

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Kelli Panique - support@picturebooksummit.com

VASHTI HARRISON, JASON CHIN, AND SUSAN VERDE HEADLINE PICTURE BOOK SUMMIT 2025

A Portion of Proceeds to Benefit Unite Against Book Bans



The lineup for the 2025 Picture Book Summit, the world's largest online picture book writing conference, has been announced. This year's theme is **BIG, BOLD, AND BRAVE: Supercharge Your Picture Books** and is focused on helping creators take their picture book stories and manuscripts to the next level. The event will stream globally on Saturday, October 4, 2025.

This year's Summit is headlined by three picture book superstars – author-illustrator **Vashti Harrison** (Caldecott Medalist, Coretta Scott King Award Honoree, National Book Finalist), **Jason Chin** (Caldecott Medalist, Orbis Pictus Award, Sibert Honoree), and **Susan Verde** (New York Times Bestselling author of the *I Am...* picture book series).

Discounted Early Bird registration is open through 8/28/25 at **PictureBookSummit.com** and is **\$100 off the regular ticket price**.

Attendees will also enjoy instructional workshops, plus pre-recorded agent and editor panels, live Q&As, and submission opportunities. Workshops will include:

- [Writing Barn Founder and Author Bethany Hegedus](#): *Secret Superpower: How to Inspire Young Readers Without Teaching a Thing*
- [NYT Bestselling Award-winning author Emma Walton Hamilton](#): *Word Count Wizardry: How Many Words are Just Enough*

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Featured Agent & Editor Panels will feature:

- Caitlin Johnson – HarperCollins
- Irene Vasquez – Levine Querido

- Lori Steel – SteelWorks Literary
- Leah Pierre – Ladderbird Agency
- Ritu Anand - D4EO Literary Agency
- Sylvie Frank - Penguin Random House/Flamingo

Meet the Superstars:



Vashti Harrison



Jason Chin



Susan Verde

Vashti Harrison

Vashti Harrison is a celebrated writer, illustrator, and filmmaker. Winner of the 2024 Caldecott Medal for her picture book *BIG*, she is the first Black woman to ever receive this esteemed award in its 85-year history. A powerful and emotional tale of self-love and instant New York Times bestseller, *BIG* was also selected for Coretta Scott King Honors in both writing and illustration. Harrison is the creator of *Little Leaders*, *Little Dreamers*, and *Little Legends*, the #1 New York Times bestselling children's collection of biographies about trailblazing women and exceptional men in black history.

At the online Picture Book Summit, Vashti Harrison will share her steps for building a creative compass to navigate the picture book world with confidence. Attendees will discover how to find their creative North Star—the goals, themes, and passions that shape their work—and infuse their picture books with bold storytelling and strong artistic vision. Whether writers are starting out or leveling up, this talk is designed to help them stay bold, brave, and focused on their creative path.

Jason Chin

Jason Chin received the 2022 Caldecott Medal for *Watercress*, by Andrea Wang and a Caldecott Honor, Sibert Honor, and the NCTE Orbis Pictus award for *Grand Canyon*. His picture book, *Life After Whale*, written by Lynn Brunelle, won the 2025 Robert F. Sibert medal and was named an Orbis Pictus Honor Book. His most recent book, *Hurricane*, is on bookshelves now.

From the Redwoods, to the Grand Canyon, to the Universe itself, Jason Chin's picture books make big, bold subjects accessible, sparking the curiosity of young readers. His latest book, *HURRICANE*, is no exception. At Picture Book Summit, Jason will reveal, step by step, how research, writing, and illustrating unite to bring a monumental subject to vibrant life in a kid-friendly fashion.

Susan Verde

New York Times bestselling author **Susan Verde** writes books that capture and celebrate the unique experience of children. Her titles include, *The Museum, You and Me, The Water Princess* (written with Georgie Badiel), and the instant #1 *New York Times* bestseller *I Am Human: A Book of Empathy* which is part of a bestselling series that includes *I Am Yoga* and *I Am Peace* and the *New York Times* bestseller *I Am Love: A Book of Compassion* and the latest, *I Am We: A Book of Community*, all illustrated by the incredible Peter H. Reynolds. Some of her other books are the Feel-Good Fairytales series and *Are You Listening?* of the Sensing Your World collection. Susan's books inspire children, educators, yoga practitioners, and mindful humans alike helping to cultivate empathy and kindness in all of us.

Through her bestselling I AM series, Susan Verde has made a career of honoring the emotional intelligence and curiosity of children. At Picture Book Summit online, Susan will share her process for writing concept books that are both accessible and deeply meaningful. She'll explore the challenges of tackling big ideas with simplicity and grace, and the tremendous rewards of trusting your readers while leaving space for reflection, conversation, and growth.



Since its inaugural year, **Picture Book Summit has donated over \$50,000 to literacy-based charities.** Picture Book Summit is pleased to announce that for 2025 we are partnering with the American Library Association to Unite Against Book Bans, a national grassroots campaign to engage the public in the fight against censorship. This non-partisan campaign leverages the reach of national organizations representing librarians; educators; parents; authors; publishers, distributors; champions for civil liberties, civil rights, and equality; and more.

Research shows that a large majority of Americans across the political spectrum oppose book bans, yet efforts to remove books continue at an unprecedented pace. Unite Against Book Bans engages and empower individuals and organizations to combat those efforts.

The full day's lineup, along with registration information, can be found at <http://PictureBookSummit.com>

Now in its eleventh year, *Picture Book Summit* is a collaborative project by picture book creators Katie Davis, Julie Hedlund, and Emma Walton Hamilton.

The annual event is a world-class online conference focused on giving working and aspiring picture book creators in-depth and actionable instruction of the highest quality. It's about direct learning from the greatest picture book authors and illustrators on the planet, all from the comfort and safety of home.

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