

# **DETROIT HUSTLES HARDER!**

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## **DETROIT FESTIVAL OF BOOKS**

Sunday, July 18, 2021. 10am – 4pm.

Eastern Market, Shed 5. Downtown Detroit

Free Admission. Cash Bar. Food Vendors

< [www.detroitbookfest.com](http://www.detroitbookfest.com) >

Online, Virtual Coverage, as well, at Website

Event Guide < <https://detroitbookfest.com/Detroit-bookfest-guide/> >

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### **Special to Rare Book Hub (San Francisco)**

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 upload <<http://www.rarebookhub.com>>

**By Maureen E. Mulvihill, Guest Writer & Former Detroiter**

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**Booksellers. Bookbuyers. Printers. Book Designers. Small Press Publishers.  
Ephemera. Vintage Collectibles.**

**Sponsors:** Book Club of Detroit (1957-) / Eastern Market (1891-), Detroit

Founder & Event Chairman: **Ryan M. Place**

< [ryan@detroitbookfest.com](mailto:ryan@detroitbookfest.com) >

Event Photographer: **Corinne VanOstrand**

< <https://detroitbookfest.com/category/uncategorized/> >

Street Musicians / Disc Jockey, **DJ Seven Whales (JR Jones)**

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**Detroit Rising!** That is the mood of bibliophiles in old Detroit. The city is fast becoming the comeback kid of urban woes. Its principal campus, Wayne State University, now includes a new business school and many new attractions for STEM majors and researchers. And the historic Eastern Market district is planning a deep expansion, from its present 23 acres of public market-and-exhibition space to 250 acres – all by 2025. Youthful talent is eyeing old neighborhoods: entrepreneurial start-ups are having a go, with fresh ideas and intercultural savvy. And while the city has deep reconstruction to ‘tend to – tax base, infrastructure, jobs – the signs keep getting better. Detroit looks promising. (Before its urban riots of the late ‘60s, Detroit was the fifth largest city in the U.S.; financially stable, with strong institutions. After the riots, everything changed: the city is still recovering.)

The continuation of book events in the city is a reliable gauge of its cultural healing. The upcoming **Detroit Festival of Books, Sunday, July 18, 2021**, is an inspiring example of close planning, ethnic diversity, and faith in THE BOOK. A strong list of booksellers are scheduled, along with food and refreshment vendors, a DJ and street musicians, and an impressive range of saleable items – books, magazines, prints & posters, ephemera, comic books, vinyl records, and genre collectibles (noir fiction, science fiction, true crime). **Registered booksellers** at the event are mostly local: C. Hedger Breed, Hank Zuchowski, Jay Platt, George Hagenauer, Jim Deak, Matt Ruffner, *et al.*; and at the helm, **John K. King**, whose huge base of operations – a former glove warehouse, downtown Detroit -- is the Holy Grail for many bibliophiles. Out-of-state book vendors hail from Chicago, San Diego, etc.; online vendors include booksellers from Canada and Europe. Owing to continuing Covid concerns, the Detroit Bookfest will be a one-day extravaganza, and it will be accessible online over the Fest’s website. An earlier Bookfest (2018), featured in Bruce E. McKinney’s Rare Book Hub, showed us what Detroit ‘bookies’ could bring off <<https://www.rarebookhub.com/articles/2456?id=2456>>.

The founder / organizer of the 2021 Detroit Book Festival is **Ryan M. Place**, whose interests are handsomely featured in *Fine Books & Collections* (April, 2018); you will enjoy visiting <<https://www.finebooksmagazine.com/blog/bright-young-collectors-ryan-m-place>>. As he told us: "The Detroit Festival of Books is an annual in-person (free) event, every third Sunday in July at Detroit's historic Eastern Market. **We are indeed having our event this year, July 18th.** 'Twill be a glorious celebration: books, music, food & drink, cross-ethnic mingling, and more. And accessible online, too, on our Website (no sign-up fee). Detroit Bookfest is a tangible new level in Detroit's *recovery* and cultural identity. Books are powerful, they can change one's life in profound, often quiet, ways. We are honored to continue our homage to Book History, reading, and book-collecting, while also **seeding** a variety of personal (home) libraries. The entire community has been lovingly supportive; and we are committed to promoting small businesses, booksellers, dealers, and our many vendors: collectively, they enrich the quality of our lives."

**The Book Club of Detroit (founded, 1957)**, one of the event’s sponsors, is justly proud of this continuing gala at Eastern Market. The Club, whose membership has included distinguished collectors, publishers, scholars, and university administrators, has been a principal player in organizing many important events in the Detroit area, not least a recent exhibition and talk on **Shakespeare's First Folio**, co-hosted by the Detroit Institute of Arts and Wayne State University. The Club's former treasurer is **Maurice Barie**, a respected backgammon champion and historian; *and a respected book restorer*. His ingenious recreation of a ‘lost’ 1930 book, *Backgammon As Played In Hollywood* – its types, paper, binding -- has been widely praised.

And now you will see a colorful **Gallery** of images from recent Detroit Bookfests. My captions supply useful (sometimes playful) context. So, rise up from your chair: get ready for July 18th.

