



## **NYPL Partners with Fabled Films Press on *The Nocturnals* February Break Reading Challenge**

**NEW YORK (February 9, 2026)** — The New York Public Library (NYPL) has partnered with Fabled Films Press to launch a new [February Break Reading Challenge](#) built around [The Nocturnals](#), Tracey Hecht’s award-winning nighttime adventure book series for kids ages 5–12.

Rolling out at more than thirty NYPL branches citywide, the program is designed to help families build daily reading habits during the February school break and beyond. Participating branches will offer free signed copies of *The Nocturnals*, along with reading incentives, including stickers, bookmarks, and flashlights—while supplies last.

The challenge pairs reading with kid-friendly, hands-on activities that blend literacy, science, and creativity. Kids will learn about real nocturnal animals through crafts, word games, and mini research projects, such as learning to draw *The Nocturnals* characters with a step-by-step video, building mini animal habitats, and creating animal masks inspired by the books.

As part of the program, young readers will view an exclusive recorded video with Tracey Hecht on the creation of the series’s animal heroes: Dawn the fearless fox, Tobin the sweet pangolin, and Bismark the charming sugar glider. Additional in-person events include drawing workshops with illustrator Josie Yee and sessions with science writer Laura Marsh, who introduces kids to library research tools and resources.

“We believe great books should feel social and communal,” said Hecht. “Reading doesn’t have to be a solitary chore. With the right routines and support from librarians and teachers, reading can become something kids and families look forward to.”

Joy Hariprasad, Manager, School-Age Services at The New York Public Library, "A part of our mission at the Library is to strengthen literacy and support lifelong learning among children. We're delighted to collaborate with Fabled Films Press to remind kids and their parents how joyful the act of reading can be, and how their local branch is a door to fun and learning this February—and year round."

The Reading Challenge aims to drive circulation, program attendance, and long-term family engagement with NYPL branches beyond the February school break. Fabled Films Press aims to partner with other library systems to extend the program nationwide.

### **About Fabled Films Press**

Fabled Films Press creates strong literary properties for young readers and middle-grade audiences that combine memorable characters with unique author voices. Each property is supported by websites, educator guides, activities and videos for librarians, educators, and bookstores. Connect with Fabled Films Press and their characters at [NocturnalsWorld.com](#), [PippaPark.com](#), and [Hannah-Edwards.com](#).

Tracey Hecht is the creative director of Fabled Films Press and the author of the critically acclaimed middle-grade and early reader book series *The Nocturnals*. She is a member of the Every Child a Reader Board and received the 2025 GO Project Community Impact Award. Tracey is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Education at Bank Street College with a focus on childhood general education and special education. Tracey splits her time between New York City and Oquossoc, Maine, with her husband and four children.

### **About The New York Public Library**

The New York Public Library has been an essential provider of free books, information, ideas, and education for all New Yorkers for more than 125 years. Founded in 1895, NYPL is the nation’s largest public library system, featuring 92 locations across the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island, including our world-renowned research centers at the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. Together with our circulating branches, including the all-new Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library (SNFL), the Library provides an extraordinary richness of resources and opportunities available to all. For more information, visit The New York Public Library’s [website](#).

**For more information contact: Stacey Ashton, [staceyashton@fabledfilms.com](mailto:staceyashton@fabledfilms.com) or 917-301-7362 OR NYPL Communications Department, [press@nypl.org](mailto:press@nypl.org)**