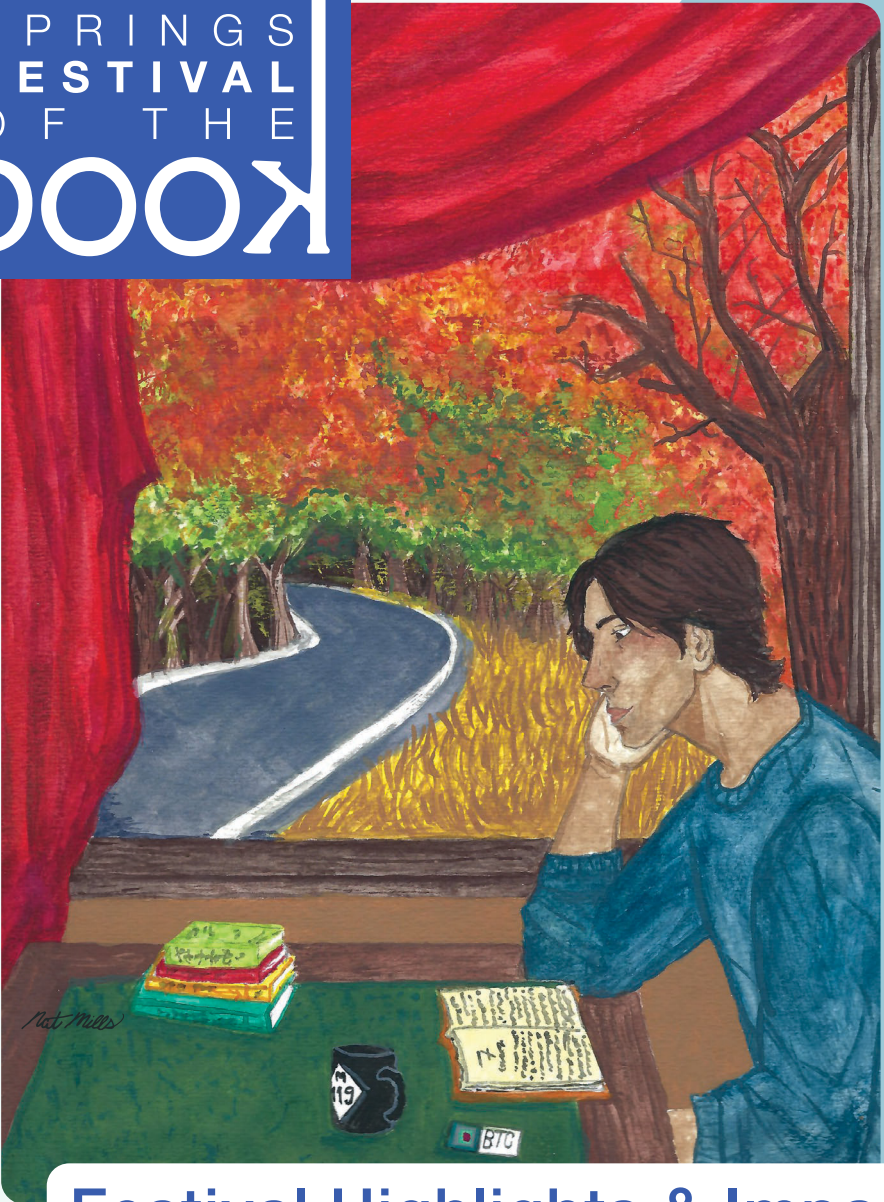


# 2023

HARBOR  
SPRINGS  
FESTIVAL  
OF THE  
BOOK



## Festival Highlights & Impact

Words Wonder Wisdom



@hs\_bookfest

[HSFOTB.ORG](https://hsfotb.org)

## About the September Festival

As Michigan's only annual, multi-day celebration of readers, writers, books, and literary craft, the Harbor Springs Festival of the Book hosts nationally published authors and illustrators from eight literary genres. The welcoming Harbor Springs community, Main Street and lakeshore vistas feature multiple venues that provide the perfect setting for all Festival events.

For many, the Festival has become a can't-miss weekend. The Festival's popularity, combined with the size of our venues has created the need for advanced registration. Our goal is for attendees to experience sessions in the best possible surroundings. The registration process ensures access to more than 25 general sessions such as panel discussions, authors in conversation, solo presentations, and readings. Additional ticketed events (seven in 2023) include a keynote address, two cookbook luncheons, tie-in movies and other food related events.

Established with a three-fold purpose, the Festival gathers presenters and attendees together; supports education and literacy in our schools; and enhances the economic and cultural future of Harbor Springs and neighboring communities. As you review this 2023 summary, we are proud to showcase our success in all three areas.

