



AUDITORIUM SCHEDULE

HEADLINERS

10:30-11:30 A.M.

Destined to Lead: Nevada Political Icons

Former U.S. Senator Richard Bryan and Former Nevada Governor Bob Miller in conversation with Historian Geoff Schumacher.

12:15-1:15 P.M.

Disney's "Meant to Be" Series

Featuring all the authors together for the first time: Christina Lauren, Zoraida Córdova, Jasmine Guillory, Julie Murphy and a virtual appearance by Jesse Q. Sutanto.

2-3 P.M.

Is Separation of Church and State Over?

The New York Times bestselling authors, Katherine Stewart and Tim Alberta are in conversation with local television reporter and political analyst Steve Sebelius.

3:30-4 P.M.

Taylor Jenkins Reid

Author of Daisy Jones & the Six, Carrie Soto Is Back, The Seven Husbands Of Evelyn Hugo and her latest, Atmosphere.



INSPIRED TENT SCHEDULE

11:15 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

Food Stories: A Culinary Conversation

A cartoonist, a comedy writer, and a sommelier walk into a book festival. Stop me if you've heard this one...This conversation explores how food shapes our identities and personal stories that reveal how food connects us to who we are and where we come from.

- Cheyenne Kyle - Moderator
- Hilary Fitzgerald Campbell
- Curtis Chin
- Hannah Selinger
- Laurie Woolever
- Joelle Babula

12:45-1:45 P.M.

We Run the City

The city of Las Vegas is proud to employ a kind, committed, and smart workforce, many of whom are published authors inspired daily by the city's core purpose of building community to make life better. Join us as we offer a rare opportunity to explore the intersection of civic duty and creative expression by showcasing colleagues who share about their journeys in public service, and how their careers with the city of Las Vegas shape their unique voices as authors.

- Jasmine Freeman - Moderator
- Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner
- Aquilaes D. Tan, Jr.
- Janna Hudson
- Tressa Renee Fernandez

2:15-3:15 P.M.

Avantpop Artists & Authors Symposium

Mexican American and Philippine American artists discuss the collaboration process with authors from the Avantpop Books & Publishing lineup.

- Shwa Laytart - Moderator
- Mirasol "Bluumangoo"
- Garrett James Dillon
- Shawn Arthur Kelly
- Seth Singer
- Regina Villegas
- Steven "Crusty Vato" Pacheco

4-5 P.M.

Ink & Influence: Owning Your Power in Music & Media

Step inside an unfiltered conversation with The F.E.W.—Notaboi DJ (Fire), DJ Kelly J (Earth), and Angie T (Wind)—coauthors of Bars & Beats: Ladies of the Night. Moderated by DJ Amani Roberts, this one-hour session dives into what it really takes to rise in music and media: protecting your creative freedom, demanding your worth, and navigating the hustle without losing yourself. Expect stories that spark laughter, lessons born from struggle and insights that empower artists of all levels to keep pushing the culture forward.

- Amani Roberts - Moderator
- Notaboi DJ (Fire)
- DJ Kelly J (Earth)
- Angie T (Wind)

EMPOWERED TENT SCHEDULE

10:45-11:45 A.M.

For the Love of Fantasy

Fantasy & romantasy authors explore the power of imagination in worldbuilding, magic systems, and epic storytelling. Panelists will discuss the enduring appeal of fantasy, from classic quests to fresh, genre-bending narratives. Join us for a lively conversation celebrating the wonder and depth that only fantasy can offer.

- Mia Heintzelman - Moderator
- Brigid Kemmerer
- Jayci Lee
- Amalie Howard
- Axie Oh
- Zoraida Córdova

12:15-1:15 P.M.

Mankind, Nature, and Language

The relationships between humans and their planet, and between the planet's species and systems, are of paramount importance now. How to grasp these large and small complexities, and render them into language, will be the topics when we bring together Ferris Jabr, author of the best-selling work of science journalism *Becoming Earth*; Barret Baumgart, whose latest book is *Yuck!*, about man's conflicted relationship with the yucca plant, and El Capitan climber & nature lover Dierdre Wolownick moderates.

- Dierdre Wolownick - Moderator
- Ferris Jabr
- Barret Baumgart

1:45-2:45 P.M.

The Lady & The Bard

The timeless works of Jane Austen and William Shakespeare continue to inspire modern storytelling. From witty retellings to bold reimaginings, panelists will delve into the enduring charm, complexity, and cultural impact of these literary icons. Discover how romance, satire, and drama are reborn through fresh voices rooted in the classics.

