

MEDIA RELATIONS

Portfolio

ELAINA FINKELSTEIN

[HTTPS://ELAINAFINKELSTEIN.COM/](https://elainafinkelstein.com/)

About My Work



As a Public Affairs Specialist at the Library of Congress, I manage media relations and strategic communications across multiple high-priority beats, serving as the primary contact between various divisions and the media. My work spans writing press releases, coordinating media outreach, managing large-scale email distributions, and building relationships with journalists who cover everything from digital innovation to literary events to preservation work. I'm responsible for identifying newsworthy stories within these subject areas, crafting compelling narratives, and executing distribution strategies that reach both mass audiences and targeted media contacts.

Recognizing the shifting media landscape, I've also jumpstarted outreach to social media influencers and content creators in addition to traditional journalists. I've built relationships with local Instagram and TikTok influencers who focus on books, history, D.C. culture, and educational content, inviting them to Library events and providing them with behind-the-scenes access. This strategy has expanded our reach to younger, digitally-native audiences who might not read traditional news outlets but are highly engaged on social platforms. These influencer partnerships have generated authentic, engaging content about our programs that reaches audiences we previously struggled to connect with through conventional media channels.

Skills & Technical Systems

Media Relations & Communications

- Press release and media advisory writing
- Media pitching and relationship building
- Embargo management and strategic timing
- Crisis communications and rapid response
- Interview coordination and spokesperson support
- Media monitoring and coverage analysis

Digital Platforms & Content Management

- WordPress (newsroom content management and publishing)
- GovDelivery (email marketing to 300,000+ subscribers)
- Cision (media database, list building, and distribution)
- Agility PR (media monitoring and analytics)
- loc.gov/events (event page creation and management)

Strategic Communications

- Multi-channel distribution strategy
- Regional and national media targeting
- Influencer outreach and partnership development
- Social media amplification coordination
- Campaign planning and execution
- Stakeholder coordination across divisions

Content Development

- Beat reporting and subject matter expertise
- Long-form feature writing
- Messaging and positioning
- Talking points and Q&A documents
- Photography coordination and caption writing
- SEO optimization for digital content

Project Management

- Cross-divisional collaboration
- Timeline management and deadline coordination
- Launch synchronization across multiple platforms
- Media kit development
- Event publicity and promotion

Previous Work

My previous media work has been in collaboration with Kamala Harris' for the People Campaign, MacArthur Foundation, St. Jude's Marlo Thomas, Buckle Up For Life, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, Association of American Railroads, Soccer for Success, WUSA9 (CBS), ABC7 Channel 8 News (WJLA), and more.

Publications

My photography work for the Library of Congress has been used across media outlets online, recently being credited in Variety. In addition to photography, I have also written various news articles on behalf of WUSA9 and ABC7 and the Library of Congress.

To read any press releases, blog posts, magazine articles, news stories, and photography publications, please check out her website: <https://elainafinkelstein.com>



Live! *At the Library*

As the lead beat manager for the Library's public programming, I write and distribute the monthly "Live! At the Library" press releases highlight upcoming concerts, lectures, and cultural events. Every month, I work directly with program coordinators across different divisions to gather event details, then craft releases that showcase our diverse programming

After posting each release to the Library's newsroom, I push it out through our GovDelivery email system to 300,000 subscribers nationwide. I also distribute it to targeted media contacts using custom Cision lists I've built and maintain over time. These lists include arts and culture reporters, entertainment editors, calendar editors at major newspapers, and broadcast producers who regularly cover D.C. events and cultural programming.

This monthly routine has become essential to promoting the Library's public programs, driving attendance, and securing media coverage that brings our events to audiences well beyond those who can visit in person.

Beyond immediate attendance numbers, these monthly releases have established the Library as a go-to cultural destination in Washington, helping shift public perception from strictly a research institution to an active, accessible venue for public engagement. The sustained drumbeat of monthly communications has built lasting relationships with arts and culture journalists who now proactively reach out about our programs, turning what started as one-way announcements into ongoing media partnerships.

NEWSDIR
Leadership | Staff Listings | Fact Sheets | Multimedia | Press Kits | Media Carts | Info | Feedback

[Library Names 25 Films to the National Film Registry](#)

Live! At The Library Features Golden Age of Hollywood Costume Ball in September

Premiere Date: 21 Aug 2025

AT THE LIBRARY

Free tickets are required. Visit [**loc.gov/live**](http://loc.gov/live)

Live! at the Library features Golden Age of Hollywood Costume Ball in September.

Event features Big Band Music, Costume Contest and Hollywood Collection Display.

Step into the spotlight at the Library of Congress for a dazzling night of vintage glamour, music, dancing and movie magic. The Golden Age of Hollywood Costume Ball invites you on Sept. 18 to celebrate the iconic style and cinematic spirit of the 1930s to the late 1950s.

Guests are invited to explore special curated displays of archival treasures of women in the spotlight, highlights from the National Film Registry, and the groundbreaking preservation of film and audio collections at the Library's National Audio-Visual Conservation Center.

Throughout the evening, enjoy music and dancing inspired by the era, along with photo ops, themed cocktails and light fare. Visitors are encouraged to wear costumes and participate in a costume contest. Guests may also choose to settle in for a special 75th anniversary screening of the Golden Age classic "All About Eve" (1950), widely considered one of the greatest films ever made. The film will be introduced by Library of Congress film presentation experts.

During Live! At the Library on Thursday evenings, the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building and all exhibitions are open for extended hours from 5 to 8 p.m. Visitors are invited to enjoy happy hour drinks and snacks available for purchase in the beautiful Great Hall overlooking the Capitol while visiting the Library's exhibitions and programs.

Live! At the Library attendees are also invited to **Experience the Main Reading Room** during Live! at the Library. Usually reserved for researchers, visitors can now walk inside and see one of Washington's most beautiful spaces.

Ticketing

For events during Live! At the Library, please use the event registration ticketing link found next to the event below or at loc.gov/live. This ticket grants access to the program as well as the Library's exhibitions and the happy hour portion of the evening.