Our success is thanks to our wonderful donors who help us make the magic happen. They have our immense gratitude for their faithful support.

## About One Bay, One Book

Each year the Harbor Springs Festival of the Book selects one book for the community to read followed by an opportunity to come together to discuss the book with the author.

The selected book is chosen from the Festival's author alumni. Criteria to be considered include relevance for the community regarding the book's theme and its timeliness or timelessness.

2023 Selection - *The Last Winter* by Porter Fox

Two in-person events were held with Porter on March 9th & March 10th. Thank you to all who attended and to the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and Nub's Nob for hosting our events.

## Authors In Schools

This year 14 authors and illustrators presented sessions in classrooms in Harbor Springs, Inland Lakes, Pellston and Petoskey schools, and on Beaver and Mackinac Islands. These sessions reached more than 2,900 students. The Festival presenters read from their work, dialogued with students about the writing craft, provided illustration demonstrations, and answered many questions about the daily life of an author or illustrator. The Festival is committed to meeting children in their classrooms where the highest number of students have the opportunity to engage in these creative conversations. Specifically, students hear about the importance of brainstorming, revision, character, setting, dialogue and more, with the goal being to reinforce and reinvigorate the learning that has been taking place in the classroom.



"This is one of the best days of the year. For students to get to hear from important authors and authors of books they read or get to read is incredible. The fact that we can bring writing to life through these visits supports students' opportunities, dreams, and passion for reading and writing"

– 2023 Educator

## Books for Schools

Generous donations to our Books for Schools Fund allowed the Festival to provide more than 2,300 books to students and classroom libraries in conjunction with the presenters' visits during the 2023 Festival. Educators continue to tell us that for many of their students, our new book is the only book they receive each year. What makes our program unique? Connecting the students directly to the authors and illustrators. Meeting the creator of the book during the classroom visit can truly be life changing.



# Community Economic Impact

Each year our attendees tell us about their spending while attending the Festival. Whether an attendee is from Emmet County or elsewhere, they engage in the economy of the Festival by purchasing a Festival registration, buying books, visiting area retailers, enjoying a meal or staying in local accommodations. The organization itself also contributes by having a year-round presence in the community, employing staff, and engaging local vendors. Combining the weekend and organization's operating and books for schools budget, the Harbor Springs Festival of the Book is making an annual impact of over ONE MILLION DOLLARS.



**\$1,100,000**

Impact on Harbor Springs Economy



**53%**

of Attendees come from outside of Emmet County including 30 states and Canada



**51%**

of attendees

spent

**\$50+**

on food



**35%**

of attendees

spent

**\$50+**

with local retailers



**20%**

of attendees

spent

**\$100+**

on local accommodations



"I can't stop smiling! The Harbor Springs Festival of the Book is such a unique gem of an event and it makes my Michigander heart SO HAPPY that the Mitten gets to claim it! It's doing so much good, not only for Harbor Springs, but for the surrounding areas."  
— 2023 Presenter



"Great conversations. Great Books. My favorite weekend of the year"  
— 2023 Attendee



"This experience is magical and rewarding. I love everything about it."  
— 2023 Attendee





## Amy Van Andel Literary Champion Award Established

During this year's Festival, the board of directors proudly announced the creation of the Amy Van Andel Literary Champion Award. This award was established to honor and inspire those unique individuals who emulate Amy's vision and commitment to the Festival as Festival ambassador, volunteer, passionate reader, literary advocate, and extraordinary contributor. The inaugural award was presented to Amy Van Andel prior to this year's Keynote Presentation. Thank you, Amy, for everything.



"The festival introduces me to books and authors I have not always heard of as well as new ideas and other interesting readers!"  
 – 2023 Attendee



"I didn't know what to expect when I was invited to take part in the Harbor Springs Festival of the Book...the festival WAY SURPASSED my expectations...everything was professional and planned with precision and thought...I loved that a small local bookstore was involved in this mammoth, world class event. Most of all, the attendees were the LOVELIEST people. Their enthusiasm for my story, for food, for literature was incredible to witness. I will be raving about this festival to my peers for a long time. THANK YOU."  
 – 2023 Presenter



# Festival Participation



**35**  
Sessions



**41**  
Presenters



**5,959**  
Session Attendance  
A 22% increase from 2022



**154**  
Volunteers

*participated in*

**226**  
Opportunities



## Save the Date!

The 2024 Festival will be held:

**SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> - 29<sup>TH</sup>**



Sign up for our newsletter to get the latest details & updates by scanning this QR code or by visiting [hsfotb.org](https://hsfotb.org).

Harbor Springs Festival of the Book is a 501(c)3 Michigan organization.  
#47-1729627

P.O. Box 766 | 160 State Street  
Harbor Springs, MI 49740 | 231.838.2725

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