



ARTS BRÈVE

**BEYOND
THE 250TH:
INTERNATIONAL
ARTS TRENDS**

**DON'T LET YOUR
PROGRAM DIE:
CONTENT
STRATEGIES FOR
SUCCESS**

**COLOR COVER
DIEGO RIVERA**



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COLOR COVER FEATURE



Color Cover: Diego Rivera's Flower Day (Día de Flores), 1925.

Diego Rivera's (1886-1957) Flower Day, completed in 1925, is a masterpiece of Mexican Modernism that transforms a simple scene of a street vendor into a monumental, spiritual event. The painting features a powerful use of symmetry and blocky, sculptural figures, showcasing Rivera's signature style of elevating Indigenous traditions and daily labor to the realm of high art. It remains a cornerstone of his career, illustrating his ability to blend social commentary with a bold, distinctively Mexican aesthetic.

"I know now that he who hopes to be universal in his art must plant in his own soil . . . The secret of my best work is that it is Mexican." -Diego Rivera

NATIONAL TRENDS

Beyond the Stars and Stripes: A Global Cultural Reprieve

As the triumphant echoes and grand spectacles of the United States' 250th anniversary celebrations finally begin to soften, the late summer and autumn of 2026 present a timely and sophisticated invitation for a cultural shift. This season beckons us to pivot our gaze outward, providing a unique moment to rediscover the world's most profound creative achievements, ranging from avant-garde gallery exhibits to world-class orchestral concerts. For public libraries and cultural curators, this Summer–Fall transition serves as a vital opportunity to transition from the specificities of national history toward the boundless realm of international inspiration. It is a chance to offer patrons a restorative "reprieve," allowing them to view the human experience through the elevated lens of global, high-profile artistic activities that transcend borders.

From the deeply introspective and experimental soundscapes found within the Venice Biennale's "In Minor Keys," which prioritizes emotional nuance over traditional spectacle, to the visceral and deeply relational inquiries of the Whitney Biennial in New York, these curated experiences do more than just entertain—they fundamentally challenge our established perspectives on identity, heritage, and human connection. Under the iconic Parisian sky, the debut of Art Basel Paris transforms the newly renovated Grand Palais into a shimmering temple of contemporary thought and market innovation. Meanwhile, across the Alps, the Verona Opera Festival serves as a stirring reminder of the timeless, communal power of the unamplified human voice, echoing through the stones of an ancient Roman Arena. This is the definitive season to curate a world of wonders for your patrons, encouraging your local community to step purposefully beyond the familiar local narrative and engage deeply with the vibrant, ever-evolving tapestry of the global arts landscape.

GLOBAL ARTS EVENTS THAT INSPIRE CULTURAL PROGRAMMING BEYOND THE 250TH



NEW YORK, NY

Exhibition: Whitney Museum

**Whitney Biennial
March – August 2026**

Held every two years at the Whitney Museum of American Art, the exhibition features a diverse, multi-generational roster of artists whose work challenges traditional boundaries across media like film, performance, and large-scale installation.

PROGRAM IDEA

"American Relationality": A community discussion group on how contemporary art reflects modern US connections.



VENICE, ITALY

Exhibition Theme: Venice Biennale

**In Minor Keys
May – November, 2026**

The 2026 Venice Biennale, titled *In Minor Keys*, is set to be a profound international survey of contemporary art that emphasizes emotional resonance, sustained attention, and the powerful nuances of global creative voices.

PROGRAM IDEA

"The Curator's Workshop": Host a virtual tour or talk focusing on the 2026 theme *In Minor Keys*.



VERONA, ITALY

**Opera Festival: Verona Festival
June – September, 2026**

The 103rd Arena di Verona Opera Festival in 2026 celebrates a century of lyrical passion with a "dazzling" season running from June 12 to September 12, featuring a mix of opulent traditional stagings by Franco Zeffirelli and bold, visionary new productions.

PROGRAM IDEA

Present an opera talk on the featured operas that are part of the festival's season



PARIS, FRANCE

**Exhibition: Grand Palais Art Basel Paris
October 23-25, 2026**

Art Basel Paris is a premier international art fair that transforms the historic Grand Palais and iconic Parisian landmarks into a vibrant global hub for modern and contemporary thought, bridging the city's avant-garde heritage with the latest innovations from the world's leading galleries.

PROGRAM IDEA

"Postcard from Paris": A youth art workshop creating "mini-galleries" inspired by the Grand Palais.

THINK AHEAD: SUMMER-FALL 2026 PROGRAMMING IDEAS



A tapestry of diverse American voices and milestones in classical music

MUSIC FESTIVAL: Carnegie Hall is spearheading a citywide festival called United in Sound: America at 250, which will be in full swing by Fall 2026.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Host concerts that include American classical and folk music

Spearheading a monumental celebration for the nation's Semiquincentennial, Carnegie Hall presents United in Sound: America at 250, a vibrant citywide festival set to be in full swing by Fall 2026. This ambitious initiative brings together diverse artists and communities across New York to explore the country's complex history and future through the transformative power of music. By amplifying a multitude of voices, the festival promises a dynamic tribute to the American experience during this historic milestone.



