



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY



Strategies for Revitalizing Your Friends

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July 08 2025



Agenda

**LAPL's
Friends
Groups**

**Key
Challenges**

**Innovative
Solutions**

Volunteer Engagement

Engagement & Learning Division

Community Engagement & Outreach
Department



Madeline Peña Feliz
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Librarian/Associate
Director



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Sandoval**
Librarian III
Certified in Volunteer
Administration



Deborah Spector
Librarian II



Xochitl Chaj
Administrative Clerk



Diana Ramirez Hidalgo
Administrative Clerk

Who Are the Friends?

- California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation
- Tax-Exempt Status
- Support groups associated with the Los Angeles Public Library
 - Branch
 - Central Library Department
 - Special Service



A Brief History of the Friends

63 Active Friends of the Library Groups

- 58 connected with branches
- 5 connected to Central Library Departments
- There are 4,471 Friends across the system.

Emergence of Friends Groups

Some groups were established in the early 1970s; many were established in the 1980s. New Friends groups have been established as new branch libraries are opened.

Oldest & Newest Friends Groups

- 1961-Pacific Palisades Library Association, Inc.
- 2021- Friends of the Pico Union Library



What Do Friends Do?



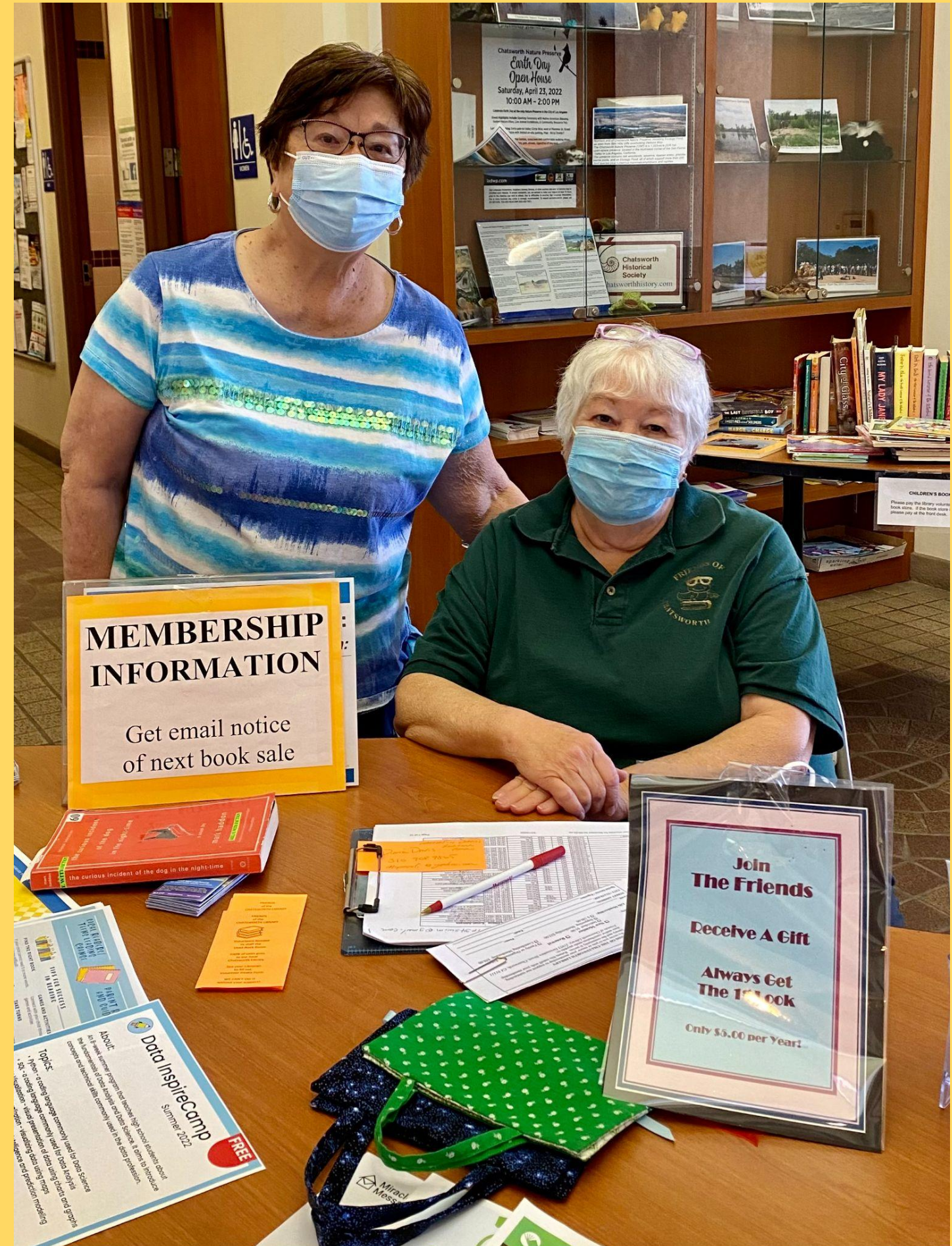
- Raise funds to enhance library services
- Support programs
- Provide volunteers
- Advocate for the financial support of the Library

.



