



THURSDAY, JULY 19

10:00 AM, **Border Narratives: Voices from Beyond the Wall** -- Latinx comics professionals discuss their work and their experiences living in a time of resurgent nationalism and a countrywide obsession with borders, both physical and psychological. Topics will include the current state of Latinx characters in comics, the importance of diverse creators and the question of representative authenticity, and how comics creators can partner with libraries to provide the best access to books and community programming from outside the monoculture. Speakers are Johnnie Christmas (Firebug, Angel Catbird), Marco Finnegan (Crossroad Blues), Ricardo Padilla (executive director and co-founder of the Latino Comics Expo), Zeke Peña (illustrator at The Nib, Photographic: The Life of Graciela Iturbide), and Isabel Quintero (Gabi, A Girl in Pieces, Photographic: The Life of Graciela Iturbide). Moderated by Chloe Ramos-Peterson (library market sales representative at Image Comics).

11:00 AM, **Beyond Wakanda: Intersectional Afrofuturism** -- Afrofuturism is a Black aesthetic, philosophical, and artistic movement that dates to the mid-20th century; its influences can be seen most recently in Ryan Coogler's depiction of Wakanda, a place of super science, spiritual communion, and geopolitical influence predicated not on closeness to colonial nodes of power, but autonomy from them. This panel digs deep into the cultural archive of Afrofuturism to connect the broad audience of popular films like Black Panther to historical resources related to Afrofuturism, especially the work of Octavia Butler. Using records related to Butler's works of fiction and her life in Southern California, this panel uses zine making as a bridge between scholarly and popular archives, between the study of technology and Afrofuturism, and between LIS professionals and broader audiences. Participants will learn to use zines for audience engagement and will gain exposures to an abbreviated history of Afrofuturism in Southern California featuring Octavia Butler. Panelists: Kelly Besser (Archivist, UCLA Library Special Collections), Roderic Crooks (Assistant Professor of Informatics, UC Irvine), Dalena Hunter (Librarian, Bunche Center for African American Studies, UCLA), and Shani Miller (Metadata and Digital Processing Coordinator, UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive)

12:00 PM, **If You Build It They Will Come: Strategies for Successful Adult Graphic Novel Collection Development in Public Libraries** -- Comics are for Everyone - yet far too often adult graphic novels are relegated to teen sections, resigned to standing order plans, and unconsidered when planning programming. That needs to change. This panel will provide practical approaches to building high quality graphic novel collection for adults - and targeting and increasing advocacy about why adult graphic novels are needed in every library. Topics will include: suggestions for overcoming the unique challenges of creating and maintaining adult graphic novel collections; how to ""sell"" this collection to stakeholders (have an elevator pitch!); suggested titles to purchase to start and grow your collection; and resources for readers advisory and advocacy support. No more restrictions on reading - let's embrace comics for everyone! Panelists: Monica Barrette (Senior Librarian, Adult Services, Escondido Public Library), Cassidy Charles (Digital Services Librarian, Santa Barbara Public Library), Marcela Peres (Library Director, Lewiston Public Library), Amie Wright (Library Manager, Edmonton Public Library).

1:00 PM, **Comics and Libraries Fair** -- Come and take a look at how exciting programming, collection development methods, and best practices for literacy and engagement using comics and pop culture have successfully benefitted communities. Meet the librarians who have discovered the power and accessibility of comics and fandoms to help people learn and connect in new and highly effective ways, from Star Wars events to using comics to connect with underserved populations. See Pages 3-4 for Fair details.

2:00 PM, **Queer Comics for Queer Kids** -- Libraries are often safe spaces for teens who find it hard to fit in elsewhere. This includes queer teens. It is important to keep collections that reflect these teens, both so that they can find themselves in fiction, just as we all should, and so that their peers can see them normalized. It's



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also important to know how to market these items, they help no one if they simply gather dust on the shelf! Presenters will talk about queer comics and manga, how they've affected them personally, why they're important to library collections, and some recommendations to start you off right. Speakers are Vincent Zalkind (North Hollywood Branch, Los Angeles Public Library), Kelly Quinn Chiu (Santa Clara City Library), Angela Ocana (Eugene Public Library), Steenz (Lion Forge Comics). Moderated by Kathryn Kania (Pelham Public Library, New Hampshire).

