



Amplify Creativity!
Lake Erie Ink's 13th Annual
Kids' Comic Con
2025
Program

Saturday & Sunday, February 22nd & 23rd

Cosplay Workshops!

Thursday, February 27th

Virtual Workshop with Nickelodeon Artist

Friday, March 7th

Teen Party

Saturday, March 8th

Workshops & Artist Alley

10:30-11:30 am

11:40-12:40 pm

1:30-2:30 pm

2:40-3:40 pm

Guest Artist Biographies

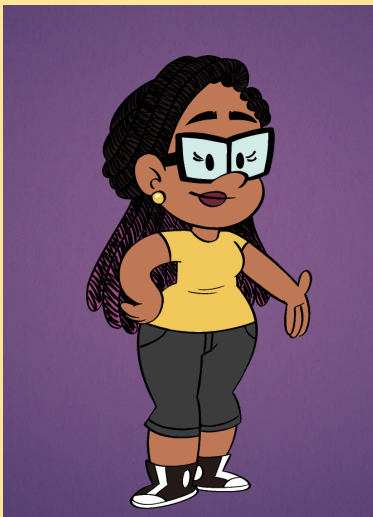
Saturday & Sunday, February 22nd & 23rd

Cosplay Workshops @ CMA's Community Arts Center at the Pivot Center

1-4pm
All Ages | FREE

Learn more about the art of cosplay and work on your cosplay costume for the Teen Party and Saturday Comic Con!
Registration through the Community Arts Center. Walk ins accepted!

Thursday, February 27th



[Nickelodeon Virtual Drawing Jam with Alexia Valentine](#)

4 pm, Virtual on Zoom
Free

Learn how simple shapes can combine to make ANY of your favorite cartoon characters. Regardless of skill level, all participants will be energized and ready to draw anything they can imagine using simple shapes!

Friday, March 7th

Teen Party @ moCa

6-9 pm, doors at 5:30pm

\$10

11400 Euclid Ave.

Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to the Kids' Comic Con Teen Party! This fun event features a cosplay contest, trivia and games, and drawing and writing with guest artists. Hosted by [CandiBee Cosplay](#).



Saturday, March 8th

Workshops & Artists' Alley

@ CMA's Community Art Center at the Pivot Center
10am-4pm, doors at 9:15am
\$10
2937 W 25th St.

Keynote and Orientation
10:00 am-10:20 am

Comics Change Cleveland

with [Dawn Arrington from Comics at the Corner](#) and [Valentino Zullo from Ursuline College and the Siegel and Shuster Society](#)

Workshop Session 1
10:30-11:30 am

[Adventure Stories with Anna Kopp](#)

Collaborate together to make exciting comic stories with Anna Kopp
For All Ages

[Creative Think Tank with Nesha Mars from 50*Fifty Comix](#)

Start a comic with Nesha Mars! She will demonstrate her process for comic creation and help you develop your comic ideas through one word prompts.
For All Ages

**Writing Your Life: How to Tell (Good) Stories About Yourself
with Brad Ricca**

Do you want to be a writer but every time you decide to start . . . it doesn't go anywhere? In this workshop, we'll learn how to write from the stuff that happens to you every day and how that makes the best stories of all.

For All Ages

Shape as Character with David Wilson

Find out how simple shapes can be used to create dynamic characters, why certain shapes reinforce universal tropes, as well as the power of directional shape for emotions. Create your own characters with a backstory using the simple shape method.

For All Ages

Creating a Character with Ted Sikora

Using character prompts (such as "What city is the character from?" "What is their favorite hobby?") you will create a new character's backstory, then write a scene for your character. Learn the advantages of developing and knowing your character

For Teens

Ink Your Comic Pages Like A Manga Artist with Sevita Lochan

Have you ever wondered how your favorite manga artists draw their comic pages? Did you know that most manga artists still ink their pages with paper and ink? Bring a sketched page of your own comic, drawing, or feel free to draw something while at the workshop. We'll show you the ins and outs of using manga nibs, inks, how to clean them, and of course, how to draw a manga page with them!

