



2026



# DIGITAL LITERACY SUMMIT IMPACT REPORT

# ABOUT THE SUMMIT

## Our Objectives

To develop shared goals and understandings around digital literacy, build community, and walk away with new ideas and fresh excitement!

## Our Values

We know good pedagogy helps students develop their senses of belonging, their engagement with new and established knowledge, and their agency to learn and use relevant content and methods.

Good digital and multimodal practices support and amplify good pedagogy if they build on students' strengths, ground in teachers' expertise, and support mutual, long-term learning in mind.

Good communities serve their members and are in turn served by them to encourage growth and development.

# DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY



**Ryan Skinnell**  
Co-Director, Adobe  
Center of Excellence  
at San José State  
University

In April 2026, the leadership team of San José State University's Adobe Center of Excellence (ACE) and representatives from Adobe's Higher Education team worked together to host the inaugural CSU + Adobe for All Digital Literacy Summit.

Our main goals for the Summit were twofold. First, to familiarize participants with digital literacy, in general, and Adobe Express, in particular. Second, to lay the foundation for a thriving digital literacy learning community that would stretch across the CSU system. On those terms, the Summit was an unequivocal success.

We welcomed participants from each of the 22 CSU campuses, plus CSU HQ and Adobe Systems. All told, including Adobe & SJSU attendees, we hosted more than 70 people across the pre-Summit social and two days of Summit events. Attendees included students, instructors, program directors, upper administrators, as well as IT and student services professionals.

As one of SJSU's student journalists summed up, "By centering human experience and providing resources to educators at the foundation of the system, the partnership aims to provide every student the agency to tell their story in a digital world." Based on our experiences of the event and feedback from participants, we think we're off to a strong start.

## Organizers:

Magdalena Barrera  
Friederike Bruehoefener  
Angelica Camino  
Sebastian DiStefano  
Leslie Kennedy  
Yingjie Liu  
Courtney Miller  
Haley Seppa  
Ryan Skinnell  
Todd Taylor

## Presenters:

Radha Aravamudhan  
Magdalena Barrera  
Vin Del Casino  
Liliana Castrellon  
Lucy Headrick  
Blanca Hinojosa  
Tina Korani  
Angela Laflen  
Matthew Maguire

Cynthia Teniente-Matson  
Artie Patel  
Ryan Skinnell  
Nick Szydowski  
Todd Taylor  
Karen D. Wang  
Lylo Yuo

## Media:

Brian Anderson  
Robert Bain  
Khushali Patel  
Tomas Sanchez  
Sam Sternstein



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ASPIRING TOGETHER

# BY THE NUMBERS

Following the Summit, we asked attendees from 21 CSU campuses (excluding SJSU) to fill out a survey telling us about their experiences. We asked them to provide both quantitative and narrative feedback. The quantitative feedback was registered on a scale of 1-5 (**Bemused** - **Unfulfilled** - **Satisfied** - **Delighted** - **Jubilant**).

A total of 27 respondents from 20 campuses responded. We asked them:

## 1) Overall, how satisfied were you with the programming and activities on Day 1 at Adobe HQ?

On a scale of 1-5, representing the range from "Bemused" to "Jubilant," attendees gave us an average rating of **4.63** for the first day of events, with 19 of 27 respondents indicating a top score of **Jubilant**. All ratings were Satisfied or above.

## 2) Overall, how satisfied were you with the programming and activities on Day 2 at Adobe HQ?

On a scale of 1-5, representing a range from "Bemused" to "Jubilant," attendees gave us an average rating of **4.04**. Only 25 respondents recorded an answer for this question, and while 24 rated the day's events 3 or higher, only 7 were Jubilant. The majority (52%) were merely **Delighted**.

## 3) Overall, how satisfied were you with the social events you attended?

23 attendees gave us an average rating of **4.65**. 15 were **Jubilant**. 8 were **Delighted**.

