BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL

VIRTUALLY OCTOBER 16 - 23
BBF 2021
In-Person Events

1 East Boston
StoryWalk®: ¡Vamos! Let’s Cross the Bridge
Central Square Park
Border St at Liberty Plaza
Shopping Center

2 Chinatown
StoryWalk®: Watercress
Auntie Kay & Uncle Frank Chin Park
120 Kingston St

3 Roxbury
StoryWalk®: Dad Bakes
Gertrude Howes Playground
72 Moreland St

Sessions

Please abide by city/venue regulations with regard to mask wearing and social distancing for these in-person events.

4 Boston in 100 Words Awards Ceremony
Trident Booksellers & Café
338 Newbury St
Oct 16
6:00–8:00pm

5 A Warming World and Your WIP
ICA Boston Grandstand
25 Harbor Shore Dr
Oct 18
12:30–1:15pm

6 BPL Roxbury Branch Reopening Celebration
Boston Public Library, Roxbury Branch
149 Dudley St
Oct 23
11:00am–2:00pm
2021 Virtual Marketplace

Take a stroll online through our virtual marketplace! Browse the stalls of our exhibitors and sponsors... and perhaps do some early holiday shopping!

bostonbookfest.org/festival/virtual_marketplace/

- ArtsBoston
- Association of RI Authors
- Black Lawrence Press
- Boston Public Library
- BPS Libraries
- Cambridge Trust
- Candlewick Press
- Clevo Books
- Dorothy Preston
- Editorial Freelancers Association
- Emerson College Graduate Admission
- GBH
- Greenough Brand Storytellers
- Harvard Review
- Harvard University Press
- Independent Publishers of New England
- Lanternfish Press
- Lesley University
- Lit for Black Kids
- Mass Humanities
- Mass Poetry
- Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners
- Max Warburg Courage Curriculum
- MIT Press
- More Than Words
- Mystery Writers of America - New England
- NE Science Fiction Association
- Other Press
- Rola Languages
- Simmons University
- Solstice Literary Magazine
- Tapioca Stories
- The Boston Globe
- Title Doctor
- TLS
- WBUR
- Western Governors University
- Wondermore

Keep an eye out for **BBF IRL!** within the guide. This marks all events that can be attended in person!
Welcome Book Lovers!

Dear BBF Friends,

Welcome to the mostly virtual thirteenth annual Boston Book Festival. This is not quite the welcome I had anticipated when we began planning in March for a live and in-person BBF. But if we have learned anything over the last year and a half, it is that being flexible in a time of uncertainty is not only helpful but necessary. Like you, I am crushed that we can’t gather together, but I hope you will find our virtual sessions thought-provoking and inspiring. And, although we will be meeting in cyberspace for our author sessions, our book hunt, which was bigger and better than ever this year, took place in the physical world. Our StoryWalks® for kids, an outdoor writing workshop, a celebration of the BPL’s Roxbury branch reopening, and the Boston in 100 Words awards ceremony are taking place in-person as well. I hope you enjoy them.

This year, our theme is about connecting through words and images. We have experienced political turmoil, a racial reckoning, and a global pandemic. That’s a lot to process. We need to face the issues that confront us with seriousness, compassion, inclusivity, hope, and humor. And what better way to do so than together as a community of readers, through the magic and wisdom of books and the insights of the most talented authors among us? I hope you will join us from Thursday, October 14 through Sunday, October 24 to celebrate the power of words and to maintain and strengthen our connections to each other, even though we are unable to convene in person.

And let us know your thoughts about the BBF by filling out our survey. In the spirit of being nimble, we are evaluating our organization and discussing what directions to take in the future. Be part of the conversation!

Stay strong and keep reading. And here’s to seeing you next year!

Sincerely,
Deborah Z Porter
Founder

Boston Book Festival Team

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News that makes you think

GBH News isn’t just radio. We’re local, global and everywhere you want us to be. We go beyond the headlines to spark new conversations and new perspectives. We’re news that’s here for you.

gbhnews.org
Join us for the 7th Annual GlobeDocs Film Festival. This year’s festival will offer a chance for the GlobeDocs community to come together with a variety of virtual and in-person programming for attendees, including screenings, post-film conversations, and VIP experiences.

EARLY BIRD TICKETS NOW ON SALE
GLOBE.COM/FILMFEST

#GlobeDocsFF
Make books part of your story.

Learn more about how graduate programs in Children’s Literature, History, Gender & Cultural Studies, and Library & Information Science can develop the story of your future. simmons.edu/graduate

Wagner Foundation is a proud supporter of the Boston Book Festival as they celebrate the power of words to stimulate, agitate, unite, delight, and inspire.

- WAGNER FOUNDATION

For Just & Robust Community

masshumanities.org

The Plymouth Rock Assurance Foundation is proud to support The Boston Book Festival and its mission to promote a culture of reading and ideas that enhance the vibrancy of our city.
Kickoff

Thursday Oct 14

AuthorFest: Peril
Robert Costa and Bob Woodward, with Mindy Marqués

We’re excited to participate in Simon & Schuster’s inaugural AuthorFest, a seasonal author series in partnership with book festivals and literary series.

