

StageShare

A shared inventory and lending network for theater organizations

Stakeholder overview · September 2026 · live at stageshare.cc

What StageShare is

StageShare is a web application that lets theater companies, schools, and community groups catalog everything they own — props, costumes, set pieces, tools, and equipment — using nothing but a phone camera, and then lend those items to each other instead of letting them sit in storage. Each organization keeps its own private catalog and chooses, item by item, what to place on a shared shelf that other member organizations can browse and borrow from.

Constellation Stage and Screen operates the network, but the app is deliberately unbranded so partners join a neutral shared tool rather than another company's system. Most members are nonprofits, schools, and community theaters, so the entire design is built around running on free service tiers — the running cost is close to zero until the network genuinely grows.

Where the project stands

All three parts of the product now exist: cataloging, lending, and a way for new organizations to join the network.

The cataloging half is built, deployed, and in real use on phones: sign-in, the full catalog with photos, barcode scanning, AI-assisted item entry, bulk photo capture, a review queue, storage locations, and a shared category system spanning eight production departments.

The lending half — browsing other organizations' shared shelves, requesting to borrow, tracking a loan through handover and return, and emailing both sides as it moves — is built and deployed. On 25 August 2026 a complete loan ran end to end between two organizations in the live system: requested, accepted with a due date, handed over, confirmed received, returned, and confirmed returned, with every notification email arriving as designed.

Joining the network — the front door that was still missing in August — went live on 28 August 2026. A theater applies from the sign-in screen, the operator approves it inside the app, and the new organization's administrator is emailed a welcome and can invite their own colleagues. No organization has to be set up by hand any more.

Why the August test mattered. Every rule that keeps one organization's data invisible to another lives in the database itself, so it can be verified rather than trusted. Until August those rules had only ever been exercised in a test environment. The live run confirmed the important negative as well as the positive: an organization awaiting approval saw none of the items on the shared shelf, and no person's name crossed between organizations at any point — not on screen, and not in the notification emails.

Feature highlights

Cataloging without the drudgery

- **Bulk photo capture** — a volunteer photographs item after item; each photo becomes a draft record instantly, and the camera is ready again immediately.
- **AI reads the photo** — Claude (Anthropic's AI) drafts the item's name, category, condition, and any visible labels or model numbers from the photo alone. A person always confirms; the AI only ever suggests.
- **Barcode scanning** — point the camera at a barcode to find an item instantly; tuned to work reliably on iPhones and Android alike.
- **Review queue** — drafts wait in a one-tap confirm-or-discard queue, oldest first, so nothing enters the catalog unreviewed.
- **Sound cues** — a short tone tells a volunteer whether each capture saved, is waiting for a connection, or failed, so their eyes can stay on the item. Sounds can be switched off.

Finding things again

- **Search everything** — names, descriptions, and even label text read from photos (a model number finds the item).
- **Locations** — buildings and areas within them; items can be filed, found, and bulk-moved.
- **Departments & categories** — one shared, professionally ordered taxonomy (Lighting, Sound, Props, Costumes, Scenery, Paint, Facilities, Gallery) so a category means the same thing in every organization — the foundation for cross-organization browsing.

Borrowing between organizations

- **Shared shelves** — browse what other member organizations have marked shareable, and search it the same way you search your own catalog.
- **Requests with dates** — ask to borrow, say what it's for and when it's needed; an administrator at the owning organization accepts or declines and sets a due date.
- **Two-party handover** — neither side's word alone moves an item. The owner marks it handed over; the borrower confirms they physically have it, and the same again on the way back.
- **Email that keeps up** — both sides are emailed as a loan moves, within about five minutes, batched into one message rather than one per event. Overdue loans are flagged to both parties.

Growing the network

- **Apply to join** — a theater applies from the sign-in screen, with no account needed until it is approved.
- **Operator approval** — Constellation reviews each application inside the app. Only it can see applicants' details, and a new organization sees nothing on the shared shelf until it is approved.
- **Welcome email** — an approved organization's first administrator is emailed straight away with how to sign in.
- **Build your own team** — administrators invite colleagues by email, choose each person's role, and can change or remove them later. See "Who can do what" below.

