

8th ANNUAL DETROIT FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

Eastern Market, Downtown Detroit

Sunday, July 20th, 2025. 10 am – 4 pm

~ the largest book fair in the state of Michigan ~

Free, Public Event ~ All, Welcome

< <https://detroitbookfest.com/> >



All Together Now ...

DETROIT HUSTLES HARDER!

**Ryan M. Place, Event Founder & Event Committee Chair;
Former President, Book Club of Detroit**

Event Preview, Maureen E. Mulvihill

Guest Writer & Researcher
Rare Book Hub, San Francisco

Host, Bruce E. McKinney

Rare Book Hub, San Francisco
Monthly Articles : July 1st, 2025





Speramus Meliora: Resurget Cineribus.
("We hope for better things; it will rise from the ashes.")

This Latin phrase became the motto of Detroit on the city's official flag after the city's Great Fire of 1805. Following many prosperous decades, the motto returned after the city's racial turbulence of the 1960s. Since the '60s, Detroit has faced serious challenges. But take heart, ye jaded urbanites, changes are afoot.

The New York Times, a reliable herald of come-back cities, ran a handsome full-page feature on Detroit by Amy S. Eckert (June 14, 2025, p. C9, five color photos). She begins with hope and perspective:

"The city that gave us automobiles and the music of Motown has seen some tough times, but it has a knack for recovering from adversity. Detroit's renaissance is palpable as it celebrates the restoration of the 1913 Beaux-Arts Michigan Central train station (now a tech innovation hub for Ford Motor) and anticipates the completion of the Gordie Howe International Bridge. And the city now buzzes with the success of the Detroit Lions!" Thank you, Amy Eckert.

And may we add: There's no overlooking the revitalization of Detroit's Wayne State University. Its large campus (many buildings designed by Yamasaki) continues to expand ~ a \$200M Health Sciences Research Building; an Integrative Biosciences Center; the WSU Stem Innovation Center; newly modernized high-rise dorms welcoming out-of-state and international students; etc. And with special pride, WSU welcomes its 13th president – and *first woman president* -- Dr Kimberly Andrews Espy. But just now, the city is buzzing about the **Detroit Festival of Books, July 20th**. Here are highlights from the event's talented founder:



Ryan M. Place

Detroit Book Festival Founder & Event Committee Chair

Former President, Book Club of Detroit

Profiled in *Fine Books & Collections* (April, 2018)

< <https://www.finebooksmagazine.com/ryan-place> >

Festival Highlights

- ◆ Detroit's 2025 Book Festival has expanded to over 250 vendors: 15 different states and Canada.
- ◆ Sponsors! Without whom See a proud list, mentioned below.
- ◆ Website: An illustrated presentation of the Festival by Sean Snyder, Roaring Kittens Studios, Detroit.
Visit < <https://detroitbookfest.com/> >.
- ◆ Attendance Record: 20,000+ visitors have enjoyed the Detroit Book Festivals.
- ◆ Pre-Festival Events:
 - ~ Friday, July 18th : Book Author Talks, Detroit Public Library (a grand, beloved building).
 - ~ Saturday, July 19th : Bibliophiles embark on a tour of local book collections (meet the collectors!).
- ◆ **Sunday, July 20th ~ Detroit Festival of Books, Eastern Market** (the entire large venue + outdoor seating and food vendors), 10am-4pm. Shed 5, center of operations. Stop by, greet some real Detroiters!
- ◆ On Offer: Current and antiquarian books. Small Press and Letterpress rarities. Ephemera & Collectibles (vintage posters, comic books, board-games, oldies-but-goodies 45s & classic vinyls).
- ◆ Music (but, of course, this is Detroit!): Providing light entertainment, the Festival will be visited by street musicians and -- back by popular demand -- seasoned DJs spinning the jams. (Oh, a pity the MC5 is no longer with us, but this heavy-metal Detroit band would steal the show.)



Browsers and Buyers *will* Bargain!

