





- LOCAL COMIC CREATORS
- COSPLAY CONTEST
- GAMES & ACTIVITIES
- DRAWING TUTORIALS
- RAFFLES
- AND SO MUCH MORE!

OCTOBER 18, 2025

10:00AM - 3:00PM

FOR NEWS AND UPDATES AT THE ATHOL TOWN HALL 584 MAIN ST, ATHOL, MA 01331



THIS IS NOT A SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENT.

I THINK THIS IS A GREAT EVENT THAT REALLY HELPS BRING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER IN A CREATIVE AND FUN WAY.

SUPPORT LOCAL!



I'VE NEVER
BEEN TO A
SHOW LIKE
THAT BEFORE!

I'M GOING BACK NEXT YEAR AND I CAN'T WAIT.



#### Athol Comic Book Fest Returns for Fourth Year

From the Athol Daily News Published: 9-22-2025

ATHOL – On Saturday, Oct. 18, the Athol Public Library and Hero Shack Press will transform Athol Town Hall into the fourth edition of the Comic Book Fest.

With vendors, cosplay, games, comics, crafts, demonstrations, competitions and more there will be something for everyone at this family-friendly event.

Christopher and Diana Tamulevich, the team behind Hero Shack Press, have been collaborating with independent comic book creators from the North Quabbin area and all over New England. This year, 20 local and independent artists and authors will be featuring their work in Liberty Hall. Alongside some familiar faces, five artists will be making their Comic Book Fest debut.

"This is an awesome showcase of local creators and a great opportunity to come together and celebrate a love of art, pop culture, and of course reading," said Emily Boughton, the young adult library technician at the Athol Public Library. "We love being able to introduce our community to new independent artists and can't wait to share all the fun activities we've been working on."

During the festival there will be a drawing demonstration by "Cycoplian" author Christopher Tamulevich, and a Q&A session with "Katie the Catsitter" author Colleen AF Venable by the main stage.

New this year is a live drawing competition where participating artists will draw prompts from the audience on the spot in a sketch-off. The popular Cosplay Contest is back and guests of all ages can show off their costumes and handiwork during the afternoon's event, competing for cash prizes in a variety of categories. A full schedule of events will be available on the library's website and social media pages prior to the event.

Alongside the artists and authors, His and Hers Comics of Greenfield and Holeymoleys Comics & Collectibles of Northampton will be selling pop culture items, including mainstream comics. The Friends of the Athol Public Library will have refreshments on sale to raise funds for future library programs. The recently founded North Quabbin Gaming Guild will have quick and easy tabletop games set up and ready to play. Launchspace, Valuing Our Children, and the Athol Teen Advisory Council will be running hands-on activities while Deborah and Lahri of the Amherst Kids' Art and Nature camp will do face painting.

As visitors participate in the activities and visit various artists, they will earn tickets to enter into raffles for signed prints, card games, collectables and more.

The Comic Book Fest will take place at the Athol Town Hall, 584 Main St. Visitors of all ages are welcome to stop by and enjoy the festivities from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Comic Book Fest is funded by the Friends of the Athol Public Library and the Athol Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



