



FESTIVAL GUIDE

OCT. 14-19

CEDAR CITY

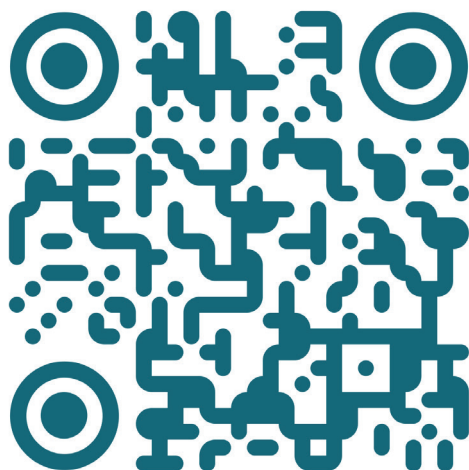


**SOUTHERN
UTAH BOOK
FESTIVAL**

WHAT IS THE **S**OUTHERN **U**TAH **B**OOK **F**ESTIVAL ?

Southern Utah Book Festival (501(c)3) is a community-wide celebration of literature that connects readers, writers, artists, and book enthusiasts. The festival exists to promote literacy among children and adults and is held in partnership with UT Humanities Statewide Book Festival.

More information about us can be found on our website. We're thrilled to be hosting this festival in Cedar City, Utah, which we acknowledge as the ancestral homeland of the Nung'wu, or Southern Paiute People.



GET IN CONTACT

🌐 SouthernUtahBookFestival.org
✉ SouthernUtahBookFest@gmail.com
f Southern Utah Book Festival
@ @sub_fest



CONTENTS

Venues | pg. 4

Come visit us at nine locations throughout the week.

Panelists | pg. 6

Discover new authors and illustrators and engage with familiar ones.

Schedule & Descriptions | pg. 12

Explore everything we have to offer during the festival.

Sponsors | pg. 18

Support our generous festival sponsors that helped make these events happen.



Ann J. Gardner Canyon Park

151 S 400 E, West Side



Artisans Art Gallery

94 W Center St.

WHERE WE'LL BE



Cedar City Library

303 N 100 E



Frontier Homestead State Park Museum

635 N Main St



Utah Shakespeare Festival: Frehner Rehearsal Hall

195 W Center St



Johnson Art Center

59 N 100 W



Main Street Books

25 N Main St



R. Haze Hunter Alumni Center

405 W University Blvd



Southern Utah Museum of Art

13 S 300 W

OUR PANELISTS

Read their *full bios* and find their *socials* on our website.

Karin Anderson is a writer whose work is grounded in complex characters and places of the arid American West. Writing for Torrey House Press, she is the author of two novels, *Before Us Like a Land of Dreams* and *What Falls Away*. Also with Torrey House, she co-edited an anthology of essays and poems about evolving commitments to Western environments.

James M. Aton is an award-winning author or co-author of seven books on the Colorado Plateau's rivers, explorers, and artists. He was a professor of English at SUU from 1980 to 2020. He currently serves as the board president of the Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance.

Lisa Bickmore is the author of three books of poems; *flicker*, won the 2014 Antivenom Prize. She won the 2015 Ballymaloe International Poetry Prize for the poem "Eidolon." She is the founder/publisher of Lightscatter Press. In July 2022, she was named the Utah poet laureate and in 2023 was awarded an Academy of American Poets fellowship for poets laureate.

Tamra Borchardt-Slayton is the Indian Peaks Band chairperson and tribal council member for the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, the family advocate coordinator for the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, and an adjunct professor for SUU. She specializes in the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah's complex history.

Simmons Buntin is the founding editor-in-chief of *Terrain.org* and the author of the forthcoming book *Satellite: Essays of Fatherhood and Home, Near and Far* and a collection of sustainable community care studies, *Unsprawl: Remixing Spaces as Places*, as well as two collections of poetry.

Steve Capone, Jr., hailing from the Rust Belt, is the editor-in-chief of the newly formed indie horror publisher Whisper House Press. Steve is also an award-winning, multi-genre author. Earlier in 2024, he debuted his YA historical/espionage fiction novel *Max in the Capital of Spies: A Max Fredericks Story*.

