

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Capital Book Fest Presents a Special Children's Book Festival in Downtown DC

One-day event will showcase author readings and hands-on activities for families

(Washington, DC) – Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 17 as a special edition of Capital Book Fest, pops-up outdoors on Wilson Plaza at [Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center \(RRB/ITC\)](#). Coinciding with the Juneteenth Weekend celebrations, Children's Book Festival will offer a family-friendly day filled with engaging, educational activities and an exciting lineup of local, award-winning authors.

From 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., children and their families will be able to enjoy a variety of activities including author readings, book-making and illustration workshops, a STEAM station presented by National Children's Museum, thrilling rounds of Double Dutch led by DC Retro Jumpers, activities with Africa Access, DC Public Library's Discover Summer Program featuring book giveaways, bookmark making and more. Plus, thousands of gently-used books (for all ages) will be on sale for \$6 or less provided by Carpe Librum, benefitting Turning the Page.

Capital Book Fest is one of Carpe Librum's outdoor, pop-up book shops selling community-donated books and raising valuable funds for the education-based nonprofit, Turning the Page, who is celebrating 25 years of supporting families in gaining access to educational resources and community learning opportunities.

A concession stand serving lunch and refreshments, prepared by RRB/ITC's culinary team, will be available onsite and the eight participating authors will sell and sign books at the event.

Participating Authors:

[Fred Bowen](#)

So many kids are passionate about sports, and Fred Bowen likes tapping into that passion to show them how much fun reading can be. He has a sports-fiction series (Peachtree Publishers) for boys and girls (ages 8-12). He also has a picture-book biography of Red Sox legend Ted Williams titled "No Easy Way" (Dutton Children's Books). In addition to his books, Fred writes the Thursday sports column for kids in *The Washington Post*.

[Caroline Brewer](#)

Caroline Brewer is a professional speaker, author, content creator, literacy activist and consultant. When Caroline Brewer writes, she commits to her words making worlds where peace and harmony reign and everybody's dancing on a *soul-to-soul* train. She is

a former Pulitzer Prize-nominated journalist and served on two Pulitzer juries. Her children's stories are designed to get kids hooked on books like in her rhythmic novel, *Darius Daniels: Game On!* This book is about 11-year-old Darius's journey to identity inside a video game that tries to play him. *Say Their Names*, her latest picture book is about 7-year-old Aliya who leads a march for Black Lives.

[Joy Jones](#)

Joy Jones is a trainer, performance poet, playwright and author of several books including *Private Lessons: A Book of Meditations for Teachers*; *Tambourine Moon*, which was featured on the Bernie Mac Show; and *Fearless Public Speaking* selected as one of the best books for middle school students. Her newest book for children is *Jayla Jumps In* which won a starred review on Booklist and was chosen by the American Library Association as one of the best sports books for youth.

[Nicole Johnson James](#)

Nancy Johnson James is a poet, educator, activist and children's book author. Her book, *Brown: The Many Shades of Love* was released by Cameron and Company Press in September 2020. Her newest title, *Black: The Many Wonders of My World* was released in April 2022. Her children's stories encourage young readers to explore and celebrate their identities in a way that is fun and accessible. She has been an educator of children with exceptional needs for more than 15 years. She is also a student of the history and dance forms from Africa and the African Diaspora.

[Karen Leggett Abouraya](#)

Karen Leggett Abouraya grew up in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and worked as a broadcast journalist on WMAL Radio in Washington, D.C., for many years. She published *Hands Around the Library: Protecting Egypt's Treasured Books* in 2012, an award-winning picture book illustrated by Susan L. Roth that tells the story of Egyptian protesters who held hands around the great library in Alexandria, Egypt, to protect it from vandals. In 2019, Karen celebrated Lee and Low's publication of a new edition of *Malala Yousafzai: Warrior with Words*, highlighting the young Pakistani's ongoing advocacy for girls' education around the world.

[Sushmita Mazumdar](#)

Sushmita Mazumdar works across stories, book arts, and mixed media, to explore her memories of home, heritage, and migration from India. After a 15-year career in the advertising industry, Sushmita taught herself to be a writer, writing stories about her childhood to show her American children how different yet wonderful lives can be. A self-taught book artist, she made the stories into unique books by hand and in 2007 launched *Handmade Storybooks*, encouraging intergenerational story-sharing through fun and simple bookmaking. In 2010, she participated in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival's Asian Pacific American program *Local Lives Global Ties*. In 2013 she opened Studio Pause, a community space for art and stories, in Arlington, VA.

