



Saturday, April 21, 2018 | InterContinental Hotel – Saint Paul Riverfront

Celebrate the best in local literature at the 30th annual Minnesota Book Awards Ceremony. Readers, writers, and book-lovers from all over the state gather together for one incredible evening to honor stories of Minnesotans that connect us all. Awards will be presented to the winners in nine book categories, the 2018 Book Artist Award winner, the 2018 Hognander Award winner, as well as the 2018 Kay Sexton Award honoree.

The Preface Reception begins at 6:30 with the awards presentation at 8 p.m. followed by the Epilogue After Party. This year's emcee is Rohan Preston, *Star Tribune* theatre critic, author, and photographer.¹



Minnesota's Center for the Book

As Minnesota's Center for the Book, The Friends produces literary programming that benefits all ages and reaches all corners of the state. The Center for the Book is a national initiative established in 1977 to promote reading, literacy, and libraries. In 46 states, the designated Center is a land-grant university or state library; in Minnesota, it's The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library.

The Friends was awarded a \$100,000 biennial appropriation from the 2017 Minnesota State Legislature to support Center for the Book programs and activities, including the Minnesota Book Awards and Moving Words: Writers Across Minnesota. Finalists and winners from the 2018 Minnesota Book Awards program will travel throughout the state as part of Moving Words: Writers Across Minnesota. The program will bring teams of authors to libraries in all 12 regions of the state for discussions about the impact of literature in our lives, how being a Minnesotan informs their content and writing life, and the elsn through which we read. Moving Words is also supported by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the BNSF Foundation. Events will take place in Bemidji, Mankato, Duluth, Fergus Falls, Marshall, Rochester, St. Peter, Upsala, Willmar, and Moorhead, with additional sites to be announced.

¹ **Sponsorship Information** - Presenting Sponsor: Education MN; Lead Sponsors: University of St. Thomas and The InterContinental Hotel. Additional Sponsors: Lerner Publishing, St. Catherine's University, Books for Africa, Faegre Baker Daniels, College of Saint Benedict / St. John's University, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Fitzgerald in Saint Paul, Macalester College, Wellington Management, Inc., Brainfuse, Alerus, Metropolitan State University Foundation, Midwest Independent Booksellers Association, Overdrive, Minnesota Humanities Center, Northern Lights Library Network, Atria Books, Candlewick Press, Graywolf Press, Milkweed Editions, Coffee House Press, Infogroup/ReferenceUSA, New Mountain Learning/EMC, University of MN Press
(This represents \$50,000 in support of The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library.)