

2022 Va. Festival of the Book announces schedule

Featuring in-person and virtual events throughout March

January 31, 2022—Charlottesville, Va.—A program of Virginia Humanities, the **Virginia Festival of the Book** today announced its 2022 schedule of **in-person and virtual events**, taking place **March 16-20**, including **more than 80 free, public events now available to explore at [VaBook.org/schedule](https://va-book.org/schedule)**.

Festival director Jane Kulow stated, “We are thrilled to announce the authors and books we will feature in the 2022 Virginia Festival of the Book and invite everyone to participate in March. Each of these events allows you to hear directly from the author, and, whether you experience that event in a local venue or from your own location, that exchange can enhance our understanding of a complicated topic, introduce us to new authors, and allow us to be reminded anew of how stories connect us.”

Highlights include:

- The return of the popular **Virginia Writing & Publishing** programming track, a pre-Festival offering beginning March 9, featuring virtual events for writers interested in getting published, presented in partnership with literary organizations across the Commonwealth;
- A series of free **virtual school events** with authors, reaching K-12 students across the state;
- **Panel discussions highlighting new work across genres and for all ages**;
- And these **headlining events taking place in Charlottesville and Albemarle County**:

JMRL Same Page Community Read: *We Are Not Free* with Traci Chee

Thursday, March 17, 7 PM ET, CODE Building, Charlottesville

Traci Chee (*We Are Not Free*) discusses her acclaimed novel for young readers, the collective account of a tight-knit group of young Nisei, second-generation Japanese American citizens, whose lives are irrevocably changed by the mass U.S. incarcerations of World War II. In conversation with local children’s author, **Amy Lee-Tai**. FREE TO ATTEND AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

*Presented in partnership with the **JMRL Same Page Community Read**.*

Sponsored by Dominion Energy and Friends of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library.

Crime Wave: Secrets, Sisters, and Spies

Friday, March 18, 7 PM ET, Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, Charlottesville

Join authors **Kellye Garrett** (*Like a Sister*), **Naomi Hirahara** (*Clark and Division*), and **Alma Katsu** (*Red Widow*), as they share their highly-acclaimed, new mysteries offering keen explorations of sisterhood, both biological and chosen. Each novel reveals different facets of American culture as the heroines work to solve inexplicable deaths and long-hidden secrets. Moderated by **Ellen Crosby**.

FREE TO ATTEND AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

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NBF Presents: An Afternoon with the National Book Awards

Saturday, March 19, 4 PM ET, Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, Charlottesville
2021 National Book Award–honored authors **Robert Jones, Jr.** (*The Prophets*, Finalist, Fiction), **Amber McBride** (*Me (Moth)*, Finalist, Young People’s Literature), and **Jason Mott** (*Hell of a Book*, Winner, Fiction) join us for a conversation on ancestors, ghosts, and community. Moderated by **Hannah Oliver Depp**.
FREE TO ATTEND AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

*Presented in partnership with the **National Book Foundation**.*

Southern Landscapes: Real and Imagined

Saturday, March 19, 7 PM ET, The Paramount Theater, Charlottesville—TICKETS REQUIRED
Authors **Ralph Eubanks** (*A Place Like Mississippi*), **Jocelyn Nicole Johnson** (*My Monticello*), and **Imani Perry** (*South to America*) take center stage at this Festival headliner event to discuss the storied fact and fiction of the American South. The famed storytellers of Mississippi, short stories of the near future in central Virginia, and an historian’s travelogue of the southern states together provide a multigenre exploration of the region and what it means to belong to this place. Moderated by **Justin G. Reid**.

Tickets are \$25 general admission (\$12 for students) and may be purchased at [TheParamount.net](https://theparamount.net).

Poetry for Today: Readings by Victoria Chang and Rita Dove

Sunday, March 20, 3 PM ET, Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, Charlottesville
In partnership with the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards (AWBA) and as the closing event for the 2022 Virginia Festival of the Book, we present poets **Victoria Chang** (*Obit*) and **Rita Dove** (*Playlist for the Apocalypse*) as they read from and discuss their recent collections. Chang received the 2021 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for *Obit*, and Dove is a long-time juror for the AWBA, which was established in 1935 and is the only juried American book prize focusing on works that address racism and diversity. Moderated by **Karen Long**.
FREE TO ATTEND AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Sponsored by the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards.

The full schedule of 2022 Virginia Festival of the Book events is available at [VaBook.org/schedule](https://vaBook.org/schedule).

All virtual events and the majority of in-person events are free to attend and open to the public.

Festival COVID protocols for in-person events are available at [VaBook.org/policies](https://vaBook.org/policies).

Hi-res images are available here: <https://virginia.box.com/s/8gs14wxx1fngk7t97dnn1v19qv57j33m>

All media inquiries should be directed to Sarah Lawson at books@virginiahumanities.org.

About the Virginia Festival of the Book:

A signature program of Virginia Humanities, the Virginia Festival of the Book brings readers and writers together for author readings, panel discussions, programs for children, and more. The 28th annual Virginia Festival of the Book will take place in Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia, as well as virtually, March 16-20, 2022. To learn about Festival programming and sponsorship opportunities, visit [VaBook.org](https://vaBook.org).

About Virginia Humanities:

Virginia Humanities is the state humanities council. We aim to share the stories of all Virginians—or, better yet, find ways for people to share their own stories. We want to connect Virginians with their history and culture and, in doing that, help us all get to know each other a little better. We are headquartered in Charlottesville at the University of Virginia but our work covers the Commonwealth. To learn more visit [VirginiaHumanities.org](https://virginiahumanities.org).

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