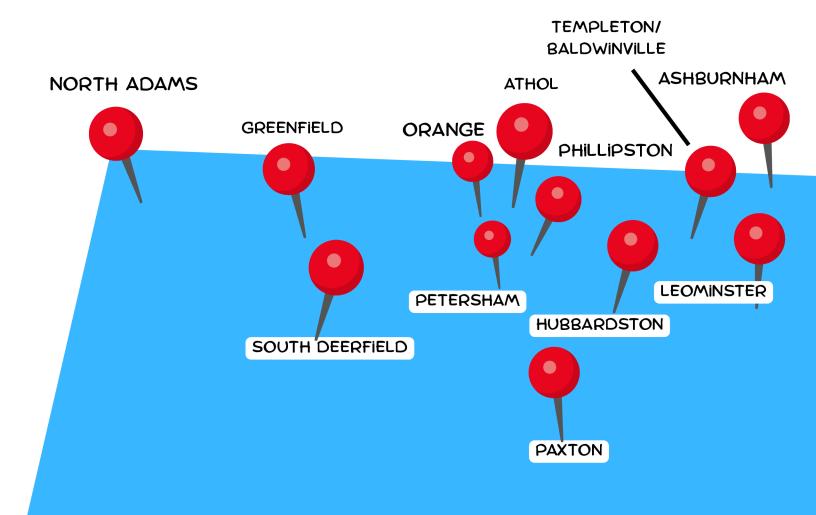








## WHERE ARE YOU VISITNG FROM?







ASHBURNHAM

### PARTICIPATING ARTISTS & AUTHORS







































# COMMUNITY PARTNERS !!



























THE CYCLOPIAN
FOLLOW ALONG DURING A LIVE DRAWING
DEMONSTRATION BY CHRIS T.



**T1:00AM** 



12:00PM



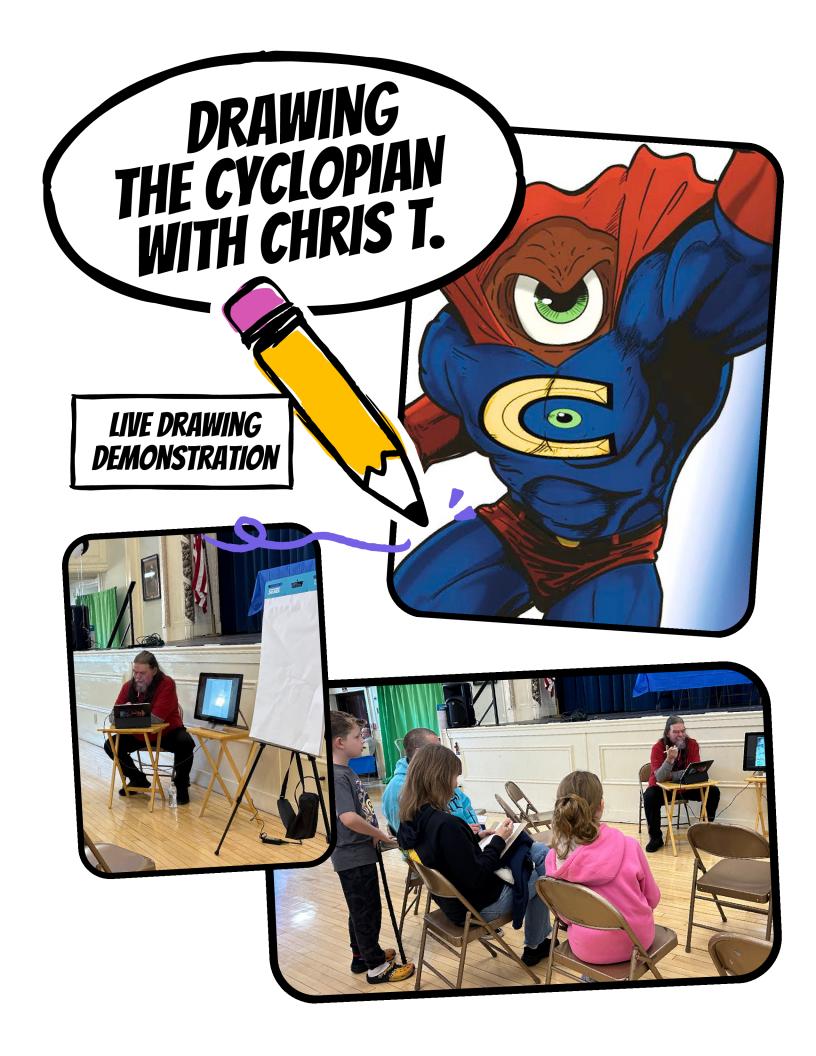
A LIVE DRAWING COMPETITION WITH ARTISTS FROM THE SHOW!



COSPLAY CONTEST!