- Priscilla Oliveras - Moderator
- Chloe Liese
- Alana Quintana Albertson
- Jayci Lee
- Nikki Payne

3:30-4:30 P.M.

Tim Chizmar & Spookyninjakitty Media: The Ultimate Diverse Voices of Horror Writing

Join us, as creators from podcasting, comics, short stories, screenwriting, and both indie and traditional publishing explore how horror thrives across mediums, discuss the craft of suspense, and share their unique paths in the genre. The event concludes with an interactive Q&A session, giving audience members the chance to ask their burning questions about writing, publishing, and creating unforgettable scares.

- Lisa Ann Berain (*Hell's Coming for You*) - Moderator
- Eric Miller (Big Time Books, *18 Wheels of Horror*)
- Robert Crandall (*The Horror Stories* Podcast)
- Paul Atreides (*Marvin's World of Deadheads*)
- Sinn Bodhi (WWE)
- Dan Farren (*Modern Madness 2*)
- Deb Daughetee (*Dark Shadows*, *Kolchak the Night Stalker*)

DOWNTOWN TENT SCHEDULE

10-11 A.M.

Finding Your People: On Writers and Literary Community

Community is at the heart of fellowship programs at Black Mountain Institute, but what exactly is “literary community?” Current and former fellows will talk about how they find and build their own networks of other readers and writers, in Las Vegas and beyond, and they’ll share strategies for sustaining one another during every stage of the writing process. The panel will include a short, guided breakout session to help attendees connect with one another.

- Krista Diamond - Moderator
- Maryam Ala Amajadi
- KB Brookins
- Tajja Isen
- Isle McElroy

11:15 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

Between Somewhere and Nowhere: Desert Fiction

Because they’re both so stark and so rich, America’s arid lands are ideal settings for boundary-pushing storytelling that mines the deepest parts of our national character. Novelist Claire Vaye Watkins (*Gold Fame Citrus*; *I Love You but I’ve Chosen Darkness*), and essayist-novelist Joshua Wheeler (*Acid West*; *The High Heaven*) join moderator Andrew Kiraly to explore the diverse fictional possibilities of this amazing landscape.

- Andrew Kiraly - Moderator
- Joshua Wheeler
- Claire Vaye Watkins

1-2 P.M.

Set in Sin City: Getting Las Vegas Right in Fiction

Step into the light of the real Las Vegas through the eyes of fiction authors who know it best. Join the conversation as they explore how their depictions challenge the clichés, contrast with outsider portrayals and reveal the complex city behind the myths. Whether you’re a reader, writer, or Vegas local, this panel offers a compelling look at how place shapes story—and how fiction can uncover truth.

- Geoff Schumacher - Moderator
- Megan Edwards
- Tod Goldberg
- P Moss
- Doug Unger

2:30-3:30 P.M.

Writing Historical Westerns in the Digital Age

Even in an era of addictive technology and endless fantasy, the historical Western continues to draw new readers. The three authors on this panel discuss the allure and pitfalls of working in a genre that emphasizes factual accuracy, real-world events and authentic details from the American frontier. How much research is too much? And how often do characters pull away from their historical basis? The panelists will also share insights into breaking into publication.

- Jarret Keene - Moderator
- Amanda Skenandore
- Melody Groves



POETRY PAVILION SCHEDULE

10-11 A.M.

The Stories We Tell as Psalms

Poetry is one of the earliest forms of storytelling, a way of making history memorable and preservable. With the modern world showcasing many forms of expression, there's no time like the present to reexamine the roots of poetic craft, and to consider whether how we choose to tell each other our stories might have deeper implications for how they are received. In this panel, we examine how poetic language might elevate or enrich our stories into something transcendent of sacred narratives.

- James Norman - Moderator
- Harry Fagel
- Rodney J. Lee
- Sin À Tes Souhais
- Andrew Romanelli
- Vogue M. Robinson

11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

Introspective (Dis)connection

This panel brings together Northern and Southern Nevada poets who bridge divides between identities & language, as it intersects with the human and natural world.

- Dani Putney
- Heather Lang-Cassera
- Ms. AyeVee
- Laura Weatherington

1-3 P.M.

Spark! Youth Poetry

Clark County High School students present their original poems at the Las Vegas Book Festival, judged by a panel that consists of poets, authors, educators and other community members.

- Elle Hope - Competition Moderator

3:30-4:30 P.M.

Clark County Poet Laureate Presents: Poetry Open Mic

The Clark County poet laureate invites poets of all ages and skill levels to take the stage at the 2025 Las Vegas book festival during our poetry open mic. Performers will have five minutes on the mic to share their poetry. Sign-ups are first come first serve and poetry must be family friendly.

