



MISSISSIPPI BOOK FESTIVAL

FUNDER INVITATION 2026



*“The best and the brightest
of the literary world come to Jackson,
in the shadow of the greats like
Faulkner and Welty,
adding their own shadows, too.”*

WRIGHT THOMPSON

MISSISSIPPI, 2025 OFFICIAL PANELIST



CELEBRATE
stories
STRENGTHEN
communities

Be a part of the state's most-anticipated annual literary event where stories, ideas, and people come together in the heart of the capital city.

Watch as the festival transforms the grand rooms of the historic State Capitol into lively discussion venues, where acclaimed authors engage in thought-provoking conversations inspired by their latest works. Stroll just steps away to Galloway Church where larger audiences enjoy a memorable setting.

Roam the streets in-between and take part in a bustling one-day marketplace, next to the lovely Capitol's Grounds brimming with family-friendly activities and community presence. There's truly something for everyone!

SUCCESS BEGINS WITH YOU

This nationally celebrated gathering of readers, writers, and ideas thrives today because of the unwavering dedication of longtime supporters continually reinvigorated through the generosity of new funders.

Your support helps ensure the festival remains **free and open to all**, fostering a love of reading that spans generations and communities.

Help make the Mississippi Book Festival a place where every story finds its audience – and every reader feels at home.

Stellar Conversations



The passionate appreciation of readers and writers, booklovers and sellers, and families and fans cultivates a lively landscape fit for spirited exchange and memorable encounters. Folks come to see and be seen, share and absorb, buy and sell, regale and laugh, discuss their favorites, and find new ones – creating the palpable sense of community that comes from sharing a love of books.



24,500
PEOPLE REACHED IN
72-HOUR CELEBRATION

8,000+
FESTIVAL-GOERS
ATTENDED PANELS



*"Southern hospitality
meets a rich literary culture
at the Mississippi Book Festival.
Events are well curated
and the audience
couldn't be more enthusiastic."*

GERALDINE BROOKS
NEW YORK, 2024 OFFICIAL PANELIST



brilliant AUTHORS



The festival attracts acclaimed creators of the year's most-talked-about books, many of whom return to wow audiences year after year. From emerging writers to nationally recognized notables, audiences are treated to insightful perspectives, compelling conversations, and in effect an all-day masterclass in storytelling that covers fiction, non-fiction, poetry, history, politics, sports, and more.



... in addition to fantastic panels and events, there are opportunities for spontaneous moments of connection.

From running into authors I admire in the hallways of the Capitol to bonding with other readers about our bookish obsessions, the spirit of community and connection was vibrant from start to finish."

SARA HILDRETH
COLORADO, 2025 MODERATOR



185
OFFICIAL PANELISTS ON
56 PANELS/WORKSHOPS

5,400
BOOKS SOLD ON-SITE



memorable STORIES



Every moment of this incredible one-day festival is packed with opportunities that yield authentic exchange and revealing anecdotes. Up-and-coming authors have found encouragement and advice that launched best-selling careers, young people have been inspired to write their own tales, and revered authors have basked in the light of their peers and fans while revealing mysteries of their work.



14,680
STUDENTS REACHED VIA
KIDNOTE AND SCHOOL VISITS

3,882
BOOKS DONATED
TO STUDENTS



“Our moderator was the absolute best. She set the tone allowing us to share authentically. EVERY aspect of this festival made this introvert feel completely at ease. It was the true, genuine southern charm that gifted such peace and allowed me to fully enjoy my first ever book festival and book signing.”

PAMELA COURTYNE
LOUISIANA, 2025 OFFICIAL PANELIST



engaged FESTIVAL-GOERS



“The lineup of authors on panels this year was INCREDIBLE. There was no way I was missing out on hearing and having an opportunity to briefly meet these giants of literature and culture.”

2025 FIRST-TIME VISITOR

MISSISSIPPI
BOOK
FESTIVAL
STATE CAPITOL

A large, semi-transparent image of the Mississippi State Capitol building in Jackson, Mississippi, serves as the background for the entire poster. The building is a neoclassical structure with a prominent white dome topped by a golden eagle statue. It is surrounded by green trees and a clear blue sky.

MISSISSIPPI
BOOK
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A Literary Lawn Party

MSBOOKFESTIVAL.COM