**J:00PM** 











JOHNNY C

#### A LIVE DRAWING COMPETITION FEATURING:





BETTINA KURKOSKI



CHRIS T

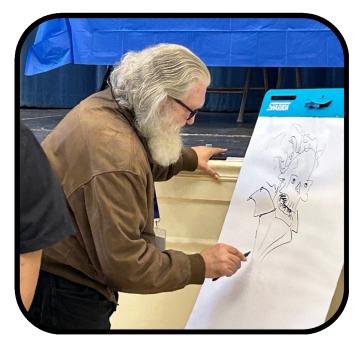


**JOE GRAVES** 





AMY KUKTA

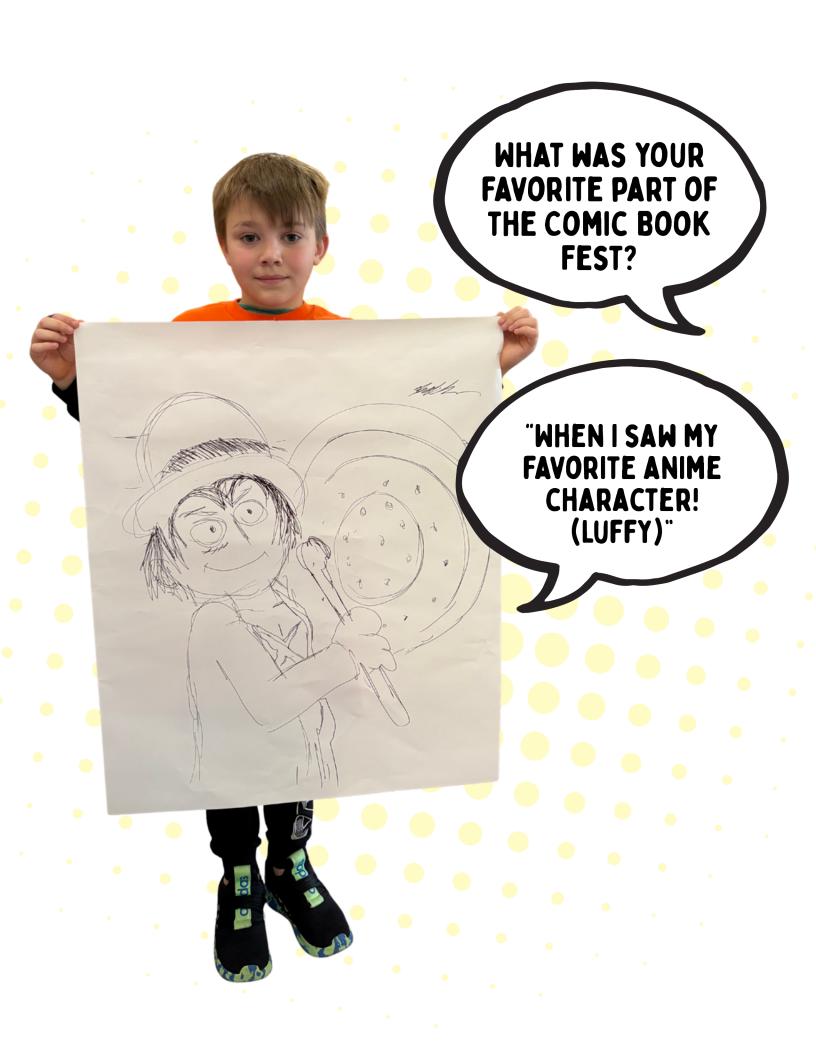














1:00PM

#### **Categories:**

- Best in Show
- Creativity
- Craftsmanship
- Accuracy
- Best Performance

#### **Prizes:**

- First Place \$20
   (to be awarded in each category)
- Second Place \$10
   (to be awarded in each category)

Winners determined by our panel of Comic Book Fest judges: Eliza Eldredge and Julian Nordstrom-Learnard.



