



FAN CON

COMICS & POP CULTURE

**ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2025 • AHML.INFO/FANCON**

Contents

Block Schedule and Session Types.....	3
Features and All-Day Activities.....	4
Session Descriptions.....	5-7
Artists' Alley.....	8
Special Guests.....	9-10

General Info

Cosplay Guidelines

Cosplay or “costume play” is welcome at FanCon! We ask that attendees follow these guidelines:

- **No realistic weapons.** Prop weapons should be made of plastic or foam. No real weapons are allowed at FanCon (e.g. swords).
- **Cosplay is not consent.** If you would like to take a picture of a presenter or FanCon attendee, always ask first and respect that person's right to say no. Please report any issues to the Command Center on the first floor.

Tips for the Day

Whether this is your first or 100th convention, here are some tips for attending:

1. **Check in at the Command Center.** Make the Command Center your first stop. Starting at noon, you can pick up your badge and ask questions throughout the day.
2. **Take a break.** Need some quiet? Stop by our designated Quiet Rooms on the second floor in Rooms H & I.
3. **Bring a water bottle.** Stay hydrated and eco-friendly. Refilling stations are located throughout the library.
4. **#AHMLFanCon is the best way to share your FanCon experience.** What did you see? Who did you hear from? What did you learn? The world wants to know!

Questions? Ask a staff member in a red FanCon T-shirt or head to the Command Center on the first floor.

SCHEDULE

Time	Training Center	Hub		Cardinal Room	Lindsey Room	Kids' World	First Floor	Hendrickson Room North	Hendrickson Room South	Second Floor	Historical Museum Lawn*
12:30 p.m.	SIGNUP	Minecraft & Pokémon Squishy Cubes 12:30–2:30 p.m.	All-Day Friendship Bracelets	LINEUP		All-Day Collaborative Fantasy Map Coloring Castles Costume Capes <i>Lilo & Stitch</i> Paper Leis <i>Moana</i> Heart of Te Fiti Stones Spider-Man Toss	All-Day Command Center FanCon Photo Op Makerplace Table Scavenger Hunt		Geeky Circus Arts and Acrobatics Show 12:30–1 p.m.	All-Day 501st Legion Booth and Photo Op Quiet Rooms	
12:45 p.m.	Artemis Spaceship Bridge Simulator Session 1 12:30–1:15 p.m.			Character Storytime 12:30–1 p.m.	LINEUP						SIGNUP
1 p.m.				LINEUP	Fandom Chalk Prints Session 1 12:45–1:30 p.m.			SIGNUP			Jedi Training Session 1 12:45–1:15 p.m.
1:15 p.m.				Character Meet and Greet 1–2 p.m.				<i>Super Smash Bros. Ultimate</i> Tournament Ages 6–10 1–2:30 p.m.	Geeky Circus Arts and Acrobatics Show 1:15–1:45 p.m.		
1:30 p.m.	SIGNUP	Mini Potion Bottles 2:30–4:30 p.m.					Artists' Alley Comix Revolution Don Cardenas George Gant Greg Schmidt PenelopeLoves-prints Rough Magic Saboon Soap SquidneyDoodles Steph Stanga SunnySide Art				SIGNUP
1:45 p.m.	Artemis Spaceship Bridge Simulator Session 2 1:30–2:15 p.m.				LINEUP						Jedi Training Session 2 1:30–2 p.m.
2 p.m.					Fandom Chalk Prints Session 2 1:45–2:30 p.m.						
2:15 p.m.											SIGNUP
2:30 p.m.				Disney Sing-Along 2:30–3 p.m.							Jedi Training Session 3 2:15–2:45 p.m.
2:45 p.m.	SIGNUP							SIGNUP	Baby Dino Meet and Greet 2:30–4:30 p.m.		
3 p.m.	Artemis Spaceship Bridge Simulator Session 3 2:45–3:30 p.m.							<i>Super Smash Bros. Ultimate</i> Tournament All Ages 3–4 p.m.			
3:15 p.m.					Make a Mythical Creature Puppet 3–4:30 p.m.						SIGNUP
3:30 p.m.				LINEUP							Jedi Training Session 4 3:15–3:45 p.m.
3:45 p.m.	SIGNUP										
4 p.m.	Artemis Spaceship Bridge Simulator Session 4 3:45–4:30 p.m.			Dungeons & Dragons Character Building 3:30–4:30 p.m.							SIGNUP
4:15 p.m.											Jedi Training Session 5 4–4:30 p.m.

