

## Tulane authors, presenters at the 2026 NOLA Book Fest at Tulane University

March 11, 2026 9:00 AM Molly McCrory  
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Faculty, staff, alumni and a student from across Tulane will appear on panels discussing a variety of topics at the 2026 New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane University. (Photo by Kenny Lass)

When the New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane University officially opens on Thursday, March 12, Tulane faculty, staff, alumni and even a student will appear on panels discussing a variety of topics. The festival is free and open to the public. Seating at the sessions is first-come, first-served. For more information about the festival and to view the full schedule, visit the [New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane University website](#).

\*Dates and times are subject to change. See the [Book Fest schedule](#) for the latest information.

## **Faculty, staff and board members at Book Fest**

### **Kate Baldwin**

Professor of English and Communication Studies, School of Liberal Arts

[Pros & Cons of Substack for Writers](#)

Saturday at 10 a.m.

### **Mara Baumgarten Force**

Professor of Practice, Director of the Schwartz Family Center for Experiential Business Learning and Seymour S. Goodman Professor of Business Administration, A. B. Freeman School of Business

[When a Cookbook Becomes a Book: Rescuing Recipes, Preserving Stories](#)

Saturday at 11 a.m.

### **Thomas Beller**

Director of Creative Writing and Professor of English, School of Liberal Arts

[The Stories We Tell: Reclaiming Identity through Memoir & Personal Essay](#)

Saturday at 11 a.m.

[Instant Classics: New Memoirs from Molly Jong-Fast + Susan Orlean](#)

Saturday at 1 p.m.

### **Kim Boyle**

Board of Tulane member

[Power, Memory & the Stories We Tell: Black Women Leading through Generations](#)

Saturday at 10 a.m.

### **Heddwen Brooks**

Professor and Chair of the Department of Physiology, School of Medicine

[Rethinking Women's Health at Every Stage](#)

Saturday at 3 p.m.

### **Richard Campanella**

Associate Dean for Research, Senior Professor of Practice in Architecture and Geography, and Mintz Professor in Architecture, School of Architecture and Built Environment

[How Louisiana Shaped a Nation](#)

Friday at 11 a.m.

**Edgar “Dook” Chase IV**

Chapter IV, 1834 Club, Alva Jean’s and Homage at Wave City Market

[Culinary Heritage: Memory, Place & the Responsibility to Preserve](#)

Friday at 12 p.m.

**Jelagat Cheruiyot**

Senior Professor of Practice, School of Science and Engineering

[Interactive Pop-Up: Taylor Center for Design Thinking](#)

Friday at 1 p.m.

**Lindsay Cronk**

Dean of Libraries and Academic Information Resources

[Behind the Image: Women, Style & Substance](#)

Friday at 12 p.m.

**Kyle DeCoste**

Instructor in Gender and Sexuality Studies and Music, School of Liberal Arts

[Music, Education & The Sounds of Change](#)

Saturday at 10 a.m.

**Calvin Duncan**

Adjunct instructor, Alumni, School of Professional Advancement

[After the Sentence: Justice, Accountability & Second Chances](#)

Friday at 4 pm

**Gabe Feldman**

Sher Garner Professor of Sports Law and Paul and Abram B. Barron Professor of Law, Associate Provost for NCAA Compliance, Director of the Sports Law Program and Co-Director of the Tulane Center for Sport, Tulane Law School

[Power Plays: Leadership Decisions that Shape College Athletics](#)

Friday at 11 a.m.

**Michael A. Fitts**

President, Tulane University

[The State of the Nation Project: In Books](#)

Friday at 12 p.m.

[The Amazing Generation: Your Guide to Fun & Freedom in a Screen-Filled World](#)

Saturday at 12 p.m.

**Melissa Fuster**

Associate Professor, Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

[Interactive Pop-Up: Taylor Center for Design Thinking](#)

Friday at 1 p.m.

**Douglas Harris**

Professor and Department Chair of Economics, Schlieder Foundation Chair in Public Education, School of Liberal Arts

[The State of the Nation Project: In Books](#)

Friday at 12 p.m.

**Gary Hoover**

Professor, Executive Director of the Murphy Institute, School of Liberal Arts

[The State of the Nation Project: In Books](#)

Friday at 12 p.m.