- Moderated by: Ashley "Ms.AyeVee" Vargas | Clark County Poet Laureate

DISCOVERY TENT SCHEDULE

10-11 A.M.

Nevada Young Readers Award Winners

Join us for an exciting conversation featuring 2025's Nevada Young Readers Award Winners.

- Tracy Barkhuff - Moderator
- Katelyn Aronson
- Megan Wagner Lloyd

11:30 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

Adventures in Middle Grade

Stories with young heroes and thrills for the emerging reader.

- Ellen Neuborne - Moderator
- Lindsey Leavitt
- Ann Dee Ellis
- Suma Subramaniam
- Sarah Mlynowski
- Jennifer Nielsen

12:45-1:30 P.M.

Drawn to Books: The irresistible pull of illustrated middle grade books.

- Veeda Bybee - Moderator
- Ken Lamung
- Nathan Hale
- Max Brallier
- Sarah Mlynowski

2-2:45 P.M.

Books of the Heart: Triumph and heart in stories for young adults.

- Jen Nails - Moderator
- Erin Stewart
- Susan Lee
- CB Lee
- Morgan Matson
- Amalie Howard

3:15-4:15 P.M.

Tales Reimagined: A modern spin on classic stories for young adults and middle grade readers.

- Pat Murphy - Moderator
- Moses Ose Utomi
- Julie Wright
- Axie Oh
- Veeda Bybee
- Nisha Sharma



LIBRARY CORNER & ACTIVITY ROOM SCHEDULE

Come Read with a Dinosaur at the Library Corner. Librarians from around the valley will join *Real Dinosaurs* during Storytime to read along with kids all day long. Enjoy the world of books, pet dinosaurs, and have a blast in the Library Activity Room - a collaborative space brought to you by the combined efforts of the Las Vegas Valley's many library districts. Designed to inspire creativity, learning and connection, this shared space hosts a variety of activities for all ages throughout the day.

10 A.M.-3 P.M.

REAL DINOSAURS

10:15 A.M.

STORYTIME / Las Vegas-Clark County Library District

11:15 A.M.

STORYTIME / Boulder City Library

12:15 P.M.

STORYTIME / Henderson Libraries

1:15 P.M.

STORYTIME / North Las Vegas Library District

2:15 P.M.

STORYTIME / Las Vegas-Clark County Library District



CONFERENCE ROOM 140 WORKSHOPS

All workshop materials will be provided

10:30 A.M.-NOON

Book Arts Workshop: Treasure Book

Discover the unique art form of book building. In this hands-on workshop you will have the opportunity to make your own Treasure Book. Create beautiful book covers, make envelope pages to file small treasures and bind it all together with a simple wrap around cord and bead.

All tools and materials needed for you to build a Treasure Book will be provided during the workshop. Seating is limited. Instruction lead by Professional Teaching Artist, Mary Homan

12:30-1:30 P.M.

Our Own Unraveling: Finding the Self Through Page & Performance Poetry

The Clark County Public Arts Office is excited to bring their new Ink Well Program to the Las Vegas Book Festival. Our Own Unraveling will feature a one-hour workshop with Chelsea Guevara who will present on her writing background, her experience publishing her first full-length poetry book *Cipota* with Button Poetry this fall and her journey in becoming a nationally ranked poet and performer. Our Own Unraveling is for any writer, at any point in their own creative story, that wants to understand more about ways to engage with poetry on and off the page, how to shape their own work under internal and external pressures, and more about publishing and performing for slam poetry artists.

2-3 P.M.

Tim Chizmar & Spookyninjakitty Media's Writer's Workshop: Adapting Novels to Screenplays, Ghostwriting, and more!!

In this dynamic workshop, award-winning storyteller, publishing consultant and C.O.O. of SNK Media, Lisa Ann Berain will guide participants through the art and craft of transforming literary novels into compelling screenplays for film. Writers will learn the essential skills of adaptation—how to distill complex narratives into cinematic structure, identify the emotional core of a story, and translate prose into visual storytelling that resonates on screen. In addition to exploring the creative side of adaptation, Lisa will share practical insights into the professional writing process, including how to evaluate and hire the right ghostwriter, collaborate effectively, and maintain creative control while elevating your project. Through interactive exercises, case studies, and insider strategies, attendees will gain both the artistic tools and the industry know-how to bring their stories to life for a wider audience. Rise above the clever lies and learn the stunning truth about what it really takes to be a success. This workshop is ideal for authors, aspiring screenwriters, and creatives eager to see their novels reimagined for the big screen under the guidance of an experienced mentor.

