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Festival of Words celebrates indigenous cultures

By James D. Watts Jr. Tulsa World 21 hrs ago



Poet Laura Tohe will receive the Festival of Words Writers Award at a ceremony March 2.
 Courtesy/J. Morgan Edwards
 J. Morgan Edwards

TOP ARTICLES 1/5 Tulsa City-County Library's biennial Festival of Words, a celebration of the richness and variety of indigenous cultures, will take place Saturday, March 2, at Hardesty Regional Library's Connor's Cove, 8316 E. 93rd St.

The free, daylong festival will feature the presentation of the Festival of Words Writers Award, which will be presented to poet Laura Tohe.

Tohe (Diné, Tsénahabilmii, Sleepy Rock People clan, and born for the Tódich'inii, Bitter Water clan) has published several volumes of poetry including "Making Friends with Water" and "No Parole Today," as well as the oral history "Code Talker Stories."

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A book signing will follow the presentation of the award, which is a \$5,000 honorarium and an engraved crystal book.

A number of family-oriented events are also scheduled for the festival, including make-and-take crafts such as basket weaving and pottery, demonstrations, performances of songs and dances, and a discussion on the preservation of native languages.

Sponsors for the American Indian Festival of Words include the Tulsa Library Trust, Tulsa City-County Library's American Indian Resource Center, The Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation, Dr. Frank and Mary Shaw, Greater Tulsa Indian Affairs Commission, Visions and Voices, and Tulsa Indian Community Foundation.

For more information: 918-549-7323, tulsalibrary.org.

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