The Gustavo Dudamel era at the New York Philharmonic ignites a transformative cultural transition in 2026

The biggest story in classical music for Fall 2026 is Gustavo Dudamel officially beginning his tenure as Music and Artistic Director of the New York Philharmonic

PROGRAM IDEA:

Present a classical music lecture on Gustavo Dudamel

Present a classical music lecture about the NY Philharmonic and their fall concert lineup

A haunting prophecy sets the stage for one of Shakespeare's blockbuster plays

OPERA: Metropolitan Opera
Opening Night: Verdi's "Macbeth" with Lise Davidsen as Lady Macbeth and Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducting

Monday, September 22, 2026

Experience the chilling opening of the Metropolitan Opera's 2026 season as Verdi's Macbeth plunges into a world of supernatural shadows and ruthless ambition, where the haunting prophecies of the three witches collide with the visceral power of Italian melodrama.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Host an opera talk and performance of Verdi's Macbeth

Host an opera talk on Shakespeare and Opera



The Prado on the Hudson: Unveiling Spain's Hidden Jewels

MUSEUM: Hispanic Society Museum & Library, NYC

Step inside New York City's best-kept secret—the Hispanic Society Museum & Library—where a breathtaking collection of Goya, Velázquez, and Sorolla masterpieces brings the soul of the Spanish-speaking world to life. A lecture on this storied institution is the perfect Hispanic Heritage Month program, as it invites library patrons to explore 4,000 years of global history while celebrating

PROGRAM IDEA:

Host an art talk about the Hispanic Society Museum and Library celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month highlighting its current exhibits



Journey through the twilight of a legendary romance

EXHIBITION: Frida and Diego: The Last Dream, MOMA
March 21–September 12, 2026

The MoMA exhibition, Frida and Diego: The Last Dream is a first-of-its-kind collaboration with the Metropolitan Opera that recontextualizes the profound artistic and personal relationship of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera through a theatrical, otherworldly gallery design inspired by their enduring creative legacy.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Present an art talk on Frida Kahlo and/ or Diego Rivera





Within the marble halls of the Detroit Institute of Arts, Georgia O’Keeffe’s architectural portraits transform

EXHIBIT: Georgia O’Keeffe- Architecture
September 13, 2026 – January 3, 2027

A groundbreaking exhibition showcasing O’Keeffe’s architectural paintings from the 1920s to the 1960s Detroit Institute of Arts. This exhibition is particularly special because it shifts the focus away from her famous flora to explore how she interpreted the structures humans leave behind.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Host an art talk on Georgia O’Keeffe



A youthful maestro brings rockstar energy to the historic Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

The Rise of Klaus Mäkelä

The CSO is entering a high-anticipation "bridge" period as Klaus Mäkelä, the 28-year-old conducting phenom, prepares to take over.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Use Mäkelä as a hook for "Young Creatives." His "rockstar" status in the classical world is a great way to bring Gen Z and Millennials into library classical music programs.

Host a program on rising conductors from today

Host a classical music program connected to the CSO Opening Night

Bring the rich enchantment of Italian culture to your audience for Italian Heritage Month

Italian culture is always an enjoyable topic for the fall because of Italian Heritage Month. From history to art and culture, you can bring that ambiance to your community by booking a popular art talk on Italian painters like the famous Caravaggio or an opera talk on Italian opera superstar, Luciano Pavarotti.

PROGRAM IDEAS:

Art Talk: Present an art talk on famous Italian art

Opera Talk: Present an opera talk on famous Italian singers or famous Italian operas



Pop Power! Roy Lichtenstein and the bold new American canvas

Celebrate the vibrant legacy of an American icon at the Whitney, where Roy Lichtenstein’s oversized comic-strip panels and signature Ben-Day dots redefined what art could be for a modern nation. This high energy exhibition is a perfect fit for fall programming, offering library patrons a colorful and accessible entry point into the story of American innovation as we celebrate the nation’s 250th anniversary.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Host a lecture series on Pop art

Host an art talk on Roy Lichtenstein



AB SUMMER-FALL 2026



Masters of the Italian Soul: From Renaissance Light to Modern Shadows

Spanning centuries of creative revolution, a lecture series on the genius of Raphael, Michelangelo, Caravaggio, and Modigliani offers an unparalleled journey through the heart of Italian identity and aesthetic mastery. These programs provide library patrons a front-row seat to the evolution of Western art, celebrating Italian Heritage Month by connecting the timeless marble of the Renaissance to the avant-garde spirit of the modern era .

PROGRAM IDEA:

Host a lecture series on Raphael, Michelangelo, Caravaggio, and Modigliani



The Heart of Italian Opera: Celebrating Puccini’s Living Legacy

As the ultimate master of emotional storytelling, Giacomo Puccini’s soaring melodies and "Verismo" realism provide a profound window into the passion and dramatic flair of the Italian spirit. Celebrating his legacy during Italian Heritage Month offers libraries a vibrant opportunity to explore the intersection of classical opera and modern cinematic drama, connecting patrons to the timeless beauty of Italy’s most beloved cultural icon.