Friday Oct 15

Our Pandemic Future
Nicholas A. Christakis and Sandro Galea, with Vanessa Kerry

Our opening session spotlights the profound effects of the pandemic and what we must do to shore up the very foundation of our society to avoid a similar catastrophe in the future. In the highly lauded Apollo’s Arrow, bestselling author, physician, sociologist, and public health expert Nicholas A. Christakis discusses what it means to live with plague. In The Contagion Next Time, physician, epidemiologist and bestselling author Sandro Galea argues that poor public health, economic inequalities, and racism are largely to blame for our inadequate preparation and response to the crisis. Our host for this timely session is Vanessa Kerry, director of the Program in Global Public Policy and Social Change in the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

Saturday Oct 16

Poetry Keynote
Tracy K. Smith, with Danielle Legros Georges

When Pulitzer Prize winner Tracy K. Smith was appointed as the 22nd Poet Laureate of the United States in 2017, Librarian of Congress Dr. Carla Hayden praised the breadth and generosity of her work, writing: “With directness and deftness, she contends with the heavens or plumbs our inner depths— all to better understand what makes us most human.” Smith’s work as Poet Laureate inspired her to take poetry to rural communities across the country and to launch a daily podcast encouraging listeners to slow down and make space for poetry, all while building on her own remarkable body of work. Smith’s new book, Such Color, is the first career-spanning volume from this tremendously talented poet, pulling together selections from her prior collections as well as eighteen new poems. In a starred review, Publishers Weekly writes that Such Color “serves as a humbling and invigorating reawakening from sorrow and apathy.” Smith will be in conversation with another former Poet Laureate, Danielle Legros Georges, former Poet Laureate of the City of Boston. For this opening keynote session, slow down and make space for a vital and thoughtful conversation about the place of poetry in our lives and about the role of poetry in recovery and resistance. Sponsored by Mass Poetry, with media sponsorship by TLS.

10:30–11:15am
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest |

The Enduring Legacy of Slavery
Annette Gordon-Reed and Clint Smith, with Meghna Chakrabarti

Sometimes, the more you try to ignore or deny something, the more it asserts itself in your psyche. In the collective American psyche, that buried issue is slavery. Poet, scholar, and Atlantic Monthly staff writer Clint Smith, in his revelatory book, How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning With the History of Slavery Across America, investigates how nine Civil War historic sites memorialize or distort their subject. Smith’s interviews, scholarship, and personal anecdotes about these sites poignantly and, at times, shockingly reveal the scars on the American psyche. Harvard historian Annette Gordon-Reed, whose works include the Pulitzer Prize–winning The Hemingses of Monticello, blends a fascinating memoir of growing up in Texas with a history of slavery in that state in her latest, On Juneteenth. It turns out that slaveholding was central to the economy of the state best known for cowboys and BBQ. Join us for a rare opportunity to see these two stellar scholars together for an exploration of what has been buried for far too long. Moderated by WBUR’s Meghna Chakrabarti. Sponsored by the Krupp Family Foundation.

11:45am–12:30pm
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest |

Women: Working It
Colleen Ammerman, Danielle Dreilinger, Minda Harts, and Dominique Mielle, with Morra Aarons-Mele

This session takes a wide-ranging look at women and work. Danielle Dreilinger’s The Secret History of Home Economics traces the history of this misunderstood field and its surprising role in creating opportunities for women in careers like chemistry, engineering, psychology, and
Environmental Activism: How to Protect the Planet and Yourself

Laurie David and Tatiana Schlossberg

Have you considered liquid soap lately? You know, the kind in a plastic bottle with a pump? Laurie David, documentary filmmaker, activist, and author of Imagine It: A Handbook for a Happier Planet, explains that liquid soap was a solution in search of a problem, and if we all switched back to bar soap, the world would be a better place. Turns out that ubiquitous plastic bottle is deposing microplastic in our bodies, the ocean, and everywhere else. This, and many other ideas on how we can all become environmental activists, will be the topic of the conversation between Laurie and Tatiana Schlossberg, whose book Inconspicuous Consumption: The Environmental Impact You Don’t Know You Have won first place in the Society of Environmental Journalists’ Rachel Carson Environmental Book Award. The time for personal and collective action is now, so tune in and join these engaging and engaged women for a lively discussion of what you can do, sponsored by Cambridge Trust.

2:30–3:15pm
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest

Graphic Nonfiction: The Political Is Personal

Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell, with David Leonard

Join Nate Powell and Andrew Aydin, two masters of the art of visual storytelling, for a discussion of their powerful recent work. Both Aydin, as co-writer, and Powell, as artist, produced the landmark trilogy, March, about the early days in the movement of civil rights icon and congressman John Lewis. The story continues in Run, about the years following the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. The stories of police brutality, voter suppression, and segregationist rhetoric in this critically lauded volume resonate today. Nate Powell will also share Save It for Later: Promises, Protest, and Parenthood, his poignant memoir in graphic essays of living and parenting in the Trump era, which Booklist called a “virtuoso work of artistry” in its starred review. Boston Public Library’s President, David Leonard, will lead the conversation. Sponsored by the Boston Public Library.

3:45–4:30pmcrowdcast.io/bostonbookfest

Lifelong Learning Keynote

Tamara Payne, with Kellie Carter Jackson and Jurianny Guerrero

We are pleased to present, as our first Lifelong Learning Keynote, National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize winner Tamara Payne, co-author with her late father, Les Payne, of The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X. We hope that young adults and their parents tune in together to hear from the author as she is interviewed by Wellesley College history professor Kellie Carter Jackson and Fenway High School senior Jurianny Guerrero. Malcolm X lived for many years in the Nubian Square neighborhood in Roxbury, so his life and times have special resonance for our city. As Kerri Greenridge writes in the Atlantic, “The Dead Are Arising is a meticulously researched, compassionately rendered, and fiercely analytical examination of the radical revolutionaries as a human being.” We look forward to a multi-generational audience for this multi-generational session. Sponsored by the Eric and Jane Nord Family Fund.

5:00–5:45pm
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest

Sunday Oct 17

Under the Hood: A Look at What’s in a Low-Residency MFA Program

Danielle Legros Georges, Heather Hughes, and Janet Pocorobba

Have you ever dreamed of getting your MFA in creative writing? Here’s your chance to ask all your burning questions about what’s involved. During this informal discussion session, Lesley faculty will engage participants and offer their experiences in and viewpoints on the low-residency MFA program model for those curious about or interested in applying to a creative writing master’s degree. Topics will include: how to choose the best writing program for you, the difference between low-residency and customary programs, the format of a low-residency program, profiles of students who choose low-residency programs, diversity in writing culture and writing programs, and faculty mentorship. Come with your questions for program director Danielle Legros Georges, associate director Janet Pocorobba, and MFA alum Heather Hughes during this informative and practical session. Sponsored by Lesley University.

