

# City of Dallas News Release

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## **Award-winning authors are coming to Dallas Public Library;** *The Sixth Annual International Book Fair will be held Oct. 29*

**Dallas** – Artistic and cultural performances, multilingual story times, dance and musical performances and poetry readings will be part of this year's International Book Fair, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29 at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St.

"The goal of the International Book Fair is to promote a love for books, reading and writing," said Dallas Public Library Assistant Director Miriam Rodriguez. "This is a free and fun event for the whole family."

The Digital Bookmobile will make a return visit to Dallas and will be onsite during the entire book fair. The 74-foot 18-wheel tractor-trailer is a unique, self-sufficient community outreach vehicle that contains web-connected exhibits designed to promote awareness and provide hands on experience with the library's digital download collection. A select group of teens from the Bachman Lake, Hampton Illinois, Grauwylar and Pleasant Grove library branch libraries will present a Teen Poetry Slam led by Dallas native and Grand Slam Champion Joaquín Zihuatanejo. The festivities end at the North Oak Cliff branch Library with a Dia De Los Muertos celebration presented by the Bishop Arts Foundation.

This year's authors include:

**Esmeralda Santiago** - Born in Puerto Rico, Santiago moved with her family to Brooklyn at age 13. Her first book, *When I was Puerto Rican*, is a memoir of her childhood, and was published in 1993 to great critical acclaim. She followed this memoir with *America's Dream*. Her most recent novel is entitled *Almost a Woman*.

**Lucia Gonzalez** - Award-winning author, storyteller, and children's librarian. Her classic Cuban folktale, *The Bossy Gallito* was awarded the Pura Belpré Children's Literature Honor Medal by the American Library Association, and selected for New York Times' Top 20 All Time Favorite Children's Books by the "Great Children's Read." Her most recent book, *The Storyteller's Candle/La velita de los cuentos* is homage to Pura Belpré, New York City's first Latina librarian.

**Sol Villasana** - Author of *Dallas's Little Mexico* Villasana is a Dallas lawyer, mediator, and writer. Little Mexico was Dallas's earliest Mexican barrio. By the end of the 20th century, Little Mexico all but disappeared, giving way to upscale high-rise residences and hotels and the city's newest entertainment district. This book looks at the neighborhood's growth, zenith, demise, and its remarkable renaissance.

**Dr. Jacqueline Zaleski Mackenzie** – She immersed herself mentally and physically while researching and writing *Empowering Spanish Speakers: Answers for Educators, Businesspeople, or Friends of Mexicans*. Her book combines scientific research, statistical analysis, and personal exploits in an easy to read hybrid format of a textbook, biographical and personal memories.

**Brian Behnken** - His recently published book, *Fighting Their Own Battles: Mexican Americans, African Americans, and the Struggle for Civil Rights in Texas* is the first comparative history of the black and Latino freedom movements in the United States. His next book is an examination of police/community relations in the Southwest from 1850 to the present.

**Joaquín Zihuatanejo** – Critics call him “one of the most dynamic and passionate performance poets in the country, melding equal parts comedy, poetry, and dramatic monologue into a crowd-pleasing display of verbal fireworks.” A National Poetry Slam Finalist, Grand Slam Spoken Word Champion, and HBO Def Poet, he has performed his poetry at universities, conferences and poetry slams all over the United States, Canada, Mexico and Europe.

For more information about the Sixth Annual International Book Fair visit [www.dallasinternationalbookfair.com](http://www.dallasinternationalbookfair.com).