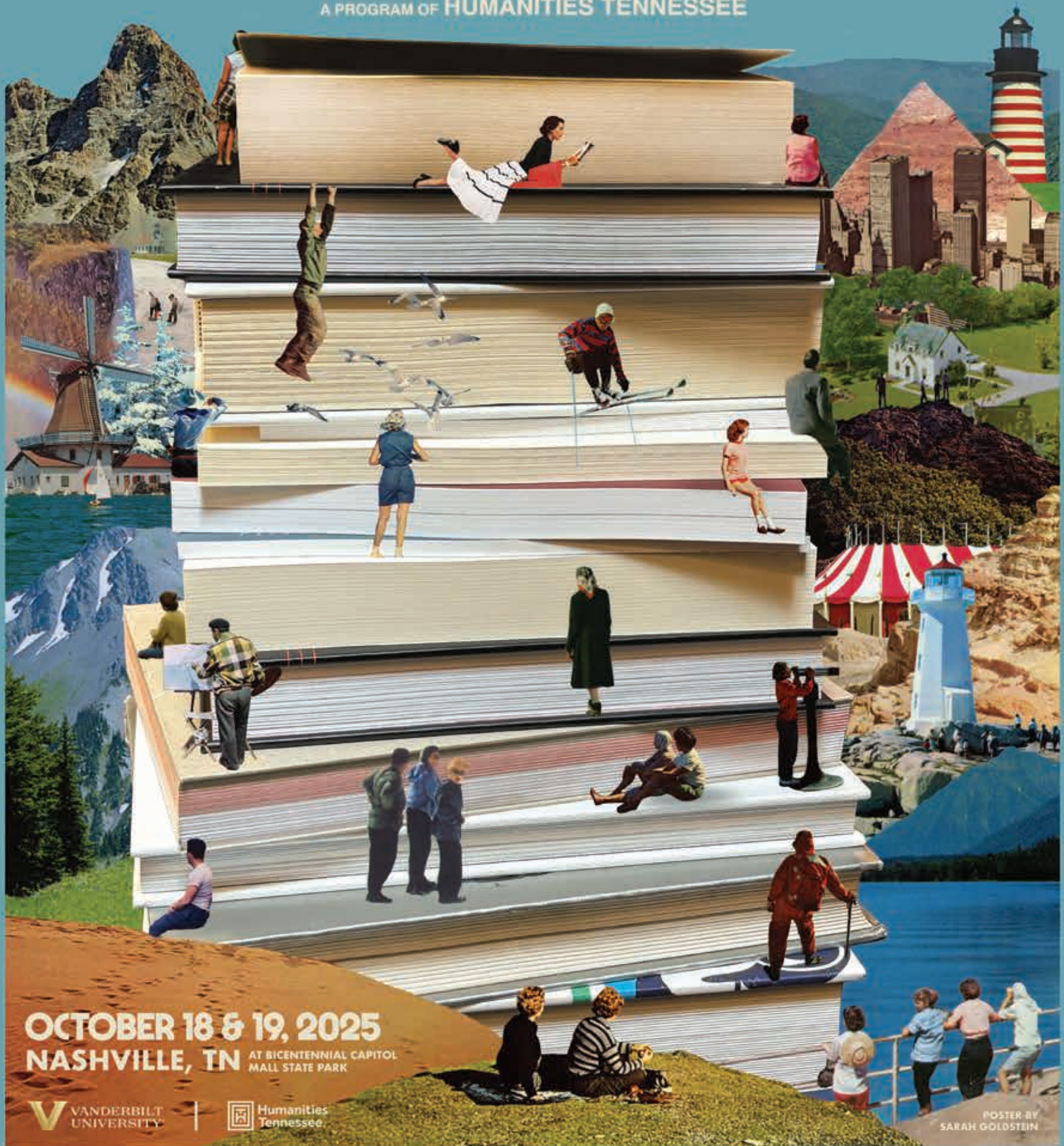


VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

# THE 37TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

A PROGRAM OF HUMANITIES TENNESSEE



OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2025  
NASHVILLE, TN

AT BICENTENNIAL CAPITOL  
MALL STATE PARK



POSTER BY  
SARAH GOLDSTEIN



# WELCOME TO THE 37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SOUTHERN FESTIVAL OF BOOKS!

Dear Friends of the Southern Festival of Books,

We are delighted to welcome you to the 37th Southern Festival of Books—our first year presenting this beloved tradition together as Vanderbilt University Presents: The Southern Festival of Books, a program of Humanities Tennessee.

This Festival has always been more than a gathering of authors and readers. It is a celebration of the stories, ideas, and conversations that shape our civic and cultural life. This year's Festival carries special meaning: after months of uncertainty, the outpouring of support from Tennesseans, generous gifts from individuals and organizations, and the shared vision of our two institutions have ensured that this landmark event not only continues, but grows stronger.

As you take part in the panels, readings, and performances, we invite you to reflect on what makes this community so remarkable. From nationally recognized authors to local talent, from children discovering books for the first time to lifelong readers, the festival brings together voices across generations and perspectives. Together, we affirm the enduring power of literature to spark curiosity, bridge divides, and deepen our understanding of the world.

