



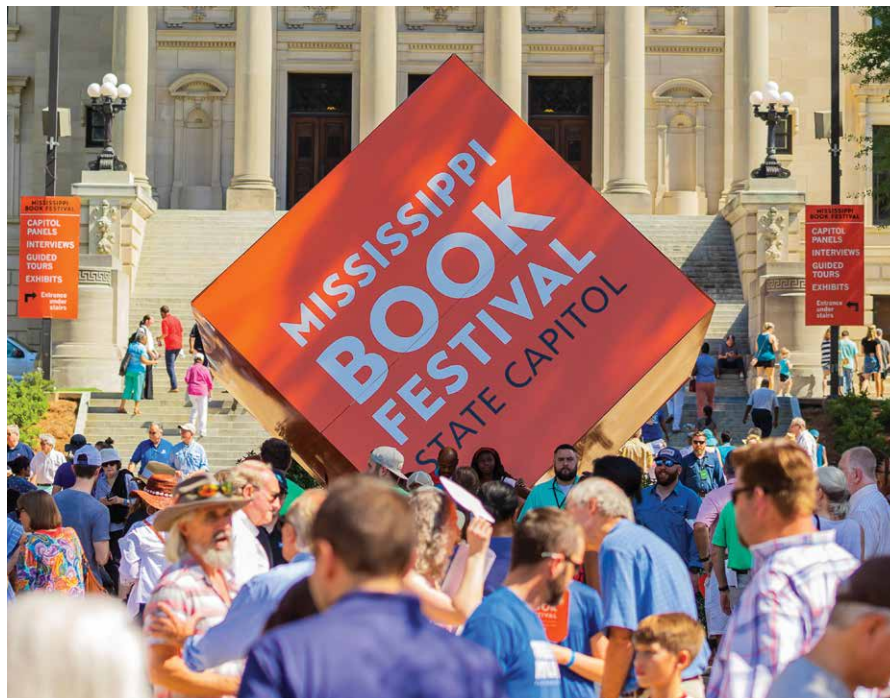
*“Since its inception,
the Mississippi Book Festival
has attracted an
impressive number of
world-renowned authors.*

ONLY ELVIS
*could have done better
in drawing a crowd
to Jackson on a hot day
in August, and nothing better
burnishes Mississippi’s
reputation for its
love of good writing
than this wonderful event.”*

— CURTIS WILKIE —
AUTHOR, 4X OFFICIAL PANELIST

Each August, the Mississippi Book Festival unites readers and authors in an exhilarating celebration of books. The Capitol's stately rooms and nearby Galloway Church turn into venues for distinguished panelists, the streets in-between transform into a bustling marketplace for booksellers, and the grounds and Capitol Rotunda become a hub of lively exchange.

Free and open to the public, the festival brings the written word to fun, festive life with authors, panel discussions, book signings, family-friendly activities, food trucks, live music, and more—aptly earning the event its tag *A Literary Lawn Party.*



“The Mississippi Book Festival is one of the premier literary gatherings in the nation. The variety of brilliant authors participating is unparalleled. Attendees are guaranteed to have an unforgettable experience.”

MAURICE CARLOS RUFFIN
AUTHOR, 2X OFFICIAL PANELIST



“The Mississippi Book Festival goes beyond celebrating books and the joy of reading. It embraces stories and authors from all walks of life and creates a community that makes us all feel welcome.”

ALDA P. DOBBS
AUTHOR, 2021 OFFICIAL PANELIST



In a seven year span, the Mississippi Book Festival has established itself as a much-anticipated summer staple, drawing authors, readers, and book lovers of every stripe to share in the power and joy of the written word.

With a loyal and growing audience, the festival celebrates Mississippi’s vibrant literary landscape by highlighting the hottest new books and the storytellers behind them in a robust, dynamic forum that is open to all.

DISTINGUISHED AUTHORS & LIVELY DISCUSSIONS

Mississippi’s long roster of acclaimed authors—John Grisham, Jesmyn Ward, Angie Thomas, Richard Ford, Kiese Laymon, Ellen Gilchrist, and many more—build on the rich literary tradition started by the likes of William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Richard Wright, and Margaret Walker.

Best-selling, prize-winning notables like Salman Rushdie, Ann Patchett, Jon Meacham, and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor participate

alongside emerging authors, whose books strike a resounding contemporary chord.

Through dozens of panels and one-on-one conversations—many of which are broadcast via C-SPAN Book TV—festival fans are treated to new insights, provocative points, and memorable moments.

