

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Media Contact:**

Jason King

[jking@turningthepage.org](mailto:jking@turningthepage.org)

Jacie Roberts Lallis

[jroberts@rrbitc.com](mailto:jroberts@rrbitc.com)

(202) 312-1552

**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

**Capital Book Fest to Host a Children's Book Festival in Downtown, DC**

*One-day event will feature local author readings and museum-led activities for families*

Washington, DC – Join a lineup of local, award-winning authors for a special edition of Capital Book Fest on **Wednesday, June 29 on the Wilson Plaza of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center (RRB/ITC). From 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, children and their families will be able to meet authors, listen to select readings, enjoy interactive and engaging activities led by National Children's Museum and Planet Word, and shop thousands of gently-used books (for all ages) 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. The Children's Book Festival event will kick off the organization's 25th Anniversary year, celebrating its ongoing engagement of public school parents in DC's Wards 7 and 8, and its achievements in maximizing parents' access to educational resources and community learning opportunities on behalf of their children. Turning the Page students and their families will be recognized for their involvement and participation.

Participating authors will offer live readings and copies of their books will be available for purchase and signing at the event.

**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). Recently he has written two non-fiction sports books for kids illustrated by James E. Ransome, *Gridiron: Stories from 100 Years of the National Football League* and *Hardcourt: Stories from 75 Years of the National Basketball Association*. 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, such as her middle grade, rhythmic novel, *Darius Daniels: Game On!*, are designed to get kids hooked on books. Darius Daniels features rap, rhyme, and riddles and an 11-year-old boy's journey inside a video game that tries to play him. *Say Their Names*, a poetic picture book due out in August 2022, is about 7-year-old Aliya's inspirational march for Black Lives that challenges us to tap into our imaginations.

### [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.

### [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, the new edition of *Malala Yousafzai: Warrior with Words* (originally published in 2014) was released by Lee and Low Books. The story highlights the young Pakistani's ongoing advocacy for girls' education around the world.

*Karen Leggett Abouraya will lead a special doll-making activity following her talk.*

### [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. It celebrates its 15-year anniversary this July 2022. 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.

*Sushmita Mazumdar will lead a special book-making activity following her talk.*

### [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.

Start the summer reading and learning 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:** Wednesday, June 29, 2022 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

**Who:** Free and open to the public

**View the full schedule:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/capital-book-fest-tickets-288851100417>

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### **About 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](http://turningthepage.org).

### **About 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.

### **About 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 [rbitc.com](http://rbitc.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](http://drewcompany.com).

### **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](http://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. Since February 2020, the Museum has reached more than 7 million people through in-person and digital initiatives. Reopened in September 2021 after an 18-month COVID closure, the Museum has welcomed more than 75,000 visitors from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and all eight wards of the District. Learn how to visit the Museum and engage with virtual STEAM resources at [nationalchildrensmuseum.org](http://nationalchildrensmuseum.org).

### **Planet Word**

Planet Word is the only museum in the country dedicated to renewing and inspiring a love of words and language. Located in the historic Franklin School on the corner of 13th and K Streets in downtown D.C., Planet Word opened in 2020 as a new kind of interactive and self-guided museum. Using the museum's state-of-the-art technology, visitors determine their experience through their own words and choices. Planet Word is a bold and imaginative response to the life-long importance of literacy and to the challenge of growing love of language. To learn more about the museum, visit [planetwordmuseum.org](http://planetwordmuseum.org).