

A faded background image showing a man and a woman looking at books. The man is wearing a white hat and sunglasses, and the woman is wearing sunglasses and a patterned top. They are both holding books. The text is overlaid on this image.

38TH ANNUAL

PRINTERS ROW

LIT FEST

2023

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

PRESS KIT



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LIT FEST

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The Printers Row Lit Fest (PRLF), the largest free outdoor literary showcase in the Midwest, is a community-based celebration for book lovers presented by the not-for-profit Near South Planning Board.

More than 100,000 visitors are expected over the two-day festival, which will feature carefully selected offerings from over 100 booksellers; everything from the tattered to the rare to 'hot off the press,' newly published works. Attendees can also participate in a variety of programs for kids, young adults, and grownups.

The Printers Row Lit Fest is celebrating its 38th year. Created by the Near South Planning Board, the Fest, originally called the Printers Row Book Fair, was initially intended to attract visitors to the Printers Row neighborhood on Chicago's Near South Side, which had previously been a major publishing hub.

Over the decades, the event has grown into the largest Midwest book festival collecting some remarkable statistics; over 20 million visitors have attended the event, hundreds of authors have spoken, and millions of books have made their way onto the shelves of eager readers. We look forward to a splendid, robust and renewed bibliographic celebration with you in 2023!

One of the most important literary events in the country, the PRLF for 2023 will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9th and 10th in Chicago's Printers Row neighborhood.



TRANSPORTATION/PARKING/ACCOMMODATIONS**PARKING:**

- We recommend visitors use a parking app (Spot Hero, Park-Mobile, etc.), pay the street parking fee, or park at nearby garages and lots.
- Parking Garages are located at 711 S. Plymouth Court, 124 W. Polk Street, 600 S. Clark Street, and 515 S. Financial Place.
- Available lots also include 430 S. Clark Street, 318 S. Federal Avenue, and 549 S. Wells Street (Cacciatore).
- LAZ parking is at 109 W Polk Street and 8 E. 9th Street.

The Fest is accessible by public transportation from all over the city.

Buses:

#29, #62 and #146 stop southeast of the fest at State & Polk #24 and #850 stop southwest of the fest at Clark & Polk

Trains:

The Red line stop at Harrison is just east of the festival, about a five-minute walk. The Brown line, Purple line, Orange line and Pink line all stop at the Harold Washington Library station located between Plymouth and State on Van Buren, which is about a quarter mile north of the fest or a 10-minute walk. Blue Line stops at Jackson Blvd. Follow signs for SW Exit/Van Buren, which is about 4 minutes to the Lit Fest.

NEARBY HOTELS:

Best Western Grant Park Hotel
1100 S. Michigan Ave

Hilton Chicago
720 S. Michigan Ave

Blackstone Hotel
636 S. Michigan Ave

Le Meridian Essex Chicago
800 S Michigan Ave

Blake Hotel
500 S. Dearborn St

The Palmer House
17 E. Monroe St.



Printers Row Lit Fest Reaches Readers for Almost 40 Years: The Near South Planning Board, a Chicago nonprofit, created the Printers Row Lit Fest with the intention of creating an outdoor two-day festival for book lovers as they came to the city's famed Printers Row neighborhood. Little did the planners know that the event would write its own story by attracting not only hundreds of booksellers but over 20 million visitors to cement its legacy as the largest book festival in the Midwest. As the Fest celebrates its 38th year, a representative can talk about the event's history, famous authors who contributed to the fest success, and changes seen throughout almost four decades.

2023 Book Trends Favor Print, Indie and Self-Publishing: According to Ingenium Books, a hybrid publisher of outstanding nonfiction that also partners with authors in helping them, some of the [2023 book trends](#) include print books being the most popular format. According to [WordsRated](#) found that for every e-book, about four print books sell. As many as 37 percent of Americans say that they only read print books. Also, Indie and self-publishing continues to grow as well. WordsRated also reports that "Indie and self-published titles now make up [around 40 percent of commercially available books](#)." An article from Ingenium Books states that "publishing their own books – or doing it in collaboration with an Indie publisher – allows more authors to pursue writing as a side hustle and to have more control over their work."

Connecting Modern Readers to the Written Word: In a world where technology permeates almost every aspect of our lives, the power of the written word in books is alive and well as readers flock to the many book fairs and festivals throughout the United States such as Chicago's popular and established Printers Row Lit Fest. According to a [Medium article](#) by author and writer Diana Hatz shared her thought while attending the Santa Fe Festival. One of the takeaways was learning how the writers behind the books are real people who are insightful, humorous and courageous. A Printers Row representative can also talk about how such an event can contribute to authors who are new and experienced.



- Tell us about the Printers Row Lit Fest. How many authors are you expecting as well as the visitors?
- Why do you think this festival resonates with authors and readers?
- Why do some people still like to have an actual book in their hands? Have e-books affected the way people read?
- Can you talk about the personal connections that are made at this kind of event? What kind of support do you get from the City of Chicago?
- Who are some of the famous authors that have participated at the event? Are there any other kinds of stories that you can share with the public?
- How has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your event?
- What do you see for the future of Printers Row Lit Fest?