Session Types

All sessions have limited capacity and will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Unless designated as one of the session types below, all other sessions are drop in.

Lineup Sessions: Lines open 10 minutes before each session starts outside of each room. Entry is not guaranteed.

Signup Sessions: You must sign up to participate. See below for signup locations and times.

Artemis Spaceship Bridge Simulator Command Center

Signups open at noon for sessions 1 and 2. Signups open at 2 p.m. for sessions 3 and 4. One session per person. All sessions are the same.

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament Hendrickson Room North

Signups open at noon for both sessions.

*Jedi Training Command Center

Signups open at noon for sessions 1–3. Signups open at 2 p.m. for sessions 4 and 5. One session per person. All sessions are the same.

Meet at the Historical Museum Lawn located at Vail Ave. and Fremont St. to check in for your session.

Features

FanCon Command Center

First Floor

Check in here to pick up your badge and lanyard. If you have questions, stop by any time throughout the event and our staff members will be happy to answer.

Artists' Alley

First Floor

Check out local artists and exhibitors. Browse and admire exciting artwork and comics while meeting the artists themselves. Artwork and more will be available for purchase. More information about these exhibitors on pages 11-12.

Quiet Rooms

Second Floor, Conference Rooms H and I

Need a break from the action? Stop by and relax with quiet coloring and puzzles.

All-Day Activities

These activities are all ages unless otherwise noted.

501st Legion Photo Op

Second Floor

Take a photo with a Stormtrooper and find out more about the 501st Legion, an international costuming organization dedicated to celebrating Star Wars.

Collaborative Fantasy Maps – Ages 3 and up

Kids' World

Map uncharted territory as the dice decide what you add to this collaborative fantasy map.

Coloring Castles

Kids' World

Whether you're a lord, lady or dragon—anyone can add color to our collaborative art project.

Costume Capes

First Floor

Decorate your own cape to look like a superhero, a snow princess or even a woodland fairy.

Here Be Dragons Scavenger Hunt

Throughout the Library

Designed for teens and adults or families who want to play together. More details and game information on the back of this booklet.

FanCon Photo Op

Kids' World

Snap a photo in front of the official FanCon backdrop.

Friendship Bracelets – Ages 8 and up

Hub

Choose your colors and represent your favorite fandoms by making a beaded bracelet.

Lilo & Stitch Paper leis

Kids' World

Ohana means family. Celebrate like Lilo's Hawaiian family by stringing together your own lei with paper flowers and leaves.

Makerplace Table

First Floor

Stop by to make a comic book button and learn more about all that the Makerplace has to offer.

Moana Heart of Te Fiti Stones

Kids' World

Use chalk pens to decorate a stone that would make a demi-god jealous.

Spider-Man Toss

Kids' World

Can you use your Spidey senses to hit the target?

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

12:30 p.m.

Artemis Spaceship Bridge Simulator – Session 1 SIGNUP SESSION

Ages 8 and up

Training Center

A live-action, excitement-driven gaming session. Assume the role of one of the crew as you work together with your teammates to operate your ship and defend the sector from evil aliens. Sign-up info on page 3.

Character Storytime LINEUP SESSION

All Ages

Cardinal Room

Join your favorite characters like Maui, Wonder Woman, Thor, and Luisa from *Encanto* in this interactive session where they will share stories, rhymes and songs for little heroes of all ages.

