



Meet the 2015 North Texas Book Festival Steering Committee:

Mandy Aguilar grew up on a farm in the Ozarks and holds a Drama degree from the University of Arkansas. A teenager at heart, she has led the DFW chapter of the Forever Young Adult Book Club since its inception. Mandy is a member of SCBWI and The Writer's Garret, and she serves on the board of Kitchen Dog Theater. She currently oversees development and office administration for Cafe Momentum.

Dr. Rose Brock is a school librarian at Coppell Middle School West in Coppell, Texas; her classroom experience includes teaching English and reading in Irving, Texas. In 2013, Dr. Brock published her dissertation, "AUDIOBOOKS AND ATTITUDES: SCHOOL LIBRARIANS' PERSPECTIVES" and serves as an advisor to the national literacy initiative, Guys Listen, part of the Guys Read program. Brock was named a Mandel Teaching Fellow by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and has served on the John Newbery Award committee, the Texas Library Association's Lone Star Reading List book committee, the International Reading Association's Young Adult Choices Project, and as chair of the Texas State Reading Association's Golden Spur Book Awards committee. Brock also works as a freelance writer for several children's book publishers, creating discussion and teaching guides for books.

Emily Bruce is the public relations manager for Half Price Books, the nation's largest family-owned new and used bookstore chain. Prior to HPB, she served in several account service roles for HCK2 Partners, a public relations, creative and interactive firm based in Addison. While there, she worked on a variety of accounts including Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Greater Dallas, Regency Energy Partners and Viverae. Bruce has a bachelor's degree in public relations from Texas Tech University. In her spare time, she enjoys running, reading and watching sports.

Christine Dobson earned an MLS from Texas Woman's University and worked as a corporate librarian for nine years. Dobson has held a number of positions at Irving Public Library in the last 13 years, including Adult Services supervisor and manager of the Central Library. In 2012 she was named library director. Under her leadership the Irving Public Library established the Job Center, developed an on-going training program to encourage staff efficiencies, increased access to electronic resources and dramatically increased the number and variety of programs offered to the public.

Kayte Ghaffar is a freelance graphic designer and marketing consultant. After training as a mathematics educator at Florida State University and spending several years in the classroom, Kayte transitioned to a position as product development director at a paper crafting company. Now the mom of a busy 8 year old, she sneaks in the latest YA novel between driving carpool, teaching Junior Master Gardening and throwing a ball for her energetic dog. She is often found with a cup of earl grey in hand.

Becky Gomez is the marketing communications manager at Half Price Books where she celebrated ten years in April. During her time at HPB, she has led her team in developing outreach initiatives such as the Million Book Donation Project and Half Pint Library program which spread the gift of reading in HPB's local communities. She enjoys volunteering in the Dallas community, most recently serving on the communications committee of the Junior League of Dallas as annual report editor and internal communications chair. She has a personal mission to read and share books voraciously, maintain the distinguished reputation of middle children and spoil her four year old pit bull named Izzie.

Hope Krum, previously a high school teacher, graduated from Texas Women's University 12 years ago to become a school librarian at Bowie Middle School in Irving, Texas. Krum is an advocate of life long literacy, presenting programs at conferences on the local, state, and national level. Having served on Plano's Star Lit Festival, Krum looks forward to bringing the North Texas Teen Book Festival to the DFW area.

Kristin Treviño is a teen services librarian at the Irving Public Library, coordinating YA collection development, programming and author visits. She received her Bachelors in History from the University of Texas at Arlington and an MLS from the University of North Texas. If you can manage to peak past the massive stacks of books, journals, notebooks and papers on her desk, you will usually find Treviño designing a new teen booklist or bookmark, while plotting yet another author visit.

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