

**Contact:**

**Tina Ahn (415) 393-0115**

[tahn@milibrary.org](mailto:tahn@milibrary.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**American Grandmaster Sam Shankland  
Named Grandmaster-In-Residence at Mechanics' Institute**

(July 28, 2025 - SAN FRANCISCO, CA) – Mechanics' Institute is proud to announce the appointment of Grandmaster Sam Shankland as its new Grandmaster-In-Residence. His appointment signifies Mechanics' Institute's continued commitment to fostering excellence in chess and promoting the game throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

A Bay Area native, Shankland is one of the most accomplished American chess players of his generation. He is the 2018 U.S. Chess Champion, a 10-year veteran on the U.S. Olympic Team, a two-time Olympic Gold Medalist (2014 and 2016), a Silver Medalist (2018), and a former World U18 Co-Champion (2008). He has won dozens of international tournaments across four continents and remains a top-10 ranked player in the U.S.

"We are the only West Coast chess program to offer a Grandmaster-In-Residence," said Alex Robins, Chess Director at Mechanics' Institute. "Sam is highly respected and known for his strong play, analytical skills, and contributions to chess education. I know our players will be thrilled to get the chance to learn from one of the U.S.'s best players."

Grandmaster Shankland has a long-standing connection to Mechanics' Institute, which has supported him throughout his rise in the chess world. As Grandmaster-in-Residence, GM Shankland will be involved in various activities, including leading master-level classes, hosting public lectures, and offering office hours for players of all levels.

"As one of the U.S.'s top 10 players, I cannot think of a better person than Sam to serve in this role", said IM John Donaldson, U.S. Olympiad coach and Mechanics' Institute trustee. "Coaching and support for players in programs Mechanics' Institute offers provides the tools, techniques, and encouragement for players to develop and grow."

**About Mechanics' Institute**

Founded in 1854, Mechanics' Institute is one of the oldest institutions on the West Coast. Our mission is to serve as a vibrant center bringing together communities and fostering intellectual and cultural advancement, including the oldest continuously operating chess club in the United States, providing programming for adults and youth both onsite and at various locations throughout the community. For more information, visit [www.milibrary.org/chess](http://www.milibrary.org/chess).