#### **Rules and Guidelines:**

- · Each contestant may only enter one costume into the competition.
- Preference given to cosplays and costumes that are homemade.
- Nudity, obscene or graphic content, or other elements deemed inappropriate to the spirit of the competition will disqualify contestants.
- Professional costumers, or those who run a business of commission-based cosplay, are encouraged to show off their costumes at the Comic Book Fest but should not enter the competition.
- Contestants will be judged according to their costume's resemblance to the character it is based on, representation of their costume, craftsmanship skills, creativity, and presentation to the audience.
- Check in at the Comic Book Fest entry table in the Athol Town Hall between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. on Saturday, October 18, 2025.
- Sign up with age, name, character title, franchise
- · We will take your picture
- Registration is free





NEZUKO FROM DEMON SLAYER

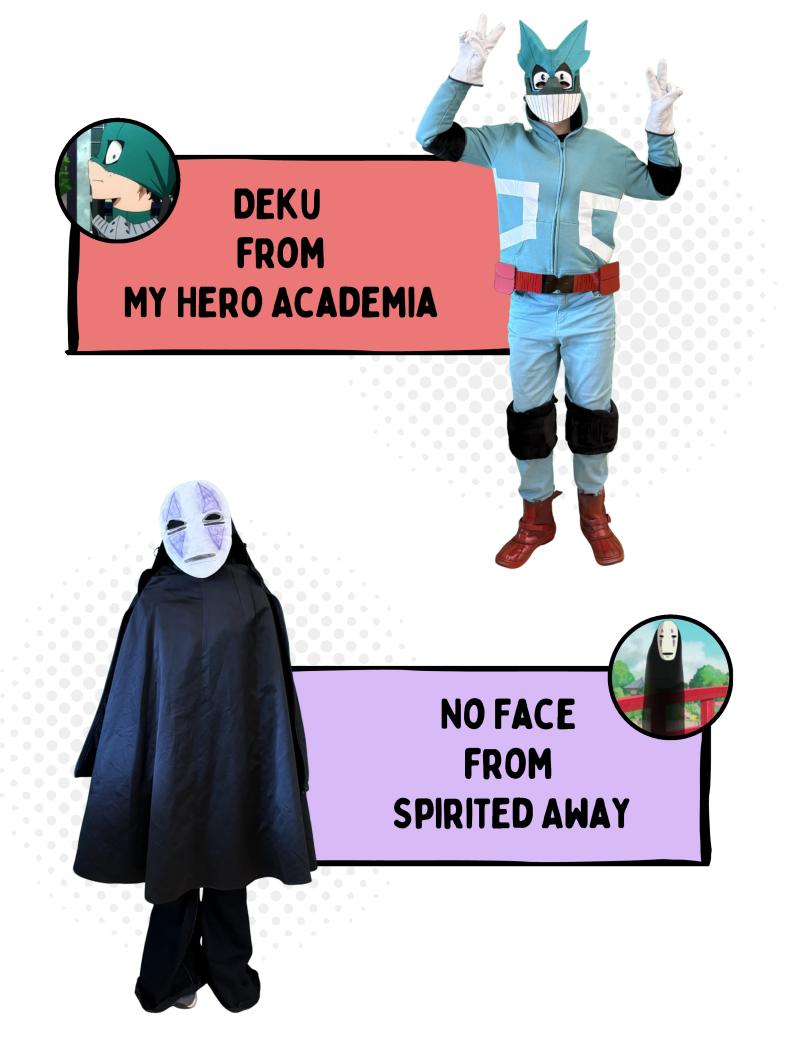






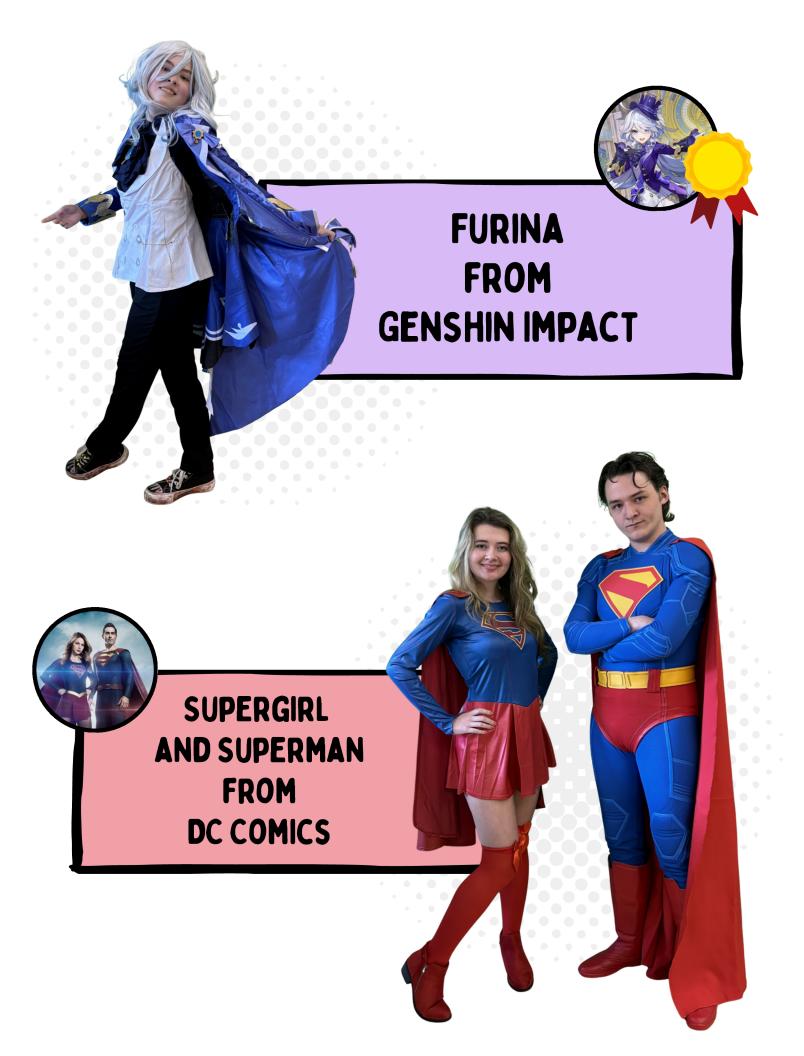


















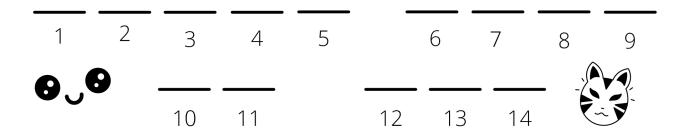