Geeky Circus Arts and Acrobatics Show – Session 1

All Ages

Hendrickson Room South

Join us for a special live performance from Raks Geek, the premiere belly dance and flow arts company by geeks for geeks. This exciting variety show includes acrobatics and even a belly dancing Wookiee!

Minecraft & Pokémon Squishy Cubes

Ages 8 and up

Hub

Chicken jockey, anyone? Pick a Pokémon or Minecraft character and assemble a squishy cube to fidget with.

12:45 p.m.

Fandom Chalk Prints – Session 1 LINEUP SESSION

Ages 8 and up

Lindsey Room

Learn to transfer your favorite fandom logo onto a chalk board sign that you get to keep.

Jedi Training – Session 1 SIGNUP SESSION

Ages 5 and up

Historical Museum Lawn

Calling all future Jedi! Practice your skills and master the force with Jedi Master Andrew Trygstad. Meet at the Historical Museum (110 W. Fremont St.). Enter gates near W. Fremont St. and N. Vail Ave. Each session will close 5 minutes after the start time. One session per participant. Sign-up info on page 3.

1 p.m.

Character Meet & Greet LINEUP SESSION

All Ages

Cardinal Room

Meet and take photos with some of your favorite characters like Maui, Wonder Woman, Thor and Luisa from *Encanto*.

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament SIGNUP SESSION

Ages 6-10

Hendrickson Room North

Choose your favorite character and see if you've got what it takes to reign supreme in our *Super Smash Bros. Ultimate* tournament! Can you win the first place prize? Sign up in the Hendrickson Room North starting at noon.

1:15 p.m.**Geeky Circus Arts and Acrobatics Show – Session 2****All Ages**

See description on page 5.

Hendrickson Room South**1:30 p.m.****Artemis Spaceship Bridge Simulator – Session 2** SIGNUP SESSION**Ages 8 and up**

See description on page 5. One session per participant. Sign-up info on page 3.

Training Center**Jedi Training – Session 2** SIGNUP SESSION**Ages 5 and up****Historical Museum Lawn**

See description on page 5. Meet at the Historical Museum (110 W. Fremont St.). Enter gates near W. Fremont St. and N. Vail Ave.

Each session will close 5 minutes after the start time. One session per participant. Sign-up info on page 3.

1:45 p.m.**Fandom Chalk Prints– Session 2** LINEUP SESSION**Ages 8 and up****Lindsey Room**

See description on page 5. One session per participant.

2:15 p.m.**Jedi Training – Session 3** SIGNUP SESSION**Ages 5 and up****Historical Museum Lawn**

See description on page 5. Meet at the Historical Museum (110 W. Fremont St.). Enter gates near W. Fremont St. and N. Vail Ave.

Each session will close 5 minutes after the start time. One session per participant. Sign-up info on page 3.

2:30 p.m.**Baby Dino Meet and Greet****All Ages****Hendrickson Room South**

Have you ever wished you could visit Jurassic Park in real life? Now is your chance! Meet some experienced dinosaur trainers and pet a realistic baby triceratops. Enjoy a variety of dino-related activities while you wait for your turn in line.

Disney Sing-Along**All Ages****Cardinal Room**

“Be Our Guest” and enter “A Whole New World” of Disney fun as you join singer, actress and comedian Claire Jolie Goodman for an interactive performance featuring sing-along Disney music.

Make a Mini Potion Bottle**Ages 8 and up****Hub**

Create a miniature version of your favorite magical elixir such as a Fire Resistance Potion or Elphaba’s Green Elixir.

2:45 p.m.**Artemis Spaceship Bridge Simulator – Session 3** SIGNUP SESSION**Ages 8 and up****Training Center**

See description on page 5. One session per participant. Sign-up info on page 3.

3 p.m.**Make a Mythical Creature Puppet****Lindsey Room****All Ages**

From dragons to unicorns and every creature in between, design and build your very own beastly paper puppets guided by the talented staff of Sea Beast Puppet Company. Drop in anytime and stay as long as you'd like. Last entry is at 4:15 p.m.

