



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mississippi Book Festival Draws Thousands to its 2025 Annual Event

JACKSON, Miss. – More than 8,020 book enthusiasts convened today at the 11th annual Mississippi Book Festival. Downtown Jackson came alive as festival-goers heard from hundreds of authors at the historic Mississippi State Capitol, Galloway Methodist Church, and First Baptist Jackson. The robust author lineup included Geraldine Brooks, W. Ralph Eubanks, Peter Brown, Angie Thomas, Addie E. Citchens, Wright Thompson, Jason Reynolds, Annie B. Jones, John T. Edge, Imani Perry, and many more. Over the course of all festival events—including kids’ programming in the Delta and Jackson, the festival reached 23,125 people.

Today's events kicked off with an Opening Ceremony on the South steps of the Mississippi Capitol Building honoring the life and legacy of the late Mississippi author Greg Iles. “More than 157 authors participated in Saturday’s festival, including on 58 official panels/workshops and meeting the public in Author’s Alley,” says Ellen Daniels, Mississippi Book Festival Executive Director. “Every year, we are amazed at the response and how the community comes from near and far to celebrate books and a love of reading.” In addition to a large slate of authors, the beloved Literary Lawn Party featured live music, food trucks, children’s activities, book signings, and more.

Throughout the week, children’s authors Bo Lu, Robyn Wall, Tiffany D. Jackson, and Allen R. Wells visited area schools and spoke to more than 582 Mississippi students, each of whom received a free book.

On Friday, September 12th, visiting children's author Peter Brown spoke to 663 students at an in-person presentation at Belhaven Center for the Arts and to over 12,000 students through a live-streamed event as part of the festival's KidNote program. This program was streamed to 559 classrooms in 51 schools throughout 19 Mississippi counties. At the conclusion of the in-person session, each student was given their own complimentary copy of his new book, *The Wild Robot on the Island* and schools that participated virtually across the state received books to be used in their school library.

On August 27th, children's author Derrick Barnes spoke to nearly 1,100 children at the Bologna Performing Arts Center in Cleveland, Mississippi at the Mississippi Book Festival's second annual Delta KidNote. Each student left with a copy of his latest picture book, *I Got You: A Brother's Promise*.

"Through our KidNote events, we celebrated an early love of reading and storytelling," says Daniels. "It's always part of our mission to inspire a love of reading in young Mississippians. This shared passion of our funders, authors, educators, and organizers made all of these events possible. We are always delighted to see how the festival continues to grow and attract more authors and book lovers year after year."

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About Mississippi Book Festival

The Mississippi Book Festival, a nonprofit founded by literacy advocates, launched in August 2015 on the State Capitol grounds and continues to draw thousands to its annual Literary Lawn Party and book lovers' celebration. Hundreds of contemporary authors — national, regional and local — connect directly with fans and new readers, as invited guests on Official Panels that explore in-depth themes, or along Authors Alley, the festival's hub for self-published authors.

To learn more about the Mississippi Book Festival, visit msbookfestival.com or follow on Facebook, Instagram (@msbookfestival), or Twitter (@msbookfest).