For Teens

Workshop Session 2

11:40-12:40 pm

[Creating Manga Characters with Miguel Hernandez](#)

This session will provide tips on creating fun manga characters and bringing your character's story to life.

For All Ages

[Make Your Own Origami Paper Dolls with Sevita Lochan](#)

Grab some paper and coloring supplies and get ready to decorate and fold your own origami dolls! Make dolls of yourself, friends, or your own characters!

For All Ages

[OuBaPo: Workshop of Potential Comics with Matt Haberbusch](#)

In this workshop, we'll come up with possible constraints for comics (e.g. draw with your non-dominant hand, or draw everything only with circles), and we'll make as many one-page comics using whatever constraints each

For All Ages

[Collage Comic Trading Cards with Maya Watkins](#)

Create a piece of art you can carry in your pocket! Participants will create mini artworks through drawing and collage. Trade with friends or start your own collection.

For All Ages

[How to Create a Web Comic with Kelci Crawford](#)

You have a sketchbook full of ideas! How do you turn that into a story? We're going to tackle that in this workshop. I will work with participants on what goes into a good story, how to outline your webcomic, and writing exercises so that by the end of the workshop, you know where your story is headed.

For Teens

[Minibooks with Kate Atherton](#)

Participants will select paper and string and bind a small simple book in which to draw a comic, zine, or individual characters (an art book), using paper with different colors, opacity, and covers as well as drawing prompts to start their story or art book within the pages. Books will be made with a simplified saddle stitch technique.

For Teens

Lunch

12:40-1:20 pm

Workshop Session 3

1:30-2:30 pm

[Writing Comics the Marvel Way with Joe Sieracki](#)

Participants will learn about the different ways that comic books can be scripted for writer/artist collaborations. Then given a writing prompt, students will try drawing someone else's panel description. Students will consider the advantages and disadvantages of creating comics Marvel style, by trying it within our group.

For All Ages

[Drawing Dangerous with Gilberto Rivera](#)

Craft compelling villains and illustrate intimidating figures that are larger-than-life, and yes, scarier than ever! Learn the character's journey through fundamentals and master the thrilling villainous art.

For All Ages

[Creative Storytelling - Be Prepared for Anything! with Michelle Littlejohn](#)

Explore fun prompts to develop a comic that surprises even YOU!
A fun, interactive workshop.

For All Ages

Clay Character Creation With Lake Erie Ink Staff

Bring original characters to life with modeling clay!

For All Ages

[How to Write a Graphic Novel with Anna Kopp](#)

Learn how to write a proposal and a script for your graphic novel.

For Teens

[Creating Minizines with Fern Haught](#)

Create a mini folded zine from one page of 8.5x11 paper. incorporating mixed media and using an autobiographical format or prompt about something you did or some place you've gone.

For Teens

Workshop Session 4

2:40-3:40pm

[Create a Creature with Morty Foster](#)

Get inspired by the characteristics of your favorite animals and what makes them unique. Then make a new, never before seen creature.

For All Ages

[Learn to Draw Like Oda-Sensei with Kobe Saunders](#)

This workshop will focus on the character design and style of *One Piece's* Eiichiro Oda. His characters are remarkably strange and unique. We'll focus on why that is and how he's deviated from the norm due to the nature of his story and his evolving style.

For All Ages

[Storybook Zines with Ke Gray](#)

Design a zine in the likeness of a storybook. Fill the page with creative ideas and visual storytelling using shape-language, color, and mood to design a highlighted two-page spread within storybook zine.

For All Ages

Clay Character Creation With Lake Erie Ink Staff

Bring original characters to life with modeling clay!

For All Ages

Draw with Noor Al Rassam--Anime and Comic Workshop!

Learn how to draw anime / manga through fundamentals such as gesture drawing, poses, facial expressions, and character design.

