

SOCIETY OF CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITERS and ILLUSTRATORS

SAN FRANCISCO/SOUTH PRESENTS

# GOLDEN GATE FEST

## FINDING COURAGE

CREATING THROUGH RESISTANCE



April 11, 2026

THE FARALLON ROOM at  
SKYLINE COLLEGE,  
SAN BRUNO

# 2026 GOLDEN GATE FEST SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026 • 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Farallon Room at Skyline College, San Bruno, CA



- 8:45 - 9:15**                      **Registration/Meet and Seat - meet others and find a seat!**
- 9:15 - 9:30**                      **WELCOME**
- 9:30 - 10:00**                    **KEYNOTE: *Resistance is a Welcome*, Marla Frazee**  
What does it mean to find our voice as an author and/or illustrator? How can we develop creative confidence using it? How does resistance play a role?
- 10:00 - 10:10**                    **Break**
- 10:10 - 10:55**  
**Craft Sessions 1**
- ***The Courage to Reimagine*, Danielle Collins (Main)**  
If you have a gem of an idea but need to find the perfect approach, then channel the courage to reimagine. Find your way from a strong premise to an equally strong execution by staying open minded to changing the structure, POV, narrative focus, and more in your work.
  - ***Brave Pictures: Visual Storytelling That Takes Risks*, Sasha Illingworth (Classroom 1)**  
Great illustration doesn't just support a story; it can deepen it, reshape it, and reveal what words leave unsaid. In this workshop, explore how visual choices can add emotional depth, humor, tension, meaning, and even a story within a story.
  - ***Light in the Dark: Time to Write with Joy*, Sophie Sheumaker (Classroom 2)**  
As book bans rise and literacy rates fall, the publishing market for little readers has become harder and harder to break through. But we've gotten some consistent feedback from editors on what they're wanting to see right now. And that's fun! Silly books that have fun with the reader. This workshop will dive into the craft of writing with humor.
- 10:55 - 11:05**                    **Break**
- 11:05 - 11:50**  
**Craft Sessions 2**
- ***Reimagining in Practice*, Danielle Collins (Main)**  
Building off of *The Courage to Reimagine*, this hands-on workshop will guide you through steps to actively reimagine their picture book projects in real time. Whether you have a concept, a draft, or a complete manuscript or dummy, practicing the art of reimagining is an essential tool to finding the right approach to tell your story.
  - ***All the Markings of You*, Marla Frazee (Classroom 1)**  
If you feel you are slow growing in a fast world, and finding frustration at discovering your own voice when so many editors and agents say, "I know it when I see it," this workshop is for you. Discover ways to make space and time to let it grow slowly and trust yourself.
  - ***The Radical Art of Making Books for Children: Writing is Resistance*, Sarah Stephens (Classroom 2)**  
It takes more courage than most people realize to create books for children and this work is more urgent than ever. We will explore four lessons about truth, bravery, and resistance, and what they mean for writing and illustrating children's books. You'll leave with a new lens on your creative practice and a reminder that somewhere, a child is waiting for the book only you can write.

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|--|---|
| 11:50 - 1:10                           | <b>Lunch</b>  |
| 1:10 - 1:55<br><b>Craft Sessions 3</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Keep Going: A Workshop for Storytellers</i>, Esther Hernandez (Main)</b><br/>This workshop is designed with the intention to cultivate a safe space where creators feel seen, heard, and encouraged to look at their work in a new way. We'll talk about the magic of storytelling and how to be courageous and persevere when shaping your stories.</li><li>• <b><i>From Portfolio to Publishing: Creative Courage in a Professional World</i>, Sasha Illingworth (Classroom 1)</b><br/>Building a sustainable creative career takes more than strong artwork. It requires clarity of voice, adaptability, and an understanding of how the publishing relationship works. In this session, Sarah Illingworth shares what art directors look for in portfolios and submissions, and how creators at every stage can develop work that grows with their careers.</li><li>• <b><i>The Writer's Resistance Toolkit: Tips and Tricks for Getting to Work in Tough Times</i>, Sarah Stephens (Classroom 2)</b><br/>As children's book creators, we encounter resistance of all kinds, from book bans to procrastination. This presentation has tricks and tools that can help push through and get back to the important work at hand.</li></ul> |
| 1:55 - 2:05                            | <b>Break</b>  |
| 2:05 - 2:50                            | <b>PANEL: <i>The Courage to Make the Book: Risk, Feedback, and the Creative Line</i>, Sasha Illingworth, Esther Hernandez, Danielle Collins, Sarah Stephens, Sophie Sheumaker (Main)</b><br>From sketch and draft to bookstore shelf, every book passes through moments of uncertainty, revision, and creative risk. This panel discusses how to navigate it all  |
| 2:50 - 3:00                            | <b>Break</b>  |
| 3:00 - 4:00                            | <b>Breakout Activities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Pitch Clinic for those pre-registered</i> (Main)</b></li><li>• <b><i>Portfolio Roundtables for those pre-registered</i> (Main)</b></li><li>• <b><i>Write Towards Courage</i>, Anne-Marie Strohman (Classroom 1)</b><br/>Join us for an array of writing activities focused on self-reflection, character work, and/or supporting courageous librarians in our community.</li><li>• <b><i>Illustrator Sketch Hour</i>, Anastasia Kleckner (Meet by Main Doors)</b><br/>Join us for a low-key hour of free sketching.</li><li>• <b><i>Walk &amp; Talk</i>, Karin Redclift (Meet outside)</b><br/>Relax and connect with our amazing local community.</li></ul>  |
| 4:00 - 4:30                            | <b>Closing and Awards</b>   |
| 4:30 - 5:00                            | <b>Social Hour and Book Signing</b>   |