3 p.m.***Super Smash Bros. Ultimate* Tournament SIGNUP SESSION****All Ages****Hendrickson Room North**

Choose your favorite character and see if you've got what it takes to reign supreme in our *Super Smash Bros. Ultimate* tournament! Can you win the first place prize? Sign up in the Hendrickson Room North starting at noon.

3:15 p.m.**Jedi Training – Session 4 SIGNUP SESSION****Ages 5 and up****Historical Museum Lawn**

See description on page 5. Meet at the Historical Museum (110 W. Fremont St.). Enter gates near W. Fremont St. and N. Vail Ave. Each session will close 5 minutes after the start time. One session per participant. Sign-up info on page 3.

3:30 p.m.**Dungeons & Dragons Character Building LINEUP SESSION****Ages 8 and up****Cardinal Room**

Always wanted to play Dungeons & Dragons, but don't know where to begin? Join Rough Magic Games in designing a character that you can use in future Dungeons & Dragons games! Players of all levels and stats welcome.

3:45 p.m.***Artemis Spaceship Bridge Simulator* – Session 4 SIGNUP SESSION****Ages 8 and up****Training Center**

See description on page 5. One session per participant. Sign-up info on page 3.

4 p.m.**Jedi Training – Session 5 SIGNUP SESSION****Ages 5 and up****Historical Museum Lawn**

See description on page 5. Meet at the Historical Museum (110 W. Fremont St.). Enter gates near W. Fremont St. and N. Vail Ave. Each session will close 5 minutes after the start time. One session per participant. Sign-up info on page 3.

Artists' Alley

Be sure to drop by the first floor to meet these artists and exhibitors.



Comix Revolution

Comix Revolution has proudly served the Arlington Heights community since 1996. Located in Mount Prospect, the store carries a wide selection of comics and graphic novels from DC, Marvel, Image and Dark Horse, as well as a diverse selection from independent publishers like Drawn & Quarterly, Boom, IDW and Fantagraphics.



Don Cardenas

Don is the artist/co-creator of the vampires-meets-metal comic *Evie and the Helsings*, artist of the horror series *Pater Familia* written by Grant Stoye, and is the host of the Comics-Coffee-Metal podcast. Don's work has been also seen in *Spend the Night*, written by cult horror director Jackie Kong and numerous anthologies.



George Gant

George is a Ringo Award-nominated and Glyph Comics Award-winning cartoonist and illustrator. He is the creator of the King Features-syndicated comic strip *Beware of Toddler* and the artist for the Beano comic strip *Angel Face Investigates*.



Greg Schmidt

With a keen eye for detail and a passion for all things geeky, Greg's illustrations bring iconic characters and scenes from fandoms to life in a fresh and engaging way and his illustrations are sure to delight and inspire.



PenelopeLoveprints

PenelopeLoveprints is a watercolor artist based in Chicago. Her creations draw inspiration from the beauty of nature, delectable food and rich Asian cultures. In addition to freelancing, she collaborates with local restaurants to create food illustrations, murals and designs. PenelopeLoveprints also showcases her works at various conventions.



Saboona Soap

Lojayn Ottman crafts soaps from her heart for your hands! Her favorite fandoms are the inspirations behind her creations. With natural ingredients like olive oil and goat milk, it is safe for any fan of any fandom to use.



SquidneyDoodles

SquidneyDoodles is a Chicago-based concept artist who is passionate about creating her own characters and telling stories through her art. She loves all things fantasy and art that has striking color palettes. Her favorite things to draw are mermaids, fairies and her own characters. When she is not creating art, she crochets and plays with her puppy-dog Bloo in her free time.



Steph Stanga

Steph Stanga is an artist who graduated from the Illinois Institute of Art in Chicago with a BFA in Media Arts and Animation and has since been traveling the Midwest showing her work at various art shows or Comic Cons. Steph is inspired by nature, animals, Disney, animated movies and the fantasy genre overall. Her favorite subjects to draw are weird, "ugly" things that need some extra love.