Rob Carney is the author of nine books of poems, most recently *The Book of Drought* and *Call and Response*. He is a recipient of the XJ Kennedy Prize in Poetry, the Milton Kessler Memorial Prize, and the Robinson Jeffers/Tor House Foundation Award for Poetry, and he has written a featured series called "Old Roads, New Stories" for *Terrain.org* for the last nine years.

John DiAntonio is the artistic director of the Tony Award-winning Utah Shakespeare Festival. He worked for twelve years as an actor, director, and playwright based in New York, Los Angeles, and Denver. John has had ten original plays produced, including five that have toured around the Southwest.

Danielle Beazer Dubrasky is a professor of English and creative writing at SUU. She is the author of the full-length poetry collection *Drift Migration*. She also co-edited, with Karin Anderson, the Torrey House Press anthology *Blossom as the Cliffrose: Mormon Legacies and the Beckoning Wild* in 2021.

Scott R. Edgar is a father of five, a poet, an attorney, and the host of the podcast, *The Poet (delayed)*. He published his first book of poetry in June of 2022 and is currently working on his second book, which he anticipates being out this fall. He also loves to saunter through the mountains and deserts of Utah.

Rosalyn Eves is an English professor at SUU and a writer of award-winning young adult novels: a historical fantasy trilogy, *Blood Rose Rebellion*; a historical novel about the American West, *Beyond the Mapped Stars*; and two YA Regency romantic comedies.



Autumn Gillard, a maternal descendant from the Cedar Band of Paiutes of the Paiute Indian Tribe, is the tribe's cultural resource manager. An expert in Southern Paiute astronomy, ethnobotany, and culture, she was raised by her grandmother and mother in a traditional home and currently resides on the Kaibab Paiute Reservation.

Nathan Hale is the author and illustrator of the Eisner-nominated, New York Times bestselling graphic novel series on American history *Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales*. He also created the sci-fi horror comics *ONE TRICK PONY* and *APOCALYPSE TACO*. He is the illustrator of the graphic novel *RAPUNZEL'S REVENGE* and its sequel, *CALAMITY JACK*, among others.

Kase Johnstun lives and writes in Ogden, Utah. He is the author of the novel *CAST AWAY* from Torrey House Press and *Let the Wild Grasses Grow*. His book *Beyond the Grip Craniosynostosis* was awarded the Gold Quill in Creative Nonfiction by the League of Utah Writers for 2015. His work has also been published widely by literary journals and trade magazines.

Evan Y. Jones was born and raised in Cedar City, Utah. He is a licensed professional engineer and has spent his entire career in mining, which began in 1967 working at the iron mines west of Cedar City. He also worked in Australia, New Mexico, Los Angeles, Denver, and Gillette, Wyoming.

Ken Lamug is an author-illustrator who has created award-winning picture books and graphic novels. He has created novelty parodies like *Hurts Like A Mother*, *A is for Asteroids* *Z is for Zombies*, and the spooky *The Stumps of Flat-top Hill*. He also loves creating stories for the younger audience. Lamug's latest book is the *Mischief and Mayhem* graphic series.



Craig Lancaster is a novelist and playwright who lives in Billings, Montana. He is the author of 10 novels, including his most recent, *Northward Dreams*. His work, largely set in the contemporary American West, has won two High Plains Book Awards among many others. His first full-length play, *Straight On To Stardust*, received a world premiere staging by Yellowstone Repertory Theatre in 2023.

C.R. (Sylvia) Langille spent many a Saturday afternoon watching monster movies with her mom. It wasn't long before she started crafting nightmares to share with her readers. She is a retired, disabled veteran with a deep love for weird and creepy tales. This prompted her to form Timber Ghost Press in January of 2021.

Julia Lyon used to interview kids around the world as a newspaper reporter. Now she writes books for them! She is the Utah-based author of *A Dinosaur Named Ruth*. A former journalist for daily newspapers in Oregon and Utah, Julia received a United Nations Correspondents Association gold medal after visiting and reporting on refugee camps in Thailand and the families that came to Utah.