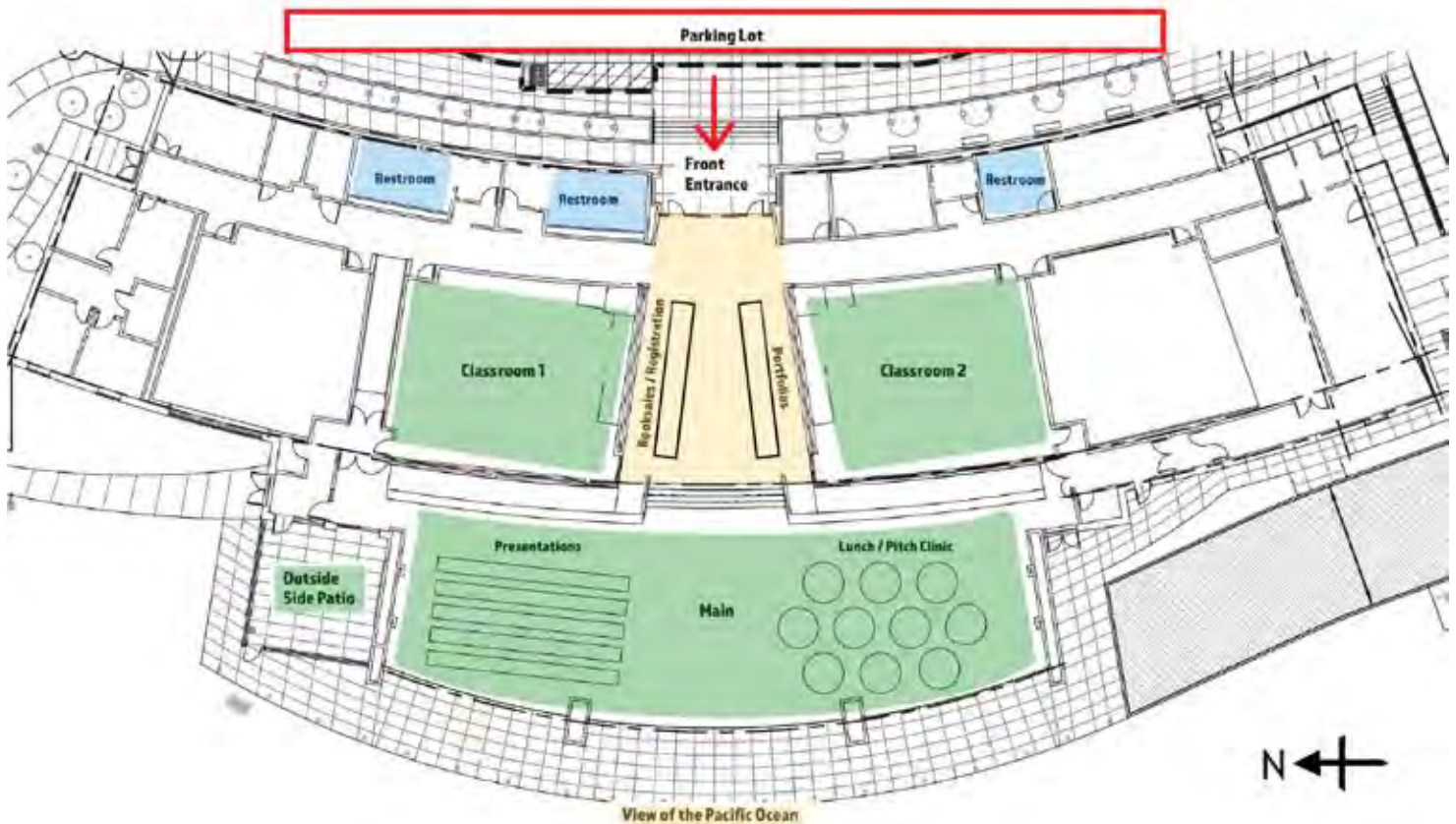
# Farallon building map

*\*let us know if you need accessibility assistance.*

Presentations

Lobby

Restrooms



## Linden Tree BOOKS

<https://www.lindentreebooks.com/>

Official bookstore of Golden Gate Fest



- Co-Regional Advisor  
Emily Jiang
- Co-Regional Advisor  
Anita Tran
- Co-Assistant Regional Advisor  
Susan Cabel
- Co-Assistant Regional Advisor  
Seina Wedlick
- Co-Regional Illustrator Coordinator  
Danielle Heitmuller
- Co-Regional Illustrator Coordinator  
Anastasia Kleckner
- Regional Translator Coordinator  
Karin Redclift



SCBWI SF/South is a volunteer organization and all of our staff are volunteers. If you'd like to contribute your time and talent, we'd love to hear from you.

<https://www.scbwi.org/regions/sfsouth>