

AUTHOR SCHEDULE ...



FRIDAY (at OVERDUE) | MARCH 28

8 - 9 PM

AUDITORIUM	Wham! Kapow! Gain a superpower, fight the villain, be the hero, pick up the next issue and start it all over again.
	Chuck Brown, Aqua-Man, Superman, Titans, Bitterroot
	Chad Bowers, X-Men '92, Deadpool
	Qiana Whitted, Desegregating Comics: Debating Blackness in the Golden Age of American Comics

SATURDAY | MARCH 29

10 - 11 AM

11:30 - 12:30 PM

1 - 2 PM

2:30 - 3:30 PM

4 - 5 PM

MAIN STAGE	What's Love Got to Do With It? Check true love off your bucket list, no matter if you find it at an amusement park, an award-winning small town, an exclusive resort or the Royal Academy of Science. Vanessa Riley, A Wager at Midnight Amy Ratcliffe, Thrill Ride Cassie Verano, 90 Days to Love Synithia Williams, Frenemies with Benefits	Headliner: Patti Callahan Henry In conversation with Carla Damron. Patti Callahan Henry is a <i>New York Times</i> , <i>Globe and Mail</i> , and <i>USA Today</i> bestselling author of eighteen novels, including thirteen contemporaries set mainly in the South Carolina's Lowcountry and, more recently, six works of historical fiction: <i>The Story She Left Behind</i> (March 2025), <i>The Secret Book of Flora Lea</i> , <i>Once Upon a Wardrobe</i> , <i>Surviving Savannah</i> , <i>Wild Swan</i> , and <i>Becoming Mrs. Lewis</i> .	It's Emotionally Complicated! With all these twists and turns and a bit of betrayal, will they find love and passion in their future? Aries Skye, Love on the Rebound KC Mills, You Could Do Damage Kimberly Brown, Courage to Love Again B Love, The Loyal Wife	Clues and Conspiracies Mystery is everywhere, even in small towns and island resorts. Where will the clues take you, and what dark secrets might you uncover on the journey? C. Hope Clark, Edisto Storm Carla Damron, The Orchid Tattoo Allie Pleiter, One Sharp Stitch	Headliner: Mike Curato Mike Curato is an author and illustrator of books for children, teens, and adults. He is best known for his <i>Little Elliot</i> picture book series and his young adult graphic novel, <i>Flamer</i> , which was released to critical acclaim and received several honors including the 2020 Lambda Literary Award for LGBTQ Young Adult, the 2021 Massachusetts Book Award for Young Adult, and was listed as one of NPR's Best Books of 2020.
	Injustice in Focus Experience a firsthand account of the fight for civil rights in South Carolina through Williams's life behind the camera through his photography. Cecil Williams, Injustice in Focus: The Civil Rights Photography of Cecil Williams Claudia Smith Brinson, Injustice in Focus: The Civil Rights Photography of Cecil Williams	Ooh Scary! Creepy and spooky with a Southern drawl—think taxidermy, off-kilter hospitality, and melancholy. It'll give you the vapors. Julia Elliot, Hellions: Stories Emily Carpenter, Gothictown Nathan Ballingrud, Crypt of the Moon Spider	Echoes of the Past Get a true sense of the past by exploring the emotions and motivations of imagined women characters rooted in Southern historical events. Vanessa Miller, The American Queen Rhonda McKnight, Bitter & Sweet Diane C. McPhail, Follow the Stars Home Donna Everhart, When the Jessamine Grows	Headliner: DéLana R.A. Dameron DéLana R.A. Dameron is an artist whose primary medium is storytelling. Her first book of fiction is <i>Redwood Court</i> (Random House, February 2024), a Reese Book Club pick. Her debut poetry collection, <i>How God Ends Us</i> , was selected by Elizabeth Alexander for the SC Poetry Book Prize, and her second collection, <i>Weary Kingdom</i> , was chosen by Nikky Finney for the Palmetto Poetry Series.	Picturing the Past Photographs and portraits connect us to the past, demonstrate what's important to us, and channel our affections. Explore the power of photography and the work of photographer Richard Samuel Roberts. Dianne Johnson Feelings, H is for Harlem Vennie Deas Moore, Palmetto Portraits Dr. Bobby Donaldson, Moderator
	Hub City 30th Anniversary Celebrate and reflect on the first 30 years of Hub City and share the joys, challenges, and goals for the next chapter. Betsy Teter, North of Main: Spartanburg's Historic Black Neighborhoods of North Dean Street, Gas Bottom, and Back of the College Meg Reid, Executive Director Ray McManus, The Last Saturday in America	The Cheese Biscuit Queen Tells All Queen Mary Martha exclaims, "kiss my aspic!" telling stories that some might wish were kept within the family. She'll share recipes just as juicy and delicious as the best gossip. Mary Martha Greene, The Cheese Biscuit Queen Kiss My Aspic! Jeffrey Dale Lofton, Moderator	Public Poetry and Politics Current and former poets laureate will share their stories, poetry, and experiences promoting poetry in their home places from around South Carolina Marjory Wentworth, One River, One Boat Jennifer Bartell Boykin, Traveling Mercy Angelo Geter, More God than Dead Marcus Amaker, Hold What Makes You Whole Ed Madden, A Pooka in Arkansas	Beavers and People Beavers are a vital species that can shape landscapes and build important water sources. But how can humans and beavers better co-exist? Cassie Premo Steele, Beaver Girl	Over the Top, Just South Southern man better keep your head and deal with the long shadow of your past that's cast over modern masculinity. Ray McManus, The Last Saturday in America David Joy, Those We Thought We Knew Chris Koslowski, Kayfabe