For Teens

Make a Splash! with Page Design and Dynamic Rhythm with Gilberto Rivera

Learn how to maximize your art and story to create impactful comic layouts!
Master paneling and page flow for smooth, engaging storytelling for comics
and manga.

For Teens

Artist Biographies

Dawn Arrington

Dawn is the founder of Comics at the Corner, a literacy program focused on using comic books as a way to encourage reading.



Kate Atherton

Kate Atherton is a comics artist and illustrator living and working in Cleveland, Ohio. She attended Rhode Island School of Design and has a BFA in Illustration. Kate currently works as a children's librarian at Noble Neighborhood Library and self published Graphic Novels, her second book *Come in, North* came out in October of 2024. <https://www.kateatherton.com>

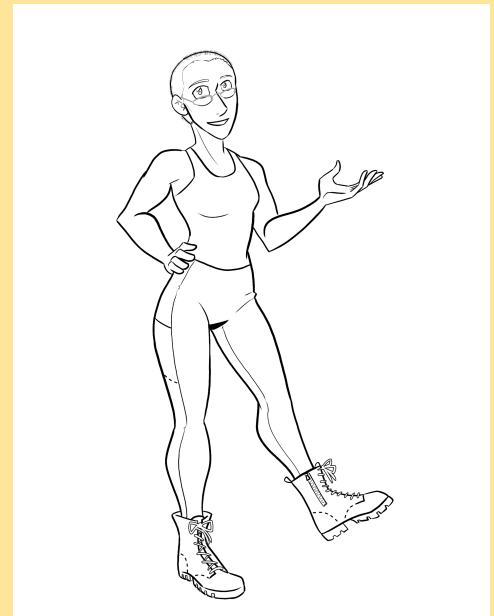
Brandi “Candibee” Blocker

I'm a cosplayer, event planner, and inner child protector. I focus on creating whimsical and campy events for all ages!



Kelci Crawford

Kelci Crawford is a comic artist, illustrator, and concept artist based in Toledo, Ohio. They have been making comics since 2013, and running Fantasyville Productions, LLC since 2018. They have drawn a lot of webcomics over the years, including the LGBTQ+ fantasy adventure *The Legend of Jamie Roberts*. When not making comics, they play tabletop roleplaying games with friends and care for three goblins disguised as cats. <https://kelcidcrawford.com>



Morty Foster

Mortimer “Morty” Foster is a trans zinester and craftsman from Columbus, Ohio who sees a creature in everything. He’s passionate about bookmaking, storytelling, and touching mud.

<https://bacteriumbug.carrd.co/>

Ke Gray

Ke is an artist based in Cleveland, Ohio. Inspired by her childhood love for cartoons and drawing, using lighthearted and playful elements in her visual storytelling is what she loves doing most. She graduated with a BFA from the Cleveland Institute of Art and specializes in creating illustrations conveying lightheartedness and fantasy through her characters and environments.

www.kegrayart.com / I: [@kegrayart](https://www.instagram.com/kegrayart)



Photo by Greg Nold



Matt Haberbusch

My focus is creating situations where people draw and make comics, and I'm most interested in people who want to take drawing back from a system that says we either have to draw professionally or not at all. I love the versatility of the short story comic and the flexibility of the self-published minicomic! I also love leading group comics making activities. I co-organize a comics making group for adults in Cleveland called Comics in the Circle, which has been meeting regularly since fall 2020.

Fern Haught

Fern Haught (they/he) is an illustrator and author currently based in Cleveland, OH. They love to tell stories about queer people set in fantasy worlds. Their picture books and graphic novels often incorporate magic and focus on characters and their relationships. When they aren't making books they're doing graphic design and crafting illustrations for games.