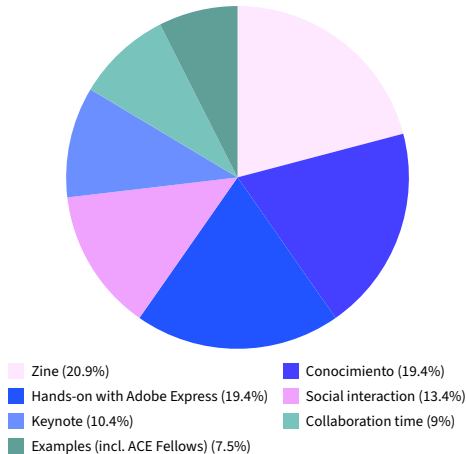
## 4) We also asked about attendees' satisfaction with the food options and the physical locations/venues.

All 27 respondents recorded answers, giving the food options an average rating of **4.37** and the venues an average rating of **4.70**. In both cases, the largest proportion of attendees reported **Jubilation**.

Overall, attendees were grateful, complimentary, and happy that they were able to attend the Summit. With 1 exception in response to Question 2, every response fell in the **Satisfied** to **Jubilant** range.

# QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK

To give some context to the numbers, we also invited people to tell us about their experiences in their own words.

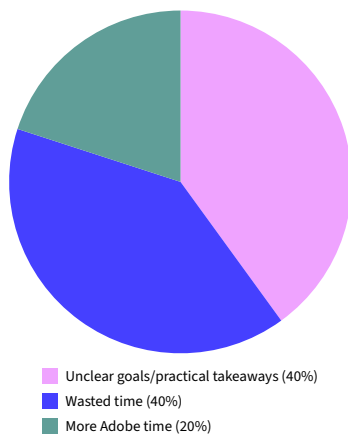


## We wanted to know what parts of the Summit people enjoyed most

Respondents gave a total of 70 answers for what they enjoyed the most. The majority of their answers fell into one of seven categories:

- Artie Patel's zine activity (14)
- Maggie Barrera's Conocimiento activity (13)
- Todd Taylor's hands-on activities with Adobe Express (13)
- Chances for social interaction (9)
- Angela Laflen's keynote speech (7)
- Dedicated time for collaboration (6)
- The examples given, especially by ACE Fellows (5)

Only one person mentioned the handsome and talented emcee.

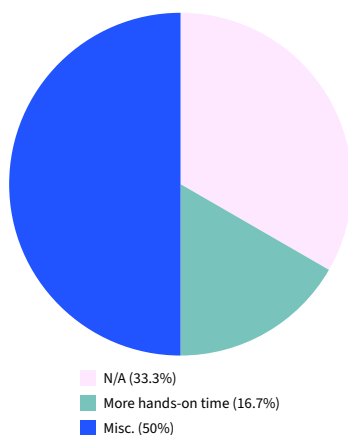


## We also asked for places we could improve

Compared to 70 responses for things people liked, there were only 22 suggestions for improvement. These responses were somewhat harder to categorize than the compliments, but three weak trends emerged:

- 6 respondents felt that the goals of the Summit and the practical takeaways were unclear.
- 4 respondents reported that the unstructured work time, particularly on Day 2, was unnecessary or too long. Another 2 reported that some of the time they spent felt wasted.
- 3 respondents wanted more time to experiment with the tools—to "get in the weeds with Adobe Express," as one person put it.