PROGRAM IDEA:

Host an opera talk on Giacomo Puccini and his famous operas

Host an opera talk on Turandot, Puccini’s last opera

READS & STREAMS

presented by Arts Brève

Reads & Streams in the Arts by the Arts Brève Team

Oftentimes, books and audio-visual materials in the arts aren't at the top of the list for public librarians to see when ordering books from large distributors. Nowadays, public libraries lean towards popular or trending books because their demand is higher. This new list is our quest to present books and albums in the arts that may be trending in the arts world or can be used to create programs for the public. Each item contains the audience that would most likely be interested in using the material. We also outlined different ways to market each item to the public. Enjoy!

Who is Your Audience?

Knowing your residents and how they use your collection can make a huge difference when offering the arts in your collection or in programming. Below are some helpful categories to help you make a better decision when choosing items or introducing items to library patrons.

NOVICE



A novice is a patron who does not know about the arts but is looking for new interests. Items pertaining to novices are for public collections that call for the library to introduce the arts

to these patrons and ignite their interests. They often know much more about popular culture than what's happening in the arts.

EXPLORER



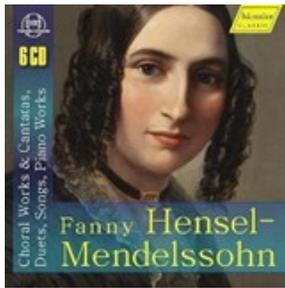
These items are for customers who have some knowledge of the arts and want to learn more. Oftentimes, explorers stream music from library streaming services. They may take out music and art biographies and may attend music and art programming at your library.

AFICIONADO



Ordering for aficionados requires knowledge about their habits when consuming the arts. These patrons are aware of the arts through museums, classical music, jazz and more... Oftentimes, these patrons attend music and art programming at your library. Aficionados are enthusiasts in the arts world with thorough knowledge of visual and/or the performing arts.

Classical Music Album Picks



Fanny Hensel-Mendelssohn: Choral Works & Cantatas, Duets, Songs, & Piano Works; Michaela Kramer

Format: Compact disc
Release: 1-16-2026
Label: Hanssler Classic



“Out of the shadows comes the genius of Fanny Hensel-Mendelssohn...”

How to present this to library patrons:

Promote this album as a long-overdue spotlight on a brilliant composer, inviting patrons to explore the choral and piano works that remained largely unpublished during her lifetime due to the social constraints of the 19th century. This collection is perfect for fans of Romantic-era classical music and those interested in women’s history, as it provides a necessary counterpoint to the works of her brother, Felix Mendelssohn. By pairing this CD with recordings from other pioneering women like Clara Schumann or Alma Mahler, you can create a compelling display or playlist.

Label Description

Fanny Hensel-Mendelssohn: Choral Works & Cantatas, Duets, Songs, & Piano Works refers to a large, upcoming 6-CD box set from Hänssler Classic, celebrating the diverse compositions of Fanny Hensel (sister of Felix Mendelssohn), featuring her masterful contrapuntal organ works, lyrical piano pieces like *Das Jahr*, numerous songs (over 250!), and vocal works, showcasing her Romantic expressiveness, often overlooked due to 19th-century restrictions on women composers. This set offers a deep dive into her rediscovered legacy, highlighting her genius in various forms.



Purcell: Dido & Aeneas Joyce DiDonato (Artist), Fatma Said (Artist), Il Pomo d’Oro (Artist)

Format: Compact disc
Release: 8-22-2025



“Baroque brilliance: Joyce DiDonato’s definitive portrayal of a tragic heroine...”

How to present this to library patrons:

Feature this recording as a marquee selection in your music collection, highlighting multi-Grammy winner Joyce DiDonato’s breathtaking interpretation of one of opera’s most tragic heroines. Create a “Diva in Focus” display by pairing this album with her other acclaimed projects like *Eden* or *Songplay*, demonstrating the incredible range that has made her a household name in the classical world. It is a perfect recommendation for both longtime opera lovers and newcomers, especially when showcased alongside Purcell’s score to emphasize the enduring power of this Baroque masterpiece in the hands of a modern vocal titan.

Label Description

DiDonato stars as Dido in this recording of Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas*, captured at Essen Philharmonie as part of a celebrated European tour in 2024. The album includes Joyce’s rendition of Dido’s famous lament “When I am laid in earth” – a staple of her repertoire, though she only performed the opera in its entirety for the first time last year.



Persian & Baroque - Classical Persian Music and European Baroque by Ratsmusik, Hamburger

Format: Compact disc
Release: 6/20/2025
Label: Christophorus
Catalogue



“The Silk Road of sound becomes a cross-cultural Baroque journey.”

How to present this to library patrons:

This collaboration can be a centerpiece for your World Music and History sections, inviting listeners to discover the surprising parallels between 17th-century European courts and the classical traditions of Persia. Highlight the mastery of Simone Eckert and the Neoclassical Ensemble of Tehran to attract patrons interested in global fusion, historical performance, and the “Intercultural Exchange” themes popular in contemporary arts programming. It is an ideal choice for a “Unity through Music” display, where it can be paired with maps or art books documenting the historical trade routes that first brought these two rich cultures into contact.

