

Wisconsin Book Festival: 2010 Event Submission Guide

The Wisconsin Book Festival, a program of the Wisconsin Humanities Council, welcomes proposals for events to be included in the 9th Annual Festival, taking place September 29 – October 3, 2010.

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Wisconsin Book Festival Overview

The Wisconsin Book Festival is an annual, free, five-day celebration of literacy and literature that inspires book lovers from across the region to spend a weekend in downtown Madison and transforms State Street into a vast, public literary salon. The Festival offers scores of high-energy events, including free public readings, discussions, workshops, and other literary arts offerings. The Festival brings to Madison some of the country's most renowned novelists, poets, historians, and other champions of the written word. The Festival also shines a spotlight on local talent, offering a stage to many of the literary luminaries at work in our state.

Who May Apply

Any individual, government entity, organization, or business may apply, including (but not limited to):

- Libraries and library friends groups
- Museums and historical societies
- Schools, university departments, and campus organizations
- Publishing houses or associations
- Bookstores: both chains and independents
- Writing programs and reading clubs
- City or county agencies
- Individual writers, poets, scholars

The selection process is very competitive, as the Festival is limited by funding, space, and scheduling. Authors will not usually be invited to participate in the Festival in consecutive years. For events pertaining to new books, preference is given to work published between November 2009 and October 2010.

Event Selection Criteria

Submissions accepted for the 2010 Wisconsin Book Festival will demonstrate the following:

- Ability to attract and sustain an audience
- Commitment on the part of authors and others to participate in the Festival
- Ability of individual/organization to carry through with the project
- A good fit with the overall Festival programming and 2010 Festival theme

Festival Theme: Beliefs

Beliefs may be held tightly, held loosely, held widely, and held long. They can be shared, guarded, unspoken, questioned, defended, preached, and shattered.

How do we acquire our beliefs? What do we use them for? Could we live without them? What happens when they are challenged?

These are just a few of the many ways we will explore the theme of BELIEFS in the 2010 Wisconsin Book Festival.

Sometimes, beliefs refer to assertions of which we may be less than certain, or theories admitted as only probable. Alternatively, beliefs may refer to the truths of which we are most certain in the world—the assertions that need no proof.

Beliefs can change the world we live in and the way we see it.

Festival events will explore the full spectrum of interpretations of the theme – literal, metaphoric, and even playful. We welcome proposals that interpret the theme of “Beliefs” as widely as the breadth of topics about which books are published.

HOW TO APPLY:

To be considered for the 2010 Wisconsin Book Festival, applicants must submit the following items:

1. A completed application form
2. One copy of the professionally published book from which you will present
3. Any other supporting material such as reviews, media, and other endorsements

Application forms may be submitted in the following ways:

- Using the ONLINE APPLICATION FORM
- By mail to:
Wisconsin Book Festival: Books for Consideration
Wisconsin Humanities Council
222. S. Bedford. St., Suite F
Madison, WI 53703

Applications AND additional materials must be postmarked or received by April 30, 2010.

Final program selections and notification of applicants will be made by July 15th, 2010.

FAQ

How can my organization promote the Festival and our event?

The Festival encourages promotion of Festival events through: newsletters, fliers, e-mail, and Web sites; at conferences and workshops leading up to the event; at area schools, libraries, and places of worship; and through any other networking opportunities. Festival posters are available by early September for distribution. Please note that a listing in the Festival Program does not guarantee an audience.

How will book sales be handled?

The Festival partners with a wide range of area booksellers by offering opportunities for on-site sales tables at all events. The Festival cannot guarantee that a bookseller will elect to cover every program; thus, event producers are always welcome to handle on-site book sales themselves.

Will my organization receive financial support from the Wisconsin Book Festival?

Probably not. We are a non-profit organization with a very small budget, and your event proposal does not constitute a grant application. Due to limited funds, the Wisconsin Humanities Council will not be able to cover travel expenses or pay honoraria to all presenters. By submitting a program proposal, you are indicating that you (or your publisher) will pay your Festival-related expenses.

What kind of technology will be available for my presentation?

Limited funds also mean that the Wisconsin Humanities Council provides only the most basic AV equipment (microphones, podiums, etc.). The WHC will not cover special projectors, computers, or other equipment. In general, as the Festival is intended to be a celebration of public lectures and public discourse, we discourage presentations that rely on PowerPoint and similar technologies.

Please direct further submission inquiries to: [submissions \(at\) wisconsinbookfestival \(dot\) org](mailto:submissions@wisconsinbookfestival.org).