

Next Library 2025 Wrapped

For the first time, we've created a set of slides to help you easily share your Next Library experience with your colleagues.



Next Library 2025

Wrapped

**Next Library is
co-created with
speakers and
attendees to spark
real connection,
ideas and relevant
learning.**

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**Made possible
by a crew of
more than 60
colleagues from
Aarhus Public
Libraries.**

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The 2025 edition marked the 10th Next Library since its inception in 2009.

This year's festival took place from May 24th—27th and sold out in just three days.

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The themes of Next Library 2025 were:

- Play
- Democracy
- Sustainable Development Goals



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The festival featured 30+ engaging sessions.

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**More than 30
Ignite Talks
sparked
inspiration
throughout
the event.**





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**We explored
the Aarhus
area with
10+ site
visits.**

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**Attendees
from over
30 countries
joined us
this year.**

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**This year's
festival featured
three keynotes
— each exploring
one of this year's
core themes.**

**David Pallasch
reminded us that
play is a
developmental
necessity for
many species to
thrive.**



"Play can develop the essential skills needed today - like creativity and collaboration."

Keynote: Play is Powerful
by David Pallasch

**Menno
Schilthuizen
showed cities are
vibrant
ecosystems ready
for exploration.**



"There is a new ecosystem that is waiting to be discovered. The cities are a vibrant living environment."

Keynote: The Urban Naturalist: How to Make the City your Scientific Playground
by Menno Schilthuizen



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**Stacie, Tommi
and Michael
reminded us
about the
importance of
libraries during
uncertain times.**

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"We don't keep showing up because it's easy — we want to be a part of something beautiful and make it real."

Keynote: Why We Show Up

by Shamichael Hallman, Stacie Ledden & Tommi Laitio

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**The Tinkering
Dream Lab invited
participants to
explore learning
through joyful,
hands-on making
and creativity.**

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**For the first time,
we awarded
Next Library
Pilot Projects
with The
Changemaker
Award 2025.**



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**Click here to
read more
about winners,
honorable
mentions and
projects.**

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Participants used Dokk1's brand-new media lab "IRIS" to explore media production as a tool for storytelling, learning, and engagement.

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**The Expo Area,
was filled with
inspiration,
inquiry, and
hands-on
activities.**





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"It's vital that we offer a space where democracy is visible and accessible — and show that it can be approached in an easy and welcoming way."

Arja Rantanen
Tampere City Library, Finland

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Read more
interviews
and view the
portraits here.

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Nadja Pass' The Concopian Chamber of Wonders sparked conversation and curiosity with huge, magical conversation cards.

**All session hosts,
Ignite speakers and
keynote holders,
received a mending kit
— a symbolic gesture
highlighting Next
Library's commitment
to the Sustainable
Development Goals.**





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At Get2Gether, we made nature kits with pinecones, shells, and scented clay — and added other natural elements.

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**We used our
nature kits to
pause, feel, and
breathe—staying
grounded through
the festival's
sessions and talks.**





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**Participants
shared moments
of curiosity on
leaves, growing
a collective tree
of reflections.**

**"Communities, like plants,
need help to grow."**

— Reflection Tree

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You can explore
the full gallery of
moments from
Next Library
Festival 2025
here.

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**The South
Korean
delegation will
host the Next
Library Satellite
in 2026.**

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**...and all photo
booth pictures
from the
Get2Gether can
be viewed here.**

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Thank you to our community, advisory board, and of course partners for funding and co-creating Next Library Festival 2025 with us — it wouldn't happen without you.

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