# CHARACTER SCAVENGER HUNT MADE BY ATAC





# WHAT'S THE SECRET PHRASE' Bring your finished sheet back to the table to claim a prize.









THE GOMES BOOK
LESUS

WALKING
AROUND AND
DOING
THINGS

MEETING PEOPLE

& SEEING

EVERYONE

ALL THE TABLES!!
FAB ARTISTS!

SEEING ORIGINAL ART BOARDS AND MEETING CREATORS

THE COSPLAY CONTEST AND PARADE!

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

IT'S SO COOL TO SEE PEOPLE DRESSED UP!

DRAWING CONTEST









"MY LITTLE ONES AND I HAD SO MUCH FUN VISITING EVERYONE! THANK YOU FOR PUTTING ON THIS EVENT!"

### ARTISTS, WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF LODAY?

SEEING THE COMMUNITY
SHOW UP & COME TOGETHER
TO SUPPORT COMICS

LISTENING TO HOW
MUCH FUN
EVERYONE WAS
HAVING

THE ENTIRE DAY WAS
SPECTACULAR!! HARD TO
SAY WHAT IS MY
FAVORITE PART —
COSTUME CONTEST?

I ENJOY GETTING TO MEET AND
INTERACT WITH THE LOCAL
COMMUNITY AND THE
OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT MY
WORK IN A MORE FRIENDLY
ENVIRONMENT THAN IS COMMON
AT "LARGER" COMIC CONS

THE ENERGY

FUN INTERACTIONS. THERE IS A GREAT CROWD THAT COMES TO THESE SHOWS!

MEETING THE PEOPLE INTERESTED
IN FINDING OUT ABOUT COMIC
BOOKS. ESPECIALLY THE YOUNG
PERSONS WHO WANT TO KNOW MORE.
ALSO, THE SKETCH OFF WAS FUN!