2024 Detroit Festival of Books

Photo: Debbie Maciolek, Detroit. Event Photographer.

As **Ryan Pace**, event founder and organizer, mentioned to Rare Book Hub:

“AI and Big Tech continue to mushroom, but we are reminded of the special importance of in-person gatherings, in real time, that celebrate The Book --- its legacy, its continuation. The physical book is a humble, yet powerful portal into other worlds and other minds. And we can carry it around like a special companion. My special pleasure in organizing this big event is the exposure it gives to today’s youth, often confused victims of high-tech overload. For all of us at the Detroit Festival of Books, the sheer collective joy of this event is irreplaceable. Come join us, won’t you?”

C. Hedger Breed, former Book Club of Detroit president and owner of White Raven Books, Ypsilanti, Michigan, sent us his good words:

“I’ll be looking forward to probably the hottest Sunday in July! This is when the Detroit Book Festival convenes at Eastern Market, downtown Detroit. White Raven Books has been exhibiting since its inception, and there is *nothing like this gathering*. The authors and booksellers are literally mobbed with several thousand curious visitors and book-buyers. Frankly, the energy is amazing to me, each time I’m there. And this is now *a younger crowd of readers and collectors*. They arrive with a quick eye, eager to spot and buy some attractive finds. I see hope for the future of books: its writers, publishers, designers; its collectors and booksellers; its readers and teachers.”

2025 Festival Event Sponsors

- ◆ Eastern Market, Detroit
- ◆ Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
 - ◆ Michigan Arts & Culture Council
 - ◆ William Davidson Foundation
- ◆ National Endowment for the Humanities
- ◆ John K. King Books, Detroit (yea! Detroit’s King of Books)
- ◆ Book Club of Detroit (1957 -); Marcia McBrien, President.

Author’s Acknowledgments & Special Thanks

- ◆ Ryan M. Place, Detroit. Detroit Book Festival Founder & Committee Chair
 - ◆ C. Hedger Breed, Ypsilanti, Michigan. Owner, White Raven Books
- ◆ Sean Snyder, Detroit. Detroit Book Festival website, Roaring Kitten Studios
 - ◆ Bruce McKinney & Michael Stillman, Rare Book Hub, San Francisco
 - ◆ Daniel R. Harris, Brooklyn, NY. Multimedia Wizard.

The Detroit Festival of Books has been a successful event for nearly a decade. And here is why: Its participants are faithful to the city; and its participants appreciate the nurturing value of books to the cultural health of the city and to their own lives. Collectively, the Festival is a living example of the spirit of Detroit. And we leave you with that on the following page.



The Spirit of Detroit by Marshall Fredericks (1958)

A 26-foot Monumental Bronze Sculpture (9 tons)

Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, Woodward Ave. Downtown Detroit
Fredericks waived his fee: "This project, I felt, was my civic responsibility."

Photo Credit, VoxLuna

Author Note Maureen E. Mulvihill is a native Detroiter: "I was born in the city ~ lived, studied, and taught there during my early years. Detroit is the largest, most dynamic city in the state of Michigan. It is also an urban laboratory, and my years in the city were formative. I had inspiring professors in the '60s at Monteith College, Wayne State University: the strong political ethos of those times never left me." Maureen went on to teach at the University of Detroit with Visiting Artist, Sir Tyrone Guthrie; then, Wisconsin (PhD '82); and then, Columbia University Rare Book School, Yale Center for British Art, and (as NEH Fellow) Johns Hopkins. She is a rare book collector, a literary scholar, and a longtime member of the Princeton Research Forum, NJ. Her publications (books, essays, reviews) are listed at Google Scholar. After 30 years in Brooklyn, she relocated to southwest Florida, where she was VP, 2012-2015, Florida Bibliophile Society. As a Guest Writer & Researcher for Rare Book Hub (2016 -), she has contributed literary articles and several Detroit pieces. She is presently a Senior Editor of the venerable *Scriblerian* literary journal, and her present research interest is early Irish women writers.