2:00–3:00pm
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest
The Care and Feeding of Book Clubs

Callie Crossley, Cynthia Haynes, and Woods Seney, with Akunna Eneh

Maybe you’ve toyed with the idea of launching a book club but don’t know where to start. Or perhaps your long-time book club has grown a bit stale… or downright dysfunctional. In this session, veteran book club members and facilitators Callie Crossley, Cynthia Haynes, and Woods Seney will offer their tips for book club success, share ideas for getting your book club back on the same page (as it were), and perhaps let us know what their book groups have been reading (and snacking on) lately. Bring your questions, cautionary tales, and success stories for this lively conversation, moderated by Akunna Eneh of the Boston Public Library’s Roxbury branch.

3:30–4:15pm
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest

Monday Oct 18

BBF IRL! BBF IRL!

Please abide by city/venue regulations with regard to mask wearing and social distancing for this in-person event.

BBF Unbound: A Warming World and Your WIP — Facing Up to the Climate Emergency in Your Fiction

Julie Carrick Dalton and Erica Ferencik

Pretty soon all fiction will be climate fiction. There is no escaping what's happening to our big beautiful world and the fact that we are the cause of the climate emergency. But how do we as writers deal with this? Have you found the climate emergency—dark as it is—inspiring or hindering or in some ways both? Has your relationship with nature changed over the time you’ve been an active writer? How will that relationship affect your storytelling going forward? Join authors Julie Carrick Dalton and Erica Ferencik at the ICA Boston's outdoor Grandstand, overlooking the Boston waterfront, to discuss the evolving role of nature and climate in literature. Attendees will leave with a diverse climate fiction reading list and some take-home writing prompts inspired by the outdoor setting of this timely conversation. After the session, please visit Porter Square Books’ brand-new Seaport location to shop for our presenters’ books, and get a free tour of GrubStreet’s new home at the Center for Creative Writing! Produced in partnership with GrubStreet and ICA Boston.

12:30–1:15pm
ICA Boston Grandstand
free registration at bostonbookfest.org

Tuesday Oct 19

Ada’s Realm

Sharon Dodua Otoo, with Jon Cho-Polizzi

Ada is not one, but many women: She revolves in orbits between Ghana and London before eventually landing in Berlin. But she is also all women—because these loops transport her from one century to the next. Consequently, she experiences the misery but also the joy of womanhood: she is a victim, she offers resistance, and she fights for her independence. With vivid language and infinite imagination, with empathy and humor, Sharon Dodua Otoo’s novel Ada’s Realm paints an astonishing picture of what it means to be a woman. Translator Jon Cho-Polizzi will interview Otoo about her prize-winning fiction. Hosted and sponsored by Goethe-Institut Boston.

12:00–1:30pm
register at bostonbookfest.org

The Chinese Question: The Gold Rushes and Global Politics

Mae Ngai, with Jia Lynn Yang

In roughly five decades, between 1848 and 1899, more gold was removed from the earth than had been mined in the three thousand preceding years, bringing untold wealth to individuals and nations. But friction between Chinese and white settlers on the goldfields of California, Australia, and South Africa catalyzed a global battle over “The Chinese Question”: would the United States and the British Empire outlaw Chinese immigration? Join us for a discussion of these definitive cultural and political movements which impact us to this day, featuring two remarkable experts — Mae Ngai, author of The Chinese Question and Jia Lynn Yang, author of One Mighty and Irresistible Tide — on the topics of Chinese American history and immigration. Hosted by our partners at New England Historic Genealogical Society and presented in partnership with the Boston Public Library and GBH Forum Network.

6:00–7:00pm
register at bostonbookfest.org
Wednesday Oct 20
The Radio Operator
Ulla Lenze, with Marshall Yarbrough
Award-winning German writer Ulla Lenze makes her American debut with The Radio Operator, a taut and engrossing historical novel that draws on a forgotten, but contemporarily relevant, chapter from the past: pro-fascist activity among German immigrants in the United States during the years leading up to World War II. Based largely on the true story of Lenze’s great-uncle, the deft narrative — translated by Marshall Yarbrough, who will interview Lenze during this session — bookends the war years as Josef Klein, a German immigrant who arrived in New York in the 1920s, is reluctantly conscripted as an operative for a spy ring of American Nazi sympathizers. Ulla Lenze has written a highly personal and meditative novel that unfolds against a seemingly familiar backdrop while offering a fresh point-of-view. The Radio Operator is a keenly observed work of fiction that introduces an accomplished literary voice to American readers. Hosted and sponsored by Goethe-Institut Boston.
12:00–1:30pm
register at bostonbookfest.org

Thursday Oct 21
One City One Story
Chandreyee Lahiri, with Alicia Anstead
Sutapa and Shekhar are newlyweds aboard a stuck boat in the Sundarbans, with only their boatman Rehman to help. How will they, their boat, and their relationship last through the night, with the forest’s inhabitants so close nearby? Dumba Chora, this year’s One City One Story selection by author Chandreyee Lahiri, tells the story. Find Dumba Chora at a location near you or on our website, then be sure to check out our conversation with the author, facilitated by Alicia Anstead, associate director for programming at Harvard’s Office of the Arts. Supported by Plymouth Rock Assurance.
6:00–6:45pm

Friday Oct 22
Self-Publishing Your Children’s Book
Delanda Coleman, Valerie Foxx, Coleman Luse, and Candelaria Silva, with Cagen Luse
Maybe you’re a grownup who spins bedtime stories so thrilling or hilarious, your kids or grandkids have begged you to turn them into a book. Or maybe you’re a kid who likes to write and draw your own fantasy stories or comic books. This session will help set you on the road toward making those dreams a reality through self-publishing. Joining us for this candid conversation is Candelaria Silva, whose debut picture book is the playful Stacey Became a Frog One Day. We’ll also be joined by two self-publishing veterans. Delanda Coleman is a self-publishing success story; she’s published fifteen books, most recently What’s My Superpower, and her very first self-published book sold more than ten thousand copies! Valerie Foxx is the author of several books for adults but recently published the middle-grade mermaid novel Merissa’s Sea-Cret Powers in collaboration with three young cousins, ages eight and nine. Speaking of young people, during this session we’ll also hear from Coleman Luse, who’s following in the family footsteps by self-publishing his own comic book. This session will be hosted by artist and co-founder of Comics in Color (and Coleman’s dad) Cagen Luse. Show up to learn and get inspired!
3:00–3:45pm

