

ILA 2019 Conference attendees: Read on for tips on how to make the most of your conference experience before, during, and after ILA 2019!

BEFORE THE CONFERENCE

1. Start planning your ILA 2019 experience!

Use the iPlanner, which allows you to search by topic, audience, speaker, and more, to create a list of sessions and activities that catch your interest. Be sure to register for any add-on events (e.g., Institute Day, Edcamp Literacy, or Author Meetups) in advance. These require separate registration and frequently sell out.

2. Download the conference app.

The ILA 2019 Conference app will be your go-to resource while at the conference. Use it to manage your agenda, plan backup sessions, find and connect with attendees, read session details, and access venue maps. Plus, the app tells you how far apart session rooms are, so that you can plan accordingly!

3. Connect digitally.

Follow ILA on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube to get the latest information and connect with other attendees using #ILA19.

4. Pack wisely.

Make sure to bring comfortable shoes and layers to accommodate for fluctuating temperatures in conference spaces.

5. Save your important materials.

Make travel less stressful by ensuring you have all your confirmation emails, tickets, maps, and contact numbers printed out or saved on your mobile device before you head to New Orleans.

AT THE CONFERENCE

- **Visit the Registration Area** (outside the Hall I-1 lobby) to pick up your materials, including printed copies of this year's program; a coupon booklet; and your badge. (Always wear your badge on-site—it's required for admittance into any conference activity. But don't forget to take it off when you leave and keep it somewhere safe, so you aren't scrambling to find it the next day!)
- **Check out the ILA 2019 Coupon Booklet** to learn about fun things to do and which exhibitors are offering coupons!

- **Scout out your sessions.** After you get your materials, find out where your can't-miss sessions are taking place. A little planning goes a long way.
- **Swing by ILA Central** (outside the Hall I-1 lobby, within view of registration). From swag to information about literacy projects, ILA Central is your one-stop shop for all things ILA. Show your ILA pride with merchandise, including a collectible ILA 2019 Conference t-shirt!
- **Stop by the ILA Resource Lounge** (across the hall from ILA Central) to become an ILA member, renew your membership, or discover all the resources ILA has to offer.
- **Grab a shuttle schedule.** ILA provides complimentary shuttle service between official ILA 2019 Conference hotels and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Schedules will be available in the app, on-site, and in the lobbies of hotels on the official scheduled route.
- **Don't miss the General Session!** Kicking off the conference on a high note are General Session speakers Chelsea Clinton (New York Times best-selling author, early literacy advocate, and vice chair, Clinton Foundation), Pedro Noguera (Commissioner for the National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development), Renée Watson (award-winning author and founder of I, Too, Arts Collective), and Hamish Brewer (unconventional middle school principal and transformational educational consultant). With these inspiring speakers and some special surprises, you'll leave this session feeling ready to rock.
- **Attend the First-Timers Event** on Friday, October 11 from 7:00 AM to 7:45 AM. At this event, you'll meet fellow first-time attendees and learn how to get the most from your conference experience while networking with ILA Board, staff, and longtime members. Space for this ticketed event is limited, so make sure to sign up early!
- **Arrive early for your sessions.** Sessions fill up quickly, so arrive early for your top choices. Don't forget to use the ILA 2019 Conference app to help you select backup sessions!
- **Eat smart.** Don't want to waste time waiting in line for lunch? Eat at off-peak times (before 11:00 AM and after 2:00 PM). Grab some grub on the first floor at Jazz City Café, outside Exhibit Hall J, on the second floor outside the New Orleans Theater, and inside the Exhibit Hall (located in Hall I-1).
- **Beat the Exhibit Hall crowd** by checking out the Welcome to ILA 2019 event in the Exhibit Hall on Thursday and taking advantage of Exhibit Hall-only hours:

Thursday, October 10:	4:00 PM–6:00 PM
Friday, October 11:	9:30 AM–10:00 AM; 12:00 PM–1:00 PM
Saturday, October 12:	8:00 AM–9:00 AM; 12:00 PM–1:00 PM
- **Recharge your devices** at free outlets throughout the convention center.
- **Stay connected on-site** with free Wi-Fi (available in all open areas of the convention center).
- **Need help?** Find the "Ask Me" guides. Look for these friendly folks wearing bright yellow "Ask Me" buttons—they'll be prepared to answer all your conference-related questions.
- **Check your rolling bag.** Rolling bags are not allowed in the Exhibit Hall, but there is a bag check where you can leave them. A small fee will be charged.
- **See the sights.** Click here to find out about museums, historic sites, and other famous places to visit—and fabulous places to eat—during your free time.

ON-SITE FAQ

What if I'm having trouble with my hotel room?

Visit the hotel booth near registration.

I've lost my badge! Where can I get a new one?

Duplicate badges may be purchased at registration for \$50.

Where do I go if I lose something?

Check in at the Information Booth outside Hall I for assistance.

Where is the First Aid station?

The First Aid Station is located outside Hall H.

I'm a nursing mother. Is there a lactation room in the convention center?

Yes, the nursing mother's room is in room J121 (on the first floor near Jazz City Café and outside Exhibit Hall I).

How do I get home with all my freebies and items I purchased?

Ship them home at the on-site UPS center, located between Halls E and F.

AFTER THE CONFERENCE

- **Stay tuned for your Letter of Attendance.** It will arrive via the email you used to register for the conference.
- **Fill out the conference survey** that will be emailed to you. We use your feedback to make improvements every year!
- **Follow up with new friends.** Put a reminder in your calendar ahead of time to reach out to your new contacts when you're back home.
- **Share what you learned.** Don't forget to show your literacy leadership by sharing what you learned at ILA 2019. It will not only help your colleagues but also demonstrate to those who paid for the conference that it was a solid investment for your school or district.