[America at 250: Who Gets Ahead in America? And Why?](#)

Friday at 1 p.m.

**Walter Isaacson**

Leonard Lauder Professor of American History and Values, School of Liberal Arts, Co-Chair, New Orleans Book Festival

[America at 250: Opening Night with The Atlantic](#)

Thursday at 5 p.m.

[Who Shapes America Now?](#)

Friday at 11:30 a.m.

[It Doesn't Have to Hurt: Your Smart Guide to a Pain-Free Life](#)

Friday at 2:30 p.m.

[The Greatest Sentence Ever Written: A Conversation with Walter Isaacson](#)

Saturday at 11:30 a.m.

**Jesse Keenan**

Favrot II Associate Professor of Sustainable Real Estate and Urban Planning, Director of the Center on Climate Change and Urbanism, School of Architecture and Built Environment

[Climate Reality: What Science, History & Cities Must Face](#)

Friday at 1 p.m.

**Rob Lalka**

Professor of Practice, Executive Director of the Albert Lepage Center, Albert R. Lepage Professorship in Business, A. B. Freeman School of Business

[The Power of Community & Connection in Times of Uncertainty & Change](#)

Friday at 4 p.m.

**Thomas LaVeist**

Dean of the Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

[Outbreak Behind Bars: Spider Bites, Human Rights & the Unseen Danger to Public Health](#)

Friday at 2 p.m.

**Nicholas Mattei**

Associate Professor, School of Science & Engineering

[Inventing Connection: Trust, Access & the Future of the Internet](#)

Friday at 10 a.m.

**Golan Moskowitz**

Associate Professor, Catherine and Henry J. Gaisman Faculty Fellow, School of Liberal Arts

[When a Cookbook Becomes a Book: Rescuing Recipes, Preserving Stories](#)

Saturday at 11 a.m.

**Lesley-Ann Noel**

Former professor of practice, associate director for design thinking for social impact, Phyllis M. Taylor Center for Social Innovation and Design Thinking

[Interactive Pop-Up: Taylor Center for Design Thinking](#)

Friday at 1 p.m.

**Karisma Price**

Assistant Professor of English, School of Liberal Arts

[Capturing Transformation & Voice in Poetry](#)

Friday at 2 p.m.

**Peter Ricchiuti**

Senior Professor of Practice, William B. Burkenroad Jr. Clinical Professorship in Equity Research, A. B. Freeman School of Business

[How to Make Money in Any Market](#)

Saturday at 10 a.m.

**Nathaniel Rich**

Professor of Practice, School of Liberal Arts

[Climate Reality: What Science, History & Cities Must Face](#)

Friday at 1 p.m.

[When Societal Bonds Collapse: Moral Complexity in Fiction](#)

Friday at 4 p.m.

**Marguerite Sheffer**

Phyllis M. Taylor Center for Social Innovation and Design Thinking

[Interactive Pop-Up: Taylor Center for Design Thinking](#)

Friday at 1 p.m.

**Nick Spitzer**

Professor of American Studies, School of Liberal Arts

[Forty Years: Painting French Louisiana](#)

Saturday at 12 p.m.

**Michael Strecker**

Assistant Vice President for News and Media Relations

[Southern Football Noir, Big Apple Sleuths & Spine-tingling Obsessions: Crime Fiction to Die For](#)

Saturday at 3 p.m.

[Reading: Michael Strecker | Jokes for Crescent City Kids](#)

Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

[Heroes in the Making: Creating Courageous Characters with Jesse Byrd, Marti Dumas + Misako Rocks!](#)

Sunday at 12:30 p.m.

### **Emilie Taylor Welty**

Program Director for Architecture, Design-Build Manager of the Albert and Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design, Favrot III Associate Professor of Architecture, School of Architecture and Built Environment

[Smallx20: Twenty Years of Community Engaged Design in New Orleans](#)

Saturday at 1 p.m.

### **Jana Woodson**

Deputy Athletic Director, External Operations

[Beyond the Game: Women, Leadership & the Future of Sports](#)

Friday at 11 a.m.

### **Ann Yoachim**

Director of the Albert and Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design, Professor of Practice in Design, School of Architecture and Built Environment

[Smallx20: Twenty Years of Community Engaged Design in New Orleans](#)

Saturday at 1 p.m.

