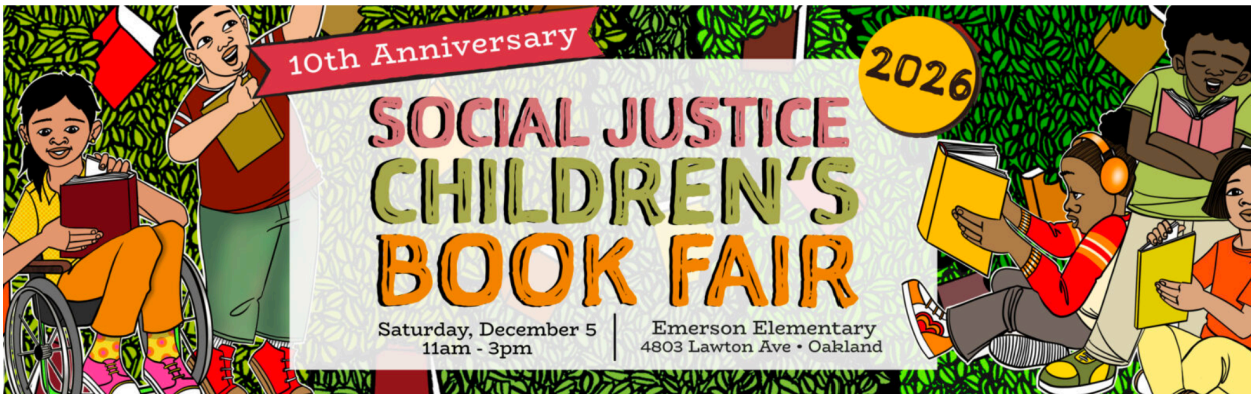

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oakland's Social Justice Children's Book Fair Celebrates Almost a Decade of Revolutionary Stories

More than 60 book creators, publishers, and literacy organizations will gather at Emerson Elementary School for a day of books and community on ***Saturday, December 5, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m****.*

OAKLAND, Calif., [Month Day, 2026] • What happens when children meet the people creating books that reflect their families, cultures, and possibilities? For a decade, Oakland's Social Justice Children's Book Fair has brought young readers face-to-face with the creators of stories that celebrate their identities, challenge injustice, and dare them to imagine a better world. On **Saturday, December 5, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, the fair returns to **Emerson Elementary School** for its tenth annual book fair, bringing together more than 60 children's book creators, publishers, and literacy organizations.

