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TEXAS TRIBUNE FESTIVAL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Three-day event brings big ideas and unparalleled experiences to downtown Austin

Sept. 27-29, 2018, in Austin, Texas

AUSTIN, TEXAS (MAY 7, 2018) – General registration is now open for the eagerly anticipated eighth annual Texas Tribune Festival, which will take place in the heart of downtown Austin on Sept. 27-29, 2018.

Early bird registration for the 2018 Festival is \$200. Conference passes include access to three days of programming, unparalleled networking opportunities and receptions. Special registration discounts are available for Texas Tribune members, students and educators. Registration and discount information are available at festival.texastribune.org.

Earlier this year, The Texas Tribune announced exciting changes to the organization's signature event. Attendees to the 2018 Festival will enjoy a fresh new orientation in Austin's iconic downtown, expanded programming from one full day to two, and a larger than ever free and open-to-the-public experience crafted to bring more locals, business leaders and tourists into the conversation.

The programmatic focus of the Festival will range from Texas politics and policy to national and global matters. Together, attendees — along with more than 250 groundbreaking thinkers, lawmakers, community leaders and industry experts from across Texas and beyond — will explore the biggest issues of President Trump's second year in office; what Texas' changing demographics mean for everyday Texans; and the 2018 — and even 2020 — elections; as well as the most pressing topics facing our state in public and higher education, criminal justice, immigration, health care, energy, the environment and transportation.

The Fest will kick off on Wednesday, Sept. 26, with the popular conversation and dinner event at Franklin Barbecue. Ticket-holders for this exclusive event will enjoy award-winning barbecue and a lively conversation with **New York Times Executive Editor Dean Baquet**, moderated by **Tribune CEO Evan Smith**.

The official program will begin Thursday, Sept. 27, with a much-anticipated evening keynote address. Full days on Friday, Sept. 28, and Saturday, Sept. 29, will offer big-thinking civil debates, dynamic networking opportunities, podcast recordings and more.

The weekend will be punctuated with Friday night's TribFeast, the annual fundraising dinner to support nonprofit journalism that brings together thought leaders, philanthropists, elected officials, policymakers and big-brand journalists to support The Texas Tribune's ambitious, award-winning work. **The event will feature**

the cast of SHOWTIME's terrific political documentary series, "The Circus." Those who purchase tickets to this special event will join hosts **John Heilemann** of NBC/MSNBC and "Game Change," veteran political adviser **Mark McKinnon**, and **Alex Wagner** of CBS News and The Atlantic for an inside take on the show's third season and the latest drama in Washington, D.C. The Festival will come to a close the evening of Saturday, Sept. 29, with a closing keynote conversation and party.

The 2017 Festival shattered previous records, attracting nearly 113,000 combined in-person attendees and livestream viewers throughout the weekend. High-profile speakers from the event included U.S. Sens. **John Cornyn** and **Ted Cruz**, R-Texas; **Cecile Richards**, outgoing president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the Planned Parenthood Action Fund; **Beto O'Rourke**, Texas congressman and candidate for U.S. Senate; Texas Land Commissioner **George P. Bush**; Texas Education Commissioner **Mike Morath**; **Susan Rice**, former national security adviser to President Barack Obama; the mayors of **Austin, Dallas, El Paso, San Antonio** and **Fort Worth**; civil rights activist and organizer **DeRay Mckesson**; the New York Times' **Maggie Haberman**; NPR and Fox News' **Mara Liasson**; MSNBC's **Katy Tur**; Houston Police Chief **Art Acevedo**; U.S. Reps. **Will Hurd**, R-Helotes, and **Joaquin Castro**, D-San Antonio; state Rep. **Dan Huberty**, R-Houston; and **Larry Wilmore**, comedian and host of the "Black on the Air" podcast.

The 2018 Texas Tribune Festival is sponsored by AARP, Anheuser-Busch, Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life, AT&T, Austin Community College, Beer Alliance of Texas, BlueCross BlueShield of Texas, Boeing Company, CenterPoint Energy, Comcast, Communities Foundation of Texas, Deloitte, Educate Texas, Google, Greater Texas Water, H-E-B, Hatton W. Sumners Foundation, Hill+Knowlton Strategies, Houston First, Huston-Tillotson University, IBC Bank, JPMorgan Chase, LBJ School of Public Affairs, Lobby Days, Lumina Foundation, Meadows Foundation, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, Messina Hof Winery and Resort, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Mitchell Foundation, NRG Energy, Oncor, Pearson, Quest Diagnostics, Raise Your Hand Texas, Silicon Labs, Spurs Sports and Entertainment, St. David's Foundation, St. David's Healthcare, Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium, Texas A&M University, The Texas A&M University System, Texas Association of Community Colleges, Texas Association of Realtors, Texas Central, Texas Exes, The Nature Conservancy, UBER, University of Texas Press, Upbring, UT Southwestern Medical Center, and Valero

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More information about the Festival is available online at texastribune.org/festival, on Facebook at facebook.com/texastribune and on Twitter at [@TexasTribune](https://twitter.com/TexasTribune).

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