Programming Highlights for September

- Sept. 11:** D.C.'s Different Drummers bring their jazz band ensemble to play iconic songs from the Hamptons, Mancini, Armand, Billy May, Gerawan and Straphorn collections. This Café Concert will be held in the Great Hall from 4 to 5 p.m. [Register for tickets.](#)
- Sept. 11:** The Law Library of Congress with the Supreme Court Historical Society will be hosting a film screening of a play about the life of Oliver Wendell Holmes. This screening will be held in the Coolidge Auditorium from 5 to 7 p.m. [Register for tickets.](#)
- Sept. 11:** Celebrate the successful conclusion of the Hebrew Manuscript Digitization Project, made possible by a generous grant from the Berg Foundation. **Sharon Meitzi**, curator of Jewish art at the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary, will highlight manuscripts from this rich and diverse collection. Join the program in Room LJJ-109 from 6 to 8 p.m. [Register for tickets.](#)
- Sept. 18:** Join the Golden Age of Hollywood Costume Ball. Costumes are encouraged! The evening features curated Library collection items showcasing women in front of and behind the camera - and the Library's film preservation work - in Mahogany Row from 5 to 7 p.m. Enjoy music and dancing in the Great Hall from 5 to 8:30 p.m., with themed cocktails and snacks throughout the night. [Register for tickets.](#)
- Sept. 18:** Visitors are invited for a special 75th anniversary showing of the Golden Age classic "All About Eve" (1950) in the Coolidge Auditorium from 6 to 8:30 p.m., with an introduction by Library of Congress film presentation experts. The film was added to the Library's National Film Registry in 1990. [Register for tickets.](#)
- Sept. 25:** Join an evening at the library with bestselling author **Mary Roach** as she discusses her new book, "Replicavox: Your Adrenals in Human Anatomy." This event will be held in the Coolidge Auditorium from 7 to 8 p.m. This conversation will be moderated by Christina Larson, science writer for The Associated Press. [Register for tickets.](#)

Exhibitions On View

- A new exhibition, "**The Two Georges: Parallel Lives in an Age of Revolution**," explores the lives and legacies of George Washington and King George III of Britain, adversaries during America's war for independence. The Library of Congress brings their papers together for the first time to reveal the real men behind the myths.
- "**Collecting Memories: Treasures from the Library of Congress**" is the inaugural exhibition in the David R. Rubenstein Treasury Gallery, drawn from the Library's rich Americana and International holdings in more than 450 languages and a variety of formats created across time and continents. "Collecting Memories" marks the ways and the means cultures preserve memory.
- Take a trip through a re-created version of **Thomas Jefferson's Library**, which assembled 6,487 volumes that founded the Library of Congress, and learn how one of America's great thinkers was inspired through the world of books.
- "**The Great Gatsby Turns 100**" 2025 marks the one-hundredth anniversary of F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel "The Great Gatsby." Over the years, The Great Gatsby has been adapted into films, musicals and graphic novels, and has inspired several other novels. This display features books, photographs and other items from the Library of Congress's collections. On view Aug. 14 through Oct. 18.
- "**Herblock Looks at 1975: Fifty Years Ago in Editorial Cartoons**" Herblock's Block (1909–2003), known to the world as Herblock, was one of the most influential political commentators and editorial cartoonists in American history. This display features a selection of his work from 1975. On view through Oct. 18.
- "**A National Treasure: The Library of Congress**" is a small display that celebrates the history of the Thomas Jefferson Building, which opened to the public on November 1, 1897. Designed in an Italian Renaissance style, this building features the works of more than four hundred sculptors and painters. It was also the first building in Washington, D.C., designed with electric lighting. The state-of-the-art facility was built to accommodate the Library of Congress's burgeoning collections.

Live! At the Library is part of a broader effort to reimagine visitor experience at the Library of Congress that invites visitors to enjoy the Library and its collections in new ways during extended evening hours from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday nights. The series regularly features special conversations, music, performances, films and workshops that showcase the broad range of holdings at the national library.

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, offering access to the creative record of the United States — and extensive materials from around the world — both on-site and online. It is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office. Explore collections, reference services and other programs and plan a visit at loc.gov; access the official site for U.S. federal legislative information at congress.gov; and register creative works of authorship at copyright.gov.

#FF

Media Contact: Elaine Finekstein, efinekstein@loc.gov

PR 25-054
8/21/2025
ISBN 0731-3527

DOWNLOAD MEDIA

IMAGES (1)

ADD ALL TO CART DOWNLOAD ALL

TAGS

Live! At the Library

MEDIA CONTACT

Elaine Finekstein
Public Affairs Specialist
efinekstein@loc.gov

ABOUT THE LIBRARY

The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world, with millions of books, recordings, photographs, manuscripts, maps and periodicals in its collections. The library is the home resource for all the U.S. Congresses and the members of the U.S. Copyright Office.

Subscribe to our News Alerts

SUBSCRIBE

[Click link to view story.](#)

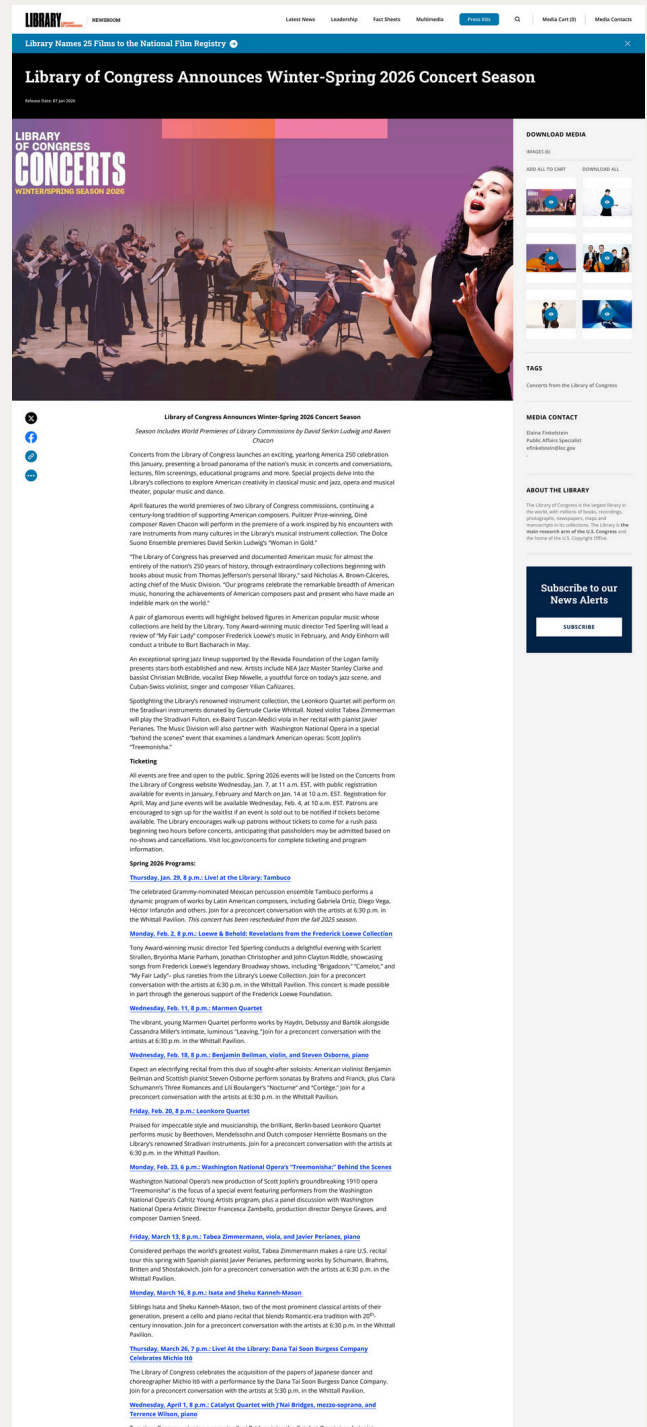
Concerts from the Library of Congress

As the lead communications specialist for Concerts from the Library of Congress, I write the seasonal concert announcements twice a year that unveil our upcoming lineup. I work directly with the Concerts Office to gather artist bios, program details, and ticketing information, then craft releases that generate excitement and drive ticket sales.