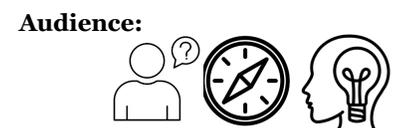
Label Description

In the Baroque era, European society turned its gaze to foreign countries in the Orient, with Persia exerting a particular fascination that was not necessarily anthropological in nature. Foreign countries and figures made it possible, for example in Montesquieu’s famous *Lettres Persanes* (1721), to express and disseminate the new Enlightenment ideas, such as criticism of absolutism, under the guise of the exotic. However, music was less philosophical or anthropological; Persian themes tended to provide a special “kick” in opera or instrumental music.



River of Music The Kanneh- Masons (Artist)

Format: Compact disc
Release: 9-12-2025
Label: Decca



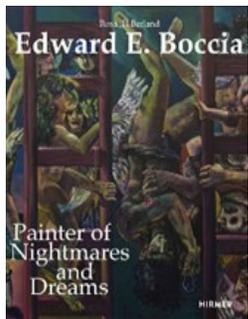
“Kindred Spirits: The Kanneh-Masons’ collaborative journey home...”

How to present this to library patrons:

This album is a celebration of both family legacy and musical excellence by highlighting the rare synergy of The Kanneh-Masons, a world-renowned household of seven siblings who have redefined the modern image of classical music. Use this release to anchor displays on Music Education and Family Achievement, showing young patrons and parents alike how collaborative art can bridge generations and cultures. It is a perfect addition to your “Modern Classics” collection, especially when paired with Sheku Kanneh-Mason’s solo cello recordings or Isata Kanneh-Mason’s piano albums to showcase the individual brilliance behind this collective “River of Music.”

Label Description

This is a story about our family and the sources of our music. Music runs like a river through the generations, and our passion for listening and playing music comes from our grandparents, and from their stories, flowing from the places and dreams they passed on...” Konya Kanneh-Mason, *Grandad’s Dream*. From their Welsh grandmother following love across the sea to Sierra Leone, to their Antiguan grandad passing on his own dashed hopes of a musical career, this album celebrates the musical threads of the Kanneh-Mason family.



Edward E. Boccia: Painter of Nightmares and Dreams by Rosa JH Berland (Author), Alice Boccia (Contributor), Charles Grund (Contributor), Ben Street (Contributor)
 Publisher: Hirmer Publishers
 Press Release: April 19, 2026
 Format: Hardcover
 232 pages

Audience:



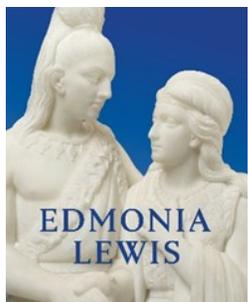
“Shadows and surrealism awaken the haunting visions of Edward E. Boccia...”

How to present this to library patrons:

Though this is the fall edition arriving in February, market it as a "Halfway to Halloween" highlight or a "Winter Gothic" essential by pairing Boccia's haunting, dream-like canvases with the eerie aesthetics of masters like Francis Bacon, Max Beckmann, or Francisco Goya. Encourage patrons to explore the thin line between the subconscious and the macabre, using the book's release to bridge the gap between fine art history and the enduring popularity of dark, atmospheric horror. It serves as a sophisticated anchor for displays focused on the "Art of the Nightmare," inviting readers to study how Boccia's mid-century surrealism echoes the psychological intensity found in the works of Salvador Dalí or Hieronymus Bosch.

Publisher Description

An intimate journey of discovery of the life and work of American painter Edward E. Boccia. Edward E. Boccia (1921–2012) is a widely collected yet often overlooked American artist whose compelling pictorial language reveals a vision of universal experience, love, loss, and suffering as well as a deep connection to literature, mythology, and the canons of art history.



Edmonia Lewis Said in Stone by Jeffrey Richmond-Moll and Shawnya L. Harris
 Publisher: University of Chicago Press
 Release: February 2026
 Format: Hardcover
 272 Pages

Audience:



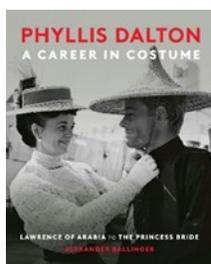
“This book uncovers hidden figure Edmonia Lewis through her art and legacy.”

How to present this to library patrons:

Feature this landmark retrospective of sculptor Edmonia Lewis to celebrate her groundbreaking work and reintroduce a forgotten figure to a new generation. Create a display that pairs this book with other works in your collection by women artists and sculptors, highlighting their diverse contributions to art history.

Publisher Description

Edmonia Lewis (ca. 1844–1907) broke international, racial, and gender barriers as a talented young artist who traveled to Rome in 1866 to join the leading American sculptors of her generation. She created acclaimed figurative works in marble and achieved great success, but her status as a woman of African American and Indigenous (Mississauga) heritage complicated the critical reception of her oeuvre during her lifetime. Following her death, Lewis's contribution to American sculpture was largely overlooked. Accompanying the first monographic retrospective of Lewis, this lavishly illustrated volume presents images of all of Lewis's known works and shares new discoveries that illuminate her artistic advancements and defiant social commentaries.



Phyllis Dalton: A Career in Costume From Lawrence of Arabia to The Princess Bride by Alexander Ballinger (Author)
 Publisher: Clapperboard Books
 Release: January 6, 2026
 Format: Hardcover
 320 pages

Audience:



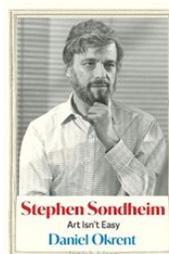
“A literary work that stitches the spectacle by examining the artistic costume designs of Phyllis Dalton.”

How to present this to library patrons:

Market this title as a dazzling centerpiece for your Fashion and Film sections, highlighting the woman whose needle and thread defined the visual language of Hollywood's greatest epics. Create an immersive "Cinema & Style" display by pairing this biography with DVDs or streaming lists of Dalton's most visually iconic films, such as the sweeping desert landscapes of Lawrence of Arabia, the elegance of Doctor Zhivago, and the fantasy of The Princess Bride. By showcasing her sketches alongside these cinematic masterpieces, you can attract historical costume buffs and movie lovers alike, celebrating a career that transformed clothing into an essential storytelling tool.

Publisher Description

The extraordinary story of costume designer Phyllis Dalton, filled with insights, recollections, and revelations from a life spent on the great film locations of the twentieth century. In conversation with film historian Alexander Ballinger, Phyllis Dalton (1925–2025) reveals how she created some of the silver screen's most unforgettable and iconic costumes, working with such legendary directors as Alfred Hitchcock and David Lean, a woman in a man's world.



Stephen Sondheim: Art Isn't Easy by Daniel Okrent (Author)
 Publisher: Yale University Press
 Release: March 17, 2026
 Format: Hardcover
 320 Pages

Audience:



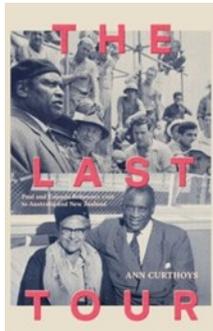
“The relentless genius of Stephen Sondheim...”

How to present this to library patrons:

Bridge your Biography and Music sections by showcasing this definitive look at the man who reinvented American theater, focusing on the meticulous "work" behind his iconic lyrical precision. Use this March release to create a multimedia display that pairs Okrent's narrative with the original cast recordings and librettos of Sondheim's masterpieces, such as Sweeney Todd, Company, and Into the Woods. By highlighting the struggle and craft described in the title, you can draw in both seasoned theater aficionados and students of creative writing who are eager to understand how a legend composed his most complex harmonies.

Publisher Description

Stephen Sondheim (1930–2021) was a towering figure in American musical theater. Celebrated for such iconic Broadway shows as Company, Sweeney Todd, and Into the Woods, his accolades include eight Tony Awards, multiple Grammy Awards, an Academy Award, and a Pulitzer Prize. In this intimate biography, Daniel Okrent follows Sondheim through the tumult of his upbringing and his parents' divorce, his life-changing relationship with Oscar Hammerstein II and subsequent immersion in musical theater, and his rise to fame as both a lyricist and composer.



The Last Tour Paul and Eslanda Robeson's Visit to Australia and New Zealand in 1960 by Ann Curthoys
 Publisher: Melbourne University Press
 Release: July 16, 2025
 Format: Paperback/ Hardcover
 400 pages

Audience:



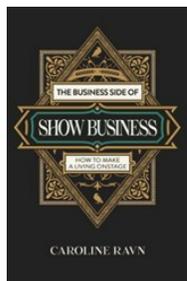
“The resonance of a rebel: Paul Robeson’s 1960 journey from blacklist to brotherhood ...”

How to present this to library patrons:

This book is an excellent addition to any Civil Rights collection that ties entertainers with the movement. Display this title as a triumphant look at the 1960 tour that defied the U.S. State Department, showcasing how Robeson used his restored passport to connect the Civil Rights Movement with the struggles of Indigenous Australians and Māori workers. It’s a perfect centerpiece for displays on Cold War history or Black History Month, highlighting a legendary activist who, despite being silenced at home, found his most powerful stage on the other side of the world.

Publisher Description

Paul Robeson was once the most famous African American in the world. Not only was he a renowned singer and actor with a stunning bass baritone voice, revered throughout the world, he was also a former professional athlete, lawyer and civil rights activist. To the delight of his many fans, he and his wife, Eslanda—a notable civil rights activist, author, United Nations journalist and anthropologist—were finally able to tour Australia and New Zealand. First mooted in the 1930s, it had been delayed by war and then the Cold War, when Paul’s outspoken support for the Soviet Union and against his country’s race relations had led the US government to deny him a passport until 1958.



