



LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
BILLY NUNGESSER

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SAVE THE DATE! LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL RETURNS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

Official 2026 festival artwork highlights power of books as a pathway to enlightenment



BATON ROUGE, La. – The Louisiana Center for the Book in the [State Library of Louisiana](#) is excited to announce the return of the [Louisiana Book Festival](#) on **Saturday, October 31, 2026**.

The 22nd annual event will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown Baton Rouge at the State Library of Louisiana, Capitol Park Museum, and the surrounding Capitol Park area. With approximately 20,000 book lovers from across the state and nation attending each year, the Louisiana Book Festival is one of the region's premier events celebrating writers, readers, and the books that connect them.

"There's no better showcase of Louisiana's rich literary heritage than the Book Festival," said Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser. "Every fall, the streets around the State Capitol fill with book lovers from across the state and beyond, drawn by an outstanding lineup of acclaimed authors and programs. It truly is a celebration of the culture, storytelling, and creativity that make Louisiana like nowhere else. Whether you're a lifelong reader, an aspiring writer, or introducing a child to the joy of books, there's something for everyone. We can't wait to welcome everyone to an experience for readers of every age that ranks among the very best in the nation."

This year's Louisiana Book Festival will welcome approximately 150 featured writers representing a multitude of genres including biography, action & adventure, thriller & suspense, politics, science fiction, fantasy, history, true crime, mystery, cookbooks, and much more. Featured writers will participate in book talks, panels, and signings throughout

the day, sharing insight about their work and process with festival attendees. The lineup of authors for 2026 will be announced in the coming weeks.

The event will also feature over 100 exhibitors including publishers, authors, libraries, and related vendors. The Young Readers' Pavillion will include children's authors, crafts, facepainting, balloon animals and more. Teens will have the opportunity to meet Young Adult authors and participate in crafts and other activities at the Teen HQ. The Friday before the festival, October 30, will also see the return of WordShops, informative writing workshops conducted by noted authors.

"Every reader can find something to love at the Louisiana Book Festival," said Executive Director Robert Wilson. "But the real magic is the access. It's not every day you get to chat face-to-face with a favorite writer or get a book signed. We can't wait to welcome book lovers from all over the country back to the streets of downtown Baton Rouge this Halloween."

Each year the Louisiana Book Festival commissions a Louisiana artist to provide the official artwork for the event. This year, visual artist and writer Malaika Favorite created the 2026 festival's signature piece, titled *Path to Enlightenment*, which incorporates the first major work of each Louisiana Writer Award recipient in its design.

"My vision for the cover design was to create a scene of enlightenment, emphasizing the idea that books lead us to knowledge about ourselves and our world," said Malaika Favorite. "I believe that events like the Louisiana Book Festival offer a break from the mundane and invite visitors to experience paths to illumination and discovery."

"I placed several of the books on floating islands that steer the reader towards adventure. Some of the books are placed in trees that float up to accentuate mental and spiritual growth. The central image is an open portal with stairs leading to a tree of knowledge with an open door at the base. This is the place we seek when we enter the world of books. We hope to be invited into that magical place inside our mind that helps us to become that special person we believe lives deep inside our inner being," added Favorite.

Favorite, who is also a past featured author at the festival, joins the ranks of other influential Louisiana artists whose works have represented the event. *Path to Enlightenment* will be featured on a special commemorative poster and promotional materials.

Full details, roster of writers, program schedule, and exhibitor information for the 2026 Louisiana Book Festival will be posted online over the coming weeks at LouisianaBookFestival.org.

The [Louisiana Center for the Book](#) was established in the [State Library of Louisiana](#) in 1994. Its mission is to stimulate public interest in reading, books, literacy, and libraries and

to celebrate Louisiana's rich literary heritage. It is the official state affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book.

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