

Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024

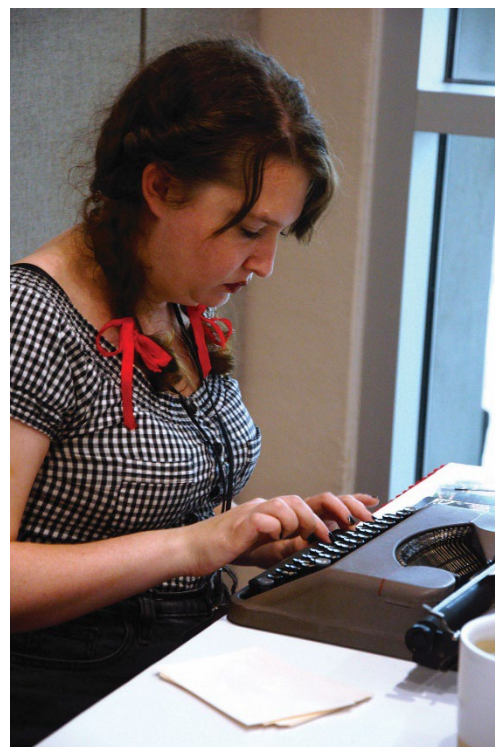
LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL WELCOMES THE RETURN OF POPULAR POETRY PROGRAMS

BATON ROUGE, La. — The [Louisiana Book Festival](#) welcomes the return of plenty of popular poetry programs and will once again welcome the National Student Poets who will participate in the festival on Saturday, November 2, in downtown Baton Rouge.

This will be the first appearance of the entire Class of 2024 student poet winners this year, each representing one of the five regions across the country.

"It's exciting to once again host the National Student Poets. This group of young people is quickly becoming a festival favorite," said Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser. "This is a prestigious program, and we're honored that its leadership has decided to return the Louisiana Book Festival."

"We work hard every year to create a festival that has a lot of variety. Our popular poetry programs always draw dedicated and expectant crowds and a lot of interest," said Jim Davis, executive director of the festival. "This year will be no exception. In fact, a kick-off event will be the Louisiana Writer Award ceremony celebrating Louisiana native poet David Kirby. Our poetry lovers will have a lot to choose from, and they'll be with us to support our efforts, and more importantly, the poets and their work. We are proud that a full day of poetry every year has become a hallmark of the festival."



GennaRose Nethercott of The Traveling Poetry Emporium writes poetry-to-go during the 2022 Louisiana Book Festival. The popular poetry program returns for the 2024 Louisiana Book Festival.

Louisiana Poet Laureate [Alison Pelegrin](#) will lead two panels of Louisiana poets, including one that will feature former Louisiana Poet Laureate [Peter Cooley](#).

Another program, Appetizers for The Poetry Buffet, will spotlight an anthology of writing from almost 100 poets who have appeared at The Poetry Buffet, a monthly reading series at the Latter Library on Saint Charles Avenue in New Orleans now in its 16th year. The program will be hosted by co-editors [Gina Ferrara](#) and [Geoff Munsterman](#). It will feature former Louisiana Poets Laureate [Julie Kane](#) and [Mona Lisa Saloy](#).

[Cassandra de Alba](#) and [GennaRose Nethercott](#) of The Traveling Poetry Emporium team will return to create free personalized poems, which can be taken home as keepsakes, that are composed on the spot in the lobby of the State Library using antique typewriters.

The day before the festival, [2024 Louisiana Writer Award recipient David Kirby](#) and his wife, the poet [Barbara Hamby](#), will conduct a [WordShops](#) writing workshop titled [Supercharging Your Poetic Voice](#). Registration for that workshop and others is [open now](#).

The National Student Poets are presented by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. To be considered for the National Student Poets Program, students must enter poetry to the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Five outstanding high school poets, whose work exhibits exceptional creativity, dedication to craft, and promise, are selected annually for a year of service as national poetry ambassadors.

The class of 2024 National Student Poets are [Marcus Burns](#) (Northeast region), St. Johnsbury, Vermont; [Robert Gao](#) (Midwest region), Champaign, Illinois; [Sofia Kamal](#) (Southwest region), Phoenix, Arizona; [Anya Melchinger](#) (West region), Honolulu, Hawaii; and [Nadia Wright](#) (Southeast region), Jackson, Mississippi. Hannah Jones, manager of the National Student Poets Program, and Dennis Nangle, a senior program officer in the Office of Library Services at the Institute of Museum and Library Services, will moderate their panel. Chapbooks of the students' work will be available free at the program, while they last, and the students will participate in an author signing afterwards.

The National Student Poets will be joined by Narrative 4 poets [Darrell Bourque](#), founding N4 member and the 2014 recipient of the Louisiana Writer Award, and [Felice Belle](#), director of the N4 Artists Network. In separate programs, Belle and Bourque together will discuss their latest work with poet [Sheryl St. Germain](#), 2018 Louisiana Writer Award recipient; and Bourque will also discuss Kirby's body of work with him.

For more information on the 2024 Louisiana Book Festival including schedules of panels and discussions, visit [LouisianaBookFestival.org](#) and follow us on the [Louisiana Book Festival Facebook page](#).

The [Louisiana Center for the Book](#) was established in the State Library of Louisiana in 1994. Its mission is to stimulate public interest in reading, books, literacy, and libraries and to celebrate Louisiana's rich literary heritage. It is the official state affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book.



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