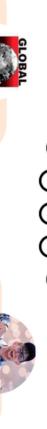


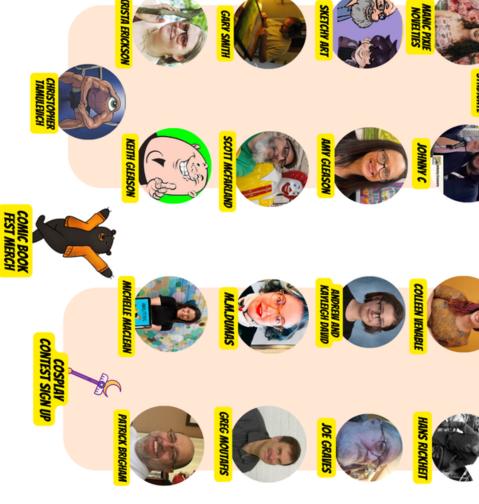
11:00am - Q&A with Colleen AF Venable

10:30am - How to Draw the Cyclopian

12:00pm - Sketch Off

1:00pm - Cosplay Contest





VALUING OUR CHILDREN Voluing Our Children

2

**ENCHANTED DREAMS** 



MJ CLARK





Door

|Main Entrance|



### Athol Comic Book Fest brings the creative spirit Now in fourth year, event features cosplay contest and drawing demo

By Hannah Morin For the Athol Daily News Published: 10-21-2025

ATHOL – The Athol Public Library and Hero Shack Press turned Athol Town Hall into a miniature comic convention on Saturday, Oct. 18, for the return of Comic Book Fest, drawing dozens of local artists, authors, and fans for a day of creativity and community.

The free, family-friendly event featured 20 local and independent artists and authors in Liberty Hall. Five newcomers joined returning vendors, who filled the space with comic books, original art and collectibles.

The Friends of the Athol Public Library sold snacks and refreshments, while the Athol Teen Advisory Council, North Quabbin Gaming Guild, and LaunchSpace hosted activities for all ages.

Visitors took part in crafts, games, a scavenger hunt, and a "guess who" character challenge, with face-painting by members of the Amherst Kids' Art and Nature Camp. Attendees earned raffle tickets for prizes such as signed prints and exclusive comics. The event included a drawing demonstration by "Cyclopian" author Christopher Tamulevich and a Q&A with author Colleen AF Venable.

A highlight of the afternoon was the live drawing competition led by producer, writer, and director Johnny C., who kept the crowd engaged as artists sketched prompts suggested by the audience. Bettina Kurkoski, a visual artist from Plymouth, was named the overall winner.

Johnny C. praised the library's Young Adult Technician Emily Boughton for organizing the event, saying, "Emily runs a tight ship and she has a really awesome comic-con. It's one of the most inclusive comic-cons in the western Massachusetts region."

Graphic novelist Ben Toz echoed that praise, calling Athol's festival "one of the most interactive comic-cons" he's ever attended.

Among the creators showcasing their work was Michelle MacLean, a special educator from Sudbury. Her new graphic novel "Abilities" follows four middle-school students with different disabilities – autism, ADHD, social-emotional challenges and dyslexia – as they navigate the ups and downs of life. The book, which took five years to complete, mixes humor and heart to make the subject approachable for young readers. "I felt like there was nothing out there for my students to use to learn about their disabilities, but also relate to," Maclean said.

C.L. Bedell, an Athol-based comic book writer, returned for his third year at Comic Book Fest displaying several of his works, including "The Shadow Valley Stories," a series of short horror tales. "The goal was to create a Castle Rock-type of environment where anything can happen," he said. "It's more psychological horror rather than gore. It deals with real emotional issues and real-world problems."

Bedell also displayed "Hero Protocol," a superhero series focused on minority heroes manipulated by the government, and "Pandemonium Wrestling," a professional wrestling role-playing book that has become his most popular project.