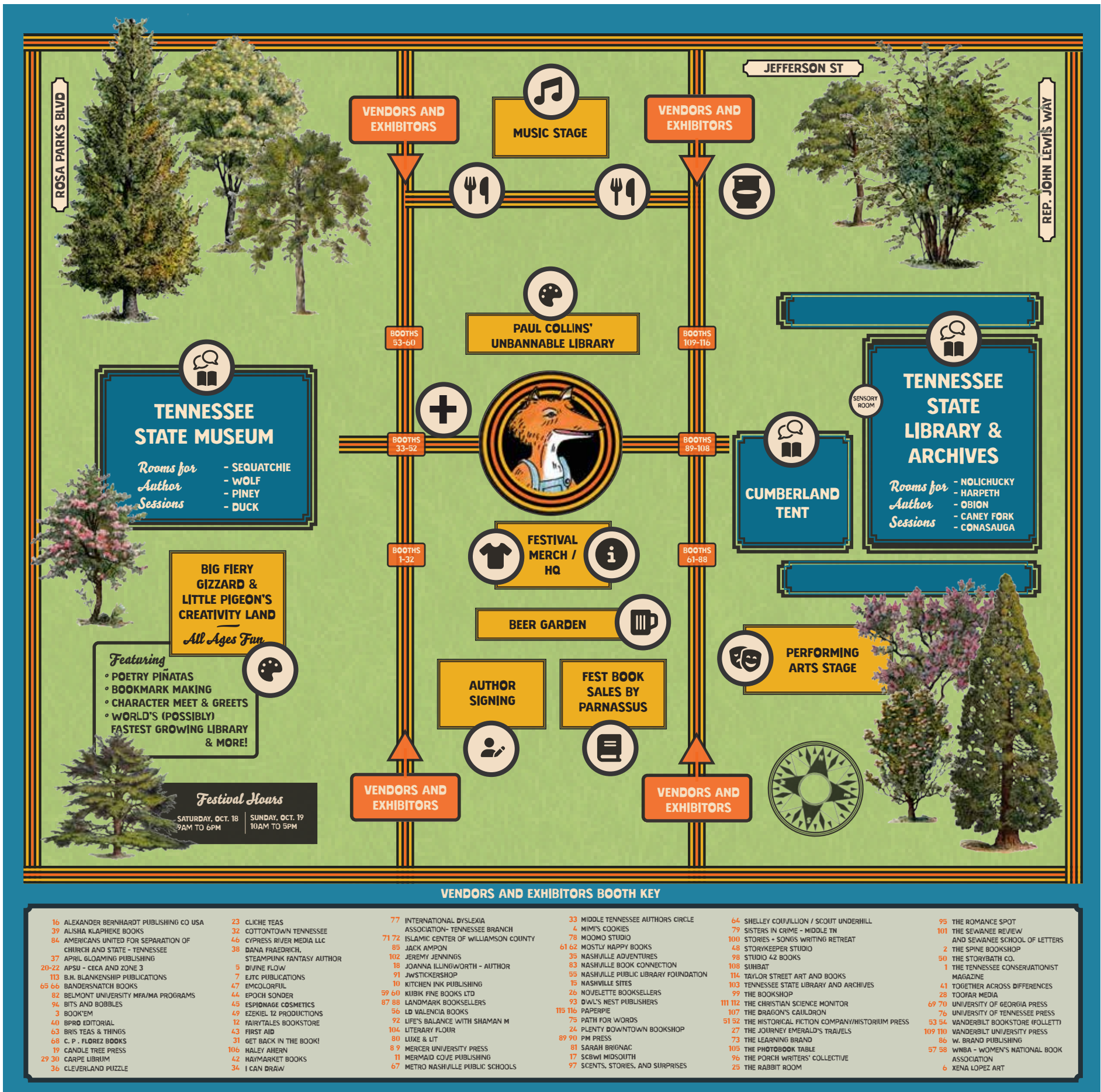
We are proud to co-present this year's Festival as partners in championing the literary arts. Humanities Tennessee and Vanderbilt University share a commitment to nurturing civic dialogue and fostering creativity, and we are thrilled to see that commitment reflected in the rich offerings of this year's program.

Thank you for joining us. Your presence helps sustain this extraordinary Festival and ensures that it remains a cornerstone of Tennessee's cultural landscape for years to come.

Warmly,

C. CYBELE RAVER  
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Vanderbilt University

TIM HENDERSON  
Executive Director  
Humanities Tennessee



## DOWNLOAD THE SOFESTOFBOOKS APP

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## VISIT CHAPTER16.ORG

Throughout the year, Chapter 16 provides coverage of literary news and events in Tennessee. Visit [chapter16.org](http://chapter16.org) for book reviews, interviews with authors and more.



## PAUL COLLINS'S UNBANNABLE LIBRARY

Stop by the Carillon to experience, contemplate, and discuss ideas and big, big books created by visual artists and writers.

## AUTHOR SIGNINGS

Author signings will take place in the Signing Tent immediately following sessions.



## YOUTH SESSIONS

Look for the red book icon for sessions tailored to young readers.

## TRIPLE THOUGHT PASSPORT

The passport returns! Start your day at the Headquarters Tent and pick up a TRIPLE THOUGHT PASSPORT. Attend three separate sessions at this year's Festival and bring back the completed passport to the HQ tent to receive a sur-prize. (First completed, first served!)



**Humanities Tennessee**

[www.HumTN.org](http://www.HumTN.org)

The Southern Festival of Books is a program of Humanities Tennessee

The Southern Festival of Books publication is designed by






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**SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 18**

**9:00 AM-10:00 AM**

CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Eddie Huffman, Mary Ellen Pethel**  
*Doc Watson: A Life in Music, Howdy! The Minnie Pearl Story*  
Biographies of Doc Watson and Minnie Pearl trace the lives of these iconic country performers as well as the community they helped foster.

HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY   
**Jeanne Birdsall**  
*The Library of Unruly Treasures*  
Gwen MacKinnon finds herself an unlikely hero when she stumbles upon a big secret about little creatures called the Lahdukan, who insist that Gwen is destined to help them.

OBION ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Liz Pelly, Ben Ratliff**  
*Mood Machine, Run the Song: Writing About Running About Listening*  
Get an inside look at the highs and lows of the music industry in these timely books that examine both the malaise of the music business as well as the hope provided by individual artists and songs.

NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Morgan Bolling, Toni Tipton-Martin**  
*When Southern Women Cook: History, Lore, and 300 Recipes*  
Covering every region and flavor of the American South, from Texas Barbecue to Gullah Geechee rice dishes, this collection of 300 recipes is a joyous celebration of Southern cuisine and its diverse heroes, past and present.

CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Sisters in Crime: Phyllis Gobbell, Dawn Hogan, Kelly Oliver**  
Join the Sisters in Crime writers for a panel promising “Southern Fried Secrets” with three Nashville favorites.


**9:30 AM-11:00 AM**

SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Women’s National Book Association presents Coffee with Authors: Austenne Grey, Bruce Holsinger, Jenna Levine, Amanda Stribling**  
*Culpability: A Novel, Road Trip with a Vampire, Once You Were Mine*  
The WNBA Saturday session is a Festival tradition. This year’s panel focuses on the ins and outs of audiobook publishing with authors and narrators.

**10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

OBION ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Andrew Greer**  
*More Than A President: Sundays with Jimmy Carter*  
More Than a President: Sundays with Jimmy Carter showcases 15 lessons taught by President Cater as a beloved teacher at Plains, Georgia’s Maranatha Baptist Church for more than four decades, as well as at The First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, D.C., during his term in the Oval Office.

CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Dr. Yolanda Pierce**  
*The Wounds are the Witness: Black Faith Weaving Memory Into Justice and Healing*  
From celebrated scholar Dr.Yolanda Pierce comes this indelible meditation on Black faith, suffering, hope, and the healing possibilities of justice.


DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM   
**Erica Ivy Rodgers, LaDarrion Williams**  
*Blood at the Root: A Novel, Lord of Blade and Bone (Waking Hearts 2)*  
These exciting sequels to YA Fantasy adventures do not disappoint! From underground rebellions to Homecoming at a magical HBCU, there is much afoot in these highly anticipated follow up novels.

CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Erin Crosby Eckstine, Nathan Harris**  
*Junie: A Novel, Amity: A Novel*  
In these novels immediately before and after the Civil War, siblings seek and find one another in the most adverse of circumstances.

WOLF ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Max McDonough, Patrick Paridee Samuel**  
*Python with a Dog Inside It, and another thing: poems*  
Vulnerable collections of poetry trace twisting memories of poets Max McDonough and Patrick Paridee Samuel as they reflect upon and reimagine all that they have lived and loved.

NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Meg Waite Clayton**  
*Typewriter Beach: A Novel*  
Set in Carmel-by-the-Sea and Hollywood, *Typewriter Beach* is an unforgettable story of the unlikely friendship between an Oscar-nominated screenwriter and a young actress hoping to be Alfred Hitchcock’s new star.

PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Megan Giddings**  
*Meet Me at the Crossroads: A Novel*  
When seven mysterious doors appear, seemingly leading to another world, the bond between two brilliant twin sisters is challenged as they find themselves beckoned by this new world, especially when one of them goes missing.

CUMBERLAND TENT   
**Pat Benatar, Neil Giraldo**  
*My Grandma and Grandpa Rock!*  
From the musical team of Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo comes a lyrical read-aloud that celebrates all kinds of grandparents from all walks of life, from plumbers to yoga instructors to rock stars!

HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Sam Kean**  
*Dinner with King Tut: How Rogue Archaeologists Are Re-creating the Sights, Sounds, Smells, and Tastes of Lost Civilizations*  
Join beloved author Sam Kean on an archaeological romp through the entire history of humankind, and through all five senses, from tropical Polynesian islands to forbidding arctic ice floes, and everywhere in between.

**11:00 AM-12:00 PM**

WOLF ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Adam Godfrey, Kionna LaMalle**  
*Body of Water: A Novel, Behind the Waterline: A Novel*  
What do you do when the source of life becomes the very thing that threatens your life?

In these novels, characters straddle the realistic and mystical as malignant floodwaters rise.

ENDS AT 12:15 PM  
HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Alex Foster, Hayley Gelfuso, Ruben Reyes Jr.**  
*Circular Motion: A Novel, The Book of Lost Hours: A Novel, Archive of Unknown Universes: A Novel*  
Time and space get twisted in these clever, fantastical stories with real-world challenges, implications, and stakes.

SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM   
**Chanda Bell**  
*The Elf on the Shelf Santaverse: The Rise of Nicholas the Noble*  
Before there was the Elf on the Shelf, there was a young boy named Nicholas.

PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Jared Lemus, Carrie Moore**  
*Guatemalan Rhapsody: Stories, Make Your Way Home: Stories*  
Snippets from the lives of various Black Southerners and Guatemalans fit together in these moving and profound collections of short stories.

NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY  
**John T. Edge, Ashley M. Jones**  
*Deep South Convening: John T. Edge, Ashley M. Jones*  
In May 2025, writers, funders, and publishers from across the South gathered in Birmingham, Alabama, to assess and address the state of literary life in the South.What are the strengths and needs of the community, and how can authors, publications, and funders be better connected? Organizers John T. Edge and Ashley M. Jones report on the conference and invite conversation and input from the community.

OBION ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Mary Bridges**  
*Dollars and Dominion: US Bankers and the Making of a Superpower*  
In *Dollars and Dominion*, Mary Bridges tells the story of how the creation of a new banking infrastructure in the early twentieth century established the United States as a global financial power.

CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Tennessee Hill, Court Stevens**  
*Girls with Long Shadows, Tell Me Something Good: A Novel*  
Familial love and innocent desire become complicated and even corrupted in these stories of murder, mystery, and old secrets in the rural South.


CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Wes Browne, Tova Mirvis**  
*They All Fall the Same: A Novel, We Would Never: A Novel*  
In these thrilling mysteries, authors Wes Browne and Tova Mirvis ask how far is too far to go to protect your family?

ENDS AT 12:15 PM  
CUMBERLAND TENT  
**Ruth Reichl**  
*The Paris Novel*  
When her estranged mother dies, Stella is left with an unusual inheritance: a one-way plane ticket and a note reading, “Go to Paris.”

DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Susan Gregg Gilmore with Belinda Smith**  
*The Curious Calling of Leonard Bush: A Novel*  
Young Leonard Bush buries his lost leg and saves his whole East Tennessee town in this winsome and miracle-making novel. Gilmore will be joined by songwriter Belinda Smith. Belinda Smith is a Dove Award-winning songwriter based in Nashville, TN. She has written a song inspired by Susan’s latest novel.

**12:00 PM-1:00 PM**

WOLF ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Andrew Lawler**  
*A Perfect Frenzy: A Royal Governor, His Black Allies, and the Crisis That Spurred the American Revolution*  
Told for the first time in full, this true story of rebellion in Virginia will forever change our understanding of the American Revolution, highlighting the radically different motivations between patriots in the North and South and revealing the seeds of the nation’s racial divide.

PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM   
**Elisha Cooper, Rachel Kenyon**  
*Here is a Book, You Can Sit With Me*  
These books for young readers reveal the impact and beauty of the everyday as they examine all that goes into making a book and all that comes out of a simple act of kindness.

DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM  
**KB Ballentine, Connie Jordan Green, Cathryn Hankla**  
*all the way through: poems, Nameless as the Minnows: Poems, Return to a Certain Region of Consciousness: New and Selected Poems*  
Poetic collections journey through the messiest parts of life, including Ballentine’s devotion to the moments we’d all rather skip through, Green’s


determination to grow, and Hankla’s compilation of works of imagination new and old.

