

## MISSISSIPPI BOOK FESTIVAL

BOOKISH BUZZ — MAY 1, 2020



Dear friends,

The Mississippi Book Festival is a year-long labor of love and commitment — a complex orchestration of celebrated authors, generous funders, devoted readers, loyal volunteers, dedicated staff and diligent contractors. We have remained on course and optimistic, even in the face of a pandemic, readying to bring throngs of booklovers together in celebration of the written word.

As worldwide health conditions surrounding COVID-19 have continued to change the way people live and interact, we have carefully weighed their potential impact on the positive experience that the festival is pledged to deliver and, most importantly, the well-being of those who would participate.

With all the unknowns of the pandemic and how it may affect the country in the months ahead, the Board of Directors concluded that the uncertainties were too great to continue moving forward with the 2020 festival. Calling on funders to provide support and authors to make travel plans for a festival that may not even be allowed or might require last minute cancellation was just too much to ask. Facing these matters, as well as the possibility of a second wave of infections, the Board has decided to cancel the 2020 edition of the Mississippi Book Festival.

We ask that you place a bookmark here and save a new date for the next Mississippi Book Festival on **August 21, 2021** — a date removed from current health concerns, a date on which Board and staff are committed to making the magic happen once again, a date when we will gather for the best literary lawn party ever.

In the meantime, we'll celebrate great books throughout the year with non-festival programming, both virtually and in-person. Through online communities, we'll feature all the authors we had invited to this year's festival, while making special arrangements for many of our favorites with new books coming out this year.

Stay tuned for great things to come!

Holly Lange  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR