2025 Performers' Showcase

Frequently Asked Questions

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When will the 2025 Showcase take place?

Saturday, February 1, 2025, from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Where will the 2025 Showcase take place?

Fremont Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd, Fremont, CA 94538

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The Association of Children's Librarians of Northern California (ACL) Performers' Showcase is designed to introduce the work of children's performers to library staff and others who book outside performers for events throughout the year.

The information below has been presented in 3 sections, covering the application process, logistics, and brochure information.

PLEASE NOTE: A $25 non-refundable fee is required for each performer accepted into the final lineup. More information is available in our FAQ below.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

How do I apply to be in the Performers' Showcase?

Applications for the 2025 Showcase will open on September 15, 2024, and the deadline for applications is October 15, 2024. Applications can be found at www.bayviews.org/performers-showcase/.

Who will be selected to appear in the 2025 Showcase?

To be considered, performers must submit a complete application by the **deadline date of October 15, 2024**. While the Showcase is looking particularly for performers just beginning their careers, this is not an amateur show. All applicants are expected to have some previous experience performing for young audiences in schools, libraries, or other similar locations. Each performer selected to appear in the Performers' Showcase will pay a $25.00 non-refundable fee. This fee covers equipment and other costs. All applications received before the application deadline will be considered, with priority as explained below.

If more people apply than there is room for, how are decisions made?
All qualified applicants whose completed application forms are received by **October 15, 2024** will be considered for the Performers' Showcase. Priorities will be set in the following order:
- Performers who have never appeared at an ACL Performers' Showcase;
- Bilingual performers;
- Local performers;
- Performers who present their programs at the rate of $500 or under;
- Returning performers (performing solo, or as part of a group) who have not appeared in the last three years. Performers not participating are invited to view the Showcase as a member of the audience;
- In case of a noticeable imbalance in types of performances (e.g. 24 storytellers), an effort may also be made to present a more varied roster of performers.

What if I am applying after the October 15th application submission date?
If there is room and you meet the qualifications, performers will be added until the roster (and waiting list) is full.

What does the price guideline mean? Can't I charge whatever I want to charge?
The ACL Performers' Showcase is designed to introduce children's performers to library staff who book outside performers for events throughout the year. This year's FAQ indicates that the ACL Showcase prioritizes performers who charge $500 and under. Public libraries have no standard budget for performers; money for such events is cobbled together from a variety of sources, including Friends of the Library groups and, occasionally, local and state grants. Programming budgets vary tremendously among library systems, but all public libraries offer their programs to the public for free and with the fervent hope that such events will provide a springboard to draw their audience into the greater resources of the library. The ACL Showcase provides a meeting place for performers who would like to present programs to public library audiences at a modest rate, and for some libraries, anything over $350 is very hard to offer.

Because there are so many children's performers in the Bay Area, the focus of this Showcase is on those who are starting out in the field and those who are willing to give libraries a financial break. While many factors go into setting a rate, including size of performing group, distance traveled, cost of materials used, length of experience, etc., we expect that Showcase performers will honor the spirit of this understanding. Established performers do not need the exposure offered by the Showcase auditions, and libraries build relationships over the years that make the Showcase only one of many options for locating performers.

What is the selection timeline?
Starting in mid September, we will email acknowledgements to those whose applications have been received. Also beginning in mid September, the co-chairs will begin regular monitoring of the Showcase email account pshow.acl@gmail.com. In mid November, selections will be finalized, and those who are accepted, as well as those for whom there is no room, will be notified. A waiting list will be established for use in case of withdrawals. As part of your commitment to the Showcase, the $25 non-refundable payment will be due soon after the final lineup is announced. If there is no room for you in this year's Showcase, you will be offered an opportunity to include a digital copy of your brochure in the Showcase event handout shared with all registered attendees.

Why do performers selected to appear in the final Showcase lineup pay a $25 non-refundable fee?
In the 30+ years of the Performers' Showcase, 2013 marked the first time performers paid a fee to appear in the Showcase; admission fees for the audience had also been increased for the first time. Because of increasing costs, it has become necessary for the Association of Children's Librarians of Northern California, an all-volunteer organization, to institute this modest fee. The non-refundable fee, which covers equipment and other costs related to the Showcase, is due soon after the final line-up is announced in December.

I am not eligible to be in the Showcase this year. Can I still attend the Showcase event and network with the audience and other performers?
The Showcase provides 32 demos in one day for our primary audience of children's librarians. Within the financial and personnel limitations of our all-volunteer organization, we cannot take on the additional challenge of providing space and opportunity for networking performers who are not in this year's line-up.