Period. End of Sentence.
Anita Diamant and Meredith Goldstein
Menstruation: honored, celebrated, revered, feared, ignored, misunderstood. Anita Diamant (The Red Tent) charts the flow of period history in her new book Period. End of Sentence, including generations of misinformation and silence. But it’s not all bad news! A new generation of activists are committed to breaking the cycle of period stigma, and popular culture seems to be following suit. The Boston Globe’s Meredith Goldstein moderates.
5:00–5:45pm

A Reckoning in Boston
Kafi Dixon and James Rutenbeck, with Liz Miranda
In 1995, writer Earl Shorris launched the first Clemente Course in the Humanities, offering low-income adults the same access to the humanities as Ivy League freshmen. He claimed, “People who know the humanities become good citizens, become active, not acted upon.” White, suburban filmmaker James Rutenbeck went to Dorchester, one of Boston’s most diverse neighborhoods, to document students’ engagement with the Clemente Course in the Humanities. What begins as an academic inquiry becomes a collaborative, interpersonal experience when James realizes he can’t keep himself out of the narrative. His relationship to the story is influenced by two students, Kafi Dixon — a bus driver and urban farmer — and Carl Chandler — a neighborhood elder who combines a talent for storytelling with a profound intellectual curiosity. As James spends time with Kafi and Carl, he’s awakened to the violence, racism, and gentrification that threaten their place in the city. Their documentary film project, A Reckoning in Boston, bears witness to the struggles and injustices playing out across our city, and will compel viewers to grapple with their own complicity in these systems. Join us for a free screening of A Reckoning
## 2021 Schedule

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**Note:** Times are approximate and subject to change.
# Boston Book Festival 2021

## WEDNESDAY

**OCT 20**

**The Radio Operator**
- Ulla Lenza
- Host: Marshall Yarbrough

**Boston Globe–Horn Book Awards Feature**

**Story Time**
- Raúl the Third
- Katie Yamasaki

**Self-Publishing**
- Delanda Coleman
- Valeria Fonce
- Coleman Luse
- Candelaria Silva
- Host: Cagen Luse

**YA: Revolution/Resistance**
- Candace M. Fleming
- Kekla Magoon
- Ola Nichols
- Jamia Wilson
- Host: Carissa Román

**Fiction: Work and Identity**
- Mateo Askaripour
- Eric Giroux
- Zakia Dallá Harris
- Elizabeth Gonzalez James
- Host: Laniella Sneed

**BBF Unbound: BEAT Education Activism Tour**
- METCO

**BBF Unbound: Set Your Writing Free**
- Sarah Smith
- Carolyn Marie Wilkins

**BBF Unbound: Writing in the Graveyard Shift**
- Desmond Hall
- Doris Iarovici
- Daphne Kalotay
- Rishi Reddi

**BBF Unbound: Bake It Till You Make It . . . Live!**
- Dayna Altman

**BBF Unbound: No More Drama**
- Maru Colbert
- Janelle Walker
- Carolyn Hines

**BBF Unbound: After “Nature Writing”**
- KerriArsenault/Kate Brown
- Joan Naviyuk Kane/Tony Perry
- Host: Bathsheba Demuth

**BBF Unbound: Writing Outside of Your Lane**
- Milo Todd

## THURSDAY

**OCT 21**

**YA: Memoir**
- George M. Johnson
- Host: Nicholl Montgomery

**Speculative Fiction**
- P. Djèlí Clark
- Anita Kpacz
- Lucinda Roy
- Host: Quentin Lucas

**For the Birds**
- Derrick Z. Jackson
- Stephen Kress
- Rosemary Mosco
- Host: Jeremy Spool

**One City One Story**
- Chandreyee Lahiri
- Host: Alicia Anstead

**Poems & Pints**
- Sam Cha
- Rebecca Morgan Frank
- Danielle Legros Georges
- Bianca Stone
- Host: Danielle Jones

**Period. End of Sentence.**
- Anita Diamant
- Host: Meredith Goldstein

**Contemporary Romance Roundtable**
- Alyssa Cole
- Lena Harper
- K.M. Jackson
- Farrah Rochon
- Host: Andrea Martucci

**YA: Memoir**
- George M. Johnson
- Host: Nicholl Montgomery

**BBF Unbound: After “Nature Writing”**
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- Milo Todd

**BBF Unbound: Bake It Till You Make It . . . Live!**
- Dayna Altman

## FRIDAY

**OCT 22**

**BBF Unbound: Set Your Writing Free**
- Sarah Smith
- Carolyn Marie Wilkins

**BBF Unbound: Writing in the Graveyard Shift**
- Desmond Hall
- Doris Iarovici
- Daphne Kalotay
- Rishi Reddi

**BBF Unbound: Bake It Till You Make It . . . Live!**
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- Milo Todd

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- Dayna Altman

## SATURDAY

**OCT 23**

**BBF Unbound: BEAT Education Activism Tour**
- METCO

**BBF Unbound: Set Your Writing Free**
- Sarah Smith
- Carolyn Marie Wilkins

**BBF Unbound: Writing in the Graveyard Shift**
- Desmond Hall
- Doris Iarovici
- Daphne Kalotay
- Rishi Reddi

**BBF Unbound: Bake It Till You Make It . . . Live!**
- Dayna Altman

**BBF Unbound: No More Drama**
- Maru Colbert
- Janelle Walker
- Carolyn Hines

**BBF Unbound: After “Nature Writing”**
- KerriArsenault/Kate Brown
- Joan Naviyuk Kane/Tony Perry
- Host: Bathsheba Demuth

**BBF Unbound: Writing Outside of Your Lane**
- Milo Todd

## SUNDAY

**OCT 24**

**BBF Unbound: After “Nature Writing”**
- KerriArsenault/Kate Brown
- Joan Naviyuk Kane/Tony Perry
- Host: Bathsheba Demuth

**BBF Unbound: Writing Outside of Your Lane**
- Milo Todd

**BBF Unbound: Bake It Till You Make It . . . Live!**
- Dayna Altman

**BBF Unbound: No More Drama**
- Maru Colbert
- Janelle Walker
- Carolyn Hines
in Boston, followed by a live Q&A with filmmakers James Rutenbeck and Kafi Dixon, moderated by Rep. Liz Miranda. This screening and discussion are sponsored by Mass Humanities.

