

2018 ChLA Conference  
“Refreshing Waters: Springs, Rivers, and Literary Oases”  
June 28-30, 2018  
Texas State University

Texas State University is excited to host the 45th annual Children’s Literature Association Conference, June 28-30, 2018 at the Sheraton Gunter Hotel, San Antonio, Texas.

### **Location**

The Sheraton Gunter Hotel is located in the heart of the San Antonio’s Downtown district. Opened in 1909, the Gunter is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and its room 414 was the site of an historic 1936 recording session by blues artist Robert Johnson. It is ideally placed within easy walking distance of the famous River Walk and its many delights, including fine restaurants, cafes, shops, and, for the energetic, miles of walking/biking trails.

### **Conference Theme**

San Antonio is a city with a rich, multicultural history, having been home to the indigenous Payaya, to Spanish missionaries and soldiers, and to waves of German, French, Polish, Czech, and Irish immigrants. The five original Spanish Missions—including the famous Alamo, located only six minutes’ walk from our venue—are preserved as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city is considered one of the best in the country for Mexican food, and the Friday and Saturday nights of the June conference will coincide with Fiesta Noche del Rio, featuring the songs and dances of Mexico, Spain, Argentina, and Texas. Other museums and sites include the celebrated McNay Art Museum (modern art), the Briscoe Western Art Museum, the Do-Seeum (“the Museum for Kids”), Six Flags, and the Tower of the Americas.

Given the conference location on the San Antonio River, and Texas State University’s location at the spring headwaters of the San Marcos River, the theme for the 45<sup>th</sup> Conference begins with the name—Yanaguana—of the Payaya’s San Antonio settlement, translated as “Refreshing Waters.”

Possible topics for the 2018 conference include:

- Water itself and its many metaphoric and symbolic possibilities: Water creatures, mythic and/or real; water spaces and their social functions; waterways as hubs and connectors; water as a life source; ecological and environmental issues, particularly surrounding water; books as oases for readers; renewal and rebirth: personal, cultural, and/or literary, such as reboots in media and literature.
- From a historical/cultural perspective, this area of Texas is known to have been inhabited for thousands of years. There is archaeological evidence of indigenous habitation dating back 12,000 years, and it was a site of colonial exploration, struggle, and conquest from the 16th century on, and of immigration from many parts of the world to this day. Topics thus can include: Literature of the southwest United States; exploration; meeting places; indigenous peoples; colonialism and its affects/postcolonialism; immigration and the immigrant experience.

- In connection with Texas State as the alma mater of Lyndon Baines Johnson and as the home of the Tomás Rivera Mexican-American Children’s Book Award, and San Antonio’s iconic Alamo, topics might include: Mexican-American children’s literature; cultural diversity and multiculturalism in general; civil rights; “making a stand”; awards and/or award-winning texts.

Let's plan for refreshment and renewal next summer—And we'll meet you at the Refreshing Waters!

Submit conference abstracts or panel proposals (300-350 words) by October 15th.