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**INAUGURAL BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL,
PRESENTED BY STATE STREET CORPORATION,
TO BE HELD OCTOBER 24, 2009 IN COPLEY SQUARE**

**Festival Expected to Attract 10,000 People to Dozens of Readings, Panels,
Exhibitions and Interactive Demonstrations**

(BOSTON – May 4, 2009) Mayor Thomas M. Menino and the Board and Staff of the Boston Book Festival, along with State Street Corporation today announced plans for the inaugural Boston Book Festival to be held Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009 in Copley Square. The festival will be free and open to the public, and a complete schedule, which will include an all-star cast of dynamic authors representing many genres, will be available at www.bostonbookfest.org in the coming months. For more information, call (617) 252-3240.

The festival will take place Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Boston Public Library, Old South Church, Trinity Church and outdoors in Copley Square. Events will include presentations, and issue-driven panels featuring internationally-known fiction and non-fiction writers, scholars, critics and commentators; a focus on technology as it relates to reading; programming for children, teens and families; writing workshops and publishing seminars; and theatre, spoken word and music performances.

Panels and events being planned include Books Without Pages: Discussing the Future of E-books; The Lives of Others: The art of biography; Eat Your Words: Food writers and chefs; Is Truth Stranger?: Novelists discuss their newest work; American Writer Idol: Literary agents critique unpublished work; Whither the Weather: Climate change; We Are the Champions: Sports writers and their love of the game. More panels and events will be announced in the coming months. Confirmed authors include Walter Isaacson (*Einstein*), Barbara Lynch (*Stir*), Ken Burns (*The National Parks*), Joseph Finder (*Vanished*); Elinor Lipman (*Then She Found Me*), Anita Diamant (*The Red Tent*), David Pogue (*New York Times*), Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (*Lincoln on Race and Slavery*), Michael Porter (Harvard Business School strategy expert) and Stephen L. Carter (*Emperor of Ocean Park*), with many more to be announced.

Said Mayor Menino, "With Boston's rich literary history, it is only fitting that we welcome this terrific festival to our City. I want to thank State Street for their role in making this event possible. I look forward to bringing together families, children, and authors of all ages and backgrounds to celebrate the importance of reading and the special place that literature has in Boston's culture."

“We are pleased to help bring this inaugural literary festival to Boston, one of the world’s leading cities,” said Ronald E. Logue, Chairman and CEO, State Street Corporation. “This outstanding initiative will help promote educational development and foster a sense of community, which are both fundamental values at State Street.”

According to Boston Book Festival Founder and President Deborah Z. Porter, “There hasn’t been a book festival in Boston for many years, and we have big plans to make this an annual, world-class event. Boston has always been a leader in words, ideas, creativity and innovation. Our greatest writers, from Hawthorne, Longfellow, and Wheatley to Emerson, Thoreau, and Wharton, hailed from this area. Boston was home to the nation’s first printing press, newspaper and public library.” Adds Boston Book Festival Executive Director Emily D’Amour Pardo, “Today, this tradition of creativity and innovation continues with the amazing output of local writers and scholars. And when it comes to technological innovation around books, Boston still leads the way with inventions like electronic ink. This unique and exciting public event in the heart of downtown will highlight the convergence of literary tradition and innovation that characterizes Boston.”

The inaugural Boston Book Festival is presented by State Street Corporation, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, The Boston Foundation, Verizon, Rodale, Hachette Book Group, and E-ink. Media sponsors include WBUR, New England Cable News, and *The Boston Globe*. Partners include Mayor Thomas M. Menino; The Mayor’s Office of Arts, Tourism and Special Events; The City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department; ReadBoston; Boston Public Library; Boston Athenæum; PEN New England; Grub Street; Trinity Church; Old South Church; Boston Children’s Museum; New Center for Arts and Culture; 826 Boston; Cloud Place; Harvard Bookstore; Porter Square Books; and Newtonville Books.

Boston Book Festival Board of Directors: President Deborah Z. Porter; Treasurer Steve Oristaglio; Secretary Susana B. Lopez; Paul LaCamera, Callie Crossley, Robert Duboff, Joe Finder, Steve Grossman, Karen Kaufman, Glenda Manzi, Tom Perrotta, Ike Williams, Larry Weber. **Honorary Advisory Board:** Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Ann Gund, Arthur Golden, Phil Balboni, Amy Ryan. **Literary Advisory Group:** Helene Atwan, D.Y. Bechard, Chris Bohjalian, Chris Castellani, Callie Crossley, Junot Diaz, Anita Diamant, Andre Dubus III, Leslie Epstein, Atul Gawande, Julia Glass, Allegra Goodman, Elizabeth Graver, Jennifer Haigh, Esmond Harmsworth, John Hodgman, Alice Hoffman, Bret Anthony Johnston, Dennis Lehane, Elinor Lipman, Margot Livesey, Michael Lowenthal, Amy MacKinnon, Gregory Maguire, Elizabeth McCracken, Kim McLarin, Claire Messud, Sue Miller, Susan Orlean, Robert Pinsky, Richard Russo, Salvatore Scibona, Jim Shepard, Anita Shreve, Janet Silver, Jessica Stern, Karen Wulf. **Technology Advisory Group:** Judith Donath, Lawrence Feldman, Michael Hawley, Douglas Levin, Glenda Manzi, Andrew McAfee, Nicholas Negroponte, David Small.

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