## **Alumni at Book Fest**

### **Dr. Jennifer Avegno**

School of Liberal Arts

[Rethinking Women's Health at Every Stage](#)

Saturday at 3 p.m.

### **Bryan Batt**

School of Liberal Arts

[Batt Out of Heaven: A Conversation with Bryan Batt](#)

Saturday at 2 p.m.

### **Blake Bertuccelli-Booth**

School of Professional Advancement

[Reading: Blake Bertuccelli-Booth | No, Robot](#)

Sunday at 1:40 p.m.

**Kaye Courington**

Newcomb-Tulane College and Tulane Law School

[Reading: Kaye Courington | Scrim: A New Orleans Story of Resilience and Rescue](#)

Sunday at 12 p.m.

**Quint Davis**

Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters

[Making Jazz Fest: The Soul of New Orleans](#)

Friday at 11:30 a.m.

**Karen Essex**

School of Liberal Arts

[Behind the Image: Women, Style & Substance](#)

Friday at 12 p.m.

**Freddi Williams Evans**

School of Liberal Arts Global Humanities Center

[How Louisiana Shaped a Nation](#)

Friday at 11 a.m.

[Passing It On: The Art of John T. Scott](#)

Friday at 4 p.m.

[Second Line Culture & Street as Story](#)

Saturday at 2 p.m.

**Samantha Fleurinor**

Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

[Interactive Pop-Up: Taylor Center for Design Thinking](#)

Friday at 1 p.m.

**Matt Forte**

A. B. Freeman School of Business

[Stay in the Game: Making the Most of Every Season](#)

Saturday at 3 p.m.

**Patty Heyda**

School of Architecture and Built Environment

[Smallx20: Twenty Years of Community Engaged Design in New Orleans](#)

Saturday at 1 p.m.

**Kelly Jacques**

School of Liberal Arts

[The Baker's Table](#)

Saturday at 10 a.m.

[Balancing Craft & Community: Restaurants with a Purpose](#)

Saturday at 1 p.m.

**Wendy Rodrigue Magnus**

School of Liberal Arts

[Beyond the Blue Dog: Wendy Rodrigue Magnus on Legacy, Leadership & Reinvention](#)

Friday at 4 p.m.

[Reading: Wendy Rodrigue Magnus | Why Is Blue Dog Blue?](#)

Sunday at 1 p.m.

**Ti Martin**

A. B. Freeman School of Business

[Culinary Heritage: Memory, Place & the Responsibility to Preserve](#)

Friday at 12 p.m.

**Sally Reeves**

Newcomb-Tulane College

[New Orleans Garden District: Profiles in Preservation](#)

Saturday at 12 p.m.

**Xavier Rush**

School of Science & Engineering

[Reading: Xavier Rush | Fitness Alphabet: XRELITE Xperience](#)

Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

**Mike Sacks**

School of Liberal Arts

[A Wealth of Humor: A Conversation with Simon Rich, Writer for SNL & The New Yorker](#)

Friday at 11 a.m.

[Live from New Orleans: A Conversation with The New Yorker's Susan Morrison About Her Biography 'Lorne: The Man Who Invented Saturday Night Live'](#)

Saturday at 3 p.m.

**Ben Sandmel**

School of Liberal Arts

[How Louisiana Shaped a Nation](#)

Friday at 11 a.m.

**Bruce Spizer**

A. B. Freeman School of Business, Tulane Law School

[From the Beatles to Ozzy to John Prine: Music Legends](#)

Friday at 2 p.m.

**Sue Strachan**

Newcomb College

[From Cellar to Shaker](#)

Saturday at 11 a.m.

**Tania Tetlow**

Newcomb College

[Miracles & Wonder: The Historical Mystery of Jesus](#)

Saturday at 2 p.m.

**Dr. David Weill**

School of Liberal Arts and School of Medicine

[The Stories We Tell: Reclaiming Identity through Memoir & Personal Essay](#)

Saturday at 11 a.m.

**Bronwen Wyatt**

School of Liberal Arts

[The Baker's Table](#)

Saturday at 10 a.m.

**Students at Book Fest**

**Zachary Warter**

A. B. Freeman School of Business

[Reading: Zachary Warter | Otis the Do Happy Dog](#)

Sunday at 12:40 p.m.