The Tucson Festival of Books is fortunate to have the support of two of the city’s leading institutions among its co-founders. The partnership with these iconic community-focused organizations furthers the mission of TFoB to celebrate literature and support efforts to improve literacy rates.

At the University of Arizona, we see opportunities where others see obstacles. Our curiosity drives us to touch asteroids and find new ways of knowing. We embrace unprecedented challenges, like feeding a world population of nine billion and ensuring water security around the globe. With 43,000 students, $600 million in research investment per year, and not one, but two medical schools, we forge pathways to discoveries that would otherwise be impossible. The world looks to the UA for solutions because we not only have the power to make a difference, but we believe it is also our duty and privilege to do so.

The University of Arizona partnership with the Tucson Festival of Books comprises the single-largest special event hosted on the campus and directly supports the university’s mission to educate the citizenry of Arizona.

arizona.edu

Founded in 1877, the Arizona Daily Star is an industry leader in journalistic excellence and digital innovation. It is among the most honored media organizations in the Southwest:

• Winner of the Pulitzer Prize
• National “Newspaper of the Year” three times by Local Media Association, one of North America’s largest news media trade associations
• Named Arizona’s top daily newspaper three times by the Arizona Newspaper Association
• Twice named “One of 10 Newspapers That Do It Right,” by Editor & Publisher magazine
• Winner of American Society of News Editors’ Diversity in Journalism Award

The Star’s mission statement includes these guiding principles:

• An essential part of our readers’ daily lives, empowering our community as the premier provider of news and information for and about Greater Tucson.

• Connected and involved, conveying a dogged pursuit for the truth, a passion for gathering local news and opinion and a strong sense of place.

• Publish the highest quality, most trusted and most relevant local and regional content in a timely way that builds community, supports local business and celebrates diversity of opinions.

The Daily Star has the largest news and advertising staffs in Southern Arizona. It supports local community events, the largest of which is the Tucson Festival of Books as a co-founder and title sponsor.

tucson.com

The festival is much more than a celebration of reading…it’s a free family weekend that celebrates community and diversity. Words and imagination truly come to life at the Tucson Festival of Books.
The Tucson Festival of Books is a community-wide celebration of literature. Offered free-of-charge, the festival exists to improve literacy rates among children and adults. Proceeds that remain after festival expenses have been paid are contributed to local literacy programs.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS:

2023 (attendance TBD / donation to literacy TBD)
- Indie authors who won their spots through a juried process take the stage for the first time with traditionally-published authors.
- Thomas Perry, bestselling author of thirty novels and Edgar Award winner, is chosen as Founders Award recipient for 2023.

2022 (attendance 100,000 / donation to literacy $75,000)
- Returning during the pandemic, the festival hosted its first-ever masked event and hosted a successful and safe in-person festival.
- Annette Gordon-Reed, Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winner, is chosen as Founders Award recipient for 2022.

2021 (attendance unknown / donation to literacy $100,000)
- The first ever virtual Tucson Festival of Books is presented entirely online with great success!
- Lisa See, the festival's chosen 2020 honoree is chosen as Founders Award recipient for 2021.

2020 (festival canceled due to COVID19 / donation to literacy $20,000)

2019 (attendance 140,000 / donation to literacy $230,000)
- Luis Alberto Urrea, 11-time festival attendee and the Latino Literature Hall of Fame member was honored as Founders Award recipient.

2018 (attendance 140,000 / donation to literacy $165,000)
- Billy Collins, former United States Poet Laureate was honored as Founders Award recipient.
- The festival celebrates its tenth year with a free concert open to the public featuring The Rock Bottom Remainders - Mitch Albom, Dave Barry, Sam Barry, Greg Isles, Ridley Pearson, Amy Tan and Scott Turow.

2017 (attendance 135,000 / donation to literacy $165,000)
- TC Boyle, faculty member at the University of Southern California honored as Founders Award recipient.
- Juan Felipe Herrera, the first Hispanic US Poet Laureate, welcomes UA Graduate TC Tolbert as Tucson's new Poet Laureate.

2016 (attendance 135,000 / donation to literacy $195,000)
- Local author J.A. Jance given Founders Award.
- The “Hot Off The Press” book launch party attracts 300 supporters.

2015 (attendance 130,000 / donation to literacy $210,000)
- The Rock Bottom Remainders - Mitch Albom, Dave Barry, Sam Barry, Greg Isles, Ridley Pearson, Amy Tan and Scott Turow - perform a benefit concert and are recognized with the Founders Award.
- The Nation Magazine celebrates its 150th Anniversary with a stop at the Tucson Festival of Books.

2014 (attendance 130,000 / donation to literacy $150,000)
- University of Arizona alumnus Richard Russo receives Founders Award.
- Native American Pavilion and Nuestras Raices Tent offer culturally diverse programs.

2013 (attendance 120,000 / donation to literacy $200,000)
- Literary Awards and Master's Workshop introduced.
- RL Stine becomes first Children's Author to receive Founders Award.

2012 (attendance 120,000 / donation to literacy $200,000)
- Science City becomes a destination focused on STEM literacy.
- Founders Award given to Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana.

2011 (attendance 100,000 / donation to literacy $200,000)
- Inaugural Founders Award – Elmore Leonard honored.
- Science Pavilion is added to Festival and expands footprint of event to the east side of Cherry Avenue.

2010 (attendance 80,000 / donation to literacy $175,000)
- Culinary Stage is added to offer a venue for food-related authors.
- Lindley Lopez Literary Circus performs for the first time.

2009 (attendance 50,000 / donation to literacy $125,000)
- The Tucson Festival of Books makes its debut on the UA campus.