

Central Iowa Bookstores

MIBA Spring Meeting, 2023



Central Iowa bookstores would like to invite the Midwest Booksellers Association to Des Moines, Iowa and the surrounding area for its Spring Meeting in 2023. We are proud of our area’s bookstores’ dedication to working collaboratively, encouraging one another, offering unique experiences to our customers, and supporting a robust indie bookselling industry in our area of the state. We know that learning from other booksellers makes us all better, and we would love to learn with and from you!

Des Moines, a city of 215,000 is conveniently located and has much to offer visitors including unique retail, excellent restaurants, and other attractions such as the Des Moines Farmers Market, the Pappajohn

Sculpture Park, and the High Trestle Trail. And, of course, Des Moines and the surrounding area boast several longtime and newly opened bookstores that each offer something special to area book lovers - all within easy driving distance. We would be honored to welcome other midwest booksellers to our area where they can experience thriving bookstores in a city (Des Moines and Ankeny), a university town (Ames), and a small town (Indianola).



Drive Times:

- Bismarck - 9.5 hours
- Chicago - 4.5 hours
- Kansas City - 3 hours
- Milwaukee - 5 hours
- Minneapolis - 3.5 hours
- Omaha - 2 hours
- St. Louis - 5 hours
- Pierre - 7 hours

Airport:

Des Moines International Airport

- Located close to downtown Des Moines
- Car rentals available on-site

Meeting Space

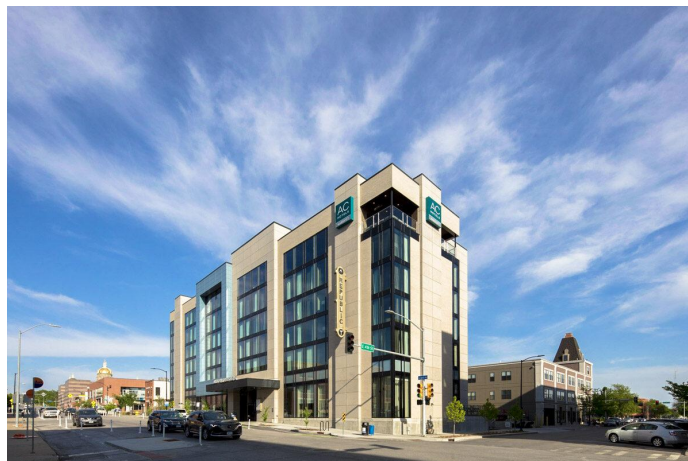
We propose hosting the Spring Meeting at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. Unique, beautiful, and always in bloom, the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden has an indoor space full of tropical plants, wandering paths, waterfalls, and quiet benches. Outdoors, the extensive gardens include a notable bonsai collection, a water garden, and a thriving and adventurous palette of thousands of plants. Trellis Cafe offers a fresh seasonal menu to highlight plant inspired items, run by chef/owner Lisa LaValle, a longtime star on the Des Moines food scene.



The Botanical Garden offers several meeting spaces, including rooms that can accommodate 10-50 participants and rooms that can accommodate up to 100 participants. These range in price from \$400-\$900 per day. The price includes complimentary admission to the Garden for event guests, tables and linens, set-up and tear down, free parking and free Wi-Fi. All food and beverages must be purchased through approved caterers, including the onsite Trellis Cafe.

Lodging

The AC Hotel is located within walking distance of the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden and is situated in Des Moines' East Village, a vibrant neighborhood with lots to do and enjoy (including Storyhouse Bookpub!) Regular room rates are typically \$150-\$200/night, but the hotel does offer a group rate. There are also many other lodging options in the area including Embassy Suites and Staybridge Suites, both with rates similar to the AC Hotel.



Programming Ideas:

Storyhouse Bookpub, nearest to the venue and lodging, can be used for delivering ARCs and receiving authors.

- Education session on successful bookstore collaboration
- Evening entertainment:
 - Bookish trivia night hosted by Dragon's Gate
 - Cocktails/Drinks hosted by Dog-Eared Books or at a local brewery
- Bookstore bus tour!
- Iowa independent publisher panel/session
- Iowa authors - we have some right in our area who love and support indies including Genevieve Gornichec (*The Witch's Heart*), Denise Williams (*How to Fail at Flirting*), and Rachel Mans McKenny (*The Butterfly Effect*). Our close proximity to Iowa City also makes it possible to host authors affiliated with the Iowa Writers Workshop.

The main point of contact for this event is Abigail Paxton, owner of Storyhouse Bookpub.

Email hello@storyhousebookpub.com.