700+ AUTHORS

230+ PANEL DISCUSSIONS

THE BOOK WORLD & MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi Book Festival strives to support every aspect of the book community by creating an event in which authors and booksellers want to return again and again.

On Booksellers Row, beloved independent booksellers from around the region sell the day's featured titles, keeping the festival's finger on the pulse of the reading public. At the nearby Book Signings Tent, official panelists are on hand to ensure the personal touch that book lovers crave. In Authors Alley, published and self-published authors can connect with both longtime fans and potential new ones, while the Community Lawn is the exhibitors' space for non-profits, state agencies, and cultural organizations.

300+ PARTICIPANTS IN AUTHORS ALLEY

130+ BOOKSELLERS & EXHIBITORS

13,000+ BOOKS SOLD

7 NATIONAL & STATE EXHIBITS

National and state exhibits on view in the Rotunda showcase the Library of Congress, Smithsonian Learning Lab, Mississippi Library

Commission, the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, and more, highlighting resources and expanding horizons to boost knowledge and access.



Two-time National Book Award winner JESMYN WARD is among four celebrated writers whose Mississippi Writers Trail markers have been unveiled in poignant ceremonies at the Mississippi Book Festival. Cheers, tears, and standing ovations also greeted marker unveilings for Eudora Welty, Richard Ford, and Ida B. Wells.

"... it's no surprise that the Mississippi Book Festival is the greatest place for writers and readers to be. The festival presents today's best books with passion, generosity, and consideration, creating programs that welcome everyone. It is a celebration of the written word – it is a joy."

JULIA PHILLIPS
AUTHOR, 2019 OFFICIAL PANELIST



"I always tell people the Mississippi Book Festival is the best book festival on Earth. I mean that, and it's not just because I am from Mississippi. It's just...dope."

KIESE LAYMON
AUTHOR, 4X OFFICIAL PANELIST



*“I’m very grateful
for the people
in Mississippi
who are
doing good everyday
by getting books
into the hands
of readers and
who make a positive
impact in
their communities.”*

DAV PILKEY
AUTHOR, 2019 OFFICIAL PANELIST



*“The audiences
are highly engaged
at every panel.
They line up.
They fill every seat.
They laugh.
They get it.
If every audience
were as live and
eager and rowdy as a
Mississippi Book
Festival audience,
I might take back
everything I’ve said
about those
other festivals.”*

HARRISON SCOTT KEY
AUTHOR, 2X OFFICIAL PANELIST



YOUNG READERS & WINNING OUTREACH

Each year, the festival’s Friday event engages young people by connecting scores of schoolchildren across the state with authors who write great children’s books *and* connect brilliantly with kids.

20,000+ SCHOOL CHILDREN
9,000+ BOOKS DONATED
120 SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE

With disarming candor and honest inspiration, children and young adult authors like Nic Stone, Dav Pilkey, Angie Thomas, and Kate DiCamillo speak directly to the next generation of

book lovers, presenting a picture of possibilities and cementing a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

On the day of the festival, book heroes come to life, as costumed characters Curious George, Daniel Tiger, Dog Man, and Captain Underpants engage with the kids. Programming that taps into family fun—Mississippi Humanities Council’s family storytelling, Mississippi Children’s Museum’s Imagination Playground, a reading by young stage/screen star Quvenzhané Wallis—encourages reading on the home front, building a strong foundation for the future.



MEG CABOT’s *The Princess Diaries* series was adapted for the big screen, but the acclaimed and prolific author of adult and tweens/teens fiction got her own royal welcome from 750 excited Jackson fourth graders, who were thrilled with her talk and the free book to take home and enjoy.

AUDIENCE GROWTH & ENGAGEMENT

From the 3,700 attendees at our first festival in 2015, crowds swelled in successive years to reach 9,300 in 2019!

33,000+ ATTENDEES
(in-person festivals)

Virtual festivals in 2020 and 2021 kept buzz-worthy books and favorite authors front and center

and accessible from home, with live-streamed webinars and recorded panel discussions that readers tap into at their convenience. Well-produced, archived content from all seven festivals remains a permanent, valuable resource on the website, and the popular *Write On, Mississippi!* podcast keeps books in the conversation year-round.

MISSISSIPPI
BOOK
FESTIVAL
STATE CAPITOL

A Literary Lawn Party



MSBOOKFESTIVAL.COM