INTRODUCTION

Every November, Charleston Literary Festival sets the city abuzz with ten days of engaging conversations, lively celebrations, and intimate parties—all dedicated to bringing people together through books and big ideas. A destination cultural event that takes place in the historic Dock Street Theatre, the Festival’s live sessions offer nuanced discussion and moments of revelation.

Distinguished authors of national and international acclaim join interlocutors with specialized knowledge to cover topics both timely and timeless: the arts, race, gender, war, technology, health, history, and many more. Attendees can pose questions to authors in real time, and get up close with their favorites thanks to post-event book signings.

Festival Donors enjoy an even deeper experience. Whether in the Donor Lounge or at parties held in private homes, meet world class authors in spirited conversation.

Donors proudly sustain the Festival’s access initiatives and commitment to diversity through strategic partnerships. The 2023 Festival boasted strong international representation with speakers from over thirteen countries, plus expanded formatting to include a film screening, choral performance, and panel discussion in collaboration with The Guardian at Charleston’s new International African American Museum. Collaborations with the Mayor’s office and Charleston County Public Library ensured free public events and screenings. Hundreds of tickets and dozens of books were sponsored for students and their teachers across the Southeast, while our first ever Charleston Literary Festival Young Writers Award involved area public high schools and featured the original work of winners onstage.
PAST SPEAKERS

André Aciman  Yaa Gyasi  Paul Muldoon
Margaret Atwood  Paul Harding  Joyce Carol Oates
Brit Bennet  Geoffrey Harpham  Maggie O’Farrell
Geraldine Brooks  Nick Hornby  Ben Okri
Tina Brown  Walter Isaacson  Imani Perry
Jung Chang  Margo Jefferson  George Saunders
Hernan Diaz  Patrick Radden Keefe  Simon Schama
Julian Fellowes  Claire Keegan  Maggie Shipstead
Richard Ford  Jean Hanff Korelitz  Lionel Shriver
Eddie S. Glaude Jr.  Rebecca Makkai  Lisa Taddeo
Adam Gopnik  Ian McEwan  Colm Tóibín
Stephen Greenblatt  Tiya Miles  Jeannette Winterson
Elisabeth Griffith  Madeline Miller  Carl Zimmer

WHAT OUR AUTHORS & ATTENDEES SAY

It’s the best literary festival in the United States!
— Richard Ford

Nothing could make me — us! — happier than returning to Charleston. Many thanks again for pursuing this; it was a highlight of our year.
— Adam Gopnik

Charleston was absolutely wonderful – my event there was the best of many, many that I did on my fall book tour. The audience was just remarkable.
— Paul Harding, Booker Prize short-listed author

I’ve had the privilege to attend many literary festivals, but this one has a certain gravitas and sizzle that the others do not.
— David Blight, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian
DONOR LEVELS AND BENEFITS

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR: $50,000
• Access to all sessions, donor lounge, and four donor parties, including the Literary Feast
• Includes Executive Director Season Preview Roundtable
• Get first choice to underwrite three author sessions
• Attend a private dinner party with Festival authors

SUSTAINING SPONSOR: $25,000
• Access for two people to all sessions, donor lounge, and four donor parties, including the Literary Feast
• Includes Executive Director Season Preview Roundtable
• Get earlier choice to underwrite two author sessions
• Attend a private dinner party with Festival authors

EXECUTIVE SPONSOR: $15,000
• Access for two people to all sessions, donor lounge, and four donor parties, including the Literary Feast
• Includes Executive Director Season Preview Roundtable
• Get early choice to underwrite an author session

SENIOR SPONSOR: $10,000
• Access for two people to all sessions, donor lounge, and four donor parties, including the Literary Feast
• Includes Executive Director Season Preview Roundtable
• Underwrite an author session

PARTNER SPONSOR: $5,000
• Access for two people to all sessions, donor lounge, and four donor parties, including the Literary Feast
• Includes Executive Director Season Preview Roundtable

PREMIER SPONSOR: $2,500
• Access for two people to all sessions, to donor lounge and three parties

FESTIVAL SPONSOR: $1,500
• Access for one person to all sessions, to donor lounge and three parties

WEEKEND PACKAGE: $2,500
• Access to all author sessions, donor lounge, and two parties for first or second weekend
• Discounted hotel rooms in historic downtown Charleston
• Literary walking tour: exclusive to Charleston Literary Festival
• Charleston garden tour: exclusive to Charleston Literary Festival
• Personal restaurant concierge service

Suzanne Pollak, Director of Development
suzanne.pollak@charlestonliteraryfestival.com
Charleston Literary Festival, Inc., is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to building a world-class literary festival that allows people to experience the transformative power of literature, ideas, and conversations.