I also assist with the build out for every concert listing on loc.gov/events-dates, times, registration links, descriptions, everything. This has to be done before the release goes live because people immediately click through to buy tickets.

I manage the entire launch timeline to ensure the newsroom post, event pages, GovDelivery blast, and media outreach all go live simultaneously. This means scheduling the newsroom publication, building and staging all the event pages on loc.gov/events so they're ready to flip live, queuing up the GovDelivery email to our 300,000 subscribers, and coordinating media pitches through Cision—all timed in sync together.

To maximize media coverage on launch day, I send embargoed releases to key arts and culture journalists, classical music critics, and calendar editors ahead of time. The embargo allows them to preview the season, prepare their stories, and publish their coverage the same day we announce publicly. This strategy has resulted in coordinated media hits that amplify our announcement, outlets run their stories the morning our release drops, creating a concentrated wave of publicity that drives immediate traffic to our site and boosts ticket sales from day one.



Library of Congress Announces Winter-Spring 2026 Concert Season

Season includes World Premieres of Library Commissions by David Serkin Ludwig and Raven Chao

Concerts from the Library of Congress launched an exciting, yearlong America 250 celebration this January, presenting a broad panorama of the nation's music in concerts and conversations, lectures, film screenings, educational programs and more. Special projects delve into the Library's collections to explore American creativity in classical music and jazz, opera and musical theater, popular music and dance.

April features the world premieres of two Library of Congress commissions, continuing a century-long tradition of supporting American composers. Pulitzer Prize-winning, Dini composer Raven Chao will perform in the premiere of a work inspired by his encounters with rare instruments from many cultures in the Library's musical instrument collection. The Dini Sueno Ensemble premieres David Serkin Ludwig's "Woman in Gold."

"The Library of Congress has preserved and documented American music for almost the entirety of the nation's 250 years of history, through extraordinary collections beginning with books about music from Thomas Jefferson's personal library," said Nicholas A. Brown, CEO, acting chief of the Music Division. "Our programs celebrate the remarkable breadth of American music, honoring the achievements of American composers past and present who have made an indelible mark on the world."

A pair of glamorous events will highlight beloved figures in American popular music whose collections are held by the Library. Tony Award-winning music director Ted Sperling will lead a review of "My Fair Lady" composer Frederick Loewe's music in February, and Andy Enghorn will conduct a tribute to Kurt Bacharach in May.

An exceptional spring jazz lineup supported by the Revue Foundation of the Logan family presents stars both established and new. Artists include NEA Jazz Master Stanley Clarke and bassist Christian McBride, vocalist Deep Newell, a youthful force on today's jazz scene, and Cuban-Swiss violinist, singer and composer Yllean Calzadillas.

Spotlighting the Library's renowned instrument collection, the Lockport Quartet will perform on the Stradivari instruments donated by Giovanni Carlo Whitcomb. Noted violist Taboe Zimmermann will play the Stradivari Fulcan, ex-Baird Tucson-Medici viola in her recital with pianist Javier Perianes. The Music Division will also partner with Washington National Opera in a special "behind the scenes" event that examines a landmark American opera: Scott Joplin's "Treemonisha."

Ticketing

All events are free and open to the public. Spring 2026 events will be listed on the Concerts from the Library of Congress website Wednesday, Jan. 7, at 11 a.m. EST, with public registration available for events in January, February and March on Jan. 14 at 10 a.m. EST. Registration for April, May and June events will be available Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 10 a.m. EST. Patrons are encouraged to sign up for the waitlist if an event is sold out to be notified if tickets become available. The Library encourages walk-up patrons without tickets to come for a rush sale beginning two hours before concerts, anticipating that passholders may be admitted based on no-shows and cancellations. Visit loc.gov/concerts for complete ticketing and program information.

Spring 2026 Programs:

Thursday, Jan. 29, 8 p.m.: Live! at the Library: Tambuco

The celebrated Grammy-nominated Mexican percussion ensemble Tambuco performs a dynamic program of works by Latin American composers, including Gabriela Ortiz, Diego Vega, Hector Infante and others, join for a preconcert conversation with the artists at 6:30 p.m. in the Whitlall Pavilion. This concert has been rescheduled from the 2025 season.

Monday, Feb. 2, 8 p.m.: Loewe & Bachold: Revelations from the Frederick Loewe Collection

Tony Award-winning music director Ted Sperling conducts a delightful evening with Scarlett Strallen, Brynora Marie Parham, Jonathan Christopher and John Clayton Riddle, showcasing songs from Frederick Loewe's legendary Broadway shows, including "Singsong," "Carnegie," and "My Fair Lady," plus rarities from the Library's Loewe Collection. Join for a preconcert conversation with the artists at 6:30 p.m. in the Whitlall Pavilion. This concert is made possible in part through the generous support of the Frederick Loewe Foundation.

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 8 p.m.: Marmen Quartet

The vibrant, young Marmen Quartet performs works by Haydn, Debussy and Bartók alongside Columbia Miller's intimate, luminous "Lovers" join for a preconcert conversation with the artists at 6:30 p.m. in the Whitlall Pavilion.

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 8 p.m.: Benjamin Ballman, violin, and Steven Osborne, piano

Expect an electrifying recital from this duo of sought-after soloists: American violinist Benjamin Ballman and Scottish pianist Steven Osborne perform pieces by Brahms and Frank, plus Clara Schumann's Three Romances and Lili Boulanger's "Nocturne" and "Cortège" join for a preconcert conversation with the artists at 6:30 p.m. in the Whitlall Pavilion.

Friday, Feb. 20, 8 p.m.: Lockport Quartet

Praised for impeccable style and musicianship, the brilliant, Berlin-based Lockport Quartet performs music by Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Dutch composer Hendrick Bormans on the Library's renowned Stradivari instruments. Join for a preconcert conversation with the artists at 6:30 p.m. in the Whitlall Pavilion.

Monday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m.: Washington National Opera's "Treemonisha" Behind the Scenes

Washington National Opera's new production of Scott Joplin's groundbreaking 1910 opera "Treemonisha" is the focus of a special event featuring performers from the Washington National Opera's Caryl Chessell Young Artists program, plus a panel discussion with Washington National Opera Artistic Director Francesca Zambello, production director Denyse Gravo, and composer Gabele Street.

Friday, March 13, 8 p.m.: Taboe Zimmermann, viola, and Javier Perianes, piano

Considered perhaps the world's greatest violist, Taboe Zimmermann makes a rare U.S. recital tour this spring with Spanish pianist Javier Perianes, performing works by Schumann, Brahms, Britten and Shostakovich, join for a preconcert conversation with the artists at 6:30 p.m. in the Whitlall Pavilion.