3:30-4:30 P.M.

Steven "Crusty Vato" Pacheco Graphic Novel Workshop

Artist Steven "Crusty Vato" Pacheco brings his psychedelic hand drawn traditional and digital art mediums to this dynamic workshop. Join Crusty Vato at the intersection of art and literature at the Las Vegas Book Festival as he demonstrates his technique. This workshop will be interactive.



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

NEVADA HUMANITIES TENT | 10 A.M.-4 P.M.

Nevada P.S. I Love You Postcard and Mini-Flip Books Project Hands-On Activity

(free while supplies last)

Join us in the Nevada Humanities Tent for a special community activity. Create your own hand made postcard or flip book story. Nevada artists and poets will be on hand throughout the day with their creative energy in helping you create a little art and write a poetic message about what you love about Nevada. Nevada P.S. I Love You Postcard Project is part of an ongoing project to connect Nevadans across the state by sharing the things we all love about Nevada.

RAINBOW COMPANY YOUTH THEATRE ART ACTIVITY | 10 A.M.-5 P.M.

Sophocles' ANTIGONE hands-on activities

(For all ages, free while supplies last)

Join Rainbow Company & The Friends of Rainbow as they celebrate upcoming season by engaging the youth in various activities related to the classic Sophocles play - ANTIGONE. Meet members of the Rainbow Company Ensemble, The Friends of Rainbow, and meet with Rainbow Company's leadership, all while immersing yourself in the world of Ancient Greece, as you work through several make-and-take art activities.

LIBRARY CORNER & ACTIVITY ROOM | 10 A.M.-5 P.M.

Welcome to the Library Corner & Activity Room - a collaborative space brought to you by the combined efforts of the Las Vegas Valley's many library districts. Designed to inspire creativity, learning, and connection, this shared space hosts a variety of activities for all ages, storytime sessions, and the best part, staff from Real Dinosaurs will be on site all day! Come Read with a Dinosaur.

FREE FACE PAINTING | 11 A.M.-4 P.M.

Our talented face painters will be offering their services for free from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Request your favorite literary character, or even your favorite cartoon! The festival will have two face painters available so make sure to come on out, hop in line, and be ready to look awesome!

BOOK FESTIVAL SCAVENGER HUNT | 10 A.M.-5 P.M.

Our Special Events team has conjured up some clues that need to be solved. We can't be certain what you'll find, or where you'll find it, but we can guarantee there will be prizes at the end. Can you find all the clues and solve the puzzle before the end of the festival? Challenge yourself and your family to the Book Festival Scavenger Hunt to find out.

POP-UP PARKS & RECREATION | 10 A.M.-5 P.M.

The city's recreation team brings all-day fun with lawn games. Play beanbag tic-tac-toe or giant checkers! Take on a friend in a match of lawn bowling, get out that rambunctious energy with our bundle of hula-hoops and more!

FREE BOOKS! | 10 A.M.-5 P.M.

The Book Festival wouldn't be complete without a book giveaway. This year, we have Spread the Word Nevada giving away free books all day, and also accepting book donations in their donation drop. Bring your little readers, and enjoy the massive selection of books, comics and chance to win free giveaways & more! If you have any old books you've been trying to get rid of, Spread the Word will love to take them off your hands.



2025 LITERARY PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Jonathan Meza

Cultural Affairs Manager
City of Las Vegas

Brian Garth, M.Ed.

Senior Cultural Specialist
City of Las Vegas

Cory Goble

Senior Cultural Specialist
City of Las Vegas

Miranda Appleyard

Cultural Specialist | City of Las Vegas

Bobbie Ann Howell, MFA

Program Manager | Nevada Humanities

Crystal Perkins

Author of romance, suspense
and young adult books

Dayvid Figler, Esq.

Attorney | Essayist, Storytelling Producer,
Co-host "City Cast Las Vegas" daily
podcast

Robbie DeBuff

Centennial Hills Library Branch Manager
Las Vegas-Clark County Library District

Scott Dickensheets

Esteemed Las Vegas
editor and cultural journalist

Veeda Bybee, MFA

Author of fiction and nonfiction

With Special Contributions from

Ashley "Ms. AyeVee" Vargas | Clark County Poet Laureate

Charlotte Wyatt | Black Mountain Institute

Chelsea Guevara | Poet

Erica Vital-Lazare | College of Southern Nevada

Geoff Schumacher | Mob Museum

Teresa Alvarez | City of Las Vegas

Tim Chizmar | Spookyninjakitty Media