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LATINX KIDLIT BOOK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF 2ND ANNUAL WORLDWIDE EVENT

December 9-10, 2021

A virtual celebration of Latinx kidlit authors, illustrators, and books

June 1, 2021 - The [Latinx Kidlit Book Festival](#) (LKBF) has announced the dates for its 2nd annual virtual event celebrating children's literature created by Latinx authors and illustrators.

"We are so proud to once again elevate the amazing talent of Latinx kidlit book creators," said author Mayra Cuevas, festival co-founder. "We hope our stories will reach kids everywhere."

This free virtual festival is aimed at students and educators and will take place December 9-10, 2021. It will feature six headlining events with prominent figures in the literary kidlit world, as well as additional craft sessions, content in Spanish, Q&As, illustrator draw-offs, and giveaways from favorite Latinx creators of picture books, middle grade, young adult, graphic novels, comic books, and poetry collections. Headliners include Meg Medina, Torrey Maldonado, Margarita Engle, Raul the Third, Anna-Marie McLemore, and Yuyi Morales.

"Sessions are geared toward all schools, educators, students and book lovers, not just those identifying as Latinx," said author Ismée Williams, festival co-founder.

Festival panels have been crafted in collaboration with teachers and educators, including members of the [National Council of Teachers of English](#) (NCTE) Latinx Caucus.

"Programming is meant to both educate, entertain, and be a resource for schools, teachers, and librarians across the globe," said author Alex Villasante, festival co-founder.

The festival will be streamed live on the [Latinx Kidlit Book Festival YouTube channel](#) on December 9-10, 2021. Sessions may be safely streamed into classrooms worldwide, and shared with students using an educator's account. All content will be recorded and available even after the live festival concludes. A hearing impaired option will also be available.

Prior to the event, schedule updates and news will be posted on the Latinx Kidlit Book Festival [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [TikTok](#) accounts. Updates will also be available via the festival's [newsletter](#). Books created by festival authors can be purchased at the [festival store on Bookshop.org](#), an online bookstore with a mission to financially support local, independent bookstores.

The Latinx Kidlit Book Festival is dedicated to fostering an environment where all participants are treated with kindness, empathy, and respect. See the full LKBF [anti-harassment policy](#) on their website.

The Latinx Kidlit Book Festival is filing to become a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation.

HEADLINING EVENTS:

[Telling Your Story: How to craft stories from your own life](#): In this interactive craft workshop, award-winning, best-selling author [Meg Medina](#) helps young writers to craft powerful, life-affirming narratives using their own life experience. Please come ready to write, take risks and develop your craft! This session is moderated by Las Musas author [Crystal Maldonado](#). Meg Medina is an award-winning and *New York Times* best-selling author of picture books, middle grade and young adult novels. She is the recipient of the John Newberry Medal, Pura Belpré Author award and Bank Street College Best Children's Book of the Year. Her latest book, *Merci Suárez Can't Dance* is a Kirkus Reviews Most Anticipated Book of 2021. Crystal Maldonado is the young adult author of *Fat Chance Charlie Vega*. Her work has been published in the *Hartford Courant*, BuzzFeed, and *Latina Magazine*.

[¡Vamos a Dibujar! ¡Vamos a Contar!](#) Join award-winning author and illustrator [Raúl the Third](#) and Las Musas author and illustrator [Zara Gonzalez Hoang](#) in an illustrated discussion about the interplay between stories and images. How do illustrators find an artistic style? How do authors find voice for their characters? And how do these come together to make the perfect book? Raúl the Third's work centers around the contemporary Mexican-American experience and his memories of growing up in El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. He is the three time award winning author/illustrator of the prestigious Pura Belpré Award for Illustration for *Vamos! Let's go Eat*, *Vamos! Let's go to the Market* and *Lowriders to the Center of the Earth*. Zara Gonzalez Hoang grew up doodling in Minnesota, while trying to figure out where she fit in as a Puerto Rican Jew in a sea of Scandinavians. She most recently illustrated the bilingual picture book *Mi Casa is My Home*.