OBION ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Martha Barnette, Stefan Fatsis**  
*Friends with Words: Adventures in Languageland, Unabridged: The Thrill of (and Threat to) the Modern Dictionary*  
Professional word nerds Martha Barnette and Stefan Fatsis unpack their own experience in the industry of language, from Barnette’s long-standing radio show and podcast all about words to Fatsis’s time as a lexicographer-in-training at Merriam-Webster.

CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Philip Ashley Rix**  
*For the Love of Chocolate: 80 At-Home Recipes from a Master Chocolatier’s Imagination*  
In *For the Love of Chocolate*, Phillip Ashley Rix, whose skill and innovation have made him a renowned name in the world of chocolatiers, guides you through an inspiring collection of desserts, confections, and drinks that promise to transform your chocolate-making experience, whether you are a beginner or experienced baker.

NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Sarah Penner**  
*The Amalfi Curse: A Novel*  
The *Amalfi Curse* shimmers bewitchingly with mystery, romance, and the untamed magic of the sea against the dazzling backdrop of the Amalfi Coast.

SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM  
**TN Writers/TN Stories presents Kevin Wilson**  
*Run for the Hills: A Novel*  
Infused with deadpan wit, zany hijinks, and enormous heart, *Run for the Hills* is a sibling story like no other, a novel about a family forged under the most unlikely circumstances and united by hope in an unknown future.

CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY   
**Xan Kaur, Rory Power**  
*When Devils Sing: A Novel, Kill Creatures: A Novel*  
These Young Adult novels prove horror has no age limit as characters investigate and partake in mysterious happenings around them.

**12:30 PM-1:30 PM**

CUMBERLAND TENT  
**Joyce Carol Oates**  
*Fox: A Novel*  
When Francis Fox, the charismatic, mercurial new teacher at an elite boarding school,



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disappears, dark secrets surface in this novel of literary and psychological suspense, as moving as it is full of mystery.

1:00 PM-2:00 PM

CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Beth Ann Fennelly: Advance Reader Copy Giveaway and Session**  
**The Irish Goodbye: Micro Memoirs**  
Full of unexpected wit, *The Irish Goodbye* is a record of the interstitial interactions, encounters with strangers, quirky observations, and unexpected flights of fancy that make up a richly lived life. With keen insight and nimble prose, Fennelly invites readers to share her affirming worldview, one in which even our smallest interactions are rife with possibility.

OBION ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Cheryl McKissack Daniel**  
**The Black Family Who Built America**  
The riveting story of the McKissack family, the founders of the leading Black design and construction firm in the United States, from its beginnings in the mid-1800s to its thriving status today, is told in this moving celebration of resilience and innovation.

DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM  
**C.M. Cornwell**  
**The Memory Spinner: A Novel**  
A luminous fantasy debut about a young girl who must choose between staying immersed in a magical past with her deceased mother or saving those she loves most in the complicated, yet real, present.

NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY  
**David Levithan**  
**Songs for Other People’s Weddings: A Novel**  
In this charming, tender novel, an unlucky-in-love wedding singer tries to find the right words to save his relationship.

WOLF ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Evanthia Bromiley, Nancy Johnson**  
**Crown: A Novel, People of Means: A Novel**  
Mothers and their children face a world not meant for them as they face injustice, inequality, and insecurity in a various moments in time and places across the country.

PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Jill Bialosky in conversation with Major Jackson**  
**The End Is the Beginning: A Personal History of My Mother**  
Jill Bialosky, the poet behind *History of a Suicide*, returns with a lyrical portrait of her mother’s life, told in reverse order from burial to birth. *The End Is the Beginning* is not just a family memoir, it is a brave and compassionate celebration of a woman’s life and death and a window into a daughter’s inextricable bond to her mother.

HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Mary Robinette Kowal, Sheree Renée Thomas**  
**The Martian Contingency: A Novel, Mojourhythm**  
In these dispatches from outer space, characters, human or otherwise, face familiar struggles and triumphs even in deeply unfamiliar landscapes.

CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Sisters in Crime: Rick Glaze, Jeffrey Phillips, CA Rowland, Steven Womack**  
The second of our Sisters in Crime panels at the Festival promises mysteries and thrills for “Friends in Low Places.”

SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Tracy K. Smith**  
**To Free the Captives: A Plea for the American Soul**  
In 2020, heartsick from constant assaults on Black life, Tracy K. Smith found herself soul-searching and digging into the historical archive for help navigating the “din of human division and strife.”

1:30 PM-2:30 PM

SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Silas House in conversation with Ashley Judd**

**All These Ghosts: Poems**  
A timely and poignant poetry collection by acclaimed author and former Poet Laureate of Kentucky Silas House, including the poem read at Governor Andy Beshear’s 2023 inauguration.

2:00 PM-3:00 PM

CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Amanda Uhle, Jeannie Vanasco**  
**Destroy This House: A Memoir, A**

**Silent Treatment: A Memoir**  
With stunning empathy and hard-earned wisdom, these memoirists make sense of their own upbringings by examining the lives and childhoods of their parents.

OBION ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Brenda Colladay, Craig Shelburne**  
**100 Years of Grand Ole Opry**  
Learn about the official book celebrating 100 years of the Grand Ole Opry, an intimate, gorgeously illustrated behind-the-scenes look at the American institution and world-renowned stage for country music.

WOLF ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Bruce Holsinger**  
**Culpability: A Novel**  
*Culpability* is a propulsive family drama that explores a world newly shaped by chatbots, autonomous cars, drones, and other nonhuman forces in ways that are thrilling, challenging, and unimaginably provocative.

NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Donna Barba Higuera**  
**Xolo**  
From Newbery Medalist Donna Barba Higuera and illustrator Mariana Ruiz Johnson comes a singular reimagining of the Aztec myth of the origin of man, and man’s best friend, that is nothing short of a modern masterpiece.

CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY  
**E.J. Wade, Karen Spears Zacharias**  
**The Devil’s Pulpit and Other Mostly True Scottish Misadventures**  
On the heels of a global pandemic, two Appalachian women, one Black, one white, abandoned hearth, home, and spouses shrugging in dubious wonderment to live and study abroad together in a university flat along Scotland’s River Ayr.

ENDS AT 3:15 PM  
HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Emma Pattee, Hannah Pittard, Padma Viswanathan**  
**Tilt: A Novel, If You Love It, Let It Kill You: A Novel, The Charterhouse of Padma: A Novel**  
Characters navigate flailing marriages, crises of confidence, and more as they’re faced with challenges both mundane and extraordinary, from ex-husbands to earthquakes.

SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM  
**John T. Edge**  
**House of Smoke: A Southerner Goes Searching for Home**  
In this unflinching and moving memoir, John T. Edge takes us on a quest for home in a South that has both held him close and pushed him away, as he tries and fails and tries again to rewrite the stories he inherited.

ENDS AT 3:15 PM  
PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Kathleen Davis, Ellen Heck, Colleen Paeff, Lisa Spencer**  
**Our Hearts, Sunflower Seeds, Firefly Song: Lynn Frierson Faust and the Great Smoky Mountain Discovery, How Do Hurricanes Have An Eye? A Book About Natural Disasters**  
Explore the mysteries of nature and the power of human connection in these curious and tender picture books.

DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Rebecca Haw Allensworth**  
**The Licensing Racket: How We Decide Who is Allowed to Work, and Why It Goes Wrong**  
A bottom-up investigation of the broken system of professional licensing, affecting everyone from hairdressers and morticians to doctors, lawyers, real estate agents, and those who rely on their services.

2:30 PM-3:45 PM

CUMBERLAND TENT  
**Ivy Pochoda, Victoria Redel, Katie Yee**  
**Ecstasy: A Novel, I Am You: A Novel, Maggie: Or, a Man and a Woman Walk Into a Bar: A Novel**  
These vastly different tales come together to create a collaged portrait of womanhood in various ages, places, and circumstances, such as a romance in the Dutch art world in the 17th century, a modern retelling of the myth of the sirens, and the story of a woman with a tumor that she names after her husband’s mistress.

3:00 PM-4:00 PM

CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Ali Novak, Andrea Williams**  
**My Return to the Walter Boys, Inside the Park**  
Authors of Middle Grade and Young Adult novels discuss their latest books in which young protagonists get just what they want, but find it’s not all it cracked up to be.

WOLF ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Brian MacAuley**  
**Breathe In, Bleed Out: A Novel**  
It’s a Midsommar night’s Scream in this blood-soaked thriller set at a remote healing retreat from horror author Brian McAuley.

CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Geoffrey Himes**  
**In-Law Country: How Emmylou Harris, Rosanne Cash, and Their Circle Fashioned a New Kind of Country Music, 1968-1985**  
Weaving together biography and musical analysis, Geoffrey Himes explores In-Law Country, a previously unnamed movement of outsiders who would become insiders, showing how Emmylou Harris, Rosanne Cash, Rodney Crowell, Ricky Skaggs, Guy Clark, and others changed the sounds and stories of country music forever.

NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Jonathan Eig**  
**King: A Life**  
In this landmark biography, Eig gives us an MLK for our times: a deep thinker, a brilliant strategist, and a committed radical who led one of history’s greatest movements, and whose demands for racial and economic justice remain as urgent today as they were in his lifetime.

DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Michael Amos Cody, Peter McDade**  
**Streets of Nashville, King Cal: A Novel**  
Musicians strive to make it big in these novels of coming-of-age as an artist and the personal cost of chasing dreams.

SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Tembi Locke**  
**Someday, Now: A Memoir of Family, Reclaiming Possibility, and One Sicilian Summer**  
Tembi Locke, *New York Times* bestselling author of *From Scratch*, returns to Sicily for a breathtaking, emotional summer adventure, as she faces the empty nest and an uncharted new chapter in her own life.

OBION ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Tom Piazza**  
**Living in the Present with John Prine**  
Piazza offers fans an unforgettable portrait of the beloved musician John Prine in his late glory, as a boyish cut-up, an epic raconteur, a great American poet, and, most important, a beloved friend.

3:30 PM-4:30 PM

HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Jessa Crispin**  
**Patriarchy, the Crisis of Masculinity, and How (Of Course) Michael Douglas Films Explain Everything**  
In this hilarious, ambitious work of trenchant cultural criticism, Jessa Crispin traces the origins of today’s crisis of masculinity through Michael Douglas’s oeuvre from the eighties and nineties, from *Fatal Attraction* to *Wall Street* to *The Game*.

PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Stacia Pelletier, James Wade**  
**The Deliverance of Barker McRae: A Novel, Narrow the Road: A Novel**  
These historical Southern novels see teenaged protagonists on epic quests for their families and themselves.

4:00 PM-5:00 PM

ENDS AT 5:15 PM  
CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Andrew Maraniss, Jose Pimienta, Jamie Sumner**  
**Hut! Hut! Hike! A Branches Book, Halfway to Somewhere, Please Pay Attention**  
Young protagonists face novel frontiers in the form of new schools, new teams, new countries, new family dynamics, and more in these heart-filled stories for chapter book and middle grade readers

CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Ashley M. Jones, Denton Loving, Rachel Toarmino**  
**Lullaby for the Grieving: Poems, Feller: Poems to Hell Yeah!**  
These poetry collections run the full gambit of the human experience, from grief, eco-anxiety, and generational trauma to celebrations of connection, the natural world, and the beauty of casual turns of phrase.

NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Beatriz Williams**  
**Under the Stars: A Novel**  
In *Under the Stars*, the destinies of three women converge across centuries, as a harrowing true disaster at the dawn of the steamship era evokes a complex legacy of family secrets in modern-day New England. Williams has written a timeless epic of mothers and daughters, of love lost and found, and of the truths that echo down generations.



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SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Beth Macy**  
*Paper Girl: A Memoir of Home and Family in a Fractured America*  
Beth Macy turns to face the darkness in her family and community as she reckons with the changes that have rocked her own beloved small Ohio hometown.

WOLF ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Charlie Peacock, Tamara Saviano**  
*Roots and Rhythm: A Life in Music, Poets and Dreamers: My Life in Americana Music*  
Music producers Charlie Peacock and Tamara Saviano reflect on their lives in the industry and the many iconic musicians they’ve crossed paths with.

DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Joanne Mulcahy**  
*Marion Greenwood: Portrait and Self-Portrait—A Biography*  
Marion Greenwood: Portrait and Self-Portrait—A Biography brings to life a woman who blazed through the twentieth-century art world in the first ever biography of one of history’s most remarkable women artists.

CUMBERLAND TENT  
**Julie Clark, Ashley Winstead**  
*The Ghostwriter: A Novel, This Book Will Bury Me: A Novel*  
Characters find themselves far more involved in murder investigations than they expected as one becomes an investigator and the other a scribe of the crimes in these thrilling mysteries.

