

Printers Row Lit Fest – SATURDAY, 9/12/2026						
Time	Center Stage (On S. Dearborn St. in Printers Row Park between Polk and Harrison Streets, West Side of Dearborn.)	North Stage (On S. Dearborn St., just south of Ida B. Wells Dr.)	Joseph & Bessie Feinberg Foundation Stage (On W. Polk St., just east of Clark St.)	Digital Realty Stage (On W. Polk St., at Plymouth Ct.)	Grace Place, 2nd Floor (637 S. Dearborn St.)	Grace Place, 1st Floor (637 S. Dearborn St.)
10 a.m.	10 a.m. Children's Program Storytime with Betsy Bird, <i>Giant Dance Party</i> and Rekha S. Rajan, <i>That Swingin' Sound</i> Followed by the Storybook Children's Parade featuring the Chicago Public Library's Great Horned Owl, Drum Major Nicholas Wade, Rekha S. Rajan who will dance and sing, and Betsy Bird who will hand out free books!	10 a.m. Don't Let AI Do All the Thinking: Creativity and Innovation in the Digital Age featuring Sara Connell, <i>The Download: Train Your Brain. Unlock Your Genius. Create Miracles.</i> in conversation with Gint Aras	10 a.m. – Welcome by County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and Chicago Public Library Commissioner Chris Brown Opening Program featuring New York Times Bestselling Author Dolen Perkins-Valdez, <i>Happy Land</i> in conversation with Natalie Y. Moore	10 a.m. New Historical Fiction Novels featuring Veronica Chapa, <i>Malinalli</i> and Molly Sturdevant, <i>The Sleepers</i> in conversation with Kasey Evans	10 a.m. More Than A Game: Glories, Defeats, and Overcoming Adversity featuring Maureen McKane, <i>Walters Way: A Coach, His Runners, and His Race</i> and Jay Thomas, <i>Chief: The Three Lives of Gene Locklear</i> in conversation with Gerald Butters	10 a.m. Michael O'Donnell, <i>Concert Black</i> in conversation with Nancy Burke
10:30 a.m.						
11 a.m.	11 a.m. Children's Program Chicago Multicultural Dance Center presents a reading of <i>The Rap on Girls in Ballet</i> by Founder Homer Hans Bryant, accompanied by Hiplet Next	11 a.m. Lauren Hough, <i>Monster of a Land: On the Road in Search of Modern America</i> in conversation with Jerry Nunn, <i>Windy City Times</i>		11 a.m. Reporting on Operation Midway Blitz featuring several members of the Pulitzer Prize-winning <i>Chicago Tribune</i> staff: Andrew Carter, Gregory Royal Pratt, Laura Rodriguez Presa, Erika Slife in conversation with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Bill Healy	11 a.m. What Keeps Us Going When the Waters Get Choppy featuring Robert P. Baird, <i>The Nimbus</i> and Kathleen Rooney, <i>Man Overboard</i> in conversation with Ann McGlinn	11 a.m. Dark Humor featuring Bindu Bansinath, <i>Men Like Ours</i> and Sara Levine, <i>The Hitch</i> in conversation with Chris Bower
11:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m. Children's Program Storytime with Leslé Honoré, who will read from her book <i>My Brown Boy</i> (Ages 6-8) Followed by Storytime with County Board President Toni Preckwinkle who will read <i>Horton Hatches the Egg</i> by Dr. Seuss (Ages 3-6) (includes take-home crayons and coloring pages)		11:30 a.m. New Books on the 1980s City featuring Pulitzer Prize-winner Heather Ann Thompson, <i>Fear and Fury: The Reagan Eighties, the Bernie Goetz Shootings, and the Rebirth of White Rage</i> and Lashawn Harris, <i>Tell Her Story: Eleanor Bumpurs & the Police Killing That Galvanized New York City</i> in conversation with Lisa Lucas			