[The Wonder and Beauty of Words: Using poetry to tell your story](#): In this interactive craft workshop, award-winning author and 2017-2019 Young People's Poet Laureate, [Margarita Engle](#) will discuss how poetry can be used to convey emotion, tone as well as drama. Please come ready to write, take risks and develop your craft! This session is moderated by Las Musas author [NoNieqa Ramos](#).

Margarita Engle is the Cuban-American author of many verse novels, memoirs, and picture books, including *The Surrender Tree*, *Enchanted Air*, *Drum Dream Girl*, and *Dancing Hands*. Awards include a Newbery Honor, Pura Belpré, Golden Kite, Walter, Jane Addams, and NSK Neustadt, among others. Margarita served as the national 2017-2019 Young People's Poet Laureate. Her most recent books include *Your Heart, My Sky*, *A Song of Frutas.*, and *Light for All*. Margarita was born in Los Angeles, but developed a deep attachment to her mother's homeland during childhood summers with relatives on the island. She studied agronomy and botany along with creative writing, and now lives in central California with her husband. NoNieqa Ramos is an educator, literary activist, and writer of picture books and young adult literature. Her most recent picture book *Your Mama* received starred reviews from Kirkus, Booklist and School Library Journal.

[Magical Realism and the Latinx Queer Experience](#): Join award winning author [Anna-Marie McLemore](#) and Las Musas author [Jonny Garza Villa](#) as they explore the tradition of magical realism in Latinx stories through the lens of the queer experience.

Anna-Marie McLemore (they/them) is the author of fairy tales as queer, Latinx, and nonbinary as they are, including *Wild Beauty*, Stonewall Honor book *When the Moon Was Ours*, and *Blanca & Roja*. Their latest, *The Mirror Season*, is a story of pansexuality, pan dulce, and healing from trauma, and their forthcoming *Lakelore* (3/8/21) is a portal fantasy about two Latinx neurodivergent enbies.

Jonny Garza Villa is the author of the young adult novel *Fifteen Hundred Miles from the Sun*. They are a product of the Great State of Texas and are often inspired by their own Tejanx & Chicanx and queer identities.

[Books as Teachers: Stories that build connection, empathy and imagination](#): Join critically acclaimed authors, [Torrey Maldonado](#) and Las Musas author [Rebecca Balcárcel](#) in an important discussion of allyship, compassion and possibility.

Maldonado's most recent title, *What Lane?*, won multiple starred reviews. Oprah magazine, the New York Times, and more have listed it as an essential anti-racist book. Maldonado has been voted a "Top 10 Latino Author" and best Black middle grade and young adult novelist.

Rebecca Balcárcel's novel, *The Other Half of Happy* is a Pura Belpré Honor Book and ALSC Notable Book that was named one of the Top Ten First Novels of 2019 by the American Library Association.

[Dream on: The power of story and art to inspire others](#): Join award-winning, NYTimes best-selling author and illustrator [Yuyi Morales](#) and award-winning and best-selling author [Yamile Saied Méndez](#) as they discuss how words and art can uplift the human spirit and show others que sí, se puede!

Born in Xalapa, Mexico, where she currently resides, Yuyi Morales has won the prestigious Pura Belpré Award for Illustration six times, for *Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book*; *Los Gatos Black on Halloween*; *Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book*; *Niño Wrestles the World*; *Viva Frida*, also a Caldecott Honor Book; and *Dreamers*, also a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book and a *New York Times* best seller. Her new children's book ***Bright Star*** is a beautiful story about growth, empowerment, and finding one's own voice.

Yamile Saied Méndez is an Argentine-American author of many books for young readers, including *Furia*, a Reese Witherspoon Hello Sunshine Book Club YA pick and the recipient of the 2021 Pura Belpré Young Adult Author medal. Her 2021 releases (*Shaking Up the House*, *What Will You Be?*, and *Wish Upon a Stray*) portray the joy and beauty of finding your voice and path with the help of your community from different angles. She is a founding member of Las Musas.