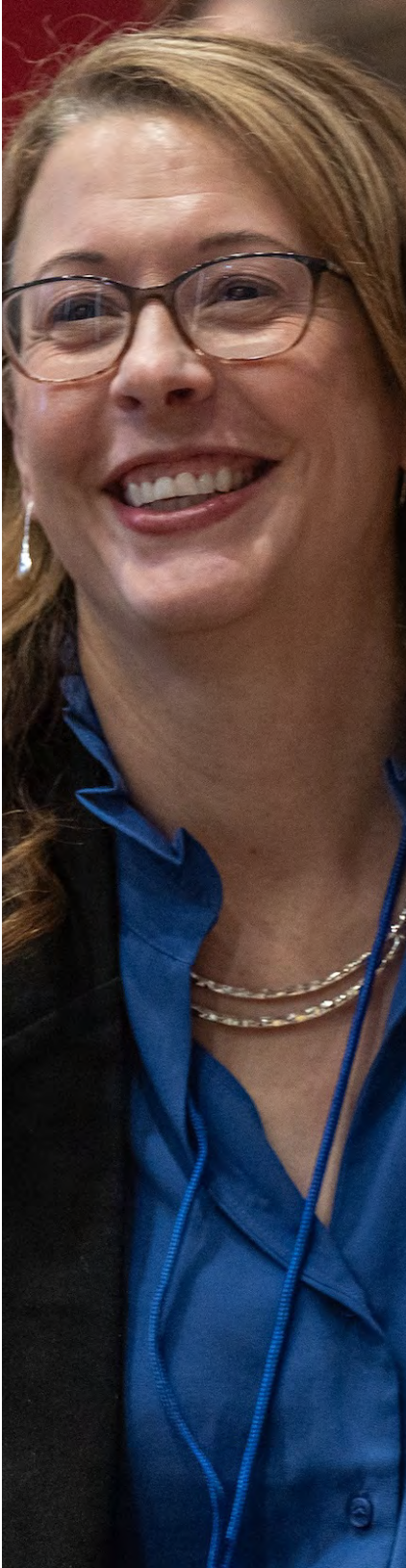
Although only mentioned once, it's worth noting that one person wished they'd gotten more feedback on their proposal.



## Finally, we asked if there's anything we should do differently

Of the 21 categorizable responses, 10 were some version of "not applicable." The only identifiable trend among the remaining responses was that some people—5 to be exact—wished they'd had more time to play with Adobe Express. The remaining responses were idiosyncratic, ranging from "Day 2" to specific activities, such as "Notes to Your Future Self" and the pre-conference activities.

# WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW?



**We also asked people an open question: is there anything else you want us to know. These are their responses in full:**

- I really appreciate how you keep the heart of creativity alive in your approach to incorporating tech. Keeping the heart forward in education is what will ultimately sustain us as humans.
- I didn't know what to expect going in, but I'm impressed and gratified by the Adobe team. Thank you!
- I think the Summit was very well organized. I enjoyed all of the speakers and especially appreciated Ryan's energy and facilitation throughout the event.
- Thank you for all of your time and effort to put this all together. I appreciate you all!
- Thank you for all the thought and work that went into organizing a wonderful Summit.
- Keep it up! Love the community.
- I'm excited to be working on this project, and I look forward to being in touch next year!

**"IT MIGHT SOUND CHEESY, BUT IT'S TRUE: MY EXPERIENCE WITH ADOBE & ADOBE FOR ALL HAS CHANGED MY LIFE!"**

- The Summit was a wonderful opportunity to talk with colleagues about pedagogy and to learn more about what other faculty are doing with this technology. I felt really supported going into this project and I wish more technology initiatives were structured this way. I think it could be a model.
- We found the time on the Adobe campus, and away from all the campus demands, to be very productive. It would be great to have another opportunity to meet in early spring if possible in person. Thank you for the support and resources.
- There is an opportunity for a follow up in winter/spring to discuss what campuses have been training and rolling out the training to their campus. I was also under the impression that there would be the faculty sample assignments shared from SJSU, however I have not seen them, but they may have gone to one of the other leads.
- Two 1B critical thinking + Adobe Express workshops have already been scheduled for Fall 2026!



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# WORKSHOPPING PROJECTS

# TESTIMONIALS

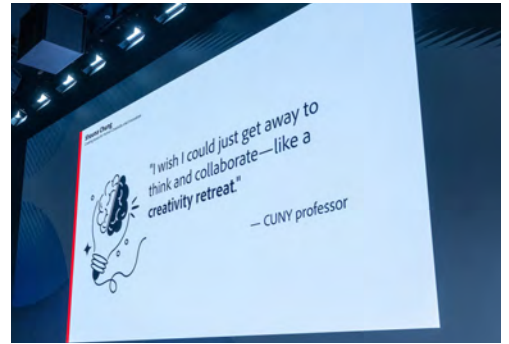
I was hugely skeptical when I began. We're in such a fraught moment with AI and the ethical concerns it raises. To refocus on human creativity was refreshing. Despite what has been created thus far in human experience, we've barely scratched the surface.