The Business Side of Show Business by Caroline Ravn (Author)
 Publisher: Business Books
 Release: January 6, 2026
 Format: Paperback
 160 pages

Audience:



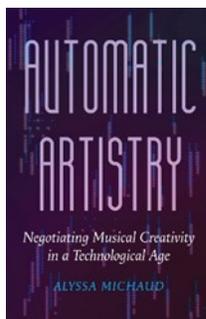
“A read that shows that there’s always hustle behind the spotlight.”

How to present this to library patrons:

Position this book within your Career and Business sections as an essential roadmap for the "gig economy" era, specifically targeting freelancers, creative entrepreneurs, and aspiring performers. Use it to bridge the gap between arts and industry by highlighting Caroline Ravn’s professional strategies for branding, contract negotiation, and financial sustainability in the performing arts. It is an ideal resource for your "Small Business Start-up" displays, offering practical advice for anyone looking to turn their creative passion into a scalable, profitable enterprise.

Publisher Description

The Business Side of Show Business: How to Make a Living Onstage is the ultimate guide for performers who want to turn their passion into a sustainable career. Written by Caroline Ravn, an accomplished magician, emcee, and 5x TEDx speaker, this book offers a comprehensive roadmap for anyone looking to make a living in the performing arts - regardless of their niche. Caroline wrote this book to demystify the business side of show business, offering practical, actionable strategies to help entertainers build profitable careers on their own terms. **AB SUMMER-FALL 2026**



Automatic Artistry Negotiating Musical Creativity in a Technological Age (Volume 8) by Alyssa Michaud (Author)
 Publisher: University of California Press
 Release: January 27, 2026
 Format: Hardcover
 250 pages

Audience:



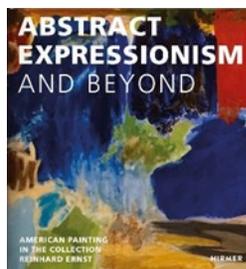
“Man vs. Algorithm: What is the future of music in the Age of AI?”

How to present this to library patrons:

Market this title as a timely bridge between your Career and Technology sections by highlighting its deep dive into how automation is reshaping the professional landscape for modern musicians and creators. Use it to anchor displays on the ethics of Artificial Intelligence, inviting patrons to explore how human ingenuity can successfully negotiate—rather than just compete with—evolving musical software. It is an essential resource for tech-savvy teens and career-changing adults alike, offering a critical look at the skills needed to maintain "artistry" in an increasingly programmed world.

Publisher Description

Musicians have access to an ever-growing array of technological tools, creating a world rich with new artistic possibilities. Yet the incursion of automation technology into creative pursuits has long sparked panic about the threat to human creativity and authenticity. Relating a 120-year history of automation in music, this book provides a timely historical demonstration of how older technologies of automation gave rise to initial unease, which was then followed by integration and exploration of their generative potentials.



Abstract Expressionism—and Beyond American Painting in the Collection Reinhard Ernst Edited by the Reinhard & Sonja Ernst Stiftung Foundation
 Publisher: University of Chicago Press
 Release: 12/2025
 Format: Hardcover
 270 pages

Audience:



“From Pollock to Schnabel this book traces the evolution of American abstract art.”

How to present this to library patrons:

Showcase the rich history of American abstract art with this new catalog, which traces its evolution through seventy years of influential artists and movements. Use this book to anchor a display on abstract art or to prepare for a program or art talk, giving patrons a deeper understanding of this dynamic period in art history.

Publisher Description

From the color field paintings of Helen Frankenthaler to the plate-paintings of Julian Schnabel, this catalog showcases an outstanding variety of postwar art in the United States. Featuring pieces from the Museum Reinhard Ernst in Wiesbaden, a new institution devoted to abstract art, the book charts the evolution of postwar abstraction, offering insight into influential figures as well as groups like the New York School and the Washington Color School. More than one hundred color illustrations reproduce work by forty-five influential artists, including Josef Albers, Adolph Gottlieb, Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning, Lee Krasner, Robert Motherwell, Jackson Pollock, Frank Stella, and Andy Warhol.



Don't Let Your Program Die: Content Strategies that go beyond the flyer and fill library seats

"If your library's attendance is dwindling, the problem might not be the program itself—it might be the 'flyer-and-forget-it' mentality. In a world driven by digital engagement, a single PDF on a bulletin board is no longer enough to compete for your community's time. Too often, public libraries treat programming as a fleeting, one-off event rather than a continuous engagement opportunity. By shifting focus toward a robust content strategy—highlighting speakers, curated collections, and post-event media—libraries can transform single sessions into powerful recruitment tools for future attendance. This approach moves beyond the traditional flyer, utilizing dynamic storytelling to build lasting momentum and ensure every seat is filled.

You booked the perfect speaker. You designed a beautiful flyer. You put it on the circulation desk. Yet, on the night of the event, the room is half-empty. The problem usually isn't the quality of the program; it is the narrative surrounding it. To consistently fill seats, libraries must shift from static announcements to a 360-degree content strategy. By creating a story that spans before, during, and after the event, you move patrons from passive observers to active participants.