L. E. Modesitt, Jr., is the author of 85 science fiction and fantasy novels and nearly 50 short stories, as well as assorted nonfiction and political/economic commentary. His five fantasy series include the *Recluce Saga*, the *Imager Portfolio*, and the *Grand Illusion*.

David G. Pace, a Provo native, is the author of the debut novel *Dream House on Golan Drive* and a collection, *American Trinity and Other Stories from the Mormon Corridor*. As a journalist, his byline has appeared in *The Christian Science Monitor*, *American Theatre*, *Huffington Post*, and many local/regional newspapers and magazines.

Daria Peoples' first job was at nine years old in the children's section of her hometown library in Paso Robles, California. She worked a little, but she mostly read picture books. After earning a master's in education and 10 years of teaching, she became a full-time author and illustrator.

Alisa Petersen is the Beverley Taylor Sorenson endowed chair of elementary art education at SUU. She is the director of the artsFUSION outreach program, and she holds degrees in fine art and education and teaches courses in arts integration and creativity in early childhood.

Todd Robert Petersen lives in Cedar City, Utah, with his wife and three children. He is a professor of English at SUU, where he teaches creative writing and film studies courses. *Picnic in the Ruins*, a dark comedy about antiquities theft set on the Utah/Arizona border, came out in 2021.

Zoë Petersen is an illustrator living in southern Utah. Her work has been awarded by the Utah Society of Professional Journalists and 3x3 Magazine. Since 2021, she has been employed as an editorial illustrator. Her art has appeared in *Deseret News*, *Gumption*, and *Short Story, Long*.

Micah Player is an author and illustrator of books and games. His first picture book, *Chloe, Instead*, was published by Chronicle Books in 2012. Rich digital color, washy textures, sharp mid-century inspired shapes, and expressive ink lettering define his style. He and his family live in a little house beneath a big tree in Cedar City, Utah.

Jonathan Reddoch is a co-owner of Collective Tales Publishing. He is a father, writer, editor, and publisher. He writes sci-fi, fantasy, romance, and especially horror. He's a prolific flash fiction author but also writes poetry and short stories. He has been working on his enormous sci-fi novel for over a decade and would like to finish it in this lifetime if possible.

Paisley Rekdal, a former Utah poet laureate, is the author of four books of nonfiction and seven books of poetry, including *Nightingale*, *Appropriate: A Provocation*, and, most recently, *West: A Translation*. She is the editor and creator of the digital archive projects West, Mapping Literary Utah, and Mapping Salt Lake City.

Emily Ronquillo is exploring her artistry through printmaking, collage, and zines. She draws inspiration from pop culture, traveling, and her identity as a biracial queer woman. Emily enjoys creating spaces and accessibly for other people to explore their artistry, most notably through hosting collage parties and zine workshops.

Janet Burton Seegmiller's publications include an award-winning biography, *The Life Story of Robert Taylor Burton*, and the 1998 *History of Iron County, Community above Self*. While at SUU, she and Ryan Paul collaborated on gathering oral histories, photographs, and park history, and in 2020 published *Singaway, Working and Playing for the Utah Parks Company, 1923-1972*.

Stewart Shelley is currently the education director for the Utah Shakespeare Festival. He spent fourteen wonderful years as a high school theatre teacher before making a big move with his family to the island of St. Croix. While he misses the ocean, he is delighted to be back in Utah and part of such an incredible institution for theatre and education.

Whitney Staheli is an artist local to southern Utah working in a range of media, including printmaking and zine making. The themes behind her zines have primarily focused on music, personal growth, and mental health. Her visual art has been featured in local publications such as *Kolob Canyon Review*, and she has exhibited in group shows at SUMA.

Elizabeth Suggs is the founder of the LUW Romance Writers Chapter, co-owner of the indie publisher Collective Tales Publishing, owner of Editing Mee, and the author of a growing number of award-winning published stories.