AUTHOR SCHEDULE

(continued)



SUNDAY | MARCH 30

11 AM - Noon

12:30 - 1:30 PM

2 - 3 PM

MAIN STAGE	<p>Headliner: Abbott Kahler Abbott Kahler (formerly Karen Abbott) is the author of four <i>New York Times</i> bestselling works of narrative nonfiction. <i>USA Today</i> once named her "a pioneer of sizzle history." Her books include <i>Sin in the Second City</i>, <i>American Rose</i>, <i>Liar Temptress Soldier Spy</i>, <i>The Ghosts of Eden Park</i>, and <i>Eden Undone: A True Story of Sex, Murder, and Utopia at the Dawn of World War II</i>.</p>	<p>Not a Hoax: Book Banning and Intellectual Freedom Exercise your rights to ideas and expression with this panel of experts exploring current events, impacts on young readers, and the outlook ahead.</p> <p>Valerie Byrd Fort, Instructor, <i>University of South Carolina School of Information Science</i></p> <p>Jordan Henry, School Librarian</p> <p>Cassie Owens Moore, Intellectual Freedom Chair, SCASL</p> <p>Ashley Snelgrove, Librarian</p> <p>Josh Malkin, ACLU</p> <p>McKenzie Lemhouse, Academic Librarian</p>	<p>Headliner: Brendan Slocumb In conversation with Jonathan Haupt.</p> <p>Brendan Slocumb was raised in Fayetteville, North Carolina and for the past two decades has been a public and private school music educator from kindergarten through twelfth grade. In 2022, he published his first novel, <i>The Violin Conspiracy</i> which was selected as a Good Morning American Book Club Pick. His second novel, <i>Symphony of Secrets</i> was published in 2023 and his forthcoming novel <i>The Dark Maestro</i> will be released in 2025.</p>
AUDITORIUM	<p>Love and Belonging Find a friend or a lover, or maybe just your place in this world whether it be on the soccer team or in a new city.</p> <p>Jonny Garza Villa, Futbolista</p> <p>Mike Curato, Flamer</p>	<p>Thrills and Chills Does something feel "off" to you? Is there something menacing around that next turn? Is your perfect life maybe not as perfect as you thought?</p> <p>Yasmin Angoe, <i>Not What She Seems</i></p> <p>Terri Parlato, <i>Watch Your Back</i></p> <p>Emily Carpenter, Gothictown</p>	<p>Rights and Freedom What does it take to get and keep your civil rights, and how do the stories of the past still resonate today?</p> <p>Millicent Brown, <i>Another Sojourner Looking for Truth: My Journey from Civil Rights to Black Power and Beyond</i></p> <p>Carolyn Click, <i>The Cost of the Vote: George Elmore and the Battle for the Ballot</i></p>
THEATER	<p>Coming of Age Explore the journey of life, facing its challenges to discover unexpected resilience and determination.</p> <p>Rachel Hanson, <i>The End of Tennessee</i></p> <p>Jeffrey Dale Lofton, <i>Red Clay Suzie</i></p>	<p>Kugels and Collards Food can take us back to a place and bring us together around the table. Enjoy a lively collection of South Carolina Jewish stories and special family recipes.</p> <p>Rachel Gordin Barnett, <i>Kugels and Collards: Stories of Food, Family, and Tradition in Jewish South Carolina</i></p>	<p>You'll Do Description: Don't wed yourself to the idea that marriage is just for love. From the American Colonial era to the present day, the institution hasn't always been used for good.</p> <p>Marcia Zug, <i>You'll Do: A History of Marrying for Reasons Other than Love</i></p> <p>Emily Suski, Moderator</p>



READFREELYFEST.COM

HOST SPONSORS



RICHLAND LIBRARY
access freely.®



RICHLAND LIBRARY FRIENDS + FOUNDATION™

BEST SELLER SPONSORS



THE GLADYS KRIEBLE DELMAS FOUNDATION

The Post and Courier COLUMBIA



freetimes
A The Post and Courier COMPANY

LITERARY SPONSORS