Monday, March 16, 8 p.m.: Issa and Shiku Kameh-Mason

Siblings Issa and Shiku Kameh-Mason, two of the most prominent classical artists of their generation, present a cabaret and piano recital that blends Romantic-era tradition with 20th-century innovation. Join for a preconcert conversation with the artists at 6:30 p.m. in the Whitlall Pavilion.

Thursday, March 26, 7 p.m.: Live! At the Library: Dana Tai Soon Burgess Company Celebrates Michio Ito

The Library of Congress celebrates the acquisition of the papers of Japanese dancer and choreographer Michio Ito with a performance by the Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company. Join for a preconcert conversation with the artists at 5:30 p.m. in the Whitlall Pavilion.

Wednesday, April 1, 8 p.m.: Catalyst Quartet with Neal Bridges, mezzo-soprano, and Terrence Wilkins, piano

Two-time Grammy-winning opera star Neal Bridges joins the Catalyst Quartet and pianist

[Click link to view story.](#)

National Book Festival 2024

The National Book Festival is the biggest press release we write all year, and 2024 was my first time taking the lead on such a massive project. The announcement featured a lineup of more than 90 authors including James Patterson, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Sandra Cisneros, Rebecca Yarros, James McBride, and Tamron Hall. This release required months of coordination across multiple Library divisions to gather author information, biographies, book descriptions, event details, and high-resolution author photos.

We worked with our Special Events team, Center for the Book, and Development staff to compile everything, then organized it all into a comprehensive release that could work for different audiences—from book lovers to literary media to general news outlets.

The distribution strategy went well beyond our usual DMV focus. We targeted national book media, literary publications, local media in authors' hometowns, romance blogs for authors like Rebecca Yarros and Casey McQuiston, cooking publications for Tamron Hall and Lish Stealing, and broadcast outlets across the country. The release generated coverage from Axios DC, multiple library systems nationwide that reposted our announcement, and set up partnerships with C-SPAN's Book TV, NPR, The Washington Post, and PBS Books for live coverage and author interviews.

The media push continued throughout the summer with NPR's Book of the Day, Wild Card, and Short Wave podcasts featuring interviews with festival authors like Sandra Cisneros, James McBride, Rebecca Yarros, Joy Buolamwini, and Kyle Chayka. NPR's 1A also did a highlights episode with Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden discussing the festival. Despite being my first time managing such a large-scale communications effort, the coordinated media approach helped drive tens of thousands of attendees to the convention center and positioned the festival as one of the premier literary events in the country.

Getting to write the press release for the 2024 National Book Festival was an opportunity of a lifetime. This is the Library's flagship public event that brings together some of the biggest names in publishing and draws tens of thousands of people to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Being trusted with the main author announcement that sets the tone for the whole festival and drives attendance was both exciting and nerve-wracking. Seeing the coverage come in from outlets nationwide and watching the crowds pack the convention center on festival day made all the work worth it.

The screenshot shows the Library of Congress website with a banner for the National Book Festival. The banner features a colorful geometric design and the text "LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL loc.gov/bookfest". Below the banner, the text reads "Library of Congress National Book Festival Announces Full Author Lineup for 2024". The lineup includes authors such as James Patterson, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Sandra Cisneros, Rebecca Yarros, James McBride, and Tamron Hall. The website also features a "DOWNLOAD MEDIA" section with various image and video assets, and a "RELATED LINKS" section with links to the festival's social media and other resources.

[Click link to view story.](#)

Music Acquisitions

When the Library acquired Harold Arlen's original musical sketches for "The Wizard of Oz," I managed the entire communications rollout to maximize national media attention for this significant addition to our collection. I worked closely with Music Division curators to understand the historical importance of the materials and craft a compelling narrative around the acquisition. This included coordinating with curators to photograph the collection, ensuring we had high-quality images of the most visually interesting and newsworthy pieces that would work for journalists to report on.

I wrote the press release emphasizing the cultural significance of these rare materials and strategically timed the announcement to coincide with the 86th anniversary of the film's release, giving the story a news hook that made it more appealing to media.

Before the public announcement, I embargoed the release to key journalists at national outlets, music publications, theater media, and film industry press. This gave reporters time to review the materials, speak with curators, and prepare in-depth storie

s that would publish the same day we went public. The embargo strategy worked and we secured coordinated coverage from NPR, Billboard, Playbill, Broadway World, and numerous other outlets, all publishing on announcement day. I also pushed the release through our GovDelivery system to 300,000 subscribers and distributed it widely through my Cision media lists. The concentrated wave of publicity generated significant public interest and demonstrated the Library's role as the premier repository for American musical heritage.

NEWSPAPERS
LEADERSHIP
FACETS
MULTIMEDIA
Press Kits

Media Cart (0)

Media Contacts

Library Names 25 Films to the National Film Registry

Library of Congress Acquires “Wizard of Oz” Musical Sketches To Add to the Harold Arlen Collection

February 20, 2023

DOWNLOAD MEDIA

IMAGES (6)

ADD ALL TO CART

DOWNLOAD ALL

MEDIA CONTACT

Elaina Finkelshtien
Public Affairs Specialist
efinkelsht@loc.gov

ABOUT THE LIBRARY

The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world, with millions of books, manuscripts, photographs, newspapers, maps and manuscripts in its collections. The Library is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office.

Subscribe to Our News

SUBSCRIBE

Library of Congress Acquires “Wizard of Oz” Musical Sketches To Add to the Harold Arlen Collection

Collection includes Handwritten Music and Lyric Sketches Showing Creative Process Behind Iconic Film, Along with Letters and Artwork

The Library of Congress has acquired rare music and lyric sketches from composer Harold Arlen and lyricist E.Y. “Big Boy” Harburg, best known for their collaboration on the score of the iconic film “The Wizard of Oz” in 1939. The film opened in theaters 86 years ago on Aug. 25, 1939, and was inducted into the Library of Congress National Film Registry in 1989.

The new acquisition includes 35 manuscript items from Arlen and Harburg’s creative work, including the first handwritten drafts of music and lyrics from some of the most beloved songs from “The Wizard of Oz.” The collection also includes draft song lists and correspondence from the director of the film, Mervyn LeRoy.

The star of the collection is the only lyric sketch for “Over the Rainbow” known to exist. “Some day I’ll wish upon a star – waaaah – find the land that I’m headed for, behind me –”

“I wish above the Chimney Tops – O’ where troubles melt like lemon drops – That’s where you’ll find me”

Additional collection highlights include:

- Three pages of music sketches for the “Wonderful Wizard of Oz.”
- Music manuscript of “Off to See the Wizard.”
- Lyrics for the “Lullaby Linger” song.
- Lyric sketches for “Tingling with the Witch is Dead.”
- Music sketches for the “Mayer of Munchkin Land.”
- Seven pages of music sketches of preliminary concepts labeled “O possibilities.”
- The Academy Award that Harold Arlen received in 1939 for best original song for “Over the Rainbow.”

