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## PRESS RELEASE

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# First Cincinnati Writers' Day Inspired by Featured Author David Eggers (All Day Events on May 22 at Memorial Hall & Other Downtown Venues)

David Eggers is best known as the nationally acclaimed author of *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* and *You Shall Know Our Velocity!* But one of his greatest passions is motivating others to push the pen. That's why he's coming to the area on May 22. Eggers is the featured writer and inspiration behind *Writers' Day in Cincinnati*, an all-day series of free writing presentations and workshops co-sponsored by the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County and InkTank, a local nonprofit devoted to fostering creative writing in the Greater Cincinnati community.

Writers' Day begins at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 22 at Memorial Hall (next to music Hall) where Eggers will also appear from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. Following Eggers' presentation, more events for wannabe writers and those wanting to hone their skills will be held during the evening at Gabriel's Corner, Ensemble Theatre (\$10 admission) and Greenwich Tavern. The all-day series, featuring many local writing talents, is also part of the first annual *Cincinnati Fringe Festival* (May 12-23), which provides opportunities and exposure for artists willing to take risks with their work.

One such risk taker is InkTank founder Kathy Holwadel. After meeting Mr. Eggers several months ago at a book signing held at Joseph-Beth Booksellers in Rookwood Pavilion, she decided to approach him for help. "I've always admired Eggers' work and knew after talking with him that he was exactly what InkTank needed to give Writers' Day its jumpstart," Holwadel commented. "Mr. Eggers was kind enough to answer our call to help Cincinnati emulate some of the successes he has realized on the west coast."

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In 1998, Eggers, who grew up close to Chicago and attended the University of Illinois, founded McSweeney's, an independent publishing house located in San Francisco that publishes books, a quarterly literary journal, *The Believer*, and a daily humor website. In 2002, Eggers opened [826 Valencia](#), a writing lab for young people located in the Mission District of San Francisco, where he teaches writing to high-school students and runs a summer publishing camp. With the help of his workshop students, Eggers edits a collection of fiction, essays, and journalism called *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*.

Some of Eggers' own personal writing successes cross many creative plateaus. His fiction has appeared in *Zoetrope*, *Punk Planet*, and *The New Yorker*. He has recently written introductions to new editions of books by Edward Wallant, John Cheever, and Mark Twain, and is currently working on the biography of Dominic Arou, a refugee from the Sudan now living in Atlanta. Excerpts from this book will appear in *The Believer*. A serial novel about electoral politics is currently appearing on [Salon](#).

He writes regularly about art and music for magazines, including *Frieze*, *Blind Spot*, *Parkett*, and *Spin*, and his design work has been featured in many periodicals, including *Print* and *Eye*, and annuals, including *Area: 100 Graphic Designers* (Phaidon, 2003) and *Reinventing the Wheel* (2002, Princeton Architectural Press). In 2003 his designs for *McSweeney's* were featured in the National Design Triennial at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, and in the California Design Biennial.

“We are fortunate to have someone of Mr. Eggers' caliber help us with the first *Writers' Day in Cincinnati*,” concluded Holwadel. “This year it's a full day of workshops and events. Next year it will be a weekend. And like our other InkTank programs, we want this one to encourage everyone with a pen and a story to be a writer. Dave and the Library have been very generous — so it's all free.”

**For a free ticket to *Writers' Day in Cincinnati*, including Mr. Eggers' presentation, call (513) 369-6974. For the complete listing of all-day workshops and events, check out the Library's web site at [www.CincinnatiLibrary.org](http://www.CincinnatiLibrary.org). Then click on “What's New” from the homepage. Or, pick up a program at the Main Library or any of the Library's 41 branches around Hamilton County.**