

39th Annual

PRINTERS ROW

LIT FEST

2024



September 7 & 8 | 10am - 6pm
CHICAGO

PRINTERSROWLITFEST.ORG

PRESS KIT



PRINTERS ROW LIT FEST

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PRINTERS ROW **LIT FEST**
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The 2024 Printers Row Lit Fest (PRLF), the Midwest’s largest free outdoor literary celebration, will be held from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, and Sunday, Sept. 8. The two-day festival of 100-plus booksellers and more than 70 author presentations takes place in the Printers Row Historic District. On five blocks of downtown Chicago, cars are replaced with tents and tables, indoor and outdoor stages, a children’s storybook parade, and free admission and programs for all ages. 2024 Harold Washington Literary Award-winning Poet Tracy K. Smith will headline this year’s Printers Row Lit Fest.

PRLF, now in its 39th year, originally called the Printers Row Book Fair, has grown to one of the three major book festivals in the country with over 20 million visitors. More than 100,000 attendees are expected over the annual two-day festival, which will feature carefully selected offerings—everything from the tattered to the rare to ‘hot off the press,’ newly published works.

PRLF is a community-based event for book lovers presented by the not-for-profit Near South Planning Board. The organization’s mission is to plan, guide, and encourage a program of development for the near south area while creating, supporting, and promoting a thriving business district.

For more information about PRLF, visit <http://printersrowlitfest.org>.

For more information about the Near South Planning Board, visit <https://thenspb.org/>.



THIS FREE EVENT TAKES PLACE ON THE STREETS OF SOUTH DEARBORN, FROM IDA B. WELLS TO POLK STREET. COME RAIN OR SHINE!



Times and Dates: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7 and Sunday, Sept. 8

Address: Printers Row Lit Fest is located in historic Printers Row (once the publishing hub of Chicago!), on and around the area of Dearborn Street, from Polk Street to Ida B. Wells Drive in Chicago.

CONTACT:

Press Inquiries: Marie Lazzara – marie@jjrmarketing.com

Near South Planning Board President and Executive Director: Bonnie Sanchez-Carlson – bonnie@thenspb.org

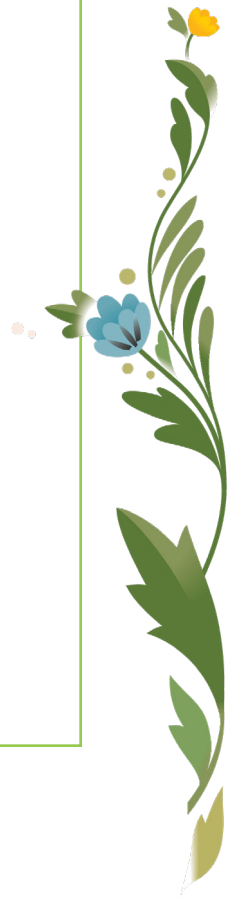
Exhibitors: Ashley Taylor – vendors@printersrowlitfest.org

Sponsorships & General Inquiries: info@thenspb.org

Website: <http://printersrowlitfest.org>



**UPDATED 2024 MAP
COMING SOON**





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 Méridien Essex Chicago
800 S Michigan Ave

Blake Hotel
500 S. Dearborn St

The Palmer House
17 E. Monroe St.



THE RED LINE STOP AT HARRISON IS JUST EAST OF THE FESTIVAL, ABOUT A FIVE-MINUTE WALK.



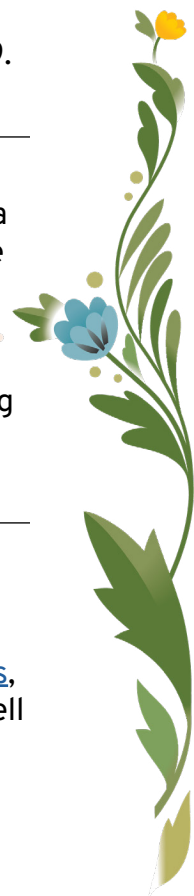
Printers Row Lit Fest Reaches Readers for Almost 40 Years: Near South Planning Board, a Chicago nonprofit, created Printers Row Lit Fest (PRLF) to showcase the redevelopment efforts of the Historic Printers Row District via an outdoor, two-day fair for book lovers. Little did the planners know that the event would write its own story by attracting hundreds of booksellers and over 20 million visitors to cement its legacy as the largest book festival in the Midwest. As PRLF celebrates its 39th year, a representative can talk about the event's history, famous authors who contributed to the event's success, and changes seen throughout almost four decades.

Bringing Books Out in The Sunshine, Printers Row Lit Fest's Founder Shares How Literacy Event Put Chicago on the Map: Thirty-nine years ago, Chicago artist Bette Cerf Hill created Printers Row Lit Fest with a goal—"to bring books out in the sunshine"—as a way to instill in people a lifelong joy and love of reading and to share that excitement with others, if only for one weekend. What started with a small gathering of authors and booksellers, the event developed into the Midwest's largest free outdoor literary showcase as it invites nationally known authors and attracts over 100,000 people annually. Cerf Hill can offer anecdotes of working behind the scenes.

Printers Row Lit Fest Provides Romantic Setting for 15-Year Marriage: Chicagoland couple and bibliophiles Jeff and Audrey Raden could write a romance novel about meeting one fateful day at Chicago's Printers Row Lit Fest in the late 2000s. Their meeting blossomed into love and held their wedding at PRLF in 2009. The couple can share their story as they celebrate their 15th anniversary this year.

Presenting Diverse Voices: According to [Barnes & Noble Press](#), "In 2024 and beyond, there will be a continued emphasis on not just writing books that explore a wider range of voices, perspectives, and genres, but also how readers access these books. While it shouldn't be "trendy," having content that better represents (and celebrates) the range of experiences, cultures, and perspectives makes reading and writing a more enriching and transformative experience for both creators and audiences alike." Events like Printers Row Lit Fest promote diversity by showcasing authors who take pride in telling different stories and experiences that may be unfamiliar to audiences.

Authors Creating Their Brands: Authors are always looking to connect with their readers to grow their base, and they see the benefits of establishing personal human ties with their readers. Looking at 2024 book publishing trends, Written Word Media mentions how [authors are building their brands and their communities](#), especially as we see the rise of AI and a wide array of different digital vehicles to sell books and participating in in-person events like Printers Row Lit Fest.



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ARTWORK BY STEVE MUSGRAVE

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