SunnySide Art

SunnySide Art is a Chicago-based illustrator and graphic artist who likes to spend much of her time with felines and foods! She grew up watching anime and reading manga, which has majorly influenced her style of art. Her artwork consists of fan art from her childhood favorites, contemporary artwork incorporating her Japanese culture and cute cat illustrations!

Special Guests



501st Legion Midwest Garrison

The 501st Legion is an international costuming organization dedicated to celebrating Star Wars through the creation and use of quality costumes that portray characters from the Star Wars universe.



Andrew Trygstad

A longtime fan of all things Star Wars, Andrew has made it a life's passion to learn how to teach and fight with weapons safely and effectively for the stage. He recently earned his Bachelor's degree from Columbia College Chicago, where he studied stage combat extensively.

Andrew is running the Jedi Training sessions. Info on page 5.



Anthony Mele

Spending over 20 years on the stage, and even more with a video game controller in his hand, Anthony Mele is a big ol' nerd. Literally. You'll find him easily by looking up, he's 6'5".

Anthony is hosting the *Artemis Spaceship Bridge Simulator* sessions. Info on page 5.



Claire Jolie Goodman

Claire Jolie Goodman is a Chicago-area performing artist and theatre educator with a passion for sharing stories through music. Known best locally for her iconic Disney Sing-Alongs, Claire is also a Broadway World Award Winner for her solo musical comedy, *Theatre Kid Rehab*.

Claire is hosting the Disney Sing-Along. Info on page 6.



Dalek Asylum Milwaukee

Dalek Asylum Milwaukee are the United States' oldest and largest cooperative building club, having assembled double digits of Daleks in the last few years. Dalek Asylum Milwaukee calls the Milwaukee Makerspace home.



League of Enchantment

The League of Enchantment is a nonprofit organization that partners with local hospitals and community organizations to bring smiles and hope to children by bringing favorite superheroes, princesses, and other characters to life.

League of Enchantment is hosting Character Storytime and the Character Meet and Greet. Info on page 5.



Olivia Artistries

A passionate artist and educator, Olivia taught elementary art in Chicago Public Schools before working in libraries. Her love of the arts transferred to her role in Youth Services creating signage, facilitating programs and now as a special guest at FanCon.

Olivia is hosting the Fandom Chalk Print sessions. Info on page 5.



Raks Geek

Raks Geek is the premiere bellydance, flow arts, circus and fire company by geeks for geeks. They're based in Chicago, but their cast has performed from Germany to Costa Rica; they've made waves through their commitment to blend artistic and technical mastery with fun, creativity and their favorite themes from nerd culture.

Raks Geek is hosting two performances. Info on page 5.



Rough Magic Games

In 2019, Rough Magic was founded with one mission: to help those who wanted to play tabletop role-playing games but lacked the time to take on the role of a Game Master. Today, Rough Magic runs regular in-person/online events all over Chicagoland and beyond.

Rough Magic Games is hosting D&D Character Building. Info on page 7.



Sea Beast Puppet Company

Kat Pleviak is the founder and Artistic Director of Sea Beast Puppet Company. Her work has been featured at the Field Museum, and at numerous puppetry festival and more. She currently works at the Puppeteers of America as the Membership Administrator.

Kat is hosting Make a Mythical Creature Puppet. Info on page 7.

Here Be Dragons Scavenger Hunt

Prepare for a legendary quest! Search high and low to find 8 dragons hidden throughout the library. Each clue will lead you to the next location. Bring your completed hunt to the Command Center for a prize.

List the dragons you find here:

- 1: _____
- 2: _____
- 3: _____
- 4: _____
- 5: _____
- 6: _____
- 7: _____
- 8: _____

To get started, here is your first clue:

When you're dueling monsters in the HUBbub of *Yu-Gi-Oh*, this dragon will be hard to beat. You'll find him flying near the room Yugi and his friends would hang out in the library.

Please note, this game is library-wide and designed for ages 10 and up. Families with younger children are encouraged to play together as a team.

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