Challenges & Solutions

Recruitment



CASE STUDY: **BEST Friends**



**Most “Business” is
virtual.**

No Book Sales

**One in-person group
bonding activity per year.**

CASE STUDY:

Friends of Los Feliz Library



Actively recruit Teen Volunteers

One position on their Board is reserved for a Teen

Teen Board Members are usually replaced by teens they recommend.

Fundraising



Book Sales



Background

Book Sales are a popular form of fundraising for Friends and Foundations



Problem

They require a lot of time and people but the return may be low

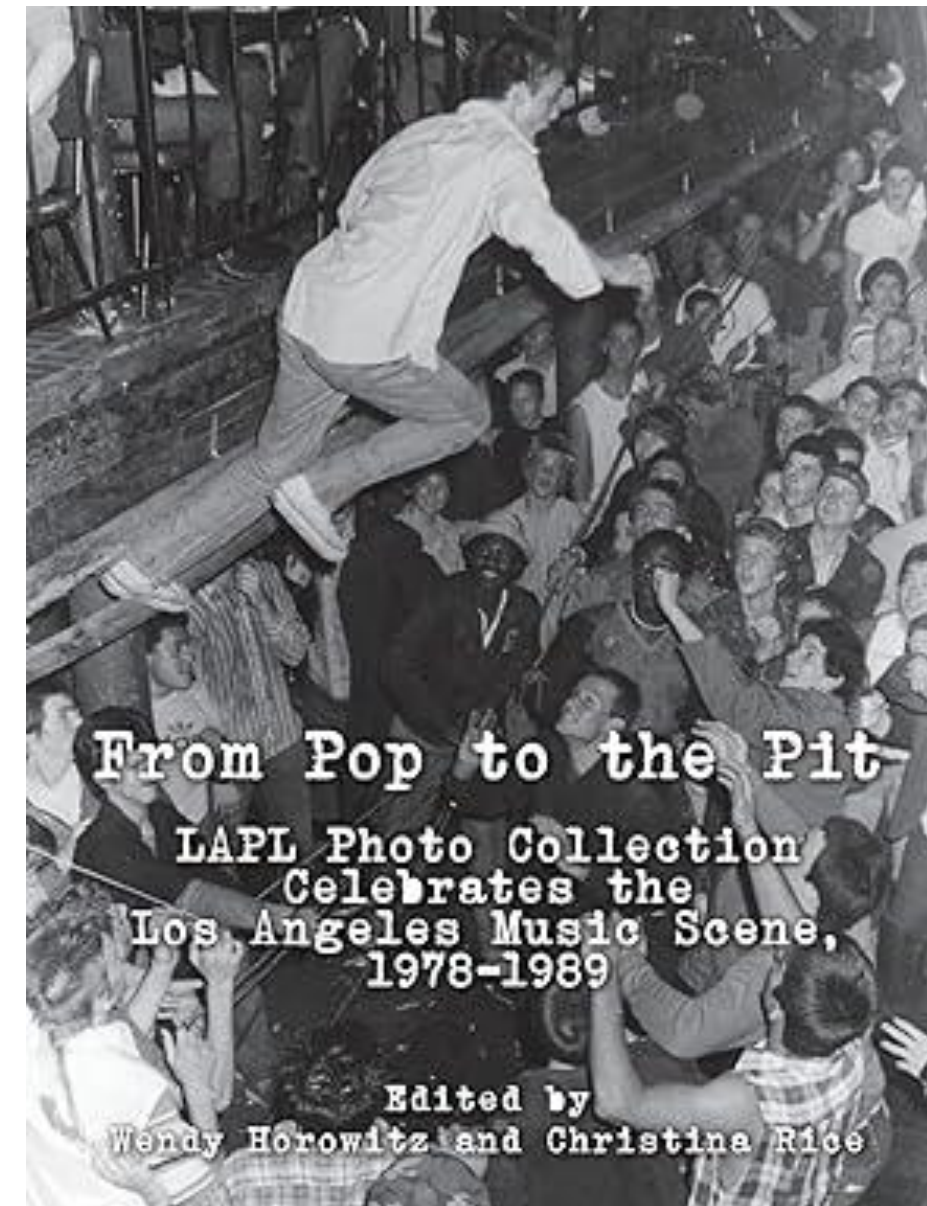
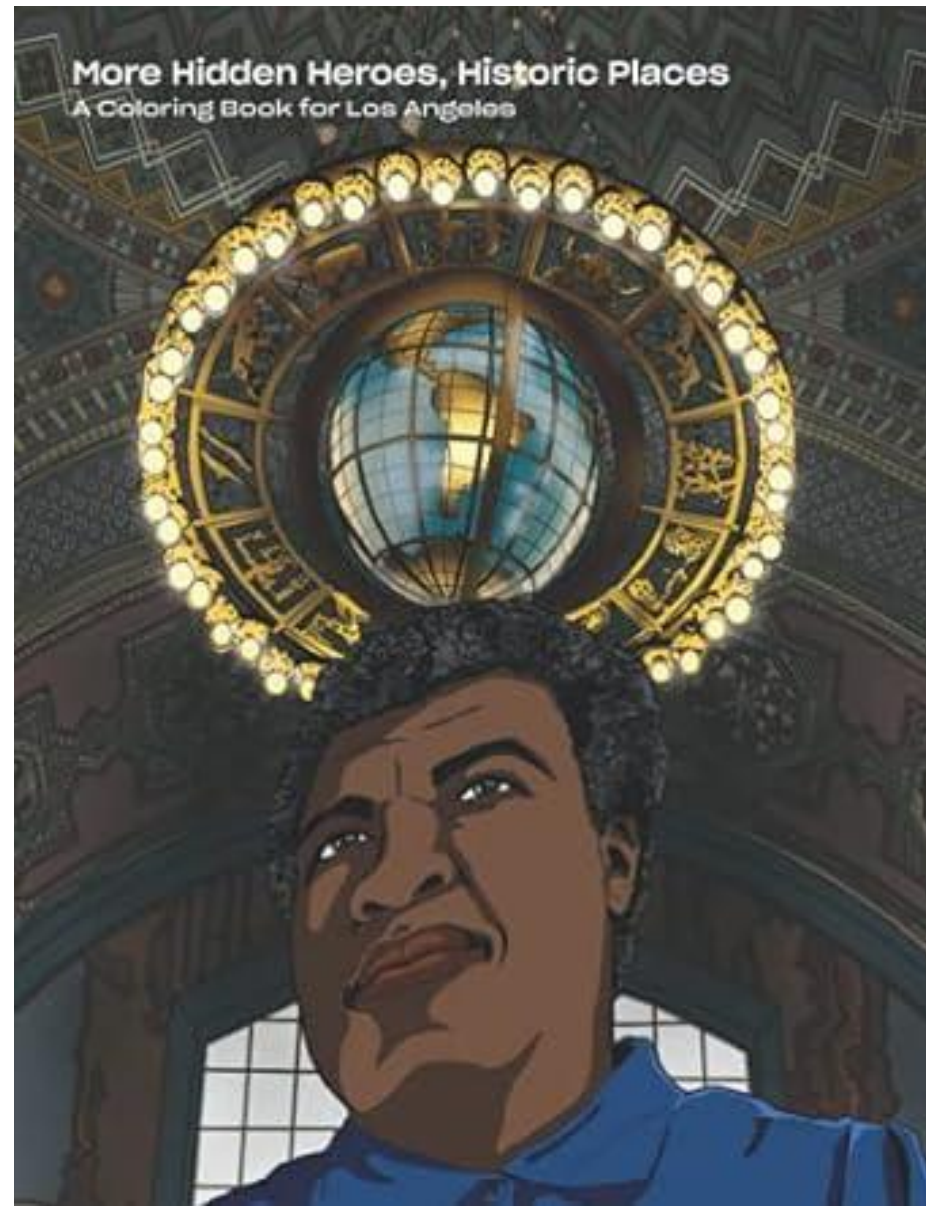
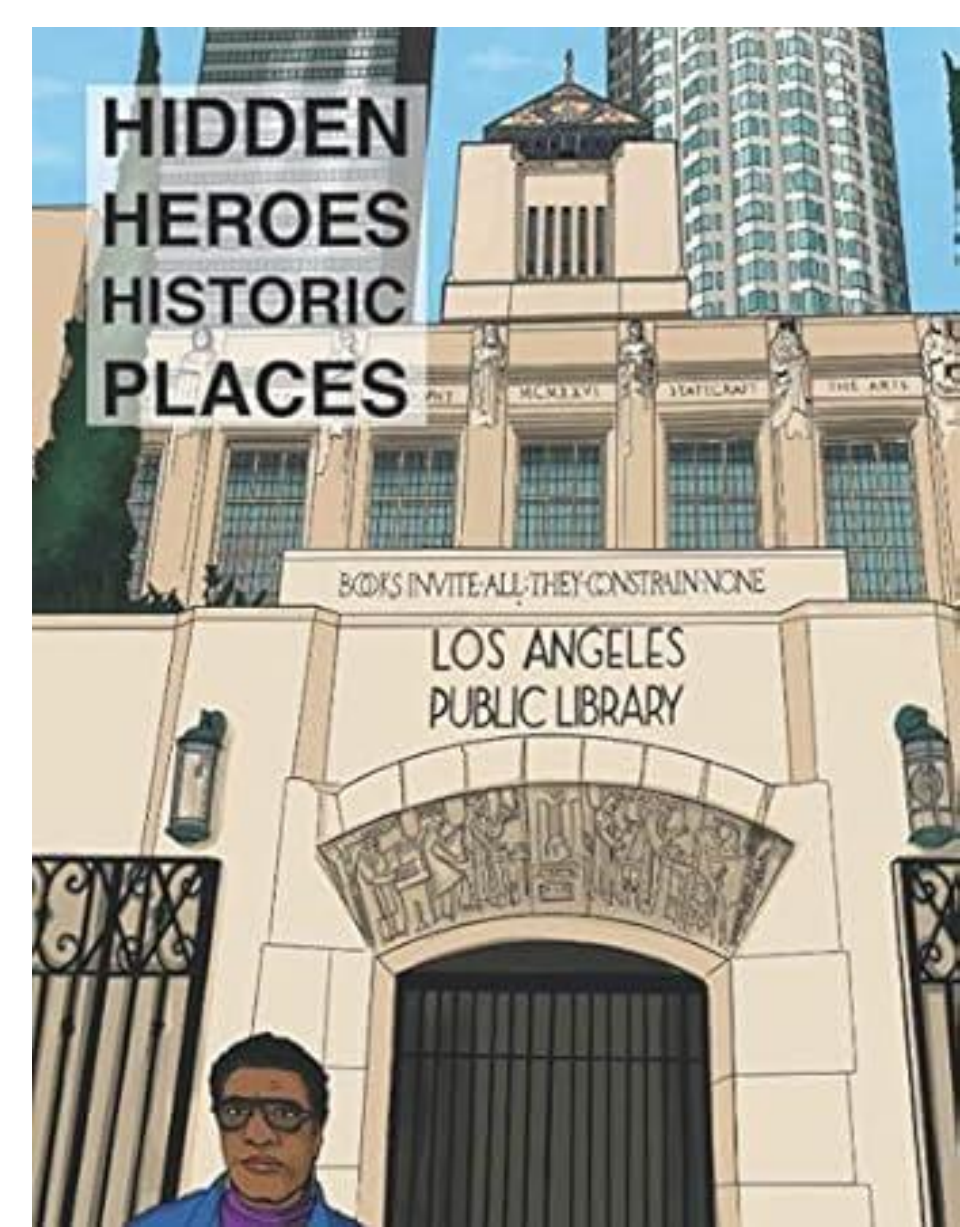


