

2026 General Information for Authors and Vendors

When and where is the 2026 Festival?

Saturday, October 24, 2026, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center in Charleston, WV.

How many people attend this event?

3,654 people attended our in-person event in 2025.

What kinds of programs is the Festival interested in?

The Festival is built around a series of programs, writing workshops, and other activities presented by authors and other individuals or organizations. Generally speaking, authors who are invited to present programs have published a new book or won an award within the last two years, or have an old book that is newly relevant.

Festival programs deal with a wide range of life images and interpretations that are accessible through literature. Although the Festival is primarily aimed at readers, we also offer programs for writers. Appalachian literature and its function for those of us who live in the region will always be emphasized, but the Festival will incorporate authors from other areas of the country as well.

What is the Festival Marketplace?

The Festival features a Marketplace where you will find book sellers, publishers, individual authors, and other literary vendors offering a variety of books and related items, including books to be signed by Festival authors.

How can I participate as an author or vendor?

A) Submit a program proposal via a Program Proposal Form by **May 1**. Proposals will be reviewed by the Festival Selection Committee; applicants will be notified by **June 15**.

B) Rent a booth by submitting a Marketplace Vendor Application. Applications will be reviewed on a **first-come, first-served basis** and will be reviewed continually until all spaces are filled. If your application is accepted, we will send you an invoice for payment. **DO NOT SEND PAYMENT WITH YOUR APPLICATION.**

Who can be vendors?

Book sellers, publishers, individual authors, and others who have a literary mission.

Do I need to submit my book?

No, but please be sure to include your website URL on the vendor application.

May I partner with another author in renting a booth?

Absolutely! However, you are responsible for finding your own booth partner.

What are the deadlines for Marketplace vendors?

- **August 1:** Deadline for vendors to be listed in promotional materials (e.g., newspaper insert, event program)
- **August 1:** Deadline for vendors to submit list of authors who will be signing books at their booth. Please email your list to wvbf@kcpls.org.

What comes with my booth rental fee?

The Marketplace is set up like a trade show with curtain walls. For each 10'x10' booth space, the Festival provides one covered, skirted 8' table. You also get as many chairs and S-hooks as you need. You are permitted a maximum of two Marketplace announcements during the event, and you are welcome to hand those to the person with the mic at the Kanawha County Public Library (KCPL) booth.

What extras can I buy for my booth?

Enhancements are available directly from the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center for a fee. Your final packet (**mailed in August**) will have forms for your order. The list includes carpeting, electricity, internet access, telephone lines, TV cable, water, compressed air, extra tables, comfortable chairs, easels, wastebaskets, stools, etc. You may also opt to have your merchandise or booth supplies shipped to the Convention Center.

What should I bring with me?

We encourage you to bring a variety of topics, including West Virginia and Appalachian titles, children's books, gift books for early holiday shoppers, and other book-related merchandise. We also recommend that you make the most of your space with signs, banners, and other decorations, and that you consider having prize drawings. Vendors keep all proceeds from book and merchandise sales.

Do I need to collect sales tax?

Your final packet (**mailed in August**) will include information from the West Virginia State Tax Department regarding sales tax.

How can I promote my booth?

The Festival partners with local newspapers to promote the Marketplace. Once we receive your payment, we will list your organization in the newspaper insert (if applicable), event program, and on the Festival website. You may also choose to purchase advertising of your own.

What about refunds?

If your vendor application is accepted, we must receive your payment by **July 1**. In order to receive a refund, we must receive your notice to cancel your vendor space by **August 1**. Refunds will not be issued after that date.

When is setup and breakdown? *(Times subject to change)*

Friday, October 23, 2026 prior to Festival: **Booth setup 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

Saturday, October 24, 2026 prior to Festival: **Booth setup 7 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.**

Saturday, October 24, 2026: Marketplace hours are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. **Booth breakdown 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

Will there be further communication?

In August, accepted vendors will receive a final packet including information about load-in and booth enhancements available through the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center, and more.

How is the Festival funded?

The Festival relies solely upon individual and corporate contributions and grants and is not a fundraiser. Any revenue generated is applied directly to the Festival. If you or your organization would be interested in contributing, please contact us via the email or phone number listed below.

How can I get tickets?

Our event is free. You do not need admission tickets for any of our speakers' programs. However, in cases where we anticipate a large crowd, we do issue "boarding zone"-type tickets for headlining authors' book signings.

Where can I get food while I'm attending the Festival?

The Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center provides a snack bar area in the Marketplace and determines operating hours. There are also several restaurants within walking distance, and you can find some recommendations at wvbook-festival.org.

Vendors will be notified as soon as possible of any changes to the Festival.