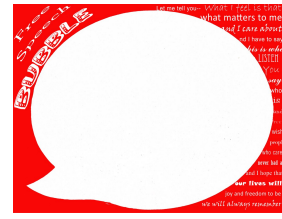


Your Guide to Holding a FESTIVAL for the FIRST AMENDMENT



Help your community celebrate the First Amendment with a colorful display of free speech. Here's all you need to know to hold your own Festival for the First Amendment anywhere—in a public space, a community fair, library, or school. *This is a Creative Commons document; you are free to use, alter, and further develop what works best for your group and your space.*

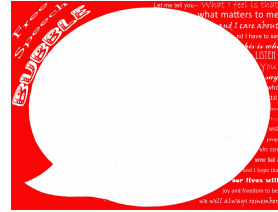
Festival Resources *Free Speech Bubbles are all you need, plus more way to celebrate!*

A. Activity Stations A small team can tag-team a single table or booth.

1. **The Free Speech Bubble activity is all you will need to have an inviting booth**, with a table stacked with blank Free Speech Bubbles plus markers and crayons. If you have a pop-up canopy, string a clothesline of twine or yarn, and clip the Free Speech Bubbles with paper clips or clothes pins for a festive display. Hang a banner across the full front of your booth saying “FESTIVAL FOR THE FIRST AMENDMENT”. Download the 4 brightly colored Free Speech Bubbles below, set for 2-up printing. Standard bond paper is fine.

Expect people may want to talk, so have an inviting sit-down area behind the activity table, with something to drink and food. Think ahead of time about how to diffuse potential confrontations and how to respond to differences of opinion. You are here to invite discussion and to provide a listening space, not to argue. For good prep work, meet beforehand for a training session. Marshall Rosenberg <https://www.cnvc.org> is a good resource. If appropriate, have local community and other info available to offer for the many people who want to do *something*.

2. **“Talk to your Government” Postcards Table**. Provide supplies to make postcards, and names and offices of public officials, for visitors to artwork, make statements and address for mailing. You are there to show people how to exercise their right to free speech, not to guide the message people choose to write. Have honor system coin box on table for people to pay postage.
3. For the tech crowd: A. **Run a video** like “3 Lessons of Revolutionary Love in a Time of Rage” with Valarie Kaur <https://youtu.be/5ErKrSyUpEo> on loop, or other video(s) of your choice.
B. Have a computer set up to **print broadsides** of image-and-word for people to take away for creative posting. <http://www.broadsidedpress.org> is one source; you may find others. Provide printer and paper for printing out.
4. If you have a lot of space, set up a **“Make Your Own Poster” Station**. Supply art and craft material and good supervision. Hang in the poster exhibit area, or let them be carried them away.
5. **Find a local reporter** beforehand who would like a new slant on the community fair, or some upbeat local news, and email that person your press release ahead of time (check local deadlines). After the event, write a follow-up press release of people’s reactions and involvement in the First Amendment.
6. **Plan a follow-up exhibit** of the Free Speech Bubbles at a library, school, government center, or other public space. Take pictures, and start a community or social media conversation about free speech.



B. Open Mic Stations: *This takes more coordination and requires people comfortable with managing the dynamics of a live situation.*

1. **Poetry slam/competition.** Run a competition ahead of the event, add an open mic sign-up option at the event, and announce winners.
2. **Set up a story booth** for telling true autobiographical stories. Announce this ahead of time so people can think of their stories; have a few people prepped with stories to break the ice. Record these stories, with permission.
3. **Open mic on *any subject*** for 2-5 minutes. Have a good MC with a real bell and a sense of humor.
4. **Open mic where speakers respond to a *specific question or subject*** for 2-5 minutes. Have fun with this one; change up the posted question or subject as you read the audience energy,
5. **Invite live streaming** to document actions of free speech as it happens.
6. Other forms of speech: invite **street theater acts or musicians.**
7. **Presentation of First Amendment rights by a legal person**, and Q & A from the audience about specific situations where rights are questioned or challenged.
8. **Role-playing tent/room** where, with guidance, participants role-play specific situations (as in an interaction or confrontation with police, the rights of public speech in a public space, confrontation at a public gathering etc.) Resources: work by Marshall Rosenberg, John Deere, <https://mettcenter.org>, <https://www.trainingforchange.org>, <http://www.paceebene.org>, <http://beautifultrouble.org>, and so many others.

Resources for a Festival of the First Amendment

This is a start. There are so many more wonderful resources out there—please add the ones you know. You can email your additions to IceforgePress@gmail.com for adding to the master document.

For posters or promotion: “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter” - Dr. Martin Luther King.

Poster image of the “Your silence will not protect you” quote by Audre Lorde are on google images.

Split This Rock: Good small press resource of activist words, images and actions.
<http://www.splitthisrock.org/poetry-database>

Broadsided Press: Resource of printable 8.5 x 11 broadsides of words and image <http://www.broadsidedpress.org> for posting in public spaces.

“The Message” a powerful poem about the complicity of silence and the necessity to speak by Leonard Peltier, In the Spirit of Crazy Horse <http://dissidentvoice.org/2007/09/leonard-peltier-silence-screams/>

Below: Sample Free Speech Bubble, downloadable from <https://www.webermack.com/share-and-download-here>. Print 2-up on 8.5 x 11 bond. Or draw your own colorful free speech bubbles.

**FREE SPEECH
BUBBLE**

Let me tell you-- What I feel is that
what matters to
and I care about
what I care
is what
LISTEN
You
say
who
is
ever
FREE
hope
I hope
lives
who care
and freedom
people everywhere
and if we could only see
We will always remember

**FREE
SPEECH
BUBBLE**

Let me tell you-- What I feel is that
what matters to me
and I care about
what I care about
is what
LISTEN
You
say
w
i
a
f
w
peop
who ca
never had
and I hope th
our lives wi
want joy and freedom to
we will always remember

FREE
SPEECH
BUBBLE

Let me tell you-- What I feel is that--
what matters to me
and I care about
what I care about
this is what
LISTEN
You
say
who
is
and
free
wish
people
who care
never had a
and I hope that
our lives will
joy and freedom to be
we will always remember

Free
Speech
BUBBLE

Let me tell you-- What I feel is that--
what matters to me
and I care about
and I have to say
this is what
LISTEN
You
say
who
is
and
free
wish
people
who care
never had a
and I hope that
our lives will
joy and freedom to be
we will always remember