12 p.m.	12 p.m. Maurice Broaddus, <i>A City Dreaming</i> in conversation with Mikki Kendall Presented by the Chicago Public Library		12 p.m. Printers Row Lit Fest Poetry Hour featuring dezireé a. brown, <i>they/she/he: ritual to forget your (un)becoming</i> , Taylor Byas, <i>Resting Bitch Face</i> , Maud Lavin, <i>Swim Lessons</i> , Lisa Low, <i>Replica</i> , Meghan B. Malachi, <i>No Lace Fronts in Iowa City: poems</i> Co-emceed by: Timothy Rey and Marty McConnell	12 p.m. The Importance of Horror featuring Caroline Bicks, <i>Monsters in the Archives: My Year of Fear with Stephen King</i> and Juan Martinez, <i>Something Followed Us Home: Tales of Latiné Horror</i> in conversation with Jeremy T. Wilson	12 p.m. Sanctuary Stories: A Journalism Theater Project featuring Gabriela Barrios, Amber Dow, Zimbo Gessert, Jean Marie Koon, and Matt Specht Led by Medill School journalism professor and theater artist Craig Duff	
12:30 p.m.			12:30 p.m. How do we write our way out of this? Atima Omara, <i>The Instigators: How Black Women Have Been Essential to American Democracy (And What We Can Learn from Them)</i> , Lisa Weinert, <i>Narrative Healing: Awaken the Power of Your Story</i> , Jamia Wilson, <i>Make Good Trouble: Discover Movements That Sparked Change</i> and Emily Yellin, <i>Nonviolent: A Memoir of Resistance, Agitation, and Love</i> in conversation with Anne K. Ream			
1 p.m.	1 p.m. The Musicality of Poetry: A Reading and Musical Performance featuring Dhe-Di Beats, David Blair II, Hasani/ANSI, Manasseh, and Nikki Patin, <i>Working on Me</i> Presented by the Guild Literary Complex	1 p.m. Maria Pappas discusses her memoir <i>Maria the Pappas</i> in conversation with Mark Eleveld		1 p.m. Let's Talk Golden Girls! Taylor Cole Miller, <i>The Golden Girls: Tales from the Lanai</i> and David Cerda, <i>Hell in a Handbag Productions</i> in conversation with Edward Kelsey Moore	1 p.m. High Stakes on Shifting Ground featuring Emily Nemens, <i>Clutch</i> and Nathaniel Rich, <i>Cloudthief</i> in conversation with Paula Carter	1 p.m. Secrets featuring Kimberly Gomes, <i>A Road of Her Own</i> , Ruthvika Rao, <i>All Our Evenings</i> and Olesya Salnikova Gilmore, <i>The Fortune Tellers of Rue Daru</i> in conversation with LaTanya Lane
1:30 p.m.			1:30 p.m. Two Paths, Many Stories: A Poetry Reading and Discussion featuring Illinois Poet Laureate Mark Turcotte (Illinois Humanities) and Chicago Poet Laureate Mayda Del Valle (Chicago Public Library) in conversation with Adrian Matejka, Editor of <i>Poetry</i> magazine			
2 p.m.	2 p.m. New Suspense Thrillers featuring Daniel Born (pen name David Saul Bergman), <i>Prodigal Sons</i> , Tracy Clark, <i>Edge (Detective Harriet Foster Book 4)</i> , Randy Richardson, <i>Another Havana Hangover: A Tanner Ford Thriller</i> in conversation with Susanna Calkins	2 p.m. Pro Tips for Writers featuring Neal Allen, <i>Good Writing: 36 Ways to Improve Your Sentences</i> in conversation with Donald G. Evans	2:30 p.m. Literacy and Character Development in Literature and Life featuring Newbery Medalist Christopher Paul Curtis, author of <i>Bud, Not Buddy</i> , Deshon Johnson, Board Member and Student Ambassador with Literacy Chicago, and Sarah Taylor, Director of Adult Education at World Relief Chicagoland in conversation with Sarah Karp, Education Reporter with WBEZ	2 p.m. Jeffrey Winters, <i>The Blind Spot: How Oligarchs Dominate Our Democracy</i> in conversation with Joan Esposito, WCPT820 Heartland Signal	2 p.m. In Search of a Creative Life featuring Aria Aber, <i>Good Girl</i> and Laura Sims, <i>The Man</i> in conversation with Gregory Collins	2 p.m. Legacies of Violence featuring Abby Geni, <i>Children of the Wolf</i> and Angie Elita Newell, <i>All I See is Violence</i> in conversation with Giano Cromley