3:00 PM, **Truth, Social Justice and the Academic Library Way: Comics In Academic Libraries** -- Academic libraries have often used scholarship and curriculum support as means to justify collecting comics and graphic novels. However, these items often get lost in the greater academic collections and these "hidden" collections often go unused. Three academic librarians have taken a different approach to utilizing graphic novels and comics as means for community engagement and to encourage a culture of reading. Topics covered include developing a social justice themed comic collection and a physical space in the library for comics and graphics novels, encouraging a comic culture to underserved populations, and strategies for outreach and engagement using comics and graphic novels. From this panel, attendees will learn that comics can be used as an outreach tool for deeper community engagement, can lead to a broader user base for libraries, and can help support campus conversations on diversity and inclusion. Panelists are Kai Alexis Smith (Subject Librarian, Cal Poly Pomona), Brinna Pam Anan (Metadata Management Librarian, Cal Poly Pomona), Bethany Herman Public Services Librarian, Houston Community College), and Jennifer Crispin (Public Services Librarian, Houston Community College)

4:00 PM, **Creator Panel: When I See Myself In Comics** -- This panel is a conversation with authors/creators about the discoveries that come after the book is published and released into the world. What are the biggest surprises that come from readers who identify with their work? What sort of impact does this have on how they, as creatives, perceive the original work? What sort of stories did they read that had a profound impact on how they write and why they choose the stories they tell? Join the conversation as these talented creators talk about the moments that can make a book all worthwhile. Featuring Sebastian Kadlecek (Quince), Christina 'Steenz' Stewart (Archival Quality), Jenni and Matt Holm (Baby Mouse), and Sina Grace (The Li'l Depressed Boy). Moderated by Colleen Bement.

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM, **The Image Comics Educator & Librarian Mixer** -- Presenting the Image Comics Educator and Librarian Mixer! This free-to-attend event is for attendees of the Comic Conference for Educators and Librarians. This is a fun opportunity for professionals in the teaching and library fields with an interest in comics to come together to network and share in their love of the popular arts during Comic-Con! Featuring a no-host beer & wine bar and light hors d'oeuvres. Must be 21+ with ID to purchase beer & wine. Space is limited. Sponsored by Image Comics and the Friends of the Central Library. Register via the CCEL website: <https://www.sandiego.gov/ccel>



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Comics and Libraries Fair Topics and Presenters

1:00pm – 2:00 pm

Sketching Your Way To A Library Comics Festival

Library cons are all the rage, but if that's too intimidating, consider a month-long comics festival! Peninsula Libraries Comic Arts Fest (PLCAF) celebrates the importance of comics, both as an art form and as valid literature, and enables aspiring artists and readers of all ages through author visits, workshops, a small press expo, and other comics-related programs. Members of the planning committee for PLCAF will explain how they brought diverse programs to multiple library jurisdictions, the challenges they faced, and how to create meaningful partnerships within the library and comics communities. Debbie Huey (Millbrae Library, San Mateo County Libraries), John Weaver (Menlo Park Library), Tiffany Bradford-Oldham (San Mateo County Libraries), Cynthia Rider (Burlingame Library), Jenna Varden, (Foster City Library, San Mateo County Libraries)

No Budget, No Author, No Problem!

Everyone loves an author talk, but what if your budget's low or your library wants you to promote digital literacy in your programming? We'll show you creative and inexpensive programming options ranging from simple paper folding to make mini comic books to using digital editing tools to remix and combine your favorite comics. We've got ideas for you to use whether you are in the mood for passive programming or want to host more involved, hands-on workshops. Martin Pinol (South San Francisco Public Library) and Shawnte Santos (South San Francisco Public Library)

Crafters, Librarians Assemble!