7:00–8:20pm film screening
register at bostonbookfest.org
8:20–9:00pm discussion
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest

Saturday Oct 23

Memoir: Finding Your Way as a Black Person in a White World
Brian Broome, Kim McLarin, and Chanda Prescod-Weinstein, with Kelley Chunn
Join three writers as they discuss their different, difficult, and fascinating paths. As one of the few Black women to obtain a PhD in physics in the United States, Chanda Prescod-Weinstein encountered more than a few bumps on the road to becoming a cosmologist. Her book, The Disordered Cosmos: A Journey into Dark Matter, Spacetime, and Dreams Deferred, is described in a starred review in Publishers Weekly as “a resonant paean to the beauties of the cosmos and a persuasive appeal for solutions to injustices in science.” Brian Broome tells a raw coming-of-age story in Punch Me Up to the Gods. Described in numerous glowing reviews as “electrifying,” “staggering,” and “brilliant,” it creatively employs Gwendolyn Brooks’s poem “We Real Cool” as a framing device. Kim McLarin, in James Baldwin’s In Another Country Bookmarked, uses the themes of Baldwin’s novel to mirror her own experiences with life, love, and creativity. As Shelf Awareness writes in its starred review, McLarin “seamlessly traverses the boundaries of literary criticism, personal essay and cultural critique.” Kelley Chunn, principal of cause marketing firm Kelley Chunn & Associates, will lead the conversation. Sponsored by Arbella Insurance Foundation.

10:00–11:00am
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest

Building Up Their Own: The Legacy, Power, and Potential of Black Organizing and Institution Building in America
Eddie R. Cole, Martha S. Jones, and Kate Masur, with Jelani M. Favors
The history of the Black liberation movement has been rooted in the organizing and mobilizing capabilities of Black institutions. This session will examine the legacy, power, and potential of Black institutions and how they have empowered communities, launched social movements, and produced activists who have served on the frontlines of America’s ongoing struggle for social, political, and economic justice. The panel will highlight the work of three scholars who have increased our understanding of the significant local and national impact that institutions have played in advancing the freedom dreams of Black folks in America and how this spirit of agency and “building up our own” has evolved into the present day.


11:30am–12:30pm
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest

Fiction: Work and Identity
Mateo Askaripour, Eric Giroux, Zakiya Dalila Harris, and Elizabeth Gonzalez
James, with Lanelle Sneed
2021 has seen a phenomenon known as “The Great Resignation,” thanks to so many professionals reflecting during the pandemic and recognizing a mismatch between their jobs and their personal priorities. If this sounds familiar, the novelists in this session will speak to you! In Black Buck, Mateo Askaripour blends satire and self-help as he traces one young man’s meteoric rise — and fall — as the only Black salesperson at a hot new startup, in what the Washington Post calls “an irresistible comic novel about the tenacity of racism in corporate America.” Zakiya Dalila Harris, in The Other Black Girl, also confronts racism in the workplace — in this case, the author’s first-hand experiences in the publishing industry — in the guise of a thriller Kirkus calls “stylish brilliant.” The title character of Elizabeth Gonzalez James’s novel Mona at Sea, used to be an ambitious go-getter—that is, until the Great Recession of 2008 saw her laid off before she even got onboarded, and now she spends her days fruitlessly applying for meaningless jobs. Variety calls Mona at Sea “a winsome meditation on how
BBF IRL! BBF IRL!

BPL Roxbury Branch Reopening Celebration
Saturday Oct 23 | 149 Dudley St

We’re pleased to present a handful of interactive, family-friendly activities in partnership with the Boston Public Library as part of their celebration of the newly remodeled and reopened Roxbury Branch, which recently won an ALA/AIA Library Building Award. These activities are made possible with the support of the Wagner Foundation.

Chalk Art
Zahirah Nur Truth
11:00am

Join visual artist and art educator Zahirah Nur Truth for a participatory chalk art activity for the whole family. Help make the new Roxbury Branch even more beautiful!

Library Ribbon Cutting
12:00pm

Acting Boston Mayor Kim Janey will preside over a ribbon-cutting ceremony and make some brief remarks about the role of the library in the Roxbury community.

Storytime: Dream Street
Tricia Elam Walker and Ekua Holmes
1:00pm

Two Roxbury natives — author Tricia Elam Walker and artist Ekua Holmes — will read their forthcoming picture book Dream Street, a love letter to growing up in this vibrant Boston neighborhood. The first 25 families to attend and sign up will receive a free copy of the book when it publishes next month!

BBF Unbound: Boston Education Activism Tour
1:00pm

Celebrate the new Nubian Square HQ for Boston’s METCO program by taking a Boston Education Activism Tour (BEAT) of Nubian Square. High school students in METCO — the historic voluntary school desegregation program between Boston and the mostly white suburbs — travel between worlds every day when they ride their buses to school and back. Now they want to take everyone on a journey into Boston’s past to uncover the dynamic history of the Black community in Roxbury. These young people will use Nubian Square’s landmarks, from the Dillaway-Thomas House to Hibernian Hall, to uncover the stories of decades of artistry, activism, and achievement. They will introduce you to the brave organizers who envisioned a better world, like Ruth Batson, Ellen Jackson, Melnea Cass, Mel King and more. The tour will culminate at the brand new Nubian Square headquarters of METCO itself, whose founding story has many lessons for today.