Nano Taggart is a founding editor of *Sugar House Review* and serves as faculty advisor for SUU's literary magazine, *Kolob Canyon Review*. You can see some of his writing in places like the *Laurel Review*, *Verse Daily*, *Terrain.org*, *The Shore Poetry*, and elsewhere.

Jessica Tvardi's debut indie novel, *The Schoolmaster*, transports readers to the court of King James VI of Scotland. Jessica is an associate professor of English at SUU, where she teaches courses in Shakespeare and early British women writers and co-organizes the Wooden O Symposium.

E.B. (Elaine) Vickers is an award-winning author of picture books as well as middle grade and young adult novels that aim to help readers of all ages find connection and belonging. She grew up in southern Utah, where she spent her time reading, playing basketball, and exploring. Several years and one PhD later, she found her way back to her hometown, where she now spends her time writing, teaching college chemistry, and exploring with her family.

Julie Wright has written 28 novels and is a two-time Whitney Award winner, a Teen Readers' Choice Award Nominee, and a Kansas National Education Association's Reading Circle Commission Nominee. Her books have received several starred reviews and have been listed in the American Library Association's top ten romances of the year.



Natalie Padilla Young co-founded and manages the poetry magazine *Sugar House Review*. Her first book, *All of This Was Once Under Water*, is out from Quarter Press. Natalie's poetry has appeared in *Green Mountains Review*, *Tampa Review*, *Rattle*, *South Dakota Review*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Tar River Poetry*, *Terrain.org*, and elsewhere. She serves on the Utah Arts Advisory and Lightscatter Press boards.

WEEKDAY EVENTS



Monday, Oct. 14 | Cedar City Library

Prehistoric Claws and Jaws | 6-8 p.m.

Julia Lyon discusses her book, *A Dinosaur Named Ruth*, based on the true story of Ruth Mason, a pioneer girl in South Dakota who found dinosaur bones in her own backyard. Hands-on manipulatives will be provided by the Frehner Museum and Cedar Breaks National Monument.

Tuesday, Oct. 15 | Cedar City Library

Lace Up with Elaine Vickers | 6-8 p.m.

In *E.B.* (Elaine) Vickers' middle-grade novel, two seventh graders discover it takes more than grit and a good pair of shoes to run 13.1 miles. You've got to have a partner who refuses to quit.

Wednesday, Oct. 16 | Frontier Homestead State Park Museum

Real Locations, Imagined Selves | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

A writing workshop hosted by Paisley Rekdal and Danielle Beazer Dubrasky on finding and documenting a sense of place. Light supper refreshments will be available.

Thursday, Oct. 17 | 2 Locations

SUU APEX: “West: A Translation” | 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

A reading and discussion with former Utah Poet Laureate Paisley Rekdal as she revisits history through the untold stories of migrants who worked on the transcontinental railroad. Held in the Gilbert Great Hall of the Hunter Alumni Center at Southern Utah University.

Following the Creative Flow | 4-5:30 p.m.

Join us for a writing/walking workshop along Coal Creek Trail with renowned poet Rob Carney. Meet at the gazebo by the Ann J. Gardner Canyon Park’s west side parking lot at 4:00 p.m. Bring water, a hat, a notebook, and a pen, and dress in layers. In case of inclement weather, the alternate location will be Artisans Art Gallery.

Friday, Oct. 18 | SUMA

Join us in a poet-artist crossover event from 6-9 p.m. for the opening of the SUMA exhibit *Salt Lines: Exploring Climate, Environment, and the Saline Influx*. Poets Danielle Beazer Dubrasky (*Drift Migration*) and Natalie Young (*All of This Was Once Under Water*) deliver eco-themed poetry readings. Mingle with artists, talk with book festival authors and illustrators, and explore the museum exhibit.



More venue information can be found on pages 4-5. These events are made possible in partnership with Utah Humanities as part of the annual Utah Humanities Book Festival.

More venue information can be found on pages 4-5. These events are made possible in partnership with Utah Humanities as part of the annual Utah Humanities Book Festival.

