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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Books by regional authors selected to represent Colorado at  
the 2022 National Book Festival**

*Cow Boy Is Not a Cowboy* and *Woman of Light* chosen for the Library of Congress  
Center for the Book's Great Reads from Great Places program

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO

Colorado Humanities & Center for the Book has selected one youth book and one  
adult book by Colorado authors to represent the state at  
the [2022 National Book Festival](#): [Cow Boy Is Not a Cowboy by Gregory  
Barrington](#) and [Woman of Light by Kali Fajardo-Anstine](#).

Both titles are part of the Library of Congress Center for the Book's [Great Reads from  
Great Places](#) program that features books and authors representing  
the literary heritage of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S.  
Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Marianas. For over 20 years this  
program has included a highlighted title, usually for young readers, from each affiliate  
center. In 2022 "Great Reads from Great Places" offers a list of titles for adults for the  
first time.

This year's National Book Festival on September 3 will be held in person in  
Washington, D.C and will include many livestreamed and recorded programs  
celebrating books and authors. Barrington and Anstine-Fajardo will take part in online  
panel conversations with other chosen authors from state Centers for the Book in the  
Western Region II. This and other panel discussions will be posted toward the end of

August on the National Book Festival website and the [Library of Congress YouTube channel](#).

*Cow Boy Is Not a Cowboy* by Gregory Barrington

Goat Girl lives on Humdrum Farm, where everything is ordinary, and she's looking for some excitement. When she meets Merle—a cow and a boy—she mistakes him for a cowboy and can't wait to introduce herself. An annoyed Merle insists he's not a cowboy. But will this not-a-cowboy change his mind when his rootin'-tootin' dream has a chance to come true? **Gregory Barrington** lives at the foot of the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Prior to writing and illustrating his first book, he owned his own boutique design and advertising agency, was a publisher of regional magazines, and taught graphic design and art history as a college adjunct professor.

*Woman of Light* by Kali Anstine-Fajardo

Luz "Little Light" Lopez, a tea leaf reader and laundress, is left to fend for herself after her older brother, Diego, a snake charmer and factory worker, is run out of town by a violent white mob. As Luz navigates 1930s Denver on her own, she begins to have visions that transport her to her Indigenous homeland in the nearby Lost Territory. Luz recollects her ancestors' origins, how her family flourished and how they were threatened. She bears witness to the sinister forces that have devastated her people and their homelands for generations. In the end, it is up to Luz to save her family stories from disappearing into oblivion. **Kali Fajardo-Anstine** is the nationally bestselling author of the story collection *Sabrina & Corina*, a finalist for the National Book Award, the PEN/Bingham Prize, The Clark Prize, The Story Prize, the Saroyan International Prize, and winner of an American Book Award. She is the 2021 recipient of the Addison M. Metcalf Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

**Colorado Humanities & Center for the Book** joins with hundreds of program partners statewide to design and provide education resources and programs in history, reading, and writing, as well as offering opportunities for conversations about challenging questions.

Learn more at [coloradohumanities.org](http://coloradohumanities.org), or call 303.894.7951.

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