Poetry
Sessions for Writers
In-Person Events
BBF Unbound

History Keynote
Tiya Miles, with Lee Pelton
In All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley’s Sack, a Black Family Keepsake, Harvard historian and MacArthur Fellow Tiya Miles tells the unforgettable story of an antique piece of fabric, a sack that was given by an enslaved woman to her young daughter, Ashley, before the child was sold away from her. In 1921, Ashley’s granddaughter told Ashley’s story in 53 powerful words that she embroidered on the sack. Now housed at the Smithsonian, it stands as a unique artifact, a synecdoche, as Miles says, of American slavery. In the absence of written records of the lives of slaves, objects become the bearers of information. Miles brilliantly explores what Ashley’s sack says not only about the inhuman, twisted institution of slavery and the paucity of histories about Black women and families, but also about the meaning of love. Join Tiya Miles and Lee Pelton, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation, for a discussion of this moving and highly readable work of social history. Sponsored by the Wagner Foundation.
5:15–6:00pm
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest

Speculative Fiction
P. Djèlí Clark, Anita Kopacz, and Lucinda Roy, with Quentin Lucas
Black authors have been at the vanguard of speculative fiction and fantasy for the past few decades, and today we have three talented practitioners to introduce us to the breadth and scope of the genre. Author and activist Lucinda Roy is perhaps best known for her poetry, essays, and literary fiction, but her new novel The Freedom Race is Roy’s first foray into speculative fiction, imagining a near-future Second Civil War, the reinstitution of slavery, and the paucity of histories of the lives of slaves, objects become the bearers of information. Miles brilliantly explores what Ashley’s sack says not only about the inhuman, twisted institution of slavery and the paucity of histories about Black women and families, but also about the meaning of love. Join Tiya Miles and Lee Pelton, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation, for a discussion of this moving and highly readable work of social history. Sponsored by the Wagner Foundation.

P. Djèlí Clark
Anita Kopacz
Lucinda Roy
Quentin Lucas

Poems & Pints
Sam Cha, Anthony Febo, Rebecca Morgan Frank, Danielle Legros Georges, and Bianca Stone, with Danielle Jones
Our annual Saturday evening celebration of poetry might be BYOB (again) this year, but it still promises to be the literary gathering of the weekend, as we bring together a talented group of poets to share their latest work in a casual, free-flowing setting. Poets Sam Cha (The Yellow Book), Anthony Febo (Becoming an Island), Rebecca Morgan Frank (Oh You Robot Saints!), Danielle Legros Georges (Letters from Congo) and Bianca Stone (The Möbius Strip Club of Grief, What Is Otherwise Infinite) will read from their latest collections. Join us to raise a glass or two with other poetry lovers at what’s become a BBF Saturday tradition, this time emceed by Mass Poetry’s new program director, Danielle Jones. Sponsored by Mass Poetry.
6:30–7:30pm
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest

to carry on living in the aftermath of disrupted plans” — something we can all relate to these days. And speaking of relating, the plot of Eric Giroux’s Ring on Deli might sound familiar to Massachusetts readers, as a young man must decide where his loyalties lie when the employees of a New England supermarket chain rise up against their corrupt leadership. Kirkus compares Giroux’s writing to Richard Russo’s, and calls Ring on Deli “a well-balanced comic tale that deftly grapples with larger contemporary themes.” All four of these talented writers are debut novelists — perhaps their conversation, moderated by Books on the Rox’s Lanelle Sneed, will inspire you to add “author” to your résumé, too! Sponsored by Greenough Brand Storytellers.

1:00–2:00pm
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest
Monday Oct 18

Story Time: Watercress
Jason Chin and Andrea Wang
Ages 5–8

Recently named a Boston Globe–Horn Book honor book, *Watercress*, written by Andrea Wang and illustrated by Jason Chin, tells an understated but deeply moving story about a seemingly simple family meal that’s laden with significance for its Chinese American family. In this story time, artist Jason Chin and author Andrea Wang will introduce viewers to this aptly bittersweet story and Chin’s exquisitely detailed watercolor illustrations, which mirrors the theme by utilizing both Chinese and Western brushwork techniques. Don’t miss your opportunity to explore Boston’s Chinatown while enjoying a StoryWalk® based on *Watercress!* Sponsored by Simmons University.

3:00–3:30pm
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest

Wednesday Oct 20

Story Time: ¡Vamos! Let’s Cross the Bridge
Raúl the Third
Ages 6–10

We love the t-shirts Raúl the Third designed for BBF 2020, and we’re thrilled to welcome him back as a presenter for BBF 2021! In this Story Time session, Raúl will introduce viewers to Little Lobo and his friends, who, in ¡Vamos! Let’s Cross the Bridge, are delivering party supplies, only to get stuck in an epic traffic jam turned fiesta on the Mexico–United States border. Like Richard Scarry with a Mexican American spin, Raúl’s latest book takes readers on a road trip to remember! Don’t miss our East Boston StoryWalk® featuring ¡Vamos! Let’s Cross the Bridge, too! Sponsored by Simmons University.

3:00–3:15pm
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest

Friday Oct 22

Boston Globe–Horn Book Awards Feature

Join us all month long for the virtual Boston Globe–Horn Book Awards. Editor in Chief Roger Sutton interviews winners Jordan Scott and Sydney Smith (Picture Book, I Talk like a River); Paula Yoo (Nonfiction, From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry); and Rita Williams-Garcia (Fiction, A Sitting in St. James). Honorees Derrick Barnes, Gordon C. James, Andrea Wang, Jason Chin, Christina Soontornvat, Carole Boston Weatherford, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, Ibi Zoboi, Yusef Salaam, and Omar T. Pasha present remarks. And watch a special session on the late Floyd Cooper, BBF 2020, and we’re thrilled to welcome him back as a presenter for BBF 2021! In this Story Time session, Raúl will introduce viewers to Little Lobo and his friends, who, in ¡Vamos! Let’s Cross the Bridge, are delivering party supplies, only to get stuck in an epic traffic jam turned fiesta on the Mexico–United States border. Like Richard Scarry with a Mexican American spin, Raúl’s latest book takes readers on a road trip to remember! Don’t miss our East Boston StoryWalk® featuring ¡Vamos! Let’s Cross the Bridge, too! Sponsored by Simmons University.