In addition to film-related materials, this acquisition included a rare self-portrait of composer and pianist George Gershwin dated 1929 that was sent to Arlen by Gershwin himself.

“Harold Arlen’s contributions to “The Wizard of Oz” have profoundly shaped American culture,” said Nicholas A. Brown-Cloves, acting chief of the Library’s Music Division. “The donation of these manuscripts and papers represents a treasured addition in conjunction with our various Oz-themed holdings. This gift not only honors Arlen and Harburg’s imaginative genius but also preserves the legacy of the music that has captured the hearts of generations. The Library is grateful to the late Mrs. Arlen and the Arlen family for sharing these artifacts with the American people.”

A small display will be featured in the Great Hall of the Thomas Jefferson Building that features original music and lyric manuscripts from the creation of “The Wizard of Oz” and “Wicked” beginning in October. These treasures from the Music Division’s Harold Arlen Collection and ASCAP Foundation Collection document the creation of the soundtracks to the iconic films inspired by Frank L. Baum’s classic novel “The Wizard of Oz,” which turns 125 in 2025. This display will be view from Oct. 23 through Jan. 7, 2026.

The recently acquired “Wizard of Oz” material joins the Harold Arlen Collection, which was donated by Arlen’s sister-in-law, Rita Arlen, beginning in 2022. This collection includes a musical sketchbook, a large notebook of music and lyric sketches for the musical “House of Flowers” (1954), hundreds of photographs and Arlen’s original typescript screenplay for “The Wizard of Oz.”

Additionally, the existing Arlen Collection contains correspondence from Arlen’s friends, family and colleagues including Louis Armstrong, Fred Astaire, Irving Berlin, Truman Capote, Bill Crosby, Ira Gershwin, Oscar Hammerstein, Yip Harburg, Jerome Kern, Jimmy Mercer, Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers, Frank Sinatra and Barbra Streisand. It also includes several artworks such as three portraits by George Gershwin. The Library also acquired Arlen’s original sketches for his searing torch song, “Stormy Weather” and his manuscript for “The Man Who Got Away” from Judy Garland’s “A Star is Born” (1955).

Arlen’s other classic songs included in this 2022 collection are “Ac-Cent-Tu-Watch the Positive,” “Blues in the Night,” “Come Rain or Come Shine,” “Get Happy,” “It’s Only a Paper Moon,” “The Man That Got Away,” “One for My Baby (and One More for the Road)” and “A Sweeter Bee.”

The Harold Arlen Collection joins dozens of other songwriter collections in the Library’s Music Division. These collections represent numerous classic American songs for stage and film, including the manuscripts and papers of Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin, George & Ira Gershwin, Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein, Alan Jay Lerner & Frederick Loewe, Billy Straphorn, Leonard Bernstein, Jeanne Tesori, Leslie Bricusse, Burt Bacharach, Hay Cragin and Judy Collins.

The Library of Congress is the world’s largest library, offering access to the creative genius of the United States – and extensive materials from around the world – both on-site and online. It is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office. Explore collections, reference services and other programs and plan a visit at loc.gov; access the official site for U.S. federal legislative information at congress.gov; and register creative works of authorship at copyright.gov.

###

Media Contact: Elaina Finkelshtien, efinkelsht@loc.gov
PR 25-051
08/25/2025
ISSN 0731-3527

[Click link to view story.](#)

Summer Movies on the Lawn

Every summer, I write and promote the announcement for "Summer Movies on the Lawn," one of the Library's most popular public programs that draws thousands of families to our campus. This free outdoor film series screens classic films from the National Film Registry on Thursday evenings at sundown on the southeast lawn of the Thomas Jefferson Building. I work with our film preservation team to select movies that appeal to diverse audiences—from family favorites like "The Wizard of Oz" and "Willy Wonka" to crowd-pleasers like "Rocky" and "Iron Man"—while also considering timely themes and anniversaries that give the series a news hook.

I coordinate the entire communications rollout, writing the press release that announces the full summer lineup, building out individual event pages for each screening on loc.gov/events, and distributing through multiple email subscriber lists.

I also pitch the series to local media, family publications, influencers, and D.C. event calendars. This outreach has generated consistent coverage from outlets like WTOP, The Washington Post, and other media outlets which treat it as a must-attend summer tradition in the capital.

The series has been running since 2017 and regularly fills the lawn to capacity, demonstrating the Library's commitment to making our collections accessible and creating memorable public experiences that connect people with film preservation and American cultural heritage.

NEWSPAPER

[Latest News](#)
[Leadership](#)
[Fact Sheets](#)
[Multimedia](#)
[Press Kit](#)

[Q](#)
[Media Center](#)
[Media Contacts](#)

Library Names 25 Films to the National Film Registry

Annual Summer Movies on the Lawn to Present National Film Registry Selections

Release Date: 08 May 2023

DOWNLOAD MEDIA

(MAGES) (1)

[ADD ALL TO CART](#) [DOWNLOAD ALL](#)

TAGS

Summer Movies on the Lawn

MEDIA CONTACT

Elaina Finkelstein
Public Affairs Specialist
efinkelstein@loc.gov

ABOUT THE LIBRARY

The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world, with millions of books, recordings, photographs, manuscripts, maps and microfilm in its collections. The Library is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office.

Subscribe to our News Alerts

SUBSCRIBE

Annual Summer Movies on the Lawn to Present National Film Registry Selections

Updated Lineup Includes "Grease" and "Iron Man"

The Library of Congress will host its annual "Summer Movies on the Lawn" series starting July 10. The series featuring films from the Library's National Film Registry will be presented Thursday evenings at sundown on the southeast lawn of the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building.

The 2023 summer movies lineup has been updated since it was announced on May 8, due to the availability of films.

The scheduled films now include:

- [July 10: "Grease" \(1978\) \(2020 National Film Registry\)](#)
- [July 17: "The Goonies" \(1985\) \(2017 National Film Registry\)](#)
- [July 24: "Spy Kids" \(2001\) \(2024 National Film Registry\)](#)
- [July 31: "The Muppet Movie" \(1979\) \(2001 National Film Registry\)](#)
- [Aug. 7: "Iron Man" \(2008\) \(2022 National Film Registry\)](#)

The Library plans to offer music performances prior to some of the films. Music for the evening will begin at 7 p.m., followed by the film at sundown.

Located on the corner of 2nd Street SE and Independence Avenue, the southeast lawn of the Thomas Jefferson Building is a scenic space to enjoy films on Capitol Hill. No tickets are required, but visitors are encouraged to arrive early as space is limited. Visitors must stay with their items on the lawn at all times.

Restrooms are available in the James Madison Building located at 101 Independence Ave SE. Please be advised, visitors must navigate U.S. Capitol Police security screening to enter the building to use the facilities. Restrooms in this building are fully accessible.