OBION ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Kristina Gaddy, Mark Stielper**  
*Go Back and Fetch It: Recovering Early Black Music in the Americas for Fiddle and Banjo, The Complete Johnny Cash Lyrics from a Lifetime of Songwriting*  
These books pay particular attention to the craft of fundamental American music, from the earliest Black music of the Americas made accessible in a songbook for fiddle and banjo to the entirety of Johnny Cash’s lyrics put together in a single book for the first time.

**4:30 PM-5:30 PM**  
PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Richard Eldredge**  
*Mr. Charlie Brown: Bitch of the South*  
From coming out to his commanding officer at the height of the Vietnam War, surviving the AIDS Crisis and MAGA Drag bans, Mr. Charlie Brown: Bitch of the South takes readers behind the scenes of the legendary drag performer’s 75-year unapologetic out-and-proud life.

ENDS AT 5:45 PM  
HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Valerie Frey, Mary Bryant Shrader, Kevin West**  
*Georgia’s Historical Recipes: Seeking Our State’s Oldest Written Foodways, The Modern Pioneer Pantry: A Complete Guide to Preserving Food, The Cook’s Garden: A Gardener’s Guide to Selecting, Growing, and Savoring the Tastiest Vegetables of Each Season: A Cookbook*  
These cookbooks look to time-honored practices to suit the modern cook, from growing and preserving your own food to showcasing the oldest recipes from the state of Georgia.

**5:00-5:45 PM**  
NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Rachel Boillot, Sofia Krysiak, Jack Latham, Vesna Pavlovic, Kristine Potter, Tamara Reynolds and Christine Rogers**  
*The Photobook Panel*  
The Photobook provides an important platform for a photographer’s voice. Within the last decade, its format has expanded in scope, reach, and international presence. Is it a kind of literature, a visual language, an archive, or something uniquely in between? Join us for a 45-minute moderated discussion about this distinctive art form and its relevance in an overwhelmingly digital world. This conversation will be moderated by Laura Hutson Hunter, The Nashville Scene Arts Editor and will include photographers and curators Rachel Boillot, Sofia Krysiak, Jack Latham, Vesna Pavlovic, Kristine Potter, Tamara Reynolds and Christine Rogers.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19**

**10:00 AM-11:00 AM**  
DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Jessica Turner**  
*I Thought It Would Be Better Than This*  
What happens when you look at your life and think, “I thought it would be better than this?” You know you can’t stay where you are, but have no idea what to do next. *I Thought It Would Be Better Than This* is a manifesto of hope that will empower you to transform your circumstances and move forward with intention and purpose.

ENDS AT 11:15 AM  
OBION ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Lisa C. Hickman, James McWilliams, Alex Vernon**  
*Between Grief and Nothing: The Passions, Addictions, and Tragic End of William Faulkner, The Life and Poetry of Frank Stanford, Peace is a Shy Thing: The Life and Art of Tim O’Brien*  
These literary biographies showcase the lives and works of legendary writers Tim O’Brien, William Faulkner, and Frank Stanford.

WOLF ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Martha Park**  
*World Without End: Essays on Apocalypse and After*  
*World Without End: Essays on Apocalypse and After* explores the intersections of faith, motherhood, and the climate crisis across the South.

PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Mary Uhles, Jessica Young**  
*The Flock We Found, Today at School: With Yesterday and Tomorrow*  
Engaging picture books tackle challenges facing young readers, from tricky transitions to fickle family life.

SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM  
**P. Djèlí Clark**  
*Ring Shout*  
This dark fantasy historical novella gives a supernatural twist to the Ku Klux Klan’s reign of terror.

CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Robert Barsky, Susan Ker-Seymer**  
*The Beltline Chronicles*  
*The Beltline Chronicles* is an epic poem by Robert F. Barsky that honors the living history of spaces along the Atlanta Beltline. The poem is accompanied by multimedia full-color artworks by Susan Ker-Seymer, which evoke the layers, textures, and emotions of this powerful pathway.

CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Robert Busby, Julia Elliott**  
*Bodock: Stories, Hellions: Stories, Hellions: Stories*  
These short stories span the natural and the supernatural, the familiar and the tragic, and the Deep South and beyond.

HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Tyler Merritt**  
*This Changes Everything: A Surprisingly Funny Story About Race, Cancer, Faith, and Other Things We Don’t Talk About*  
A cancer diagnosis caused Tyler Merritt, beloved author of *I Take My Coffee Black*, to realize that there was no time for anger, unforgiveness, foolishness, or lost friendships. None of us have any time to waste.

NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY  
**William Pao**  
*Breakthrough: The Quest for Life-Changing Medicines*  
Documenting the fascinating journeys of the discovery of eight revolutionary drugs, *Breakthrough* grants a privileged, behind-the-scenes look at the medicines that improve - and very often save - our lives.

**11:00 AM-12:00 PM**  
CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Aiden Arata, Stephanie Elizondo Griest**  
*You Have a New Memory: Essays, Art Above Everything: One Woman’s Global Exploration of the Joys and Torments of a Creative Life*  
Learn to navigate life’s many distractions, from those that come with the digital age to ones that have plagued young artists for decades.

ENDS AT 12:15 PM  
HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Alyssa Colman, Kerry Madden-Lunsford, Daniel Nayeri**  
*Where Only Storms Grow: A Novel About the Dust Bowl, Werewolf*

**Hamlet, The Teacher of Nomad Land**  
Siblings take center stage in these Middle Grade stories of perseverance in the face of all kinds of challenges.

PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Don Cusic**  
*Chet Atkins: Mr. Guitar (Music of the American South)*  
Noted music historian Don Cusic illuminates the legendary Chet Akins, arguably the most influential American guitarist of the twentieth century and a founder of the Nashville Sound, detailing Atkins’s work as a guitarist, producer, music executive, and guitar designer, while also exploring his roles as mentor, friend, and husband.

NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Johnisha Levi, Lana Lin**  
*Number’s Up: Cracking the Code of an American Family, The Autobiography of H. Lan Thao Lam*  
These inventive memoirs detail the lives of both the authors’ loved ones and themselves, from Levi’s family’s story of underground gambling operations to Lin’s retelling of the life of her upbringing as a Taiwanese American as well as her lover’s journey from Vietnam during the war.

CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Kristin Koval, Ashley Roth**  
*Penitance: A Novel, We Never Took A Bad Picture*  
In these generational stories, characters are forced to face old flames, long-buried secrets, and repressed consequences of their own actions as new tragedies ignite traumas past.