12:00–12:30pm
link at bostonbookfest.org

Special Session on the Late Floyd Cooper

Join us for a special session on the late Floyd Cooper, BBF 2020, and we’re thrilled to welcome him back as a presenter for BBF 2021! In this Story Time session, Raúl will introduce viewers to Little Lobo and his friends, who, in ¡Vamos! Let’s Cross the Bridge, are delivering party supplies, only to get stuck in an epic traffic jam turned fiesta on the Mexico–United States border. Like Richard Scarry with a Mexican American spin, Raúl’s latest book takes readers on a road trip to remember! Don’t miss our East Boston StoryWalk® featuring ¡Vamos! Let’s Cross the Bridge, too! Sponsored by Simmons University.

12:00–12:30pm
link at bostonbookfest.org
YA Sessions

Saturday Oct 16
Lifelong Learning Keynote
Tamara Payne, with Kellie Carter Jackson and Jurianny Guerrero

We are pleased to present, as our first Lifelong Learning Keynote, National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize winner Tamara Payne, co-author with her late father, Les Payne, of The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X. We hope that young adults and their parents tune in together to hear from the author as she is interviewed by Wellesley College history professor Kellie Carter Jackson and Fenway High School senior Jurianny Guerrero. Malcolm X lived for many years in the Nubian Square neighborhood in Roxbury, so his life and times have special resonance for our city. As Kerri Greenridge writes in the Atlantic, “The Dead Are Arising is a meticulously researched, compassionately rendered, and fiercely analytical examination of the radical revolutionary as a human being.” We look forward to a multi-generational audience for this multi-generational session. Sponsored by the Eric and Jane Nord Family Fund.

5:00–5:45pm
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest

Wednesday Oct 20
YA: This Session’s for the Birds
Derrick Z. Jackson, Stephen W. Kress, and Rosemary Mosco, with Jeremy Spool

Whether you identify as a city kid or an avid naturalist, fascinating birds can be found everywhere! In this session, we’ll hear from Rosemary Mosco, who’s been connecting people to the natural world with her funny (but scientifically accurate!) cartoons for years. In A Pocket Guide to Pigeon Watching she demystifies these ubiquitous but often misunderstood birds. Ornithologist Stephen W. Kress and photographer Derrick Z. Jackson team up for The Puffin Plan, a beautifully photographed account of reintroducing these gorgeous birds to rocky islands off the coast of Maine. We’ll hear from all these creators and get their ideas for incorporating the natural world into young people’s lives in this session hosted by Jeremy Spool of the Massachusetts Young Birders Club.

4:00–4:45pm
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest

Monday Oct 18
YA: Classics Remixed
C.B. Lee and Bethany C. Morrow, with Laura Berestecki

This fall, Macmillan launched an exciting new YA project, lining up some of the most talented authors for teens to “remix” works of classic literature and reinterpret them through their own culturally relevant YA novels that make those dusty tomes feel brand-new. The first two books in the series have just been released this fall, and we’re pleased to host a conversation with C.B. Lee and Bethany C. Morrow, hosted by Laura Berestecki of the Boston Public Library. Lee’s book, A Clash of Steel, offers a queer re-visioning of Treasure Island centered on two young women and inspired by the legend of Chinese pirate queen Ching Shih. Morrow takes on New England classic Little Women in So Many Beginnings, setting her version in a community of newly freed Black people during the Civil War. Future volumes in the series will take on Wuthering Heights and Robin Hood—what classic works of literature would you want to remix? Sponsored by Simmons University.

5:30–6:30pm
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest

Thursday Oct 21
YA: Revolution and Resistance Then and Now
Crystal M. Fleming, Kekla Magoon, De Nichols, and Jamia Wilson, with Carissa Romain

Looking for inspiration and empowerment to get involved in political and social action? Your first stop should be this bold and galvanizing session. Kekla Magoon’s Revolution in Our Time, recently longlisted for the National Book Award, offers meticulously researched historical context for today’s Black activist movements, as the author traces the history of the Black Panther Party in a narrative Kirkus calls a “not-to-be-missed story of America’s history and current reality.” In Rise Up! sociologist Crystal M. Fleming inspires readers to take up the cause of anti-racism in their own lives, thoroughly outlining the ongoing lineage of racial injustice and outlining concrete steps young people can take to work toward justice in their own communities. Jamia Wilson’s This Book Is Feminist offers an intersectional framework for understanding the history of feminist movements and for viewing contemporary feminism as the key to overcoming systemic oppression and injustice. If hearing all these inspiring stories of activism has you ready to hit the streets, artist De Nichols will inspire your revolutionary creativity in her new book Art of Protest. Whether you’re looking to understand how we got here or you’re ready to take on the world, this dynamic conversation, hosted by interviewer Carissa Romain, will offer you a roadmap for your own activist journey. Sponsored by Candlewick Press.

4:00–5:00pm
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest

Saturday Oct 23
YA: Memoir Keynote
George M. Johnson with Nicholl Montgomery

Screenwriter and activist George M. Johnson’s 2020 book All Boys Aren’t Blue was a “memoir-manifesto,” offering young people, especially queer Black boys, a testimony of Johnson’s own adolescent experiences blended with reflections on gender identity, consent, toxic masculinity, and Black joy. Their new memoir, We Are Not Broken, is similarly both deeply personal and emphatically universal, as the author explores the close relationships between them, their brother, and their cousins, all growing up under the loving, wise, no-nonsense guidance of their grandmother, known as “Nanny.” Under Nanny’s eye, George and their cousins become aware of racial injustice, George embraces their queer identity—and they all grasp on to their abiding, fierce love for one another. In a starred review, Publishers Weekly calls We Are Not Broken “an intensely emotional, stunning read.” In this keynote session sponsored by Simmons University, Johnson will discuss their memoir with Nicholl Montgomery, a lecturer in children’s literature at Simmons.

