from the government and himself. Illuminating the purgatory of fear people without papers are forced to live in and posing questions about passing and the true meaning of citizenship, Vargas urges us to reconsider the assumptions we make. Sponsored by North Berkeley Investment Partners.

Sunday, May 5

10:00 - 11:15

The Heart of Hate (Brower Center, Tamalpais Room)

Bradley Hart, Bill Ong Hing, Arjun Sethi

"No one is born hating another person," Nelson Mandela famously said. "People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate they can be taught to love." With the threat of fascism looming around the world, human rights activist Arjun Singh Sethi ("American Hate"), historian Bradley Hart ("Hitler's American Friends"), and immigration attorney Bill Ong Hing ("American Presidents, Deportations, and Human Rights Violations") reveal the roots of hateful political ideologies in the United States and bear witness to survivors of hate crimes, police violence, mass detention, and deportation. They chart a course for unlearning hatred and bigotry.

3:15 - 4:30

Ricanstruction: Popular Fiction and Power in Post Maria Puerto Rico (The Marsh Cabaret)

Aya de Leon, Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez, moderated by Tianna Paschel

Hurricane Maria has permanently altered the Caribbean. While journalists did initial reporting on the disaster, the first books to be published about the hurricane are popular fiction. NYC's Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez, the creator of the superhero La Borinqueña, assembled "Ricanstruction: Reminiscing and Rebuilding Puerto Rico," a comic anthology fundraiser to benefit survivors on the island. Berkeley author Aya de Leon's next feminist heist book "Side Chick Nation" will be the first print novel about the hurricane. Join these two Puerto Rican writers to discuss the challenges of writing about disaster and why popular fiction has the power to bring the pueblo together around urgent issues.

4:00 - 5:00

Youth Power! with the International Congress of Youth Voices (Florence Schwimmley Little Theater)

Jose Antonio Vargas moderated by Sandra Bass

Global politics affect young people as much as anyone else, but they have little to no voice as major decisions are made. Join us for a discussion featuring noted journalist, filmmaker, author, and immigration rights activist Jose Antonio Vargas with youth delegates from the International Congress of Youth Voices. They'll discuss mass incarceration, immigration, and the importance of youth voices in activism. Youth in the audience are encouraged to jump in!