I am so incredibly grateful for the partnership between Adobe and CSU and the Adobe for All Initiative! The mission to provide students of all demographics with access to this incredible software is truly moving.



I love the idea of the Adobe for All Initiative. I think it is great for faculty, staff and students to learn how to use this tool for professional development and workforce development. Honestly I would love to see more CSU partnerships that allow campuses to help the entire system upgrade their knowledge.



The Initiative has sparked genuine collaboration and important conversations across our campus. We've been able to spend time envisioning ways to improve the first-year experience and how to implement creative literacy and design thinking.



The summit gave us exactly what we needed at the right moment: a well-curated space to move from big-picture possibility into concrete planning. The balance of keynote framing, campus examples, exploration time, and focused work time helped us refine how Adobe Express could support first-year writers not simply as a "tool," but as a space for authorship.



One of the most valuable outcomes of the Summit was the chance to think with colleagues across the CSU about equity, student voice, and digital composing. ... The Summit helped us leave with momentum and a deeper sense of being part of a CSU-wide community committed to student success.

# LEGACY

## An Early Success

After lunch, on Day 1, recent MA graduate from SJSU's English & Comparative Literature Department, Artie Patel, led a hands-on zine workshop. It was the most positively commented on activity from the whole Summit.



In addition to being a rousing success in the moment and a point of conversation well after it ended, it also led to a profile of Artie by SJSU's media team. SJSU student journalist, Khushali Patel, wrote "Deep Dive in Five with Artie Patel" about zine culture, teaching with zines, and Artie's research, which they will continue to pursue in a PhD program at the University of Buffalo in the Fall.



As the interview comes to a close, Artie nicely, if unintentionally, sums up the hope for the CSU + Adobe for All Initiative. Khushali asked Artie what they hope the lasting impact of their teaching will be, to which Artie responded:

"I hope [students] leave my class with the 'digital agency' to choose the right format for their story and the confidence to know they can reach an audience on their own terms." I think we all hope the same.

To read more, visit:

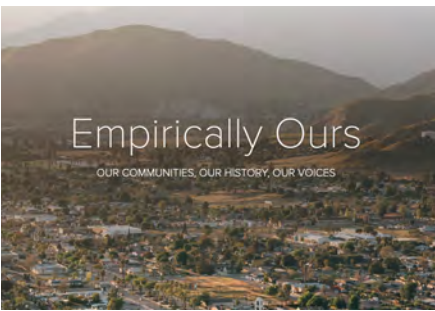
<https://blogs.sjsu.edu/newsroom/2026/deep-dive-in-five-with-artie-patel/>

To read K. Patel's feature article about the CSU + Adobe for All Digital Literacy Summit, visit: <https://blogs.sjsu.edu/newsroom/2026/strengthening-the-digital-pulse-csu-and-adobes-vision-for-the-future-of-literacy/>

# LEARN MORE

## If you want to learn more about the 2026 Digital Literacy Summit...

- You can visit the [Summit website](#) to see the agenda and related information.
- And you can read Khushali Patel's coverage of the Summit [at this link](#).



## If you want to learn more about the CSU + Adobe for All Initiative...

- You can visit the the CSU's partnership landing page [at this link](#).
- You can read Adobe's announcement of the program [at this link](#).
- Or you can read on example of how different CSU campuses are using the Adobe for All Initiative to support learning and improve student success [at this link](#).

## If you want to learn more about how the CSU supports digital literacy education...

- You can visit the [CSU Adobe Center of Excellence at SJSU](#)
- Or you can contact the Adobe Center of Excellence co-directors:  
Karen D. Wang (karen.wang02@sjsu.edu), or  
Ryan Skinnell (ryan.skinnell@sjsu.edu)

Thank

You



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