<https://fernhaught.com/>



Miguel C. Hernández

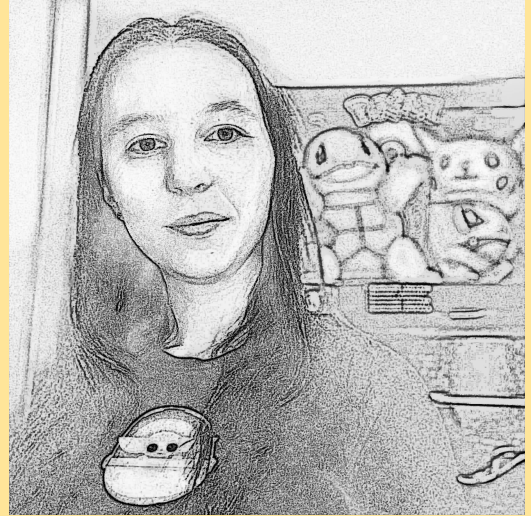
I'm an instructor at Cleveland Institute of Art, DC Comics/Milestone Initiative Class of 2022. Also, artist of upcoming comic series "Hanzo" published by Glénat.

<https://www.studiojsart.com/>

Anna Kopp

Anna Kopp is an Ohio children's author who loves creating fantastical stories for kids of all ages. She has published work from Minecraft picture books to fantasy novels, both independently and traditionally. Most recently, her YA fantasy graphic novel *THE MARBLE QUEEN* released May 2024 from Dark Horse. When she's not writing she's playing video games or reading the latest books about lost princesses.

<https://annakoppauthor.com/>



Michelle Littlejohn

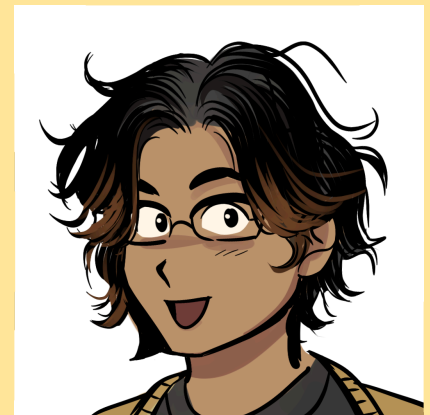
I am an independent artist & illustrator working and living in Cleveland, Ohio. I create illustrations and products inspired from my daily life as a mother of 5 amazing children. Trust me... there's always something going on! <http://www.starrelish.com>

Sevita Lochan

I am a comic artist and author living in the Cleveland area, and also the founder of a small children's press, "Lumicpress", where I am in the process of publishing my own comics and books. My major inspirations are Japanese manga and anime, but I love to incorporate my own Western flair and inspirations into my art style as well. My work includes; "Four Corners", "Charu", and "The Arliden Prodigy".

<http://www.sevitalochan.com>

<http://www.lumicpress.com>



Nesha Mars



Lynnesha, Better known as “Nesha Mars”, was born and raised in Cleveland, OH. Creating and community outreach have been passions of hers since grade school. As she struggled with identity in high school, writing was a great way to escape and dive into an alternate universe. She actively serves as Chief Operations Officer and Co-Owner of 50*Fifty Comix Publishing, and is a writer and character developer for the Mars Storyline.

<http://www.50fiftycomix.com>

Noor Al Rassam

My name is Noor Al Rassam and I am a graphic novelist and illustrator. I have self published one ongoing graphic and webtoon, *Moonflower*. I have done volunteer work for Nayana Lafond in Art Activism for the MMIW Project. My book is an allegory of current conflicts in the Middle East through a dark fantasy dystopian fiction. I: [@NOOR_AL_RASSAM](https://www.instagram.com/NOOR_AL_RASSAM)



Brad Ricca

Brad Ricca is the author of seven books. He teaches at Case Western University. He is the Eisner-nominated writer of *Ten Days in a Mad-House* (w/ artist Courtney Sieh) and the author of *Super Boys—The Amazing Adventures of Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster—the Creators of Superman*.

<http://brad-ricca.com>



Giberto Rivera

Gilberto Rivera is an accomplished artist, educator, film producer and creative visionary behind Narrative Boom. With a passion for storytelling, Rivera blends art, education, and community engagement to inspire creativity in young minds. His work includes projects within the world of comics, and Manga where he mentors students in writing, illustration, and comic book creation. He has worked for companies like Bandai, T mobile, MTV, and more.



