



THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE TO SHOWCASE PHILLY VOICES

**MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Philly Voices is a vibrant three-day literary showcase celebrating the exceptional literary and artistic talent from the Delaware Valley. This showcase, at the Free Library of Philadelphia's pavilion at the American Library Association annual conference will features over 20 authors and illustrators from the Philadelphia area, or those whose work shines a spotlight on people and stories from the region.

When & Where:

 Pennsylvania Convention Center – Booth 2211

 Saturday through Monday | June 28-30, 2025

 Programming runs daily on the stage inside the Free Library's pavilion.

Who:

Featured participants include:

E.B. Lewis – 2025 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honoree and Philly native

Gene Barretta – Debuting *The Apprenticeship of Andrew Wyeth: Painting a Family Legacy*

Sean Qualls – Illustrator of books by Questlove, Spike Lee, and Toni Morrison

Brittney Shipp – NBC10 meteorologist and children's book author

Camille Gomera-Tavarez – 2023 Pura Belpré Honor recipient

Luis “Suave” Gonzalez – author and 2022 audio reporting Pulitzer prize winner

Programming Highlights:

Saturday – Philly Voices Salutes the Illustrators

From 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., a full-day celebration of visual storytelling featuring live presentations and art sales—including original pieces—by participating illustrators.

Sunday & Monday – Author & Illustrator Spotlights

Dynamic readings, presentations, and book signings continue the mini stage. Sunday sessions have 3-hour slots for each creator, allowing for deeper engagement and rotating spotlights. Several publishers will distribute promotional copies of some of the author's books.

Why It Matters:

Philly Voices shines a spotlight on the rich literary and artistic voices of our region. From nationally recognized names to emerging storytellers, this showcase affirms that the Philadelphia area is—and has always been home to world-class literary and artistic talent.

Media Opportunities:

- Interviews with featured illustrators and authors
- Photo and video access to stage presentations and art/book sales
- Behind-the-scenes look at a thriving literary community rooted in Philly

Press Inquiries:

Vanesse Lloyd-Sgambati – Creator/producer of the event and founder of The Literary Media and Publishing Consultants, (215) 888-4673 or (215) 877-2012

About the Free Library of Philadelphia

The Free Library of Philadelphia system, with 54 locations advances literacy, guides learning, and inspires curiosity with millions of digital and physical materials; 22,000 yearly programs and workshops; free public computers and extensive Wi-Fi; and rich special collections, including those at the Parkway Central Library. With more than 5 million in-person visits and 5 million more online annually, the Free Library is one of the largest public library systems in the United States.

PHILLY VOICES - SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2025 – 1:00-3:00PM

CELEBRATING THE ILLUSTRATOR

FEATURING

GENE BARRETTA

ERIC BATTLE

ALLYN HOWARD

EB LEWIS

SEAN QUALLS

FEATRUED PANELIST – TELL ME A STORY 10:00-12:30PM

VANESSA BRANTLEY NEWTON

JEFFERY BOSTON WEATHERFORD

BEA JACKSON

PHILLY VOICE – SUNDAY, JUNE 29-30TH, 2025 - 1:00-4:00PM

CELEBRATING AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS

FEATURING

10:00-1:00PM

CAMILLE GOMERA-TAVAREZ - AUTHOR

JIM MURPHY - AUTHOR

KELLY STARLING LYONS - AUTHOR

LUIS “SUAVE” GONZALEZ - AUTHOR

1:00-3:30PM

NELSON DIAZ - AUTHOR

BRITTNEY SHIPP - AUTHOR

DIANA RODRIGUEZ WALLACH - AUTHOR

TOM ULEAU - ILLUSTRATOR

MONDAY

10:00-12:00PM

BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN – AUTHOR

MELISSA TREMPER - AUTHOR