The film series is part of the Library's after-hours experience, **Live! At the Library**. From 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays, visitors are invited to enjoy happy hour drinks and snacks available for purchase in the Great Hall overlooking the Capitol and the Thomas Jefferson Building's beautiful architecture while immersing themselves in the Library's exhibitions, collections and programs. Free timed-entry passes for entrance to the Thomas Jefferson Building are required and can be reserved at loc.gov/tvp/. Find additional event details at loc.gov/live/.

About the National Film Registry

Under the terms of the National Film Preservation Act, each year the Librarian of Congress names to the National Film Registry 25 motion pictures that are "culturally, historically or aesthetically" significant, showcasing the broad range of America's film heritage to encourage support for its preservation. The films must be at least 10 years old. The Librarian makes the annual registry selections after conferencing with members of the National Film Preservation Board and a cadre of Library specialists. Thousands of public nominations are also considered. More information about the National Film Registry can be found at loc.gov/nfr/.

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, offering access to the creative record of the United States — and extensive materials from around the world — both on-site and online. It is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office. Explore collections, reference services and other programs and plan a visit at loc.gov; access the official site for U.S. federal legislative information at congress.gov; and register creative works of authorship at copyright.gov.

###

Media Contact: Elaina Finkelstein, efinkelstein@loc.gov

PR 25-040
06-09-2025
ISSN 0731-3527

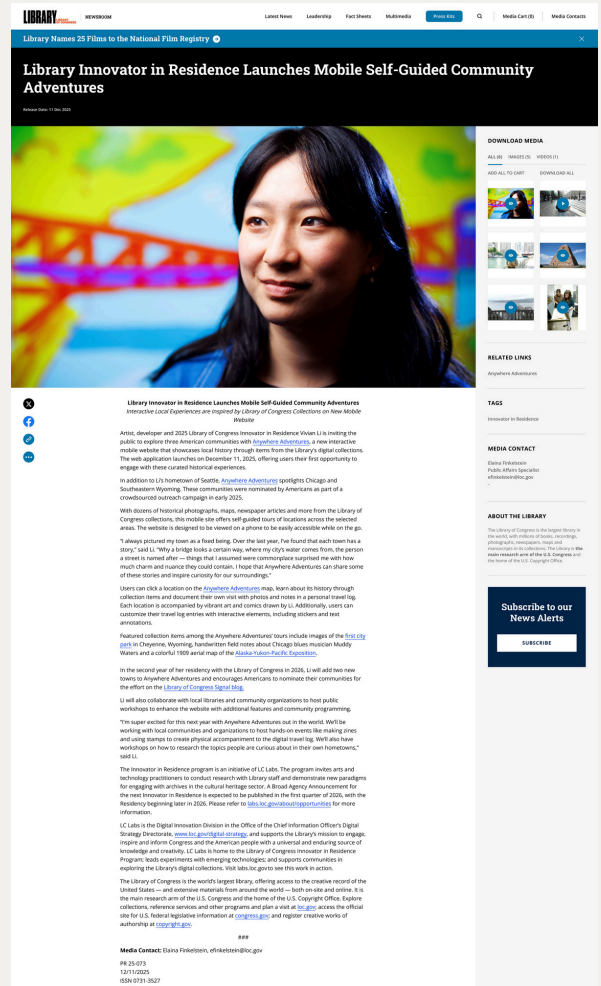
[Click link to view story.](#)

Innovator in Residence

For the launch of Anywhere Adventures, the Innovator in Residence mobile website featuring Seattle, Chicago, and Southeastern Wyoming, I wrote the press release and developed a targeted regional media strategy that went beyond our typical DMV-focused outreach. Since the project spotlighted specific communities outside Washington, I created custom Cision media lists for each featured location to ensure local outlets and journalists in those areas knew about the project.

For Seattle, I pitched to Pacific Northwest media including Seattle Times, local TV stations, and arts publications. For Chicago, I targeted Chicago Tribune, Block Club Chicago, and Windy City cultural outlets. For Southeastern Wyoming, I reached out to Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne outlets, and regional papers that cover the area. Each pitch emphasized the local angle—that their community had been selected through public nomination and was now featured in this interactive Library of Congress project showcasing local history through our digital collections.

This regional approach generated coverage in markets that don't typically cover Library news, bringing awareness to audiences in those specific communities and driving local residents to explore the mobile site. It demonstrated how the Library's collections connect to stories across the country, not just in Washington, and showed residents in Seattle, Chicago, and Wyoming that their local history is preserved and accessible through our resource.



[Click link to view story.](#)

Family Day at the Library

I write and promote press releases for our monthly Family Day series, which brings families and children to the Jefferson Building for hands-on activities connected to Library collections. These Saturday programs are themed around heritage months, holidays, and significant anniversaries—from Hispanic Heritage Month cartonera bookmaking to Halloween crafts, Veterans Day activities, winter holiday celebrations, Valentine's Day Victorian cards, Women's History Month aviation projects, and Japanese Culture Day during Cherry Blossom Festival season.

Each release requires me to coordinate with our Informal Learning Office and relevant subject specialists to accurately describe the activities, explain the collection connections, and provide registration details.

I typically announce these in seasonal batches—spring/summer programming in one release, fall/winter in another—to give families advance notice so they can plan their visits. I also build out the individual event pages on loc.gov/events (WordPress) for each Family Day. The releases go out through GovDelivery to our 300,000 subscribers and I distribute them to family-focused media, parenting publications, D.C. event calendars, and local outlets like Mommy Poppins and Joyraft that specifically cover family activities in the area.

These programs target kids ages 8-15 and give families a way to engage with the Library beyond just touring the building. My consistent media placement and calendar listings have helped establish Family Days as a regular offering that local families look forward to each month, building ongoing connections between young people and the Library's collections.

The screenshot displays the Library of Congress website's announcement for Family Days. The header includes the Library of Congress logo and navigation links. The main headline reads "Library To Host Monthly Family Days Throughout the Spring and Summer" with a sub-headline "Free Saturday Activities Monthly, 10:30am-3:30pm See dates at loc.gov/events". The central graphic features a collage of images showing families engaged in various activities like bookmaking and crafts. To the right, there are sections for "DOWNLOAD MEDIA" (Images, Add All to Cart, Download All), "TAGS" (Women's History Month, Family Day, AAPI Month), and "MEDIA CONTACT" (Elaina Finkelstein, Public Affairs Specialist, efinkelstein@loc.gov). Below the graphic, the text details the monthly programming highlights, including March Family Day (celebrating Women's History Month), April Family Day (National Library Month), and May Family Day (Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month). It also lists additional offerings like a mask-making workshop and a book signing. The bottom of the page includes the media contact information and a subscribe button.

[Click link to view story.](#)

Library of Congress Magazine

Throughout my career, I have developed a strong foundation in writing, storytelling, and research. My experience as a writer spans various mediums, including print, social media, and broadcast journalism.

In my previous role as a writer for local news stations, I was responsible for researching and producing compelling stories on a wide range of topics, including: arts and culture, history, and current events. I developed strong interviewing and fact-checking skills, ensuring that my stories were accurate, well-researched, and balanced.