[Susan Stockdale](#)

Susan Stockdale is the author and illustrator of critically acclaimed picture books that celebrate nature. Her books, including *Bring On the Birds*, *Stripes of All Types*, and *Fabulous Fishes* have won a variety of awards including the ALSC Notable Picture Book, NCTE Notable Children's Book in the Language Arts, NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book for Students K-12, and the Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Books of the Year. Her engaging rhymes and vibrant illustrations elicit praise. *The Washington Post* wrote, "If the paintings are the feast, Stockdale's words are the dessert."

[Tricia Elam Walker](#)

Tricia Elam Walker is an award-winning author, educator, and lawyer. Her novel, *Breathing Room*, was published by Simon & Schuster/PocketBooks. Her work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *Essence* and other publications. Several of her plays have been produced and her first children's book, *Nana Akua Goes to School*, was published by Random House in June 2020 and won a 2021 Children's Africana Book Award and the 2021 Ezra Jack Keats writer award. Her second picture book, *Dream Street* was published in November 2021, garnered five starred reviews, and was a New York Times Best Children's Book of 2021 selection. She is an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Howard University in Washington, DC.

Kick off summer fun in DC with this free event for the entire family! Capital Book Fest is a program sponsored by TCMA (A Drew Company), Carpe Librum, Turning the Page and the DowntownDC BID.

What: Capital Book Fest: Children's Book Festival

When: Saturday, June 17, 2023 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Where: Woodrow Wilson Plaza at Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Metro: Federal Triangle Station

Parking: [Public Garage at RRB/ITC](#)

Who: Free and open to the public

View the full schedule: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/childrens-book-festival-authors-activities-food-tickets-638910547647>

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Participating Organizations

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center (RRB/ITC)

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center is a dynamic hub for government, business, culture and community, in the heart of the nation's capital. As the first and only federal building dedicated to both public and private use, the Reagan Building is the official World Trade Center Washington, DC (WTCDC), and a premier conference and event venue with executive office space, attractions, dining, retail, parking, and community activities. Visit rrbitc.com or follow us @ReaganITCDC. TCMA (A Drew Company) is the exclusive manager of Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center (RRB/ITC). For more information, visit drewcompany.com.

Turning the Page

Turning the Page engages Washington, DC and Chicago parents as educators in resource-rich programming, sharing opportunities for parents to become active participants in their child's education. They aim to build a community of parents, caregivers, public schools, and community partners, leading to improved academic performance and social-emotional well-being. For more information, visit turningthepage.org.

Carpe Librum

Carpe Librum raises valuable funds for Turning the Page by selling used books, CD, DVDs, and vinyl records donated by the community. They host outdoor pop-up book sales in the DC area throughout spring, summer, and autumn.

DowntownDC BID

The DowntownDC Business Improvement District (BID) Corporation was founded in 1997 and is a private non-profit organization. This special district, where property owners have agreed to tax themselves to fund services, encompasses a 138-block area of properties from Massachusetts Avenue on the north to Constitution Avenue on the south, and from Louisiana Avenue on the east to 16th Street on the west. Explore Downtown DC and its programs at downtowndc.org.

National Children's Museum

National Children's Museum is a unique hybrid institution that combines learning elements found in a science center with children's museum experiences. Through hands-on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) based exhibits, programs, and virtual offerings, the Museum sparks curiosity and ignites creativity for children under the age of twelve and their families. Learn how to visit the museum and engage with virtual STEAM resources at nationalchildrensmuseum.org.

DC Retro Jumpers

The DC Retro Jumpers are an extraordinary exhibition team of skilled adult jumpers, dedicated to delivering high-energy demonstrations and lessons. They firmly believe that Double Dutch possesses an irresistible charm, captivating children, teenagers, adults, and seniors alike, whether it evokes cherished memories from the past or presents an exhilarating new experience. Double Dutch, a dynamic style of rope jumping, involves the synchronized turning of two ropes, providing an invigorating challenge for all. To learn more, visit dcretrojumpers.com

DC Public Library

The District of Columbia Public Library is a vibrant center of activity for residents and visitors in the nation's capital. The library provides environments that invite reading, learning and community discussion and equips people to learn all their lives, to embrace diversity and to build a thriving city. We are proud to be a recognized force in the community for engaging the mind, expanding opportunities and elevating the quality of life. To learn more, visit dclibrary.org.

Africa Access

Africa Access, is a 501 c (3) organization founded in 1989 to help schools, public libraries, and parents improve the quality of their K-12 collections on Africa. Africa Access Review, Read Africa and Children's Africana Book Awards (CABA) have been effective initiatives with efforts to inform the public about quality K-12 books on Africa. In 1991, Africa Access in collaboration with the Outreach Council of the African Studies Association created the Children's Africana Book Awards with three major objectives. Learn more at africaaccessreview.org