

2025 FOML Merit Award Winner

Community over 12,000

Friends of the Cadillac Wexford Public Library

‘Cadillac Book Fest’

Literacy and Fun Can Coexist

The Friends of the Cadillac Wexford Public Library (FOL) partnered with the their library staff to ensure the continuity of a popular community event—the Second Annual Book Fest last September in the Commons Market in downtown Caillac.

As with all Friends groups, the primary purpose of their group is to be of service to both the library and the community by sponsoring library programs that promote literacy and enhance the value of the library to the community. The Book Fest helps achieve that oboective.

Author Events Are Growing in Popularity

The Cadillac Wexford Friends had seen many libraries in Michigan sponsoring special events for Michigan authors and decided to give it a try themselves. The Book Fest gives Michigan small-press authors an opportunity to share their work and insights with the community and to network with other authors. The event has been warmly embraced by the community.

The Friends publicized the 2025 event by enlisting support from Facebook groups that focused on Michigan authors, asking them to share information and to encourage interested authors to respond. The Friends sent an application to respondents and approved the first 42 authors on a first-come, first-accepted basis. Authors paid a \$10 registration fee and were asked to bring their own tables and chairs for an 8’ x 10’ display space.

Applicants also provided information about their most recent book, the genre, and links to their biographies for marketing purposes. News releases were sent to newspapers based on the areas in which the authors lived; and ads were placed in the Cadillac News, The Traverse City Record, and the Northern Express.

Building on the Momentum in 2026

The Friends received wonderful feedback from both authors and community members who participated in the event. So, they plan to build on the success of the event in 2026 by attracting additional authors from the talented writers in Northern Michigan, with this year’s “Third Annual Book Fest” on September 12. Admission is free to encourage participation by all in the area.



Forty-two Michigan authors displayed their work at the Second Annual Cadillac Book Fest in 2025.