Do you have a flair for creativity? Do you believe that just like the Force, with its light side and dark side, that duct tape can bind everything in the Galaxy? Then join members and friends of the City of Commerce Public Library as they demo successful cost-effective crafts that you can add to your next comic book inspired event! This table offers creative activities no matter your allegiance or fandom. Each craft is designed for a specific age group, including young children, teens, and adults. Scott Gurrola, (Bandini Public Library), Meghan Robbins (Lancaster Public Library), Grasiela Rodriguez (Graphic Artist & Animator), Matt Tabizon (City of Commerce Public Library), Erik Jackiw (City of Commerce Public Library)

Fandom At Your Library

Programs in libraries are exponentially more successful when they are connected to pop culture, from comics to movies to television to games to books. Everything from trivia nights to library-wide festivals and cons benefit from drawing on and engaging with fans and the media they adore. At this table, discover how to harness the power of fandom for your special events, track what's popular to attract new audiences, and take away tips on best practices for making fannish activities a part of events large and small. We will have inspiration ideas, examples of crafts, and step by step planning guides for attendees to take home. Robin Brenner (Public Library of Brookline)

Using The Power Of The Force To Reach Reluctant Readers

The popularity of Star Wars has never been stronger. Learn how libraries can use the power of the Force to create Star Wars related activities and programming to bring young readers into the library and create a new generation of lifelong library patrons. Join "Forces" with Obi-Shawn Crosby who has presided over hundreds of Star Wars related literary events and Allen Callaci, Literacy Librarian at the Rancho Cucamonga Public Library



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who run the largest Star Wars Library event in California for tips, ideas and suggestions for bring a galaxy far, far away to a library near you.

Pop Con: An Origin Story

Every hero has an origin story. Learn from San Antonio Public Library's first Pop Con how to form your staff league, forge creative allies, and transcend bookshelves into pop culture programming. We'll give you tips on preparing your secret library headquarters for community fandom and success. Julia Selwyn (San Antonio Public Library)

Comics & Information Literacy Within Prison Libraries

Prison libraries are often overlooked in the larger discourse surrounding issues of social justice, information literacy, and information science. Learn from a former prison librarian how comics were often one of the best ways to engage inmates with low literacy rates. Prison libraries are able to contribute to the overall recidivism rate within the incarcerated population as well as the safety and enrichment of the community to which they return to upon release. Engrossing inmates with a love of reading through comics is an excellent method for promoting education and literacy. Lizette Guerra (California Institute of the Arts)

Getting Past Gatekeepers: How To Keep Parents And Give Kids Great Comics

Even as middle grade and YA graphic novels are dominating shelf space in libraries, bookstores, and classrooms, there are still adults who dismiss the medium. How do you get a graphic novel into the hands of a child whose parent or teacher insists on a book with "real reading"? Learn strategies for selling graphic novels to skeptical guardians and get to know some of our sure-fire titles for the graphic-averse. Kelly Quinn Chiu (Santa Clara City Library), Marissa Thompson (Los Angeles Public Library), Loren Spector (Los Angeles Public Library), and Angela Ocana (Eugene Public Library)

Where Does This Go? Cataloging Protocols For Comics

Comics are a unique medium and cataloging them consistently is challenging. Our project conducted original research to create cataloging recommendations for comics. We created two online surveys, one for librarians and one for users. We also conducted 25 librarian interviews. After cleaning and analyzing the data, we created a "how to" document. Users are frustrated by inconsistent cataloging and shelving practices. The number of responses our surveys received demonstrates the salience and timeliness of our research. Our project will make a difference by establishing basic standards in cataloging, making comics easier for librarians to catalog and for users to access. Staci Crouch, Allison Bailund (SDSU Library), Hallie Clawson (UW-Tacoma Library), Katherine Keller (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Engaging Youth Readers Through Comics and Graphics Novels

This dynamic pair of library professionals will focus on using graphic novels and comics to break down the barriers that reluctant readers, readers with learning differences, and English Language learners face when struggling with literacy. The participating librarians include a high school teacher-librarian and a Youth Innovation Coordinator. They bring a breadth of experience from diverse backgrounds, they have a love of comics and graphic novels and a dedication to finding avenues to incorporate them into our learning environments and libraries. Josie Laine Andrews (Bear River High School), Vaile Fujikawa (Yolo County Libraries)