Performers who are not in this year's demos may wish to pay for admission as an audience member (registration forms will be available in mid-December at the ACL website: www.bayviews.org). In this capacity, they may network and greet members of the audience, but they may not use this time or space to perform, leaflet audience seats or in any way divert attention from the official performers. Those who do not wish to pay for audience admission may send a digital copy of a brochure to be made available in the Showcase handout. Brochures for this purpose should arrive 2 weeks before the February event. Digital copies should be emailed to pshow.acl@gmail.com.

LOGISTICS:

What is the Showcase schedule? On the day of the Showcase, the performances will be scheduled in 4 sessions, 2 sessions in the morning (9:00 am - 12:30 pm) and 2 sessions in the afternoon (1:30 pm - 4:30 pm)

How many performers are assigned to each of the 4 sessions?
There are 32 spaces available in total (8 in each of the 4 sessions).

What is the showcase process like? What do I actually do on Showcase day?
Each performer is allotted **8 minutes only**! The 8-minute limit is strictly and fairly enforced according to the best efforts of the MC. It is the performer's duty to time themselves. We will use an audible timer to indicate when the 8 minutes is up. You may choose to simply perform an 8-minute segment of your routine or you may also provide some kind of introduction that describes it, the audience you are aiming for, and variations of presentation. (Do you give workshops as well as performances? Do you allow opportunities for volunteers to join you? Do you encourage audience interaction? Do you have different approaches for different ages?) What can you do that most effectively represents your show? Like most libraries, Fremont Library has no stage, so please prepare accordingly.

Who will be in the audience?

While most of the audience will be children's librarians from public libraries throughout the nine Bay Area counties, you will also see people from schools and recreation departments who need performers for their children's programs. While those attending will be looking particularly for summer programming, many libraries schedule special events all year round and a successful appearance at the Performers' Showcase may result in contacts over the next few years. Children 13 years and under are allowed free admission to the Performers' Showcase.

Audio Equipment:

As the Showcase approaches, we will be in contact with performers to ensure that their audio needs are met. In general, one should be able to expect:
- A bluetooth-enabled sound system;
- No shared microphones provided, please bring your own microphone;
- A couple of armless chairs and a table.

You may use your own sound equipment if you wish: however, mixing the two sound systems, yours and ours, will not be permitted for reasons of time. Once you are formally accepted into the Showcase, all questions specifically on audio equipment should be addressed to the co-chairs at pshow.acl@gmail.com

My show is very interactive. Can I count on any audience participation at the Showcase?

The Showcase audience should provide willing audience volunteers, and children are allowed free admission, so that there will be some kids in the mostly-adult audience. Audience members will be interested in whatever you can do to bring your program to life and help them envision it through the eyes of a young audience. Library audiences are usually well-behaved and enthusiastic; one of the challenges in working with a library audience is that the crowd is often mixed in age, with parents, grandparents and other caretakers attending along with kids from 2 to 14 years, or older. Performers who have worked with a specific age group, e.g. middle school, teens, or the very young are urged to share that experience, either in person or in the brochures.

I have special needs (separate dressing room/help unloading my car/parking place/ performance assistant).

We request performers to come with as much preparation accomplished as possible, because we are unable to provide any support. The Showcase replicates the situation at most public libraries, which are minimally staffed and squeeze special events into tight spaces in which most staff will be focused on basic library operation.

Can I expect librarians to book me that very day?

There will be a break in both the morning and afternoon sessions, and a longer lunch break, when you can meet with the audience members. Bring your calendar so that you may confirm a schedule on the spot. While some folks may come prepared to line you up for a specific date, others will take more time to decide and call you later. Remember that while the immediate focus of the Performers' Showcase is on the selection of performers for summer, librarians are often interested in performers throughout the year. You may not be scheduled for that summer, but be contacted for a fall program, or later. Libraries are interested in performers for events other than the summer, and are generally looking for an excellent program, not necessarily one tied to a particular summer theme.

BROCHURES:

Prior to the actual Showcase, accepted performers must also send a digital copy of a brochure that provide the following information:

- · Your name
- · Phone number
- · Email
- · Description of your program, including suggested age range of audience
- · For bilingual performers, we encourage you to indicate this here as well

You MUST send this file in advance, so they can be collated into a digital audience packet. You do not have to list prices, which can vary greatly depending on distance traveled, etc. In general, the audience will be looking for programs at rates below $500 per show. Performers accepted into the Showcase will be sent emails, which will include additional information about sending these brochures and the exact deadline, as well as the email address to which the brochures should be sent.

No printed copies this year?
In 2025 we will once again be providing digital handouts to our audience members. This decision supports sustainability and promotes accessibility for all participants. All registered attendees will also receive a handout of the scheduled performers on the day of the event.

What file format should I send?
Please send your brochure as a PDF or image file to pshow.acl@gmail.com.

And what if I am late in sending the brochures?
You may not be allowed to participate, and your slot may be given to someone else. This is at the discretion of the Showcase planning team.

For further information, please email us at pshow.acl@gmail.com.