WOLF ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Mary Anne Hunting, Kevin Murphy**  
*Women Architects At Work: Making American Modernism*  
*Women Architects at Work* tells the stories of the resilient and resourceful women who surmounted barriers of sexism, racism, and classism to take on crucial roles in the establishment and growth of Modernism across the United States.

**11:30 AM-12:45 PM**  
OBION ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Shaul Kelner, Mark Kurlansky, Elaine Weiss**  
*A Cold War Exodus: How American Activists Mobilized to Free Soviet Jews, The Boston Way: Radicals Against Slavery and the Civil War, Spell*

**Freedom: The Underground Schools that Built the Civil Rights Movement**  
Learn about the activists who called for change, the tactics they used, and the effects they made in these studies of social justice movements, from abolition and the Civil Rights movement to the liberation of Jewish citizens in the USSR during the Cold War.

**12:00 PM-1:00 PM**  
SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Adam Ross in conversation with Lorrie Moore**  
*Playworld: A Novel*  
This big and big-hearted novel traces one enthralling, transformative year in the life of a child actor coming of age in a bygone Manhattan.

NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Christina Geist, SC Perot**  
*Before You Fly Away: Life Lessons from Home, Styles of Joy: A Feel-Good Framework for Rediscovering Joy (with a Twist!)*  
These books provide advice and inspiration in times of transition, whether leaving home for the first time, going through a divorce, or just needing some encouragement.

CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY  
**Karenza Sparks**  
*The Corus Wave*  
Lorelei is just trying to finish her BA thesis. Then her research into an obscure star-shaped Devonian-era cephalopod fossil drags her into a scavenger hunt that indicates her subject may be hiding some of the central secrets of the universe. Karenza Sparks’ appearance is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

CUMBERLAND TENT  
**Michael W. Twitty in conversation with Sean Brock**  
*Recipes from the American South*  
*Recipes from the American South* is a home cook’s guide to one of America’s most diverse - and delicious - cuisines, from James Beard Award-winning author and culinary historian Michael W. Twitty.

PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM  
**Rea Frey, Joshua Moehling**  
*When She’s Gone: A Thriller, A Long Time Gone: A Novel (Ben Packard, 3)*  
Characters are forced to face the past when their childhood traumas come back to haunt them in adulthood.



**AUTHOR SIGNINGS** Signings will take place in the Signing Tent immediately following sessions.

**WOLF ROOM: MUSEUM**  
**Sam Quinones**  
*The Perfect Tuba: Forging Fulfillment from the Bass Horn, Band, and Hard Work*  
Sam Quinones tells the story of a demanding instrument, the determined people who play it, and the hope they offer a fractured nation.

**CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY**  
**Scott Spillman**  
*Making Sense of Slavery: America’s Long Reckoning, from the Founding Era to Today*  
As the debate over the place of slavery in our history rages on, historian Scott Spillman shows that the study of slavery was a vital catalyst for the broader development of American intellectual life and politics, proving that what is truly central to American history is this very debate itself.

**12:30 PM-1:30 PM**  
**HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY**  
**Elizabeth Bass Parman, Pamela Terry**  
*Bees in June: A Novel, Through An Open Window: A Novel*  
Small Southern towns are thrown into a tizzy as strange and miraculous things begin to happen in these two novels.

**1:00 PM-2:00 PM**  
**OBION ROOM: LIBRARY**  
**Joseph Millichap**  
*These Vivid American Documents: Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange, and FSA Photobooks*  
In *These Vivid American Documents*, Joseph R. Millichap presents an illuminating examination of four photobooks born of the Farm Security Administration’s photography project of the late 1930s and early 1940s, along with a curated selection of thirty-two photographs from these four photobooks, showcasing the realities of the social, individual, political, artistic, and economic aspects of that time.

**NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY**  
**Maddie Martinez, Serra Swift**  
*The Maiden and Her Monster: A Novel, Kill The Beast: A Novel*  
In these fantastical, romantic novels, protagonists discover that so-called monsters may not be what they thought.

**CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY**  
**Megan Barry**  
*It’s What You Do Next: The Fall and Rise of Nashville’s First Female Mayor*  
In 2015, after a historic run-off election, Megan Barry became the first female mayor of Nashville, Tennessee. For her first few years in office, she was one of the most important voices at the table, until she became the most notorious when monumental lapse in judgment led to a painful public reckoning and the fall of her rising political career. Barry had to start again, the right way, with humility, hope, and a wicked sense of humor.

**PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM**  
**Meredith R. Lyons, Erica Ivy Rodgers**  
*A Dagger of Lightning: A Novel, Lord of Blade and Bone (Waking Hearts 2)*  
Fantasy novels for adults and young adults alike subvert age-old stories, from a reimagined version of *The Three Musketeers* to the story of a 45-year-old “chosen one” who doesn’t quite agree with this label.

**SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM**  
**Peter Wolf**  
*Waiting on the Moon: Artists, Poets, Drifters, Grifters, and Goddesses*  
Told with gentle humor and often heart-rending poignancy, the word portraits in *Waiting on the Moon* provide a revealing glimpse of artists, writers, actors, and musicians as they work; the creative forces that drive them to achievement; the demons they battle; the patterns of their human relationships.

**CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY**  
**Regina Black, Shauna Robinson**  
*August Lane: A Novel, Lauryn Harper Falls Apart: A Novel*  
Long lost friends reconnect, and might even grow to be more, in these novels of homecoming, second chances, and romance.

**WOLF ROOM: MUSEUM**  
**Sasha Bonét, Alexis Okeowo**  
*The Waterbearers: A Memoir of Mothers and Daughters, Blessings and Disasters: A Story of Alabama*  
Sasha Bonét and Alexis Okeowo trace the stories of their own lives alongside larger stories of the South in these books that combine memoir with history.

**DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM**  
**Wes Blake, Robert Inman**  
*Pineville Trace: A Novel, Villages: A Novel*  
The past is hot on the heels of these two protagonists: a former charismatic preacher who’s just escaped from prison and a 21-year-old military medic who’s home again after sustaining a severe injury.

**2:00 PM-3:00 PM**  
**CUMBERLAND TENT**  
**Alix Harrow**  
*The Everlasting: A Novel*  
From Alix E. Harrow, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Starling House*, comes a moving and genre-defying quest about the lady-knight whose legend built a nation, and the cowardly historian sent back through time to make sure she plays her part, even if it breaks his heart.