Security and simplicity

- **No passwords** — members sign in with an 8-digit emailed code. Membership is approved by a person; unknown emails are politely refused.
- **Privacy walls in the database itself** — each organization can only ever see its own data, plus what others explicitly share. Enforced beneath the app, not by it.
- **Private photos** — item photos live in a private bucket and are served through expiring links; location metadata (GPS) is stripped from every photo before upload.
- **No app store** — StageShare installs to the home screen straight from the browser on any modern phone.

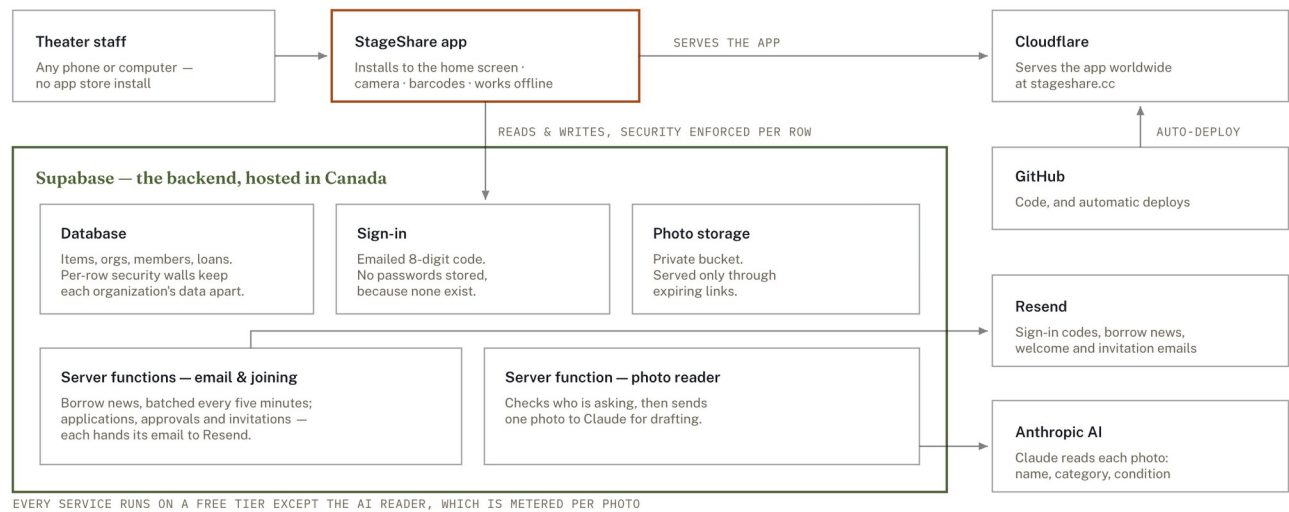
What comes next

The network can now catalog, lend, and take in new members without the operator's hands on it. What remains is proving it at real scale.

- **Cataloging at volume** — an entire room catalogued start to finish, a hundred items in a sitting. Nothing has yet been used at that scale, and doing it will surface more than another round of building.
- **An audit trail for administrators** — a tamper-resistant record of who changed what, captured beneath the application so it cannot be forged by the person being audited.
- **Describing what you need in your own words** — “costumes for a British royalty ball”, or sourcing props for a whole scene, rather than searching by keyword. Being explored; not yet started.

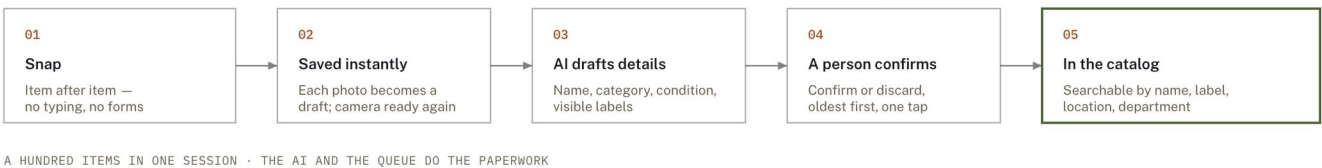
How the pieces fit together

StageShare is assembled from a small number of managed services, each doing one job, each chosen for a genuinely free tier. The app itself runs entirely in the browser; Supabase provides the database, sign-in, photo storage, and a handful of small server functions; Anthropic’s AI reads photos; Resend delivers every email the app sends; Cloudflare hosts and serves everything under the stageshare.cc domain.



Two design choices carry most of the weight. First, one database serves every organization, with row-level security rules acting as walls between them — the industry-standard multi-tenant pattern, and the reason a new member organization costs nothing to add. Second, the app is a Progressive Web App rather than a native app, which eliminates app-store fees, review cycles, and a second codebase while still giving members a home-screen icon and full camera access.