2:30–3:15pm
crowdcast.io/bostonbookfest
BBF Unbound Bonus Day!

**BBF UNBOUND** showcases community-developed festival programming. Each year, sessions are selected through a competitive proposal process. We hope you’ll tune in to experience the innovation and creativity of facilitators from our community.

**Sunday Oct 24**

**Writing in the Graveyard Shift**
Desmond Hall, Doris Iarovici, Daphne Kalotay, and Rishi Reddi

Besides having day jobs to help support themselves, most writers face additional demands on their time—from parenting to helping relatives or friends to coping with the recent pandemic. Creativity can languish when relegated to the graveyard shift. How do you manage an intense day job and personal obligations while still getting a book out... or more? Come hear how writers Desmond Hall (Your Corner Dark), Doris Iarovici (Minus One), Daphne Kalotay (Blue Hours), and Rishi Reddi (Passage West) did it and share your own experiences.
11:30am–12:30pm
[link at bostonbookfest.org](https://bostonbookfest.org)

**Set Your Writing Free — Write from Your Intuition and Heart**
Sarah Smith and Carolyn Marie Wilkins

Do you yearn for those moments when words seem to write themselves? Learn to bypass the self-doubt, self-judgment, and perfectionism that cause writers’ block. During the workshop participants will have the opportunity to experience connecting with their deepest writing self and writing from a trance state. Tarot cards, meditation, and ritual will be used to enhance the experience. This interactive workshop will be led by authors Carolyn Wilkins and Sarah Smith and is open to writers in all genres.
1:00–2:00pm
[link at bostonbookfest.org](https://bostonbookfest.org)

**After “Nature Writing”**
Kerri Arsenault, Kate Brown, Joan Naviyuk Kane, and Tony Perry, with Bathsheba Demuth

Our panel of writers, teachers, and activists will discuss the elements environmental writers bring to storytelling. Each contributor connects Boston-area concerns with larger geographies and histories: Inupiaq poet Joan Naviyuk Kane links her Alaskan homelands with her current home in Cambridge; Kate Brown connects distant nuclear and local plant histories; historian Tony Perry examines the relationship of enslaved peoples in the early United States with their environments; Kerri Arsenault traces pollution in the Northeast; and panel moderator Bathsheba Demuth connects histories of New England and the Arctic.
Through guiding questions about genre, audience, and writing across disciplines, the panelists will discuss how the past and present can be linked through storytelling to an environmentally just future.
2:00–3:00pm
[link at bostonbookfest.org](https://bostonbookfest.org)

**Writing Outside of Your Lane**
Milo Todd

Over the past several years the publishing world (and its readers) have thankfully demanded more diversity within stories. But as welcome as this change is, it can leave many non-marginalized writers with anxiety. How are you supposed to go about it? What if you mess up? Are you allowed to write about marginalized people at all? In this session facilitated by Milo Todd, we’ll discuss common worries, some do’s and don’ts, engage in self-reflection questions, and more. Writers will leave this session with more insight, awareness, and confidence to produce the most accurate and empathetic work they can.
3:00–4:00pm
[link at bostonbookfest.org](https://bostonbookfest.org)

**On Demand**

**Bake It Till You Make it... Live!**
Dayna Altman

Bake It Till You Make it: Live! inspired by Dayna Altman’s first of its kind mental health cookbook — Bake It Till You Make It: Breaking Bread Building Resilience. Dayna will share her mental health story while facilitating a cooking demonstration, using the ingredients as metaphors to tell her own story of recovery and living with mental illness. Watch as she teaches you a new recipe and deconstructs stigma.
view on demand
[link at bostonbookfest.org](https://bostonbookfest.org)

**No More Drama**
Maru Colbert, Janelle Walker, and Carolyn Hines

This session involves viewers in an evocative event focusing on injustice. Thematic source material will be dramatized through theater, poetry, vocals, and instruments. Three Boston residents were asked to complete a reflective writing exercise regarding an oppressive, personal experience. Together, we will see these stories enacted, alongside other and possibly related “drama” that occurs in BIPOC communities. The overarching message is that the “drama” of inequity must end.
view on demand
[link at bostonbookfest.org](https://bostonbookfest.org)

**TAKE YOURSELF TO A NEW PLACE... WITH GREAT DEALS!**

**ARTSBOSTON**

[ARTSBOSTON.ORG/CALENDAR](https://artsboston.org/calendar)
Author Talks

The BPL is proud to partner with the Boston Book Festival to celebrate the written word. Continue the conversation with our slate of author talks.

MAE NGAI
The Chinese Question: The Gold Rushes and Global Politics
Tuesday, October 19 at 6:00 pm - via Zoom
The esteemed Columbia University professor and author is joined by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jia Lynn Yang for a discussion about how Gold Rush-era Chinese migration changed the nature of global economics and created modern conceptions of race.
Part of the Boston Book Festival. Presented in collaboration with the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) and the GBH Forum Network.

REECE JONES
White Borders: The History of Race and Immigration in the United States from Chinese Exclusion to the Border Wall
Wednesday, October 27 at 6:00 pm - via Zoom
The 2021 Guggenheim Fellow’s sweeping account reveals that while the US is often mythologized as a nation of immigrants, it has a long history of restrictions rooted in the racist fear of the “great replacement” of whites.
Presented in collaboration with the Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library.

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The Transcendentalists and Their World
Tuesday, November 9 at 6:00 pm
in person at Rabb Hall at the Central Library in Copley Square & via Zoom
The Bancroft Prize-winning author uncovers the birth of Transcendentalism in Massachusetts, reflecting on the lives and thoughts of some of its most ardent proponents, including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Louisa May Alcott.
Presented in collaboration with NEHGS and the Trustees.

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