**WOLF ROOM: MUSEUM**  
**Charles Ghigna**  
*Southern Bred: Poems*  
Discover the captivating allure of the Deep South through the haunting and powerful verses of one of today’s most accomplished poets.

**CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY**  
**Cynthia St. Aubin, L.S. Stratton**  
*Love Bites (Tails from the Alpha Art Gallery, I), In Deadly Company: A Novel*  
When these assistants to peculiar bosses stumble their way into murder investigations, they learn unexpected truths in these mysteries that range from satirical to paranormal.

**NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY**  
**David Dark**  
*Everyday Apocalypse*  
Often, our attempts to interpret the imagery of the Book of Revelation seem to carry us far away from our day-to-day existence. In *Everyday Apocalypse*, Dark draws from Flannery O’Connor stories, *The Matrix*, *The Simpsons*, *The Truman Show*, and more to present apocalypse as honest self-assessment and other-centeredness in the here and now.

**OBION ROOM: LIBRARY**  
**Joshua Sharpe**  
*The Man No One Believed: The Untold Story of the Georgia Church Murders*  
Award-winning journalist Joshua Sharpe

returns to his home state of Georgia to tell the riveting story of a 1985 double murder, a long-overdue investigation, and the fight to exonerate an innocent man.

**PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM**  
**Patrick Dean**  
*Nature’s Messenger: Mark Catesby and His Adventures in a New World*  
A dynamic and fresh exploration of the naturalist Mark Catesby—who predated John James Audubon by nearly a century—and his influence on how we understand American wildlife.

**DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM**  
**Phyllis Gobbell**  
*Prodigal*  
*Prodigal* is a modern-day retelling of an age-old story, unique in the context of a Southern family. Told by multiple narrators, *Prodigal* is about forgiveness, redemption, and the sacrifice that love demands.

**SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM**  
**Quan Barry, Carson Faust**  
*The Unveiling: A Novel, If the Dead Belong Here: A Novel*  
America’s troubling racial legacy rears its ugly head in these literary ghost stories of a Native American family’s missing six-year-old and a Black woman stranded with wealthy white tourists on a deserted island.

**HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY**  
**Rob Franklin**  
*Great Black Hope: A Novel*  
Smith, an upwardly mobile and downwardly spiraling Black man, gets caught between worlds of race and class, glamorous parties and sudden consequences, a friend’s mysterious death and his own arrest.

**2:00 PM-3:00 PM**  
**CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY**  
**Paul Burch, Lou Turner**  
*Meridian Rising: A Novel, Twin Lead Lines*  
Musicians and writers Paul Burch and Lou Turner collaborate posthumously with country music stars Jimmie Rodgers and Little Jimmie Dickens in both memoir and poetry.

**3:00 PM-4:00 PM**  
**WOLF ROOM: MUSEUM**  
**Craig Havighurst**  
*Musicality for Modern Humans: How to Listen Like An Artist*  
Craig Havighurst propels music appreciation into the 21st century as he resets our

expectations, simplifies music theory, champions today’s finest artists, and guides readers in a rethink of their musical diet.

**NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY**  
**Daniel Black, Michael Thomas**  
*Isaac’s Song: A Novel, The Broken King: A Memoir*  
In memoir and novel, these authors present stories of Black fathers and sons in America as they navigate both their relationships with each other and their relationships with a world that may not take kindly to them.

**HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY**  
**Jennifer Niven**  
*When We Were Monsters*  
*When We Were Monsters* is a simmering psychological thriller about a dead teacher at an elite boarding school, the students who had every reason to want her gone, and the tangled web of rivalry and romance concealing the truth.

**SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM**  
**Jonathan Metz**  
*What We’ve Become: Living and Dying in a Country of Arms*  
This brilliant, piercing analysis points to mass shootings as a symptom of our most unresolved national conflicts. *What We’ve Become* ultimately sets us on the path of alliance forging, racial reckoning, and political power brokering we must take to put things right.

**CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY**  
**Kelly Mustian, Archer Sullivan**  
*The River Knows Your Name: A Novel, The Witch’s Orchard*  
Long-standing mysteries are brought back into the limelight as characters piece together the past in search of answers in stories that stretch across the South, from Mississippi to the Blue Ridge Mountains.

**DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM**  
**Laura Jo Amaral, Stacie Huckleba**  
*Madison: Portraits of Our Neighbors*  
Internationally recognized photographer Stacie Huckleba and Madison, Tennessee, community volunteer Laura Amaral have partnered to create a photographic art book and living historical document about the tapestry of humanity that weaves through this unique neighborhood.

**OBION ROOM: LIBRARY**  
**Serina Gilbert, Learotha Williams**  
*From the Fiery Furnace to the Promise Land*  
The Promise Land community, a small village west of Nashville, Tennessee, was founded

after the Civil War by people who had been enslaved at the Cumberland Iron Furnace. This is the story of a community that thrived and continues to thrive in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles told through the memories of the people who lived there.

**PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM**  
**Barry Mazor**  
*Blood Harmony: The Everly Brothers Story*  
*Blood Harmony* is the definitive biography of the Everly Brothers, one of the greatest and most influential acts in popular music history, based on dozens of exclusive and archival interviews, as well as long-lost global reporting.

**4:00 PM-5:00 PM**  
**OBION ROOM: LIBRARY**  
**Jennifer Core**  
*Tennessee Samplers: Female Education and Domestic Arts, 1800-1900*  
Containing dozens of beautiful, full-color photographs, Jennifer C. Core and Janet S. Hasson’s study of samplers, embroideries that are first attempts at a new technique, color combination, or unusual material, provides vivid descriptions of this nineteenth-century Tennessee art form in its many varieties.



**ONCE AND FUTURE KIDS: BIG FIERY GIZZARD & LITTLE PIGEON’S CREATIVITY LAND**

This is your invitation to stop by to:

- Meet and greet with DogMan! (Sat. and Sun.: 11am, 1pm, 3pm Sat. and Sun.)
- Take in Nashville’ Puppet Truck’s production of Goldilocks (Sat. and Sun.: 10am and 2pm each day)
- Partake in the poetry piñata
- Create a book for the World’s (Possibly) Fastest Growing Library as part of The Tennessee STEAM Festival
- Make a bookmark
- Take in a tale at drop-in storytelling
- And more!



# HUMANITIES TENNESSEE THANKS

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