



Wrapped

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.







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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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Nore than 30 gnite Taks sparked inspiration throughout the event.





A sense of direction



Recognition



Structural policy and funding



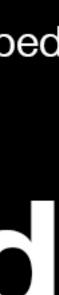




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We explored the Aarhus area with 10+ ste **VSIS**

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Attendees from over 30 countries Joined US this year







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







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David Pallash 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 Pallash







Menno Schilthuizen showed cities are vibrant ecosystems ready for exploration.

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"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





Stacie Ledden



Next Library 2025

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





"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







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

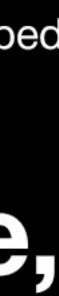






For the first time, we awarded Next Library Pilot Projects with The Changemaker Award 2025.

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



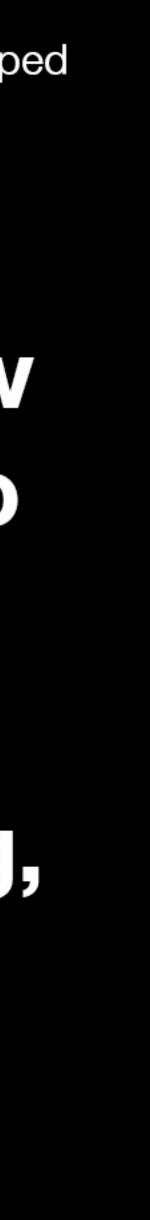




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Participants used Dokk1's brand-new media lab "IRIS" to explore media production as a tool for storytelling, learning, and engagement.





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







"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





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.**



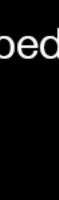




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At Get2Gether, we made nature kits with pinecones, shells, and scented clay and added other natural elements.

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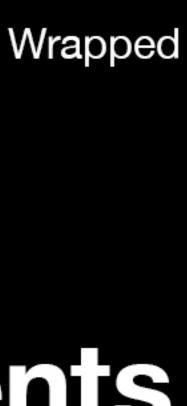
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We used our nature kits to pause, feel, and breathe-staying grounded through the festival's sessions and talks.









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.





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.



We do Books

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✓ Redia

European Cultural Foundation



