

Festival Partners

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.



The University of Arizona is the state's land-grant university and a member of the prestigious, invitation-only Association of American Universities—made up of just 62 universities in the country.

Rising from the sands of the Sonoran desert in 1885, the institution is transforming science fiction into scientific fact, collaborating across disciplines and engaging in novel partnerships to make the unknown known. As one of the world's premier public research universities, the University conducts more than \$625 million of research annually.

Home to two allopathic medical schools in Tucson and Phoenix, the UA Tech Park, The University of Arizona Health Network, and a member of the Arizona Space Grant Consortium, the University creates an \$8.3 billion economic impact for Arizona. U.S. News and World Report placed 14 University of Arizona graduate programs among the top 20 in the nation and it is one of the nation's top producers of Fulbright Scholars.

With its manifesto, "never settle," the University is harnessing the spirit of the West to build a new university for the 22nd century, producing graduates who are global citizens, engaged leaders, and fulfilled individuals.

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.

www.arizona.edu



Founded in 1877, the Arizona Daily Star has been an industry leader in journalistic excellence and digital internet innovation. It is among one of 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
- Honored three times as America's top paper by the local media association

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.

www.tucson.com

History of the Festival

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. All proceeds from the Festival support local literacy programs.

FOUNDERS:

Five Founders established the TfOB as a non-profit organization dedicated to funding literacy advancement in southern Arizona.

Bruce Beach, Chairman & CEO – BeachFleischman PC

Frank Farias, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs - University of Arizona (retired)

John M. Humenik, President & Publisher – Wisconsin State Journal

Bill Viner, CEO – Pepper Viner Homes

Brenda Viner, Community Volunteer & Philanthropist

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:

- Steering committee plans, implements and manages all aspects of Festival operations
- Volunteers staff over 2,000 positions during Festival weekend
- Moderators guide panel presentations and interview authors
- Sponsors ensure that the Festival is offered at no-charge to the public
- Individuals become 'Friends' to support Festival programming
- Engaged and thoughtful audiences speak volumes about the quality of life and civil discourse in Tucson

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Children's authors and activities are a popular feature at each Festival; free books are given away to youth of all ages
- The Pima County Public Library is a guiding partner in the author committee and as coordinator for the Nuestras Raíces Tent (celebrating Hispanic writers and culture)
- Exhibitors, food vendors and entertainment stages contribute to the festive atmosphere of the weekend

2009 (attendance – 50,000)

- The Tucson Festival of Books makes its debut on the campus of the University of Arizona
- Tents line the UA Mall from Old Main to Cherry Avenue

2010 (attendance – 80,000)

- Culinary Stage is added to offer a venue for food-related authors
- LindleyLopez Literary Circus performs for the first time

2011 (attendance – 100,000)

- Inaugural Founders Award – **Elmore Leonard** honored
- Science Pavilion is added to Festival and expands footprint of event to the east side of Cherry Avenue

2012 (attendance – 120,000)

- Science City becomes a destination focused on STEM literacy
- Founders Award given to **Larry McMurtry** and **Diana Ossana**

2013 (attendance – 120,000)

- Literary Awards and Master's Workshop introduced
- **RL Stine** becomes first Children's Author to receive Founders Award

2014 (attendance – 130,000)

- University of Arizona alumnus **Richard Russo** receives Founders Award
- Native American Pavilion and UA Confluence Center add culturally diverse programs to Festival offerings

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