Solution

Let's look at some alternative solutions...

CASE STUDY:

BEST Friends & Photo Friends



Self- Publishing & selling books on Amazon

CASE STUDY:

Chinatown Friends of the Library



**Scholarship for Teen
Volunteers**

Largest assets for a group

CASE STUDY:

Friends of Children and Literature (FOCAL)



FOCAL Awards & Puppets



Motivation to continue



Opportunities for Learning, Networking & Support



**Friends Citywide
Breakfast Symposium**



Serving With A Purpose



**Senior Librarian &
Volunteer Engagement
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Thank you & get in touch!



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CASE STUDY:

Company name or project title



Background

Introduce the company or industry and set the stage for the case study.



Problem

Describe the key pain point.



Solution

Explain the approach used to address the problem.

Implementation plan

Guide your audience through the process.



Step 1

Give a short, clear description of this stage.

Step 2

Explain what happens next.

Step 3

Walk the audience through this stage in simple terms.

Step 4

Outline the final step and what it achieves.

Strategic approach

Outline the key elements of your strategy and highlight how it differs from existing solutions.



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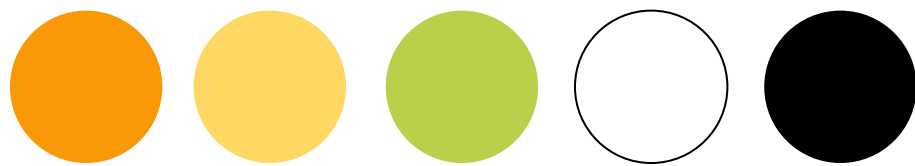
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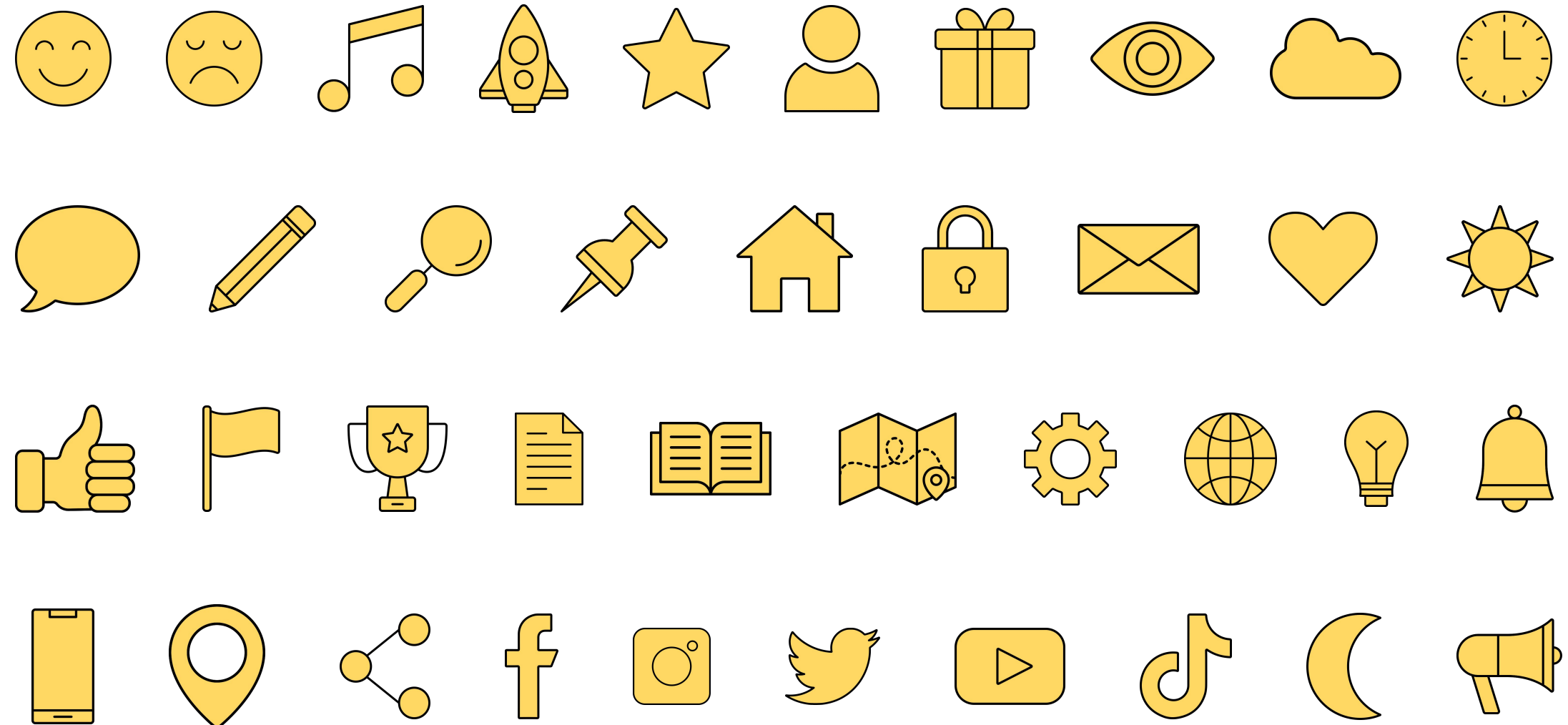
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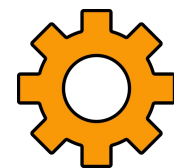




Got questions?

Make it easy for your audience to engage.
Add a QR code or a link to a live Q&A platform.

Key takeaways



**Is the group
easy to join?**

.



**Are meetings
or activities**

Highlight
another key
learning here.



Main point 3

Reinforce
a main
point here.

Credits

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Opportunities for Learning, Networking

Engagement & Learning Division

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