At the Library of Congress, I have had the privilege of writing about the Library's vast resources and collections, conducting in-depth research, and crafting engaging narratives that capture the essence of its exhibitions, collections, and initiatives.

In addition to occasionally contributing written pieces to the Library of Congress Magazine, my photography captured throughout the Library is featured in many issues of LCM. My work documents the Library's architecture, collections, exhibitions, and behind the scenes moments, offering a visual perspective that complements the magazine's editorial coverage and helps bring the institution's work to life for a broad audience.

[Click link to view story.](#)



■ Dorothea Lange's iconic photograph "Migrant Mother" conveys the strength of a young mother and her family during the Great Depression. Prints and Photographs Division

MATERNAL PERSEVERANCE

Collections chronicle the strength of American mothers.

BY ELAINA FINKELSTEIN

Throughout history, mothers have protected us as children, raised us into adults, shown us how to be good people, guided us through hardship. Library collections chronicle many of their stories.

At the start of the Civil War, opportunities for most women were limited. However, due to the crisis of war, their roles expanded from traditional mothering to include caring for soldiers on and off the battlefield. Behind the lines stood Mary Ann Ball Bickerdyke, a beloved nurse and agent for the United States Sanitary Commission.

To the Union soldiers under her care, she

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MAGAZINE

was Mother Bickerdyke. She established or improved some 300 military hospitals. She and other nurses supported Union armies on their campaigns and tended to the wounded after some of the war's bloodiest, most pivotal battles – Shiloh, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Atlanta.

Knowing her own children were safe at home, Bickerdyke felt her duty lay in the field. In a letter to her son James written on June 6, 1864, she explained the necessity of her absence: "How little you who are living so far away know about the horrors and sorrow of this terrible war!"

For his part, James expressed a sentiment no doubt also felt by those wounded soldiers with whom he shared Mary Ann during the war: "Their (sic) no one like a mother." After the war, Bickerdyke continued to help and support them, helping to secure federal pensions for numerous veterans and nurses who had served.

Bickerdyke's papers, held in the Manuscript Division, are available online. They include lists of provisions supplied for soldiers' aid during her time in the field as well as letters from grateful soldiers, donors on the homefront and relief workers who shepherded food and other material to the front.

The Library's collections hold countless such examples of motherly strength and courage. Among them are the records of American Gold Star Mothers Inc., an organization founded in 1928 to support mothers of U.S. military personnel who lost their lives in the service of the country; and mothers and daughters involved in the women's suffrage movement, such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Harriot Stanton Blatch and Mary Church Terrell and Phyllis Terrell Langston.

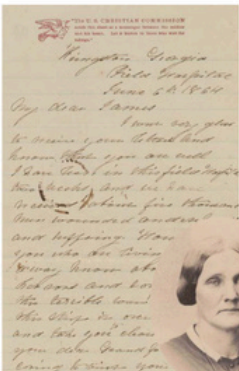
"Migrant Mother," perhaps the most famous photograph in the Library's collections and, indeed, in American history, represents the strength of a young mother and her family during the Great Depression.

Dorothea Lange was concluding a monthlong trip photographing migratory farm laborers in 1936 for the U.S. Resettlement Administration when she came across 32-year-old Florence Owens Thompson and her seven children in Nipomo, California.

Thompson and her partner, Jim Hill, had been picking beets in the Imperial Valley and

■ Left: Mary Ann Ball Bickerdyke – known as Mother Bickerdyke to soldiers under her care – helped establish or improve hundreds of hospitals during the Civil War. Manuscript Division, Prints and Photographs Division

Bottom: The Library holds the records of American Gold Star Mothers, an organization that supports mothers of U.S. military personnel who lost their lives in the service of the country. American Gold Star Mothers Inc.



were looking for work in the lettuce fields of the Pajaro Valley when their car broke down by a large camp of pea-pickers. While Hill and some of the children went to town to get parts for the car, Lange arrived and took seven photos that made history.

The images of Thompson and her children sheltered in a lean-to convey the poverty and hopelessness of the time – they could, it feels, have been millions of Americans during the Depression. But they also show a mother's strength and resilience – Thompson cradles an infant as two other children seek protection behind her shoulders and turn away from the camera.

This Mother's Day, we honor all the women who have persevered not only on behalf of their families, but also for their country.

—Elaina Finkelstein is a public affairs specialist in the Office of Communications.



Library of Congress Blogs

I had the opportunity to write a blog post for the Library of Congress's Folklife Today blog through the Veterans History Project because I wanted to preserve and honor my grandfather's World War II story. Like many families, ours held incredible memories, photographs, and firsthand experiences that risked being lost over time. Learning about the Veterans History Project made me realize that these personal materials weren't just meaningful to us, they were part of the nation's history and deserved a permanent home where future generations could learn from them.

As part of that process, I gathered my grandfather's photographs and stories and donated them to the Veterans History Project, which archives veterans' firsthand accounts at the Library of Congress. Donating his materials meant his experiences would be preserved alongside thousands of other veterans' stories, ensuring that his service and perspective would not be forgotten. The act of collecting, organizing, and submitting his history also deepened my own understanding of what he lived through and the sacrifices his generation made.

Writing the blog post, "D-Day and Me: The Importance of Preserving Veterans' Stories," allowed me to share that personal journey with a wider audience. The piece connects my grandfather's story to the broader mission of the Veterans History Project, showing how individual family histories contribute to our collective memory. By telling our story, I hoped to encourage others to record and preserve the experiences of the veterans in their own families, so those voices remain part of the historical record long after they are gone.

[Click link to view story.](#)

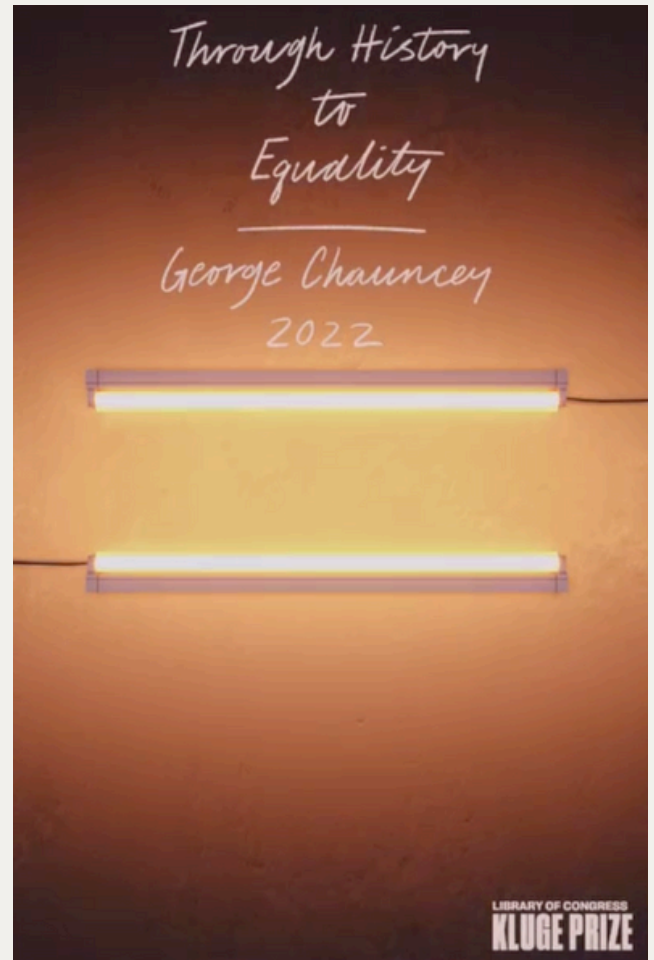


Paid Advertising Campaign

I led the marketing campaign for the 2022 John W. Kluge Prize awarded to George Chauncey, the first LGBTQ+ studies scholar to receive this honor. The campaign promoted "Through History to Equality" programming to students, educators, universities, Congress, and the general public interested in civic and social media engagement.

