

# City of Dallas News Release

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For Immediate Release

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## **Harlem Book Fair founder will be guest speaker at Tulisoma;**

*The South Dallas Book Fair will be held Aug. 29-30 at the African-American Museum*

**Dallas** – Max Rodriguez, founder and director of the Harlem Book Fair will be a guest speaker at the 2009 Tulisoma South Dallas Book Fair and Arts Festival VIP reception Friday, Aug 28 at the South Dallas Cultural Center.

“We are honored that the founder of the country’s largest African-American book festival will be a part of the South Dallas Book Fair and Arts Festival,” said Dallas City Councilmember Carolyn R. Davis. “Tulisoma is a celebration of reading, and we hope that it will encourage families to instill the joy of books in their children and make reading a regular part of their family activities.”

An innovator and expert in audience and writer development and publishing, Rodriguez has served as moderator and keynote speaker at *Book Expo America*, American Publishers Association conferences, and the *New York Times* author series. He the author of *Sacred Fire: The QBR 100 Essential Black Books* and is in the Chicago State University Writer’s Hall of Fame for his pioneering work in the advocacy of African American literature and publishing.

Local and national authors, poets and artists will come together for the annual celebration of literacy and the arts. Book readings, storytelling, writing workshops, panel discussions and performances are all part of the free activities and events to be held August 29-30 at the African-American Museum in Fair Park. The museum will also host a special *Every Child Ready to Read @ Dallas* workshop for parents and children and will feature readings, games, interactive music and crafts that will teach the six basic skills kids need to prepare them to enter first grade.

Among the special events highlighting nationally acclaimed and award winning authors are: *Community Breakfast* with Sonia Sanchez at Fair Park Music Hall; *Conversation & Roses*, an informal dialogue with Evelyn Palfrey at St. Martin’s Place; *Children’s Breakfast* with Carole Boston Weatherford at the African American Museum and *Family Stories* with Jas. Mardis, traditional African-American tales passed down through generations at Emerald City Grill.

The *Gospel Brunch*, celebrating the growing genre of African-American Christian writing will feature Rev. Michael Williams Waters at the African American Museum and Craig Watkins, the first African-American elected Dallas District Attorney will be the featured speaker at the popular *Pork Chops and Politics* event at the South Dallas Café.

The Tulisoma Heart and Soul Tour of historical South Dallas treasures will be held again this year. Led by Councilmember Carolyn Davis, the tour will depart from City Hall Plaza at 1:45 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28, returning at 4 p.m. For information or to sign up contact Gaytha Davis at (214) 670-5658 or email [Gaytha.davis@dallascityhall.com](mailto:Gaytha.davis@dallascityhall.com).

For a complete list of Tulisoma authors, artists and activities go to <http://www.tulisoma.com>. The Dallas Public Library operates the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St., and 25 branch locations. A library card is free for any Dallas resident. For information on the many free programs and services available at the Dallas Public Library go to: <http://dallaslibrary.org/home.htm>.

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