

MISSISSIPPI BOOK FESTIVAL
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

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Mississippi Book Festival Opens 2016 With Major Announcements

(Jackson, MS) – The Mississippi Book Festival announced today that two Pulitzer Prize winners will be participating in the August 20, 2016 Festival.

Mississippi native Richard Ford, whose latest novel, *Canada*, was a New York Times bestseller, will appear. His collection of stories, *Let Me Be Frank With You*, was a finalist for the 2015 Pulitzer while his 1995 novel *Independence Day* was the Pulitzer winner for fiction that year. Jon Meacham, executive editor and executive vice president at Random House **won** the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*. Meacham will join former U.S. Senator Trent Lott and historian Stuart Stevens on a panel discussing their books as well as the 2016 presidential election.

"The Mississippi Book Festival is an extraordinary event that fosters a love of books and reading among our citizens. The Mississippi Humanities Council couldn't be more excited to partner with the festival this year to showcase our state's rich literary tradition in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the Pulitzer Prizes," said Stuart Rockoff, executive director of the Mississippi Humanities Council.

The Festival also announced that the Selby and Richard McRae Foundation, Trustmark and Entergy have all made significant contributions to support the event.

"Trustmark has a long-standing history of supporting the arts throughout our marketplace, as we understand that fostering positive cultural and educational environments through the arts helps our communities thrive," Trustmark Director of Marketing and Communications Melanie Morgan stated. "We are delighted to support the Mississippi Book Festival as it provides cultural enrichment, boosts our economy and ensures more residents and visitors can enjoy the creativity of Mississippi's incredible artists."

Holly Lange, executive director of the Festival, said, "Richard Ford and Jon Meacham join 150 other authors and all of our generous donors to kick off our festival in grand fashion and we are grateful to all for their willingness to make the 2016 Mississippi Book Festival an even bigger success than last year's event."

To find out more about the August 20, 2016 Festival, please visit our webpage at www.msbookfestival.com.