With a background in painting, videography, and a history of exhibitions in Cleveland, Gilberto's art is rooted in dynamic storytelling and cultural exploration. Through Narrative Boom, he continues to bridge art and education, empowering the next generation of creators.



Kobe Saunders

I'm an illustrator born and raised in Cleveland. I fell in love with drawing while reading various comics, manga and watching cartoons as a kid, and that passion has stuck with me through adulthood. While I've been drawing for most of my life, I studied creative writing and film in university specifically to support a career in illustration but also because I fell in love with those mediums along with drawing. I currently work at the Cleveland Museum of Art and teach a monthly comic club held on Saturdays. I: [@muitokiii](#)

Joseph Sieracki

Joseph Sieracki was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. He is the writer of *A LETTER TO JO* published by TOP SHELF, *THE LIFE AND DEATH OF THE BRAVE CAPTAIN SUAVE* on ZOOP, and *GHOSTS OF SCIENCE PAST* from HUMANOIDS. Joseph is currently teaching in a suburb of Cleveland, where he resides with his wife and kids.



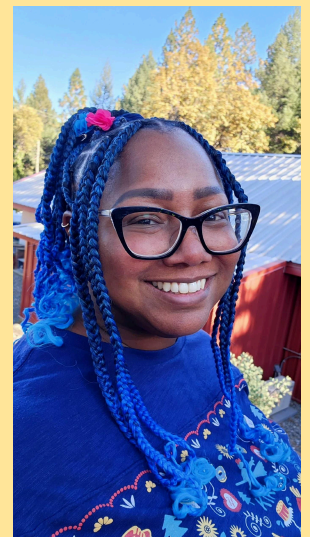
Ted Sikora

Ted Sikora is a comic book writer, colorist, letterer, filmmaker and composer from Cleveland. He is the creator of the Hero Tomorrow Comics Universe which includes the titles: *Tap Dance Killer*, *Punchline and the Vaude-Villains*, *Apama the Undiscovered Animal* and *Bloom*. As a filmmaker Ted directed the movies *Hero Tomorrow*, *Move On*, and over a hundred documentary shorts. He also wrote the principle music and lyrics to the horror show musical *Nothing Like Vaudeville* in which the Tap Dance Killer character first debuted. <http://herotomorrow.com>



Alexia Valentine

Alexia Valentine is a Freelance Designer and Production Coordinator of Nickelodeon's Emmy Award Winning Series: *The Loud House*. She has been creating art her entire life up and down California's coast from airbrush work in San Francisco to watercolor painting at Disneyland. Now, she designs characters for the *Loud House* Series and upcoming movie, as well as the *Casagrande* Comic book Series. Alexia lets her spirit of curiosity guide her through life, which usually means trying lots of new things and gaining a ton of new hobbies. Sewing, cosplaying, crocheting, voice acting, illustrating children's books, and her fleet of wacky pets keeps her busy and on her toes.



Maya Watkins

Born and raised in Cleveland, Maya has been involved with Lake Erie Ink since 2015. She has a passion for history, writing, and art, and loves learning about new types of art.

David Wilson

David Wilson assumes many roles—illustrator, designer, writer, and filmmaker. He illustrated *Play Like a Girl*, a graphic memoir about being the only girl on the seventh grade football team, written by his wife, Misty Wilson. When he's not working, you can find him exploring nature, skateboarding, or playing drums. He lives in Ohio with his wife and two daughters. <http://workdavidwork.com>



Valentino Zullo

Valentino Zullo is Assistant Professor of English, Anisfield-Wolf Fellow, and co-director of the Rust Belt Humanities Lab at Ursuline College. He is Associate editor of the *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics* and co-leads the Get Graphic program at Cleveland Public Library where he was the Ohio Center for the Book Scholar-in-Residence.