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Mississippi Book Festival Announces New Executive Director

JACKSON, Miss. – The Mississippi Book Festival Board of Directors has named Ellen Daniels as its new executive director.



ELLEN DANIELS

Daniels has served as the book festival’s literary director for the last two and a half years. She succeeds Holly Lange, who has stepped down after seven years as head of the organization.

“Holly Lange has provided extraordinary leadership for the book festival,” remarked Board President Jere Nash. “Over the seven years she served as executive director, attendance increased 170 percent and more than 700 authors from all over the country have attended one or more of the festivals. She has helped to create a wonderful celebration of Mississippi’s authors and readers. Just as important, she and Ellen Daniels have worked closely together to ensure a smooth transition as the book festival looks forward to its eighth year.”

According to Daniels, who received her undergraduate degree from Belhaven University, and worked for more than a dozen years at Lemuria Bookstore before joining the festival staff, “I am honored to continue the celebration of books through this important and necessary cultural event. Over the past seven years, the Mississippi Book Festival has become one of the crown jewels of literary events in our state. I look forward to honoring and growing that tradition for the citizens of Mississippi and book lovers across the country.”

For Lange, she plans to volunteer with the festival, serve on other non-profit boards, and enjoy semi-retirement. “My work with the book festival has been a highlight of my career,” she said, “Our authors are among our state’s greatest cultural treasures, and I’ve been privileged to help introduce hundreds of them to readers all over our state and beyond. I am delighted that Ellen will continue to lead this important mission for our state.”

While the in-person festival was cancelled earlier this year due to COVID-19 safety concerns, many of the official author panels are being recorded and will be presented as a package on the website and social media platforms of the festival around the first of October. Stay tuned for the next chapters of our state’s literary lawn party.

[Click here](#) if you would like to reach Ellen directly.

For more information, visit msbookfestival.com. You can also connect with the Mississippi Book Festival on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

About The Mississippi Book Festival

The Mississippi Book Festival, a nonprofit founded by literary 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. The event features hundreds of visiting authors, panel discussions, book signings, booksellers, Capitol tours, food trucks, and family-friendly activities.

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