Three Phases for Content Success

Phase 1: Pre-Event (Removing Barriers)

Attendance often suffers because of the "unknowns." Patrons are busy, and committing an evening to something new feels risky. Your pre-event content must do two things: build hype and reduce anxiety.

The Comfort Content: Create "Know Before You Go" posts. A simple photo or short video showing parking availability, the room layout, or answering "Is this okay for beginners?" removes the friction that stops people from clicking "Register."

The Human Connection: We trust people more than institutions. Instead of a generic bio, publish a mini-interview with the artist. When a patron sees the presenter's personality, the event transforms from a generic "library program" into a meeting with a friend.

Phase 2: During the Event (Social Proof)

While the program is happening, your content should validate the attendees' choice and broadcast success to the outside world. Sharing real-time clips—a packed room, a laughing audience, or a snippet of music—serves as "social proof." It tells the digital audience, "This library is alive, active, and the place to be right now."

Phase 3: Post-Event (The Bridge)

The event shouldn't end when the lights go out. Post-event content is your most powerful recruitment tool for the next program. A high-energy highlight reel triggers "FOMO" Fear Of Missing Out. However, a recap is useless without a bridge. Every post-event photo should end with a call to action: "Wish you were here? Don't miss our next event on [Date]!"

How to Streamline the Process: A Step-by-Step Workflow

Implementing a comprehensive content strategy often feels overwhelming for library staff who are already juggling desk shifts, collection development, and program setup. The secret is not to work harder, but to batch your tasks and template your output. By organizing your marketing just like you operationalize your cataloging, you can produce high-quality content without adding hours to your work-week.

1. The "One-Call" Batch Protocol

Stop the endless back-and-forth email chains regarding logistics. Instead, schedule a single 20-minute video call (via Zoom or Google Meet) with your presenter or artist three weeks prior to the event. Structure this call strictly to handle two distinct phases:

Phase A: Logistics (First 10 Minutes): Confirm the technical requirements, room setup, and arrival time.

Phase B: Content Creation (Last 10 Minutes): Hit the "Record" button (ensure you are recording to the cloud for easy sharing). Ask the presenter to look directly at the camera lens—not their screen—and answer three specific questions: *Who are you? What will the audience learn? Why should they come?* Finally, ask them to record a 15-second "Teaser" clip specifically inviting your library's patrons by name (e.g., "Hello Freeport Library patrons...").

The Result: In one sitting, you have finalized your event planning and generated two weeks' worth of video content for Instagram Reels and Facebook Stories.

2. The "Plug-and-Play" Comfort Template

Don't design a new graphic for every single event. Anxiety about logistics ("Where do I park?" or "Is this strictly for adults?") is a major barrier to registration. To combat this efficiently, create a "Know Before You Go" Master Template in a tool like Canva.

The Design: Create a clean, branded graphic that features your library's logo and three distinct text boxes with icons: *Parking/Arrival, Audience Level, and What to Bring.*

The Workflow: For every program, simply duplicate this file and fill in the blanks. For example: "*Parking: Use the East Lot,*" "*Audience: Best for Ages 18+,*" and "*Bring: Your own yoga mat.*"

The Benefit: This takes less than two minutes to update but provides the critical "comfort content" that convinces hesitant patrons to click "Register."

3. The "Designated Capturer" Delegation

As the program host, your job is to greet patrons, introduce the speaker, and troubleshoot technology. You cannot effectively document the event while hosting it. If you try to do both, one will suffer.

The Assignment: Designate a specific staff member, a trusted volunteer, or even a Teen Advisory Board member as the "Official Photographer."

The Tool: Hand them a physical clipboard with a printed "Shot List" (e.g., *1 Wide Shot of the Crowd, 1 Close-up of the Speaker, 1 Video of Applause*).

The Specifics: Instruct them to focus on the *reaction*, not just the action. A photo of a patron laughing or taking notes is infinitely more powerful than a photo of a speaker standing behind a podium. Having a dedicated person ensures you get high-quality, usable assets without disrupting your own hosting duties.

4. The Pre-Written "Bridge" Post

The moment a program ends, you will be tired. You will be busy moving chairs and answering last-minute questions. You will likely not have the mental energy to craft a witty social media caption.

The Strategy: Draft your post-event content *before* the event even starts. Open your social media scheduling tool (like Meta Business Suite) in the morning and write a draft caption: "*Tonight's event with [Artist Name] was incredible! The energy in the room was electric. If you have FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out), don't worry—we are doing it again next month! Click the link to grab your seat for [Next Event Name].*"

The Execution: Leave a placeholder bracket in the draft that says [INSERT PHOTO HERE]. As the event wraps up, simply grab the best photo from your Designated Capturer, drop it into the draft, and hit "Post" before you even leave the building. This ensures you capture the peak engagement window without the late-night stress.

By weaving this streamlined content strategy into your regular planning, you transform marketing from a frantic afterthought into a sustainable community-building engine. You no longer need to chase attendees with flyers; instead, you cultivate an engaged audience that feels personally connected to your library's narrative. Start by testing this workflow on just one upcoming flagship program to see how a small investment in storytelling yields a massive return in engagement. Ultimately, when you show patrons exactly what they are missing, you ensure that next month's empty seats become this month's waiting list.



