

News Release

June 3, 2020

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2020 West Virginia Book Festival Postponed Until 2021

The West Virginia Book Festival announced today that its 2020 event, scheduled for October 2 and 3, has been postponed due to risks associated with the coronavirus pandemic. The WV Book Festival, first held in 2003, is one of Kanawha County's most popular events and attracts thousands of book lovers each year.

"We are disappointed to cancel the 2020 event, especially considering this year's exciting lineup of authors and presenters," said Erika Connelly, Director of the Kanawha County Public Library. "However, the health and safety of our volunteers, presenters, sponsors and guests is our top priority and must take precedence during the COVID-19 pandemic."

The 2020 Book Festival lineup included 2-time Pulitzer Prize winner Colson Whitehead; popular children's author Jon Scieszka; author, singer, and mastermind behind the 2018 thriller *Bird Box*, Josh Malerman; thriller writer Douglas Preston; Pulitzer Prize winning reporter and author, Eric Eyre; and West Virginia native and author, Denise Giardina. Every effort is being made to reschedule each of these presenters for 2021.

The 2021 West Virginia Book Festival is scheduled to be held at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center on October 22 and 23, 2021. The festival will feature presentations from national, local and regional authors, as well as writing workshops, family activities, a literary marketplace, and the annual used book sale. All events and programs are free and open to the public.

Each year, the West Virginia Book Festival is made possible by its charter presenters: The Kanawha County Public Library, The Library Foundation of Kanawha County, Inc., The West Virginia Humanities Council and The Charleston Gazette-Mail. Other sponsors include West Virginia Public Broadcasting, the West Virginia Library Commission, The Center for the Book, The Marshall University Foundation, and The Friends of The Library.

For more information, please visit the West Virginia Book Festival online at www.wvbookfestival.org.