



8TH ANNUAL BAY AREA BOOK FESTIVAL YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

In Partnership with *The San Francisco Chronicle*

MAY 7-8, 2022

The annual literary extravaganza returns to Downtown Berkeley. Prominent authors will appear on indoor and outdoor stages and via livestream. Literary exhibitors, gourmet food vendors, and a big children's area will take over Civic Center Park.

Berkeley, CA, April 6, 2022: After two years of virtual programming, the 8th annual Bay Area Book Festival's young adult and children's programming is back in person with an abundant and diverse array of events and activities for families and young readers to unite around a shared celebration of books and reading. All youth programs are free. The full schedule of virtual and in-person programs will go live Friday, April 8th on the Festival website: baybookfest.org. For Covid precautions, visit: <https://www.baybookfest.org/faq/#COVID22>.

Program Highlights – Children

Make Music Together:

- Oakland's **Alphabet Rockers**, two-time Grammy nominees for Best Children's album, will bring the community together in true Rockers fashion at the Festival's official kick-off event on Saturday. Centered on TOGETHERNESS, the group will present a dynamic reading of its first published book "You Are Not Alone" and a curated music set by Rockers DJ Roza to get everyone MOVING in celebration and joy!

Youth Celebrates the Newbery Medal:

- This year's festival includes a mini-celebration of the **Newbery Medal**, the most prestigious award for children's literature, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. We're hosting a conversation with Tae Keller and Donna Barba Higuera, the two most recent recipients of the Medal, as well as a "Best of the Best 90-Second Newbery" film festival featuring short films made by young people, retelling the stories of Newbery-winning books.

Celebration and Play for Readers of All Ages:

- Our littlest festival goers will find plenty to keep them entertained and enriched, with a series of picture book readings celebrating Black, Indigenous, and Asian American identities, a live cartoon program featuring local kidlit favorites **Mac Barnett** and **Shawn Harris**, and a celebration of wordplay with Jon Agee.
- Bestselling author **Kelly Yang** will introduce her new novel for middle-grade readers; other programs include the latest in graphic novels, fresh retellings of classic literature, and novels about sports.

Discovering Nature:

- Kids love to understand their world, and we're making nonfiction fun at this year's festival with programs on big cats, conservation canines, and the story of evolution. Plus we'll have a special **Mother's Day** gardening session that will be fun for the whole family, with a picture book reading followed by the opportunity to pot a plant for a mom or other special grownup.

Family Fun Zone:

- Interactive booths will offer free milkweed pods to attract monarch butterflies, scavenger hunts, a cozy reading nook, create your own iridescent bookmark activity with Lawrence Hall of Science, arts & crafts using recycled materials with East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse ... and more hands-on fun.

Native American Literature for Youth:

- In partnership with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, the Festival presents The Graton Writing Project, an annual week-long, half-day series of writing workshops where Native youth from Sonoma meet with writing coaches to compose an essay in response to a particular theme. This year's prompt centered on the cultural, environmental, social, political, and health-related changes the students have experienced over that last two years, and ways they feel empowered to continue enacting transformational change in their community as they reemerge from the pandemic. The students will read their work in front of a live audience on the Festival's Word Power Stage on Saturday.
- A wider range of Native American issues, stories, and characters than ever before are being represented in "What's New in Native American Lit for Kids": Hear from Cynthia L. Smith (*Sisters of the Neversea*) who, in addition to being an award-winning author for young people, is also the publisher of HarperCollins's Heartdrum imprint that celebrates Native American creators. Smith will be joined by debut YA author Jen Ferguson (*The Summer of Bitter and Sweet*), picture book author Traci Sorell (*Powwow Day*) and by David A. Robertson (*On the Trampoline*, *The Great Bear*) author of both picture books and middle-grade fantasy novels.

Program Highlights - Teens

Love, Thrills, Rebellion and Writing Your Own Story:

- Cinnamongirl, Inc., a nonprofit organization preparing young women and girls of color for lives of entrepreneurship, service, and creativity, will return to the Word Power stage to present their new anthology of writings from their annual "Write Your Story" program for teens, answer questions about their publication journey, and read excerpts from their anthology contributions. Elsewhere at the festival, Cinnamongirls will interview authors and moderate panels for our youth programs.
- Bestselling authors Dhonielle Clayton (who's also headlining for her new middle-grade series launch *The Marvellers*) and E. Lockhart will engage teen readers in a thrilling conversation about suspense fiction.
- A star-studded YA romance panel, with authors Casey McQuiston and Suzanne Park, among others, will dive into diverse love stories.
- As part of the non-fiction programming, National Book Award-winning author Kekla Magoon will join local authors Jetta Martin and Waldo Martin Jr. for an overview of the history and legacy of the Black Panther Party, in a session that will appeal to adults as well.