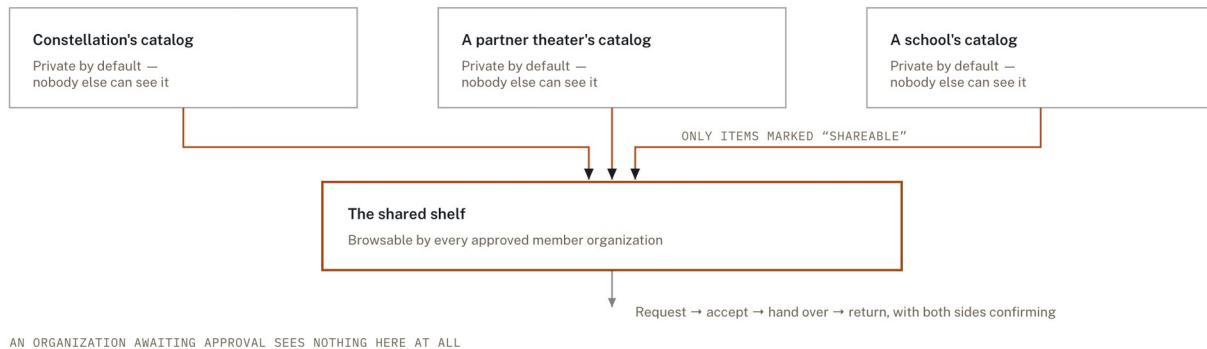
The cataloging workflow



This workflow is the answer to the project's hardest constraint: an initial catalog of thousands of items. Photography is the only manual step that scales with the number of items; the AI and the review queue absorb the paperwork. The AI model in use (Claude Sonnet 5) was chosen by measured comparison — a cheaper model was tested and rejected because it occasionally invented plausible-but-wrong details, which is precisely the failure a human reviewer does not catch.

The sharing model

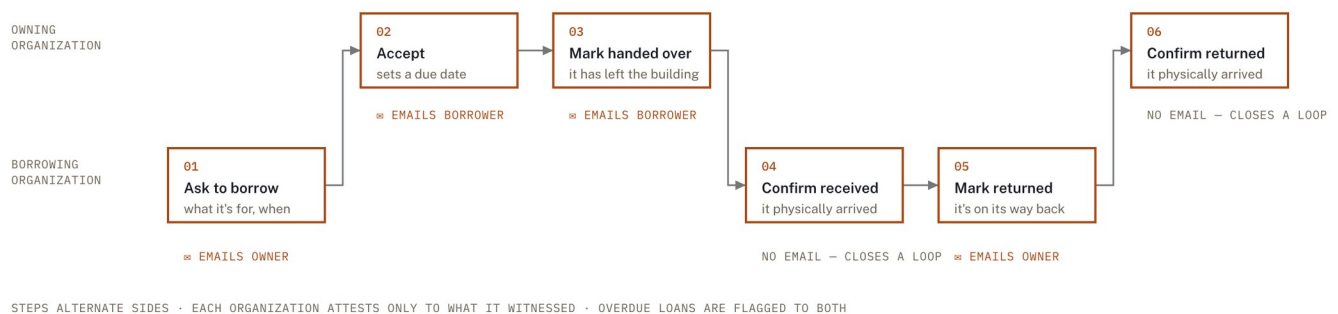
Nothing is visible to another organization unless someone deliberately puts it there. Marking an item shareable is a per-item decision, reversible at any time, and it is the only thing that crosses the wall between organizations.



Approval is a real gate, not a label: until the operator approves a new organization, its members see an empty shelf and can request nothing.

The loan: neither side's word alone moves an item

A borrowing system that assumes things happened is worse than no system: the records drift from reality and people stop trusting them. StageShare never assumes a physical handover. Each side attests only to what it actually witnessed — the owner says they handed it over, the borrower says they have it — and the record only advances when both have spoken.



The six steps alternate between the two organizations, and the alternation is the design. Steps 4 and 6 send no email on purpose: a confirmation closes a loop the other side already heard about, and an inbox that repeats itself gets ignored.

Who can do what

Every member belongs to exactly one organization and holds one of three roles within it. A role never reaches beyond that organization: an administrator at one theater has no say over another theater's items or people. Like the privacy walls between organizations, these rules are enforced in the database itself, not just by hiding buttons in the app.

