



## The Decatur Book Festival Fact Sheet

### *About the Decatur Book Festival*

The AJC Decatur Book Festival (DBF) is one of the largest independent book festivals in the country. A community non-profit, the DBF provides programming that fosters curiosity, creates conversations, and challenges barriers.

Since 2006, the festival has brought more than 3,500 authors to Decatur during Labor Day weekend who engage, inspire, challenge, and educate. Each year tens of thousands of festival-goers enjoy book signings, author readings, panel discussions, interactive children's activities, live music, parades, cooking demonstrations, poetry slams, and more. In addition to the festival, the DBF supports youth literacy and other related programs that encourage storytelling and help people find their voice.

The DBF is a community-based non-profit and 501(c)3 that counts on donations to operate each year. Donations are tax deductible.

### *History*

DBF founder and Decatur resident Daren Wang posed a question in February 2005 – How can we celebrate the spoken and written word? Collaborating with fellow literature lovers including Tom Bell, Linda Harris, Richard Lenz, Alice Murray, Bill Starr, and Judy Turner, Wang brought his idea to life in 2006 through an annual book festival – the Decatur Book Festival.

The DBF has officially come of age and is now a significant part of the nationwide landscape with a community that embraces it, authors who are eager to attend, and sponsors who stay committed to it. At the same time, the DBF maintains a spirit of fun and childlike wonder as it celebrates the written and spoken word.

### *The Mission*

The AJC Decatur Book Festival encourages a love of reading, inquiry, and conversation in people of all ages, and builds an enthusiastic and inclusive community of readers and writers throughout the south, sparking social, creative, and intellectual engagement.

In pursuing this mission, the festival seeks to:

- Showcase an array of national and international voices at the festival and throughout the year.
- Connect readers with writers.
- Illustrate the many ways reading encourages personal and cultural empathy and knowledge.



- Encourage the love of reading and creative expression in children and adults.

### *The Numbers*

Average Number of Attendees: 60,000

Presenting Authors: About 250 each year

Volunteers: 900+

Venues: 15

Days: 3 days Exhibitors: 130+ Children's Parades: 2

### *Festival Management*

Joy Pope, Interim Program Director

Elisa Iannilli, Operations Director

Diane Capriola, Manager of Children and Teen Programming

Steve Salcedo, Festival Manager

Ila Wade, Communications Manager

### *Media Contact*

Joy Pope [joy@decaturbokfestival.com](mailto:joy@decaturbokfestival.com)

### *Social Media*

Twitter: @DBookFestival

Facebook: DecaturBookFestival

Instagram: @decaturbokfestival