Working with a \$180,000 budget, I researched and secured placements in targeted outlets including The Washington Post, The Atlantic, Politico, The Hill, Roll Call, Out Magazine, and The New York Review of Books. I collaborated with designers Rodrigo Corral and Cindy Moore to develop compelling visuals that resonated with our LGBTQIA+ audience, implementing tailored paid strategies across print, digital, radio, and television platforms.

The campaign successfully combined organic social media efforts with strategic paid placements to maximize awareness of the recipient and associated programming taking place in 2023.



Key Campaign Elements:

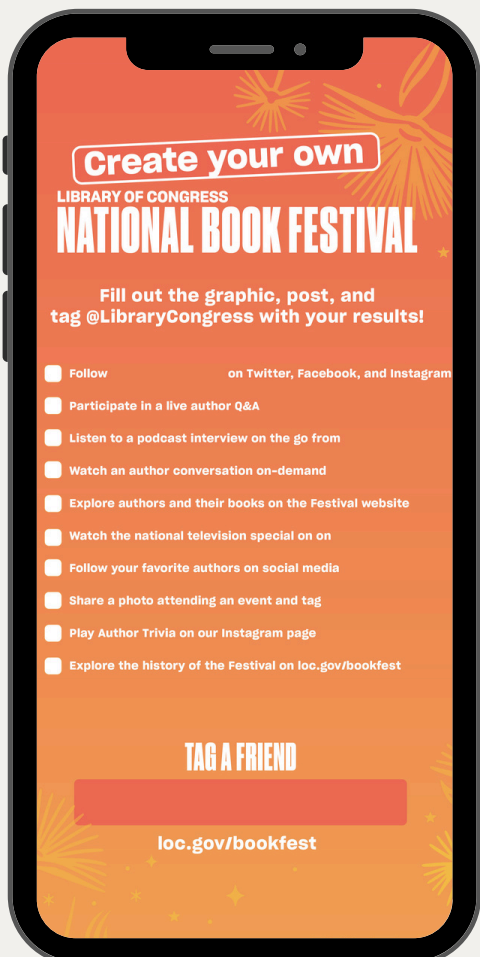
- Paid media placements across multiple platforms
- Organic social media strategy
- Custom visual design by Rodrigo Corral and Cindy Moore
- Targeted outreach to LGBTQIA+ audiences
- Programming promotion for "Through History to Equality" events throughout 2023

Organic Social Media Marketing

This Instagram Stories campaign for the 2021 National Book Festival created engaging content to connect our virtual event with our online audience.

Working with team member Ashley Jones, I developed interactive stories including Author Trivia, Book Bingo games, daily poster promotions, and a custom festival checklist. The campaign successfully bridged the Library of Congress's premier annual literary celebration that brings together renowned authors, poets, and illustrators with our digital followers during the virtual format.

This Instagram Stories campaign was crucial to the 2021 National Book Festival's promotion because it transformed a traditionally in-person event into an engaging virtual experience during a challenging time. The interactive elements like trivia, bingo games, and custom checklists created multiple touchpoints that kept audiences actively engaged with festival content rather than passively consuming it.



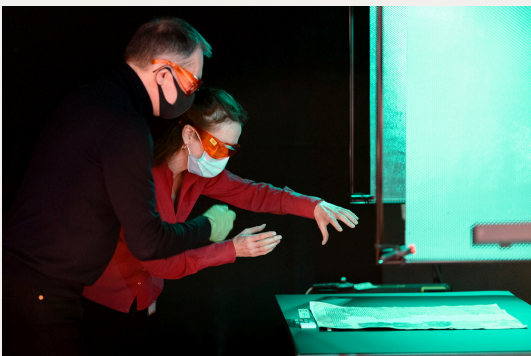
- **Strategic Approach:**
- Developed content specifically for Instagram Stories format to maximize mobile engagement
- Created multiple daily touchpoints to maintain momentum throughout the virtual festival
- Designed interactive elements that encouraged active participation rather than passive viewing
- Tailored content to meet audiences where they were during the virtual format necessitated by pandemic conditions

Campaign Impact:

- Successfully adapted the Library's flagship in-person literary event for digital-first audiences
- Maintained community engagement and excitement despite lack of physical festival experience
- Created accessible entry points for followers to discover authors and plan their virtual attendance
- Demonstrated innovation in using social media tools to replicate the discovery and excitement of browsing an in-person book festival.

Photography

At the Library of Congress, my photography captures the full rhythm of the institution, from its architecture and collections to exhibitions, major events, and behind the scenes moments rarely seen by the public. I regularly document high profile and celebrity visits, including television productions filming on site, and have photographed figures such as Lionel Richie, Ben Platt, Cynthia Erivo, the cast of The Sound of Music, and collaborators Elton John and Bernie Taupin, among many others. One standout moment includes documenting the Queer Eye team during their 2025 shoot at the Library of Congress. Across both writing and photography, my work translates the Library's mission, people, and collections into stories that feel accessible, human, and visually compelling for a wide audience. I graduated from Cornell University Digital Photography Certificate program in 2024.



Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to review my work at the Library of Congress. It's been an incredible privilege to tell the stories of our nation's library—from rare manuscript acquisitions to summer movie nights on the lawn, from world-class concerts to the National Book Festival that brings together book lovers from across the country.

Every press release, media pitch, and event listing represents collaboration with talented colleagues across the Library who are passionate about making our collections and programs accessible to everyone. My role is to amplify their work, connect it with the audiences who will value it most, and help people discover all that the Library has to offer.

If you'd like to learn more about my work or discuss potential opportunities, I'd welcome the conversation. The skills I've developed managing diverse communications beats, coordinating complex launches, and building media relationships across the country are ones I'm excited to continue applying and growing.

Thank you again for your interest in my portfolio!

Elaina Finkelstein

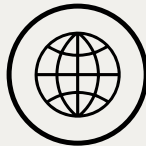
Contact Me



elainafinkelstein@gmail.com



703-472-8375



elainafinkelstein@gmail.com



[https://www.linkedin.com/in/
elaina-finkelstein/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/elaina-finkelstein/)