SATURDAY PANELS AND SIGNINGS

Want Your Book Signed?

Throughout the day, authors will be at Main Street Books. Come chat during their block, buy their books, and get them signed.

- 10-10:45** Karin Anderson, Lisa Bickmore,
Danielle Beazer Dubrasky, David Pace
- 11-11:45** Simmons Buntin, Rob Carney, Nano Taggart,
Natalie Padilla Young
- 12-12:45** Evan Jones, Janet Burton Seegmiller, L. E. Modesitt, Jr.
- 1-1:45** C.R. (Sylvia) Langille, Jonathan Reddoch,
Elizabeth Suggs
- 2-2:45** Scott Edgar, Rosalyn Eves, Jessica Tvordi, Julie Wright
- 3-3:45** Steve Capone Jr., John DiAntonio, Kase Johnstun,
Craig Lancaster, Todd Petersen

10-10:45

Picture Books for a Better Tomorrow | SUMA

- Author-illustrator Daria Peoples discusses her books as agents of change.

Stop Worrying about Loving Horror | Johnson Art Center

- Join Steve Capone, Jr., C.R. Langille, Jonathan Reddoch, and Elizabeth Suggs for a discussion about the revitalization of horror as a genre and why readers should take another chance on becoming scared.

Tracks Through Time and Terrain | Artisans

- Evan Jones and Janet Burton Seegmiller provide a brief history of the railroad's role in iron mining and manufacturing in Utah and how the railroad helped to make the national parks accessible for all.

Beyond the Book | USF: Frehner Hall

- Join Stewart Shelley as he shares the creative process of transforming the written word into magic on the theatrical stage.

11-11:45

Graphic Novels: Where Words and Art Collide | SUMA

- A brief history of graphic novels and a discussion with Ken Lamug and Nathan Hale about how and why graphic novels appeal to a broad range of ages.

Is 90% of Sci-Fi/Fantasy Actually Real Life? | Johnson Art Center

- Why we find science fiction, fantasy, and speculative fiction so relatable and how authors like Rosalyn Eves, L.E. Modesitt, Jr., and Julie Wright come up with the otherworldly elements that keep us hooked.

The Good, Bad, and the Ugly of Self-Publishing | Artisans

- Come and listen to Scott Edgar, C.L. Langille, and Jessica Tvordi share their successes in and obstacles of self-publishing.

Craft Your Narrative | USF: Frehner Hall

- Novelist, editor, and playwright Craig Lancaster shares how to tap into the writer hiding inside us.

12-12:45

Scribble, Sketch, and Scribe | SUMA

- The full process of writing and illustrating your picture book, featuring Ken Lamug, Daria Peoples, and Micah Player.

Boundless Creativity: Artistry for Books | Johnson Art Center

- Join Alisa Petersen in creating a sketchbook/journal with a list of writing and drawing prompts. Art supplies will be provided, and participants of all ages are welcome.

Small Press, Big Impact | Artisans

- The advantages of using a regional and independent publishing house and the scope of work that these publishers provide readers, featuring Karin Anderson, Danielle Beazer Dubrasky, Kase Johnstun, and David Pace.

Rhyme and Rhythm in 14 Lines | USF: Frehner Hall

- In this workshop for aspiring poets, Stewart Shelley explores the sonnet and its structured organization.

1-1:45

Heroic History, Graphic Glory | SUMA

- Thrilling, daring, and downright gruesome stories from American history in graphic novel form. Listen to Nathan Hale's presentation on Eisner-nominated, #1 New York Times bestselling series *Hazardous Tales*.

15-99 Years Old = The Actual Young Adult Audience | Johnson Art Center

- What took YA so long to become a genre and why its popularity has increased exponentially, featuring Steve Capone, Jr., and Rosalyn Eves.

Shining a Light on Lit Mags | Artisans

- Sugar House Review co-founders Nano Taggart and Natalie Padilla Young as well as and the EIC of *Terrain.org*, Simmons Buntin, discuss what literary magazines offer writers and readers.