Outdoor Fair

A host of organizations will provide free interactive activities for children in our free outdoor fair:

- **50 Hikes with Kids: California**
Spark a love of nature! Handcrafted for caregivers that want to spark a love of nature, 50 Hikes with Kids: California highlights the most kid-friendly hikes in the Golden State. These hikes are perfect for little legs—they are all under five miles and have an elevation gain of 900 feet or less. Every entry includes the essential details: easy-to-read, trustworthy directions; a detailed map; hike length and elevation gain; bathroom access; and where to grab a bite to eat nearby. Full-color photographs and scavenger hunts highlight the fun things to see along the trail. Stop by the booth to pick up your copy, grab a stick, and spin the wheel to win a prize like a nature journal!
- **Little Monarchs Book Tour**
Eisner award-winning cartoonist Jonathan Case is here with a new middle readers graphic novel, *Little Monarchs* (a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection). This book is the work of many years and research expeditions following the monarch butterfly migration. Readers will journey alongside a rich cast of characters through real locations (many in the Bay Area) and see what those places may look like in the year 2101. Kirkus, in a starred review, says: "Superbly written and illustrated; keeps readers breathless and

Media Contact: Julia Drake – Wildbound PR – julia@wildboundpr.com – 310-359-6487

guessing until the end.” As part of a western-states book tour, Jonathan and his family are also distributing native milkweed seeds to support the struggling monarch population. Come get the whole scoop at the Little Monarchs Book Tour booth!

- **The East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse**
Sustainable kids craft and reuse education. Come make a sustainable craft out of reuse materials and learn ways you can help keep local and global landfills free of items that can be reused or recycled.
- **Lawrence Hall of Science and Science at Cal, UC Berkeley**
Learn about color, light and reflection while you create your very own iridescent bookmark.
- **Tracy Stanley - Little Wonders of Nature**
Come by children's author and illustrator Tracy Stanley's reading nook and lounge to do some free children's art and craft projects, read a book or two and best of all, listen to the author read her children's books all in our comfy little nook at the festival.
- **Thousands of Free Books For Young Readers**
The Bay Area is brimming with young readers who can be simply ravenous when it comes to their favorites! Thanks to Half Price Books, the nation's largest family-owned network of new and used book stores, children can choose from thousands of titles at its free annual book giveaway in the festival's free outdoor fair.

More Information on the Bay Area Book Festival

The Bay Area Book Festival is one of the leading literary events in the U.S., and one of the most international. It's the biggest literary weekend of the year in Northern California. To date, the Festival has featured more than 1,500 notable authors, including winners of the Nobel Prize, Booker Prize, Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award, Prix Goncourt, Newbery and Caldecott Medal winners, and many other awards, in 500+ distinct literary events over the past seven years that have attracted 125,000 in-person visitors, plus dozens of feminist-first authors in Women Lit events in the Bay Area or virtually. In spring 2020, the Festival pivoted all programs to virtual formats, producing more than 80 virtual author conversations over the following 18 months.

Known for a focus on social justice, strong inclusion of BIPOC authors and women's voices, the Festival's most recent top featured children's and youth authors include Ellen Oh, Kelly Starling Lyons, Misa Sugiura, Rachel Sarah, Meg Medina, Shawn Harris, Annie Barrows, and Innosanto Nagara.

The Bay Area Book Festival is presented in partnership with the *San Francisco Chronicle*; other major media sponsors are KQED and Cityside Publishing – Berkeleyside and The Oaklandside. Key general/program sponsors include: City of Berkeley, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, Stephen M. Silberstein Foundation, Zoetic Press, Bernard Osher Foundation, CalHumanities,

Media Contact: Julia Drake – Wildbound PR – julia@wildboundpr.com – 310-359-6487

National Endowment for the Humanities, Norway House, Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, NORLA, Culture Ireland, California Arts Council, Amazon Literary Partnership, The Collective Book Studio, San Francisco State University Department of Creative Writing, Visit Berkeley, and the Downtown Berkeley Association.