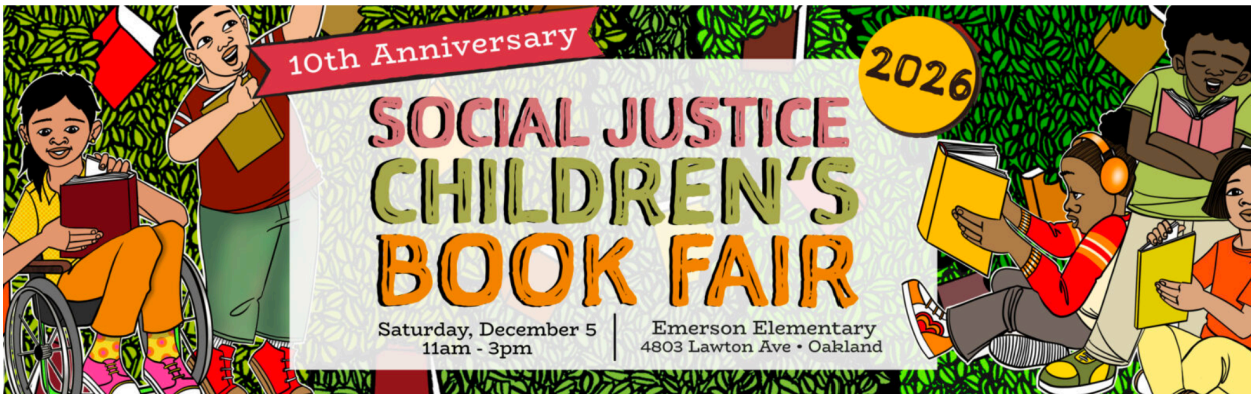
KEY TAKEAWAYS

- December 5, 2026 • 11 a.m.–3 p.m. • Emerson Elementary, Oakland
- Meet more than 60 book creators, publishers, and literacy organizations.
- Enjoy Storyland Collective read-alouds and author and illustrator panels.
- Celebrate new artwork by Oakland artist and writer Ajuan Mance.
- December 4 at Oakstop: free community celebration, second annual Book Awards, and a tribute to founding member Maya Gonzalez.
- Details: socialjusticechildrensbooks.org

This year's program includes interactive activities, read-alouds hosted by Storyland Collective, author and illustrator panels, and opportunities to explore children's books with the creators and organizations behind them. Children, families, educators, and book lovers from across the Bay Area are invited to join a community that has spent a decade making space for diverse, social justice-centered stories.

"Every child deserves to open a book and feel, 'My family belongs here. My story matters. I can change things,'" said Robert Liu-Trujillo, an organizer of the Social Justice Children's Book Fair. "Those connections show young readers that they can tell their own stories—and help write a more just future."

New anniversary artwork by Oakland artist and writer Ajuan Mance marks the occasion. Mance is the author and illustrator of What Do Brothas Do All Day? and the portrait collections 1001 Black Men: Portraits of Masculinity at the Intersections and Living While Black: Portraits of Everyday Resistance.



“My greatest joy as an artist and writer is when someone sees in my work someone who reminds them of a relative, a neighbor, a friend, or even themselves,” Mance said.

The fair’s tenth anniversary is also a chance to recognize the people who have built and sustained it. A free community celebration will take place the evening before, on Friday, Dec 4, 2026, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Oakstop’s Broadway Gallery Suite in Downtown Oakland. The gathering will include the second annual Social Justice Children’s Book Fair Book Awards and a tribute altar honoring Maya Gonzalez, the author, artist, publisher, and founding SJCBF member who joined the ancestors this year.

“Maya Gonzalez made children’s books a place where Chicanx identity, queer families, and gender-expansive children can be celebrated,” said Laura Atkins, a SJCBF organizer. “From co-founding Reflection Press to helping establish this fair and creating our 2025 artwork, Maya turned that commitment into books and community. Honoring Maya means supporting independent voices and ensuring children can find stories that affirm the fullness of who they are.”

For interview requests, event coverage, and inquiries about anniversary artwork or other press images, contact Isis Asare at info@sistahscifi.com.

Attend and participate

Tenth Annual Social Justice Children’s Book Fair
Saturday, December 5, 2026 | 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Emerson Elementary School
4803 Lawton Ave, Oakland, CA 94609

Anniversary Community Celebration & Awards
Friday, December 4, 2026 | 6–8:00 p.m.
Oakstop’s Broadway Gallery Suite, Downtown
1721 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612

Children’s book creators, publishers, and literacy organizations are invited to apply to vend at the fair. SJCBF is also seeking volunteers and sponsors, including food and drink sponsors, to support the anniversary events. For event details, vendor applications, and ways to participate, visit socialjusticechildrensbooks.org.

About the Social Justice Children’s Book Fair

The Social Justice Children's Book Fair is a fiscally sponsored project of the Bay Area Book Festival, a California nonprofit corporation and registered 501(c)(3) organization.

The Social Justice Children’s Book Fair’s mission is to promote social justice through the power of children’s books. Rooted in representation, creative independence, and community, SJCBF supports independent creators in developing, distributing, and championing stories that reflect the diversity of children’s lives. Through its annual Oakland fair and ongoing initiatives, SJCBF connects creators with children, families, educators, librarians, and book lovers—working toward a world where social justice-centered stories can reach every child.