**GALLERY**  
**Images, Previous Detroit Book Fests**



**Floor View, 2018, Setting An Attendance Record**



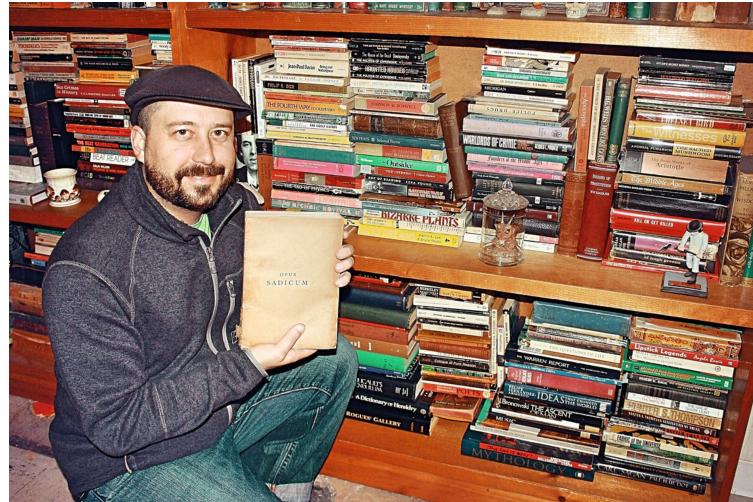
**Sponsors, Detroit Festival of Books**

**Left:** Book Club of Detroit (1957 - ). Original Clubhouse, The Scarab Club, Farnsworth St., Detroit.  
**Right:** Eastern Market (1891 - ). Downtown Detroit. 23 acres. Largest Public Market in the U.S.



Book Club of Detroit





*And Lo! Here He Is ...*  
**Ryan M. Place, Detroit Bookfest Founder & Event Chairman  
Former Vice President, Book Club of Detroit**

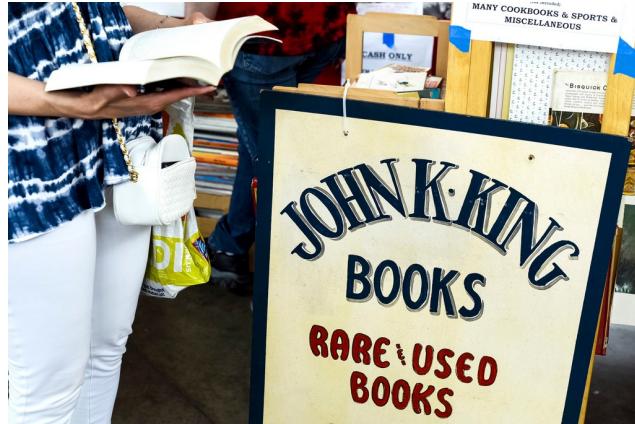
Featured in *Fine Books & Collections* (April, 2018)  
<<https://www.finebooksmagazine.com/blog/bright-young-collectors-ryan-m-place>>



Exclusive PHOTOS: Brut IPA, the Official Beer of Detroit Bookfest being co-brewed in Detroit by Downey Brewing Company and Eastern Market Brewing Company!

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*Keep That Groove Going, Lads!*  
**Left:** Disc Jockey, DJ Zig-Zag, Kickin' Out The Jams  
**Right:** Happy Brewers of Detroit Brut (Downey Brewing Company)  
Official Beer of Detroit Book Fests



**John K. King Books (1965-), West Layayette, Detroit**

One of the largest independent booksellers in the state of Michigan.  
A legendary hub for bibliophiles. All hail, John King! Detroit's King of Books.  
You'll enjoy his website <<https://www.johnkingbooksdetroit.com/>>

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**Signal-Return Press (2011 -), Eastern Market District, Detroit**

A successful & independent entity, leading the revival of high-quality letterpress printing in Detroit.  
“Signal-Return is a Detroit nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving *and teaching* traditional letterpress printing, and building a community center for art, craft, design and collaboration.”

Their T-shirt slogan (of special use to this writer): **Detroit Hustles Harder!**

Visit <<https://signalreturnpress.org>>

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**Meaghan, Recent Honors List Graduate, Michigan State University,  
Spots An Attractive Find.  
("Hmm, should I buy this for my first day of teaching?")**



**People Of The Book Readily Announce Themselves  
(T-Shirt Slogan, above: *I Cannot Live Without Books*)**



**"Ah, such a grand lady," saith the customer. "I am smitten, love her style.  
But, WHAT? Did I hear you right? You want *how much* for this dusty ol' book?"**



*AND .... there are sounds,  
nourishment & drink,  
kindred souls ... the mood is high.  
*Come, Partake. Buy A Book. Read & Revel.**

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#### Acknowledgments

For kind assistance, the author is pleased to thank Bruce E. McKinney and Michael Stillman, Rare Book Hub (San Francisco); Ryan M. Place, Detroit Festival of Books; C. Hedger Breed and Maurice Barie, Book Club of Detroit; Daniel R. Harris, Sarasota, Florida. Photos supplied by Mr Place: our special thanks.

#### Author Note

**Maureen E. Mulvihill** (Princeton Research Forum, NJ) is a broadly published literary specialist and rare book collector (Mulvihill Collection, *Fine Books & Collections*, Autumn, 2016). A native Detroiter, she studied at Monteith College, Wayne State University, also The University of Detroit where she worked with Sir Tyrone Guthrie (Visiting Artist). Her specialty is 17thC literary culture (PhD, Wisconsin '82; post-doctoral, Columbia University Rare Book School, Yale Center for British Art, and, as NEH Fellow, The Johns Hopkins University). She resided in Park Slope, Brooklyn, NY, for 30 years and recently relocated to Sarasota, Florida (Vice-President, 2012-2015, Florida Bibliophile Society). Irishwomen's political writings, pre-1800, is her present interest. Her essay, "Writing Irish History" (May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021), is hosted at <<https://www.rarebookhub.com/articles/2985>>.



***The Spirit of Detroit (1958) by Marshall Fredericks***  
26-foot Monumental Bronze Sculpture (9 tons)  
Illuminated (night view). Woodward Ave., Detroit  
Credit, VoxLuna

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