Think Way Ahead: Late Winter-Spring Holidays, Occurrences & Moments in the Arts

Chinese New Year (Feb. 17– Mar. 3, 2026)

Women's History Month (March)

St. Patrick's Day (March 17)

Academy Awards (Oscars)

Spring Solstice (March 20 2027)

Jazz Awareness Month (April)

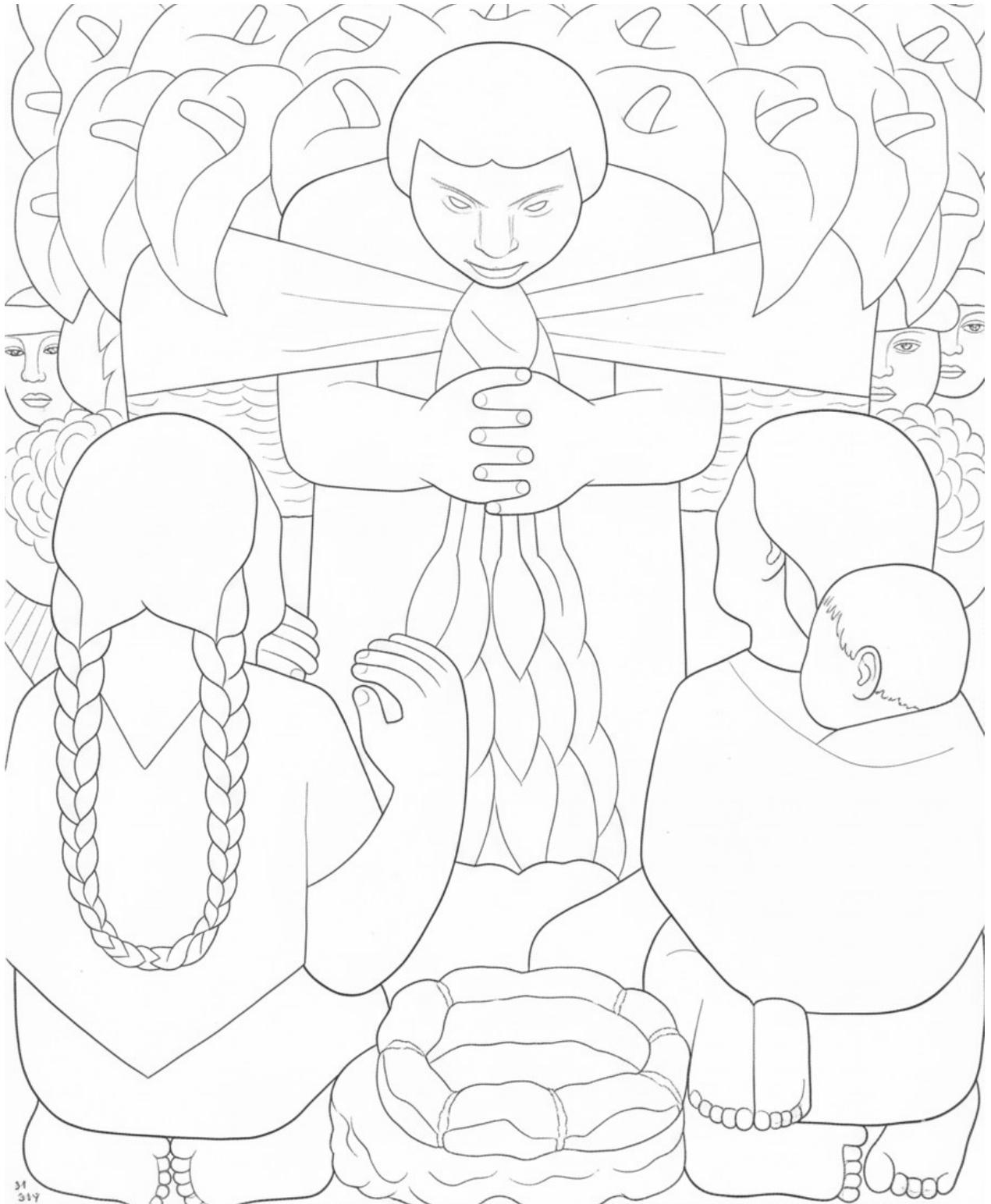
Poetry Month (April)

Shakespeare's Birthday (April 23)

Mother's Day

Memorial Day (May)

Father's Day (June)



Color Cover: Diego Rivera's Flower Day (Día de Flores), 1925.

Diego Rivera's (1886-1957) *Flower Day*, completed in 1925, is a masterpiece of Mexican Modernism that transforms a simple scene of a street vendor into a monumental, spiritual event. The painting features a powerful use of symmetry and blocky, sculptural figures, showcasing Rivera's signature style of elevating Indigenous traditions and daily labor to the realm of high art. It remains a cornerstone of his career, illustrating his ability to blend social commentary with a bold, distinctively Mexican aesthetic.

"I know now that he who hopes to be universal in his art must plant in his own soil . . . The secret of my best work is that it is Mexican." -Diego Rivera