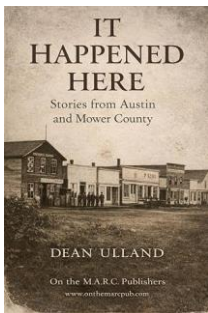


The 2026 Austin ArtWorks Festival Author Stage

Spotlight on Our Featured Authors

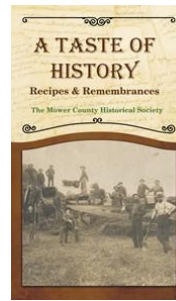
Saturday, August 28



Austin History 11 am

Dean Ulland, retired college history professor, will highlight his latest delve into Austin's back stories that will humor and interest those who enjoy small towns.

Randy Forster, director of the Mower County History Center, will feature the stories behind the county cookbook.



Collective Thriller noon

The Kill Code Collective is the exciting creation of the five members of Midwest Mystery Works, uniting their signature characters in a high-stakes battle against a deadly enemy, backed by hijacked technology. Each of the 5 Minnesota authors, established with their own series, collaborated for two years in this complete murder mystery, set of course in Minnesota!

Romance 1 pm

Emma Pathy is a spicy contemporary romance author from Minneapolis. She writes the painfully relatable "Please" series that will have you crying one minute and laughing the next.

Rowan Eira writes romance and fantasy stories. Her debut series, Birch Lake Romance, features bookish heroines who find love amid the stunning world that only exists in northern Minnesota.



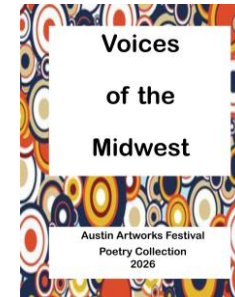
Authors:

Rob Jung
Brian Lutterman
John Baird Rogers
Julie Holmes
Chris Norbury



Sunday, August 29

Community Poetry - noon



Voices of the Midwest

Poetry of all styles in one booklet, 23 community writers and others will have the chance to share their works.



Michael Kleber-Diggs is the author of award winning *Worldly Things*, and teaches poetry and creative non-fiction through the Minnesota Prison Writers Workshop and at the Loft Literacy Center.

Sponsors

Friends of the Library
John & Julie Beckmann
Sue & Vern Grove
John & Diane Ellis
On The M.A.R.C. Publishing
The Park Avenue Authors:
Susan Joyce
Steven J. Carlson
Daphney D. Hamborg
K.A. Stevens

Sunday, August 29

Banned Books Feature - 1 pm

Austin Celebrities will read excerpts from banned books, and the audience will guess the books in a game show format. Guest Harris will lead the mayor, the chief of police, the superintendent of schools, former mayor, college president, podcaster, and others in the quest to understand banning of books.

A Theatrical Presentation of Banned Books will begin at 2:45 with Summerset, Riverland, Matchbox Children's Theatre, and Austin High School Drama students in performance in the game show setting.



Duchess Harris

Is an acclaimed author, legal scholar, and Professor of American Studies at Macalester College. She is the author of several adult nonfiction books and has curated and written over 100 books for young readers.



Fri, Aug 28, 4 pm in the Historic Paramount Theatre. Nationally awarded author **William Kent Krueger** will speak on his newest book featuring his protagonist Cork O'Connor.

Theatrical Arts Sat August 28

9:30 Gertrude: One Act Play
10:15 Matchbox Drama Troupe
2:15 Musical Comedy Show
3:30 B.A.D.I. Dance lesson
4:15 Pallet Players

Sun August 29

10:15 Pallet Players
11:00 Jim Jayes Marionette Show
2:45 Banned Books Theatrical Presentation / Game Show
3:30 Pallet Players

2026 Austin ArtWorks
Festival

Author Stage

Sponsored by:

Sweet Reads
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407 Main Street North
Austin, MN