2:30 p.m.			3:30 p.m. National Bestseller Zayd Ayers Dohrn, <i>Dangerous, Dirty, Violent, and Young: A Fugitive Family in the Revolutionary Underground</i> in conversation with Ben Austen			
3 p.m.	3 p.m. Women Sleuths featuring Shannon Baker, <i>Scorched Line</i> , Yosha Gunasekera, <i>The Midnight Taxi</i> , Lori Rader-Day, <i>Wreck Your Heart</i> in conversation with Lina Chern	3 p.m. Writing LGBTQ+ History featuring John D'Emilio, <i>Making Gay History: Memoir of a Scholar-Activist</i> and Owen Keehnen, <i>A Place for Us: Gay Life at Chicago's Belmont Rocks</i> in conversation with Jarrett Neal		3 p.m. Writing Chicago: New Fiction Set in Chicago featuring Barry Pearce, <i>The Plan of Chicago: A City in Stories</i> , Rajesh C. Oza, <i>Double Play on the Red Line</i> , and Marvin Tate, <i>4th Shift</i> in conversation with Albert DeGenova, After Hours Press Presented in partnership with the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame	3 p.m. James Beard Award-winning Michael Gebert, <i>The Chicago Way: An Oral History of Chicago Dining</i> in conversation with Jacoby Cochran, <i>City Cast</i>	3 p.m. Searching for Meaning Through Sport and Ritual featuring Mike Copperman, <i>Seeking Kenny: A Wrestler's Journey</i> , Bill Hillman, <i>White Flight</i> , and David Murray, <i>Soccer Dad</i> in conversation with Jeanie Chung
3:30 p.m.						
4 p.m.	4 p.m. Using Humor to Fight Authoritarianism featuring Kelsie Huff, The Lincoln Lodge, Jordan LaFlure, <i>The Onion</i> and David Pasquesi, <i>Veep</i> and <i>TJ and Dave</i> in conversation with Adrienne Gunn	4 p.m. Chicago Horror featuring Cynthia Pelayo, <i>Something Followed Us Home: Tales of Latiné Horror</i> and Theodore C. Van Alst Jr., <i>Back for Blood: Never Whistle at Night Part II</i> in conversation with Mike Phillips, Agita Publishing	4:30 p.m. RHINO's 50th anniversary reading featuring Brenda Cárdenas (Wisconsin Poet Laureate), MJ Dean, Teresa Dzieglewicz, Paul Martinez-Pompa, Yolanda Nieves, Cynthia Dewi Oka, and Sandra Santiago Emceed by Marcy Rae Henry	4 p.m. Andrew Curran, <i>Biography of a Dangerous Idea: A New History of Race from Louis XIV to Thomas Jefferson</i> in conversation with David Masciotra		
4:30 p.m.						
5 p.m.	5 p.m. Grief and Ghosts: A Poetry Reading and Discussion featuring Carrie Olivia Adams, <i>The Book of Marys and Glaciers</i> , Kazim Ali, <i>The Man in 119</i> , Ignatius Valentine Aloysius, <i>Everything I Touch Is - & Isn't - You</i> , C. Russell Price, <i>Bisquick: An American Seance</i> Emceed and moderated by Faisal Mohyuddin	5 p.m. Cults, Conditioning, and Catharsis: Memoir in a Time of Cultural Upheaval featuring Blair Glaser, <i>This Incredible Longing</i> , Beth Granger, <i>Born and Razed</i> , and Priya Hutner, <i>Chasing Nirvana: A Seeker's Story of Love, Loss and Liberation</i> in conversation with Sarah Edmondson, <i>A Little Bit Culty and Scarred</i>		5 p.m. Interior Landscapes: A Reading and Discussion featuring Danielle Bainbridge, <i>Dandelion: A Memoir in Essays</i> , Tisa Bryant, <i>Residual</i> , and Diane Williams, <i>Fostering Love</i> in conversation Jane Hseu		
5:30 p.m.						
6 p.m.						