Your Words on Center Stage | USF: Frehner Hall

- Playwrights Craig Lancaster and John DiAntonio share their combined wisdom and experience in this discussion on bringing stories to the stage.

2-2:45

The Draw-Off Showdown | SUMA

- Nathan Hale, Ken Lamug, Daria Peoples, and Micah Player share their talents and creative process.

Happy Birthday, L.E. Modesitt, Jr. | Johnson Art Center

- The audience gets the birthday present with this rare presentation by prolific science fiction writer L.E. Modesitt, Jr.

Is Poetry the Fifth Element? | Artisans

- Poets Lisa Bickmore, Rob Carney, Danielle Beazer Dubrasky, and Natalie Padilla Young discuss poetry techniques through the four elements: earth, water, air, and fire.

It's the West—Forge Your Own Trail | USF: Frehner Hall

- Novelists Craig Lancaster, Kase Johnstun, and Todd Petersen explore how the West shapes storytelling across literary devices.

3-3:45

Elevate Your Outdoor Experience | SUMA

- James Aton presents his biography of landscape artist Jimmie Jones, discussing his life and art as it relates to the outdoors.

Beyond Star-Crossed Lovers | Johnson Art Center

- A broadened perspective of the romance novel and the impact of meaningful relationships, featuring Rosalyn Eves, Elizabeth Suggs, and Julie Wright.



Artfully Crafted, Uniquely Yours | Artisans

- Learn about the process of creating a small circulation of self-published work that reflects your talents and allows your voice to be heard, featuring Zoë Petersen, Emily Ronquillo, and Whitney Staheli

Building Bridges Through Storytelling | USF: Frehner Hall

- Tamra Borchardt-Slayton and Autumn Gillard share the history of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah and tell a cultural story.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Special thanks go to the entities that have made this inaugural festival possible. Their aid has allowed us to provide compensation to our panelists, market the festival, create the festival guide you're holding, and more.

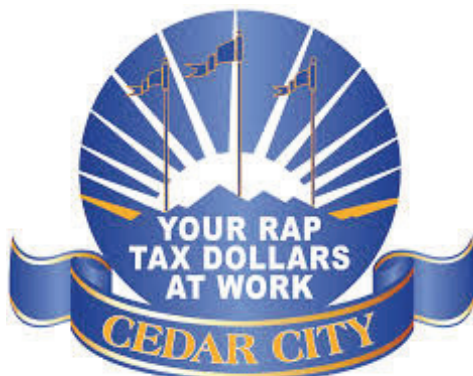
If you would like to donate to or sponsor us, visit our website for more information. Your support will help us with future programming and expanding the festival's reach.

Special Collections



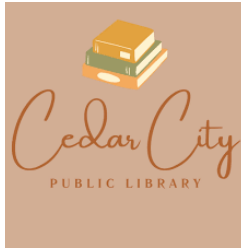
UTAHHUMANITIES

Ideas in Action



RECREATION • ARTS • PARKS

First Edition



Hardback Book



Paperback Book



Cedar City Rotary Club



MEET OUR TEAM

Board of Directors

Brent Potter, President
Jennifer M. Potter, Vice President
Heather Richman-Stein, Treasurer
Lisa Cox, Secretary
Danielle Dubrasky, Board Member
Anthony Miller, Board Member

Committee Members

Paige Cody-Smith, Website Developer
Kase Johnstun, Advisor
Zoë Petersen, Illustrator
Micah Player, Branding Designer
Bryce Potter, Website Developer
Emily Ronquillo, Advisor
Shauri Thacker, Media Coordinator
Case Tippets, Copyeditor
Diane Walsh, Advisor
Steve Yates, Advisor

Special Thanks

Brandon Burk
Cedar Breaks National Monument
Derek Christensen
Steve Decker
Garth & Jerri Frehner Museum of Natural Science
Nathan Hale
Iron County School District
Donn Jersey
Jessica Kinsey
Ryan Paul
Sara Penny
Nano Taggart
David Westwood
Natalie Padilla Young

*Festival guide by Shauri Thacker, logo by Micah Player,
and illustrations by Zoë Petersen*