"My favorite part about this comic fest is that it's community-oriented and all about the artists doing their thing," Bedell said.

The all-ages cosplay contest drew 34 participants dressed as characters from comic books, video games and movies. Judges awarded 10 cash prizes to the first and second-place winners across five categories.

First-place winners included Joshua Grosky as Erik the Slayer from "Skyrim" (Performance), Teegan Allen as Gangle from "The Amazing Digital Circus" (Accuracy), Malcom McNamara as Charlotte Katakuri from "One Piece" (Craftsmanship), Quinn McNamara as Coraline Jones from "Coraline" (Creativity), and Seija, who won Best in Show as a TVA agent from "Loki."

https://atholdailynews.com/2025/10/21/athol-comic-book-fest-brings-the-creative-spirit/



# "It's one of the most inclusive comic-cons in the western Massachusetts region."

JOHNNY C.







TOZ TALKS OF BEN'S DREAM STUDIO IS AT THE ATHOL COMIC FEST



"THIS WAS THE MOST INSPIRING SHOW I'VE EVER BEEN TO, THE MOST KID FRIENDLY COMIC SHOW I'VE EVER SEEN, AND SOME OF THE BEST TALENT I'VE EVER COME ACROSS!"

WATCH THE VIDEO:

https://youtu.be/z8uG0qLatFQ?si=r5U6RHYM37hmCUSr

## THE MUNISIES **OVER 230 GUESTS** 34 COSPLAYERS 23 ARTISTS **18 VOLUNTEERS** 10 COMMUNITY PARTNERS 1,723 RAFFLE TICKETS



## WHATSHOULD WE ADD NEXT TIMES

EVEN MORE COMIC CREATORS!

COMIC BOOK MAKING KITS

COSPLAY
STORY TIME!

COSTUME MAKING AND COSPLAY FIRST AID TENT

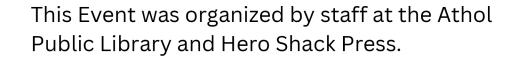
BILINGUAL GRAPHIC NOVELS

CARD TRADING

ZINE MAKING

ILLUSTRATOR WORKSHOPS

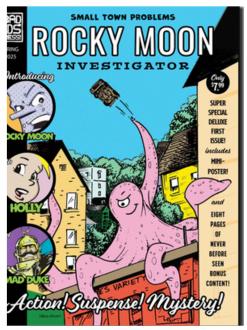
"NOTHING - EVERYTHING IS GREAT!"

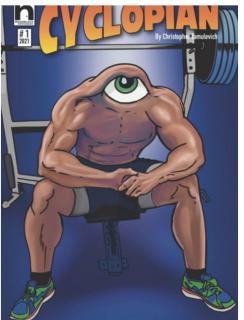


Many Thanks to all of the artists, volunteers, vendors, and community partners who lent a hand in making this another successful event.

All our hard work would mean nothing without the new and old comic book fans who came out to celebrate of love of art, reading, and fandoms.

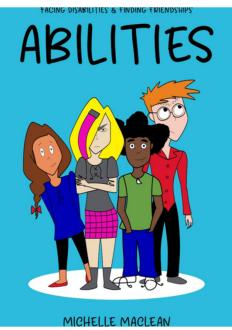


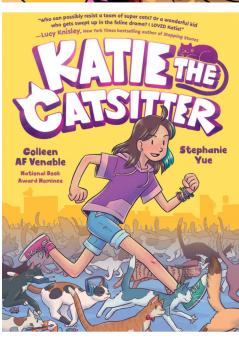


















Comic Book Fest 2025 Saturday, October 18, 2025 10am - 3pm Athol Town Hall

#### **Lead Organizers:**

Emily Boughton
Diana Tamulevich

### **Cosplay Contest Organizer:**

Robin Shtulman

#### **Assistant Staff:**

Noelle Landry Sarah Flynn Kelly Taranto

### **Facilities Set Up:**

Brian Bruso Jason Lupaczyk

https://www.facebook.com/events/252817054566292

https://athol.librarycalendar.com/event/comic-book-fest-2024-10585