Administrator — runs the organization

- **Everything a Cataloger can do** — plus the responsibilities below.
- **Answers borrow requests** — accepts or declines requests from other organizations. Only administrators can, because saying yes commits the organization's inventory, and they are the ones emailed when a new request arrives.
- **Manages the team** — invites new members and chooses their role, changes roles, and removes members. The last administrator can never be removed or demoted, so an organization is never left without one.
- **Oversees usage** — sees the storage and capacity figures, and can withdraw any borrow request the organization has made.

Cataloger — looks after the inventory

- **Maintains the catalog** — adds, edits, and deletes items, photos, barcodes, and categories, and decides which items go on the shared shelf.
- **Uses the cataloging tools** — bulk photo capture, the AI photo reader, and the review queue.
- **Manages locations** — the buildings and the areas inside them where items are filed.
- **Leaves to administrators** — answering borrow requests and managing people.

Requester — browses and asks

- **Browses** — the organization's own catalog and everything other organizations have shared.
- **Requests to borrow** — and can withdraw a request they made themselves.
- **Read-only on the inventory** — items, photos, and locations can be viewed but not changed, and the cataloging tools are unavailable. This is the default role for a new member.

Shared by every role

- **Handles agreed loans** — marks an item handed over, confirms it arrived, marks it returned, and confirms the return. Any member can record these steps, because each is simply a record of something they saw happen.
- **Controls their own notifications** — turning borrowing emails on or off for themselves.

The network operator

This is not a fourth role. Administrators of Constellation, the organization that operates the network, can also review and approve applications from new organizations. Only one organization can hold that position — the database will not allow a second — and administrators of other organizations cannot see the applications or the applicants' email addresses.

What it costs

Every service in the architecture runs on a free tier today. The two real costs are the web address and the AI's per-photo metering during cataloging.

Current costs, by component

Service	What it does	Plan	Cost today
Cloudflare Pages	Hosts the app worldwide, with automatic deploys	Free tier	\$0 / month
stageshare.cc	The app's own web address	Cloudflare registrar (at cost)	≈ \$10–15 / year
Supabase	Database, sign-in, photo storage, and the server functions	Free tier	\$0 / month
Resend	Delivers sign-in codes, borrow notifications, and welcome and invitation emails	Free tier	\$0 / month
GitHub	Stores the code; runs the automatic deploys	Free	\$0 / month
Anthropic AI	Reads each photo and drafts the item's details	Metered per photo	≈ \$0.0115 / photo (≈ \$0.008 before Sep 2026)
App stores	Avoided entirely — StageShare installs from the browser	—	\$0 (saves Apple's \$99 / year)

Projected costs as the network grows

AI cataloging is a one-time cost per photographed item, not a recurring fee. The first free-tier ceiling the project would hit is photo storage: compressed photos average roughly 200 KB, so about 5,000 photos fit in Supabase's free 1 GB, after which the Pro plan (\$25/month, 100 GB) comfortably covers even an established network. Figures below are estimates for planning, not quotes.

Scenario	Items photographed	AI cataloging (one-time)	Services (per year)
Pilot — Constellation only	≈ 2,500	≈ \$20–30	≈ \$10–15 (domain only; everything else on free tiers)
Early network — ~5 organizations	≈ 10,000	≈ \$80–115	≈ \$315 (Supabase Pro \$25/mo once photos outgrow free storage, plus domain)
Established network — ~15 organizations	≈ 30,000	≈ \$230–345 (cumulative)	≈ \$315 (Supabase Pro covers this scale; email tier likely still free)

One correction to earlier projections: the first free-tier limit the project actually touched was not photo storage but bandwidth, and it was caused by a defect rather than by real use — a bug that re-fetched photos

continuously. It was found and fixed in August, and the billing period that began on 5 September has used almost none of its allowance. It is mentioned because a plan that only names the limit it expected is less useful than one that names the limit it met.

For perspective: even the established-network scenario totals under \$700 in its first year — less than a single replacement lighting fixture — and the nonprofit status of most members may qualify the network for programs (TechSoup, Google for Nonprofits, Cloudflare's nonprofit offerings) that could cover the hosting bill entirely.

This overview describes the system as of 13 September 2026. Figures for future scenarios are planning estimates rather than quotations.