

ARCHON 49

Pocket Program

Welcome to Archon 49! We're so glad you're here! Here are some things to know:

- **Grenadine Mobile App:** Try our programming mobile app! In the Apple or Google Play Store, search for "Event Guide". Download and install it using the access code **ARCHON49**. From there, you can view the entire Archon 49 schedule, build and save your own personal schedule of items you'd like to attend, and receive notifications for any last-minute programming changes.

Welcome to the world of tomorrow!

- **Link to Online Schedule:**



- **Venues:** Events are held at both the Gateway Center and the Doubletree Hotel. Each event listing has the venue specified. If you're not sure where to go, the folks at Con HQ can help!
- **Hospitality:** In Clinton A&B at the Doubletree Hotel. 24/7 free soda in tubs just outside the courtyard doors. Free beer for 21+ on Friday & Saturday nights with state ID and badge.
- **After Hours:** Feel free to join the fun in the evenings in and around the Doubletree Hotel – even if you don't have a room there! Dance, mingle, hall crawl,

people watch. Just be sure to behave!

- **Autographs:** Our Guests of Honor have designated autograph times which are noted on the schedule. If you desire an autograph from one of our other Pro Guests, check to see if they are scheduled for signing times.
- **Special Needs Seating for Masquerade:** If you have any special needs that require accommodation for you to be seated or sit comfortably at the Masquerade, please go to Con HQ in the Gateway Center and fill out a form. Special needs include but are not limited to physical issues such as hearing impairment, vision impairment, use of a cane or wheelchair, as well as families with children in strollers.
Forms must be filled

out and turned in to Con HQ by 2 pm on Saturday, Oct. 3rd.

- **Children's Programming:** The Children's Programming Schedule begins on page 49 of this program. All children's programming is located in Salon 5 in the Gateway Center.

Quick Reference Guide

Art Auction

Ballroom A
Gateway Center
Sat. 4:30pm

Art Show

Ballroom A
Gateway Center
Fri. 10:00am – 9:00pm
Sat. 10:30am – 4:00pm
Sun. 10:30am – Noon

Charity Auction

Ballroom A
Gateway Center
Sat. 1:00pm

Car Show

Front Parking Lot
Gateway Center
Sat. 11:00am – 2:00pm

Children's Programming

Salon 5
Gateway Center
Fri. 3:00pm – 6:50pm
Sat. 10:00am – 6:50pm
Sun. 10:00am – 1:50pm

Con HQ

North Hall
Gateway Center
Fri. 9:00am – Midnight
Sat. 9:00am – Midnight
Sun. 10:00am – 5:00pm

Dance

Madison C&D
Doubletree Hotel
Fri. 9:00pm – 2:00am
Sat. 9:00pm – 2:00am

Dealer's Room

Center Hall A
Gateway Center
Fri. 4:00pm – 8:00pm
Sat. 10:00am – 6:00pm
Sun. 10:00am – 2:00pm

Fan Lounge

Prefunction Area
Gateway Center
Fri. 12:00pm – 9:00pm
Sat. 9:00am – 4:00pm
Sun. 9:00am – 4:00pm

Gaming Registration HQ

North Hall
Gateway Center
Fri. 9:00am – 10:00pm
Sat. 9:00am – 10:00pm
Sun. 9:00am – 1:00pm

Gaming – Doubletree Hotel

Madison A&B
Open Gaming: 24 Hours
Board Game Library:
Fri. 1:00pm – 1:00am
Sat. 9:00am – 1:00am
Sun. 10:00am – 2:00pm

Quick Reference Guide

Hallway Costume Contest

Lobby
Doubletree Hotel
Fri. 8:00pm – 10:30pm

Hospitality

Clinton A&B
Doubletree Hotel
Fri. 10:00am – 2:30am
Sat. 10:00am – 2:30am
Sun. 10:00am – 4:00pm

Masquerade

Center Hall B
Gateway Center
Sat. 8:00pm
Seating begins at 7:20pm

Programming Office

Illini B
Gateway Center
Thu. 6:00pm – 7:30pm
Fri. 10:00am – 7:00pm
Sat. 9:00am – 5:00pm
Sun. 9:00 – 12:00pm

Registration

Rotunda
Gateway Center
Thu. 7:00pm – 10:00pm
Fri. 9:00am – 11:45pm
Sat. 9:00am – 11:45pm
Sun. 9:00am – 2:00pm

Unison! Idol Fest

LaSalle
Gateway Center
Sun. 11:00am – 1:00pm

Volunteer HQ

West Box Office
Gateway Center

Friday

12:00 PM

How to Get the Most Out of Art Commissions

ARTIST

You have a vision in your head. How do you communicate it to the potential artist? How do you negotiate the price? What happens if you're not satisfied?

Jan Gephardt(M), Jeanna Crawford, Neko Pilarcik-Tellez

Illini A - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

1:00 PM

Future of Food

SCIENCE

Environment, scarcity, bioengineering, and backlash.

Zi Teng Wang(M), Bryce Meyer, Jan Gephardt

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

2:00 PM

It's Just a Step to the Left, and Then a Punch to the Right...

AUTHOR - CRAFT

Writing martial arts combat scenes for readers whose knowledge may be limited to watching MMA.

David Von Allmen(M), Michales Joy, Jimmy D. Gillentine, Kurt Pankau

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Reboots: How to Ruin the Fun

MEDIA, GOH

Are reboots ever a good thing? Are reboots just cash grabs designed to ruin our childhoods? Are there any reboots that deserve praise?

Darren Orf(M), Paul Hahn, Jack Snyder, David Mack

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Making Art: Creating Your Own Style

ARTIST

How do you bring forth what you see in your head? Is it a matter of "nature versus nurture," or can you wholly bring your vision to life every time?

Friday

*Sherri Dean(M), Luke
Smith, Jeremy Shipley, Rich
Zellich*

Illini A - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

You're From What Time?

AUTHOR - FAN

What are some of the best time
travel stories you've read? What
made them memorable?

*Kathy Bailey(M), R.J.
Carter, Richard H
Moon, Christopher
Miskimon, Matthew Edward
Munro*

Marquette B - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Writing Multiple Genres Together

AUTHOR - CRAFT, GOH

AKA The Great Turducken
Panel. Find out how to muddle
through and keep everything
interesting and straight!

*Shawntelle Madison(M), Fran
Wilde, Richard White*

Marquette A - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Autograph Session with Ray Tabler, George Sirois, & Brian Katcher

READING / SIGNING / ART
DEMO

*Ray Tabler, Brian
Katcher, George Sirois*

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Make a Pet Octopus

GENERAL

You know you want a pet
octopus, so let's make one. This
is a no sew option available to
people of all ages.

There is a \$5 material fee (paid
when supplies are handed out),
but you will take home the
finished product. Limited to 20
people. (Cash/Venmo.)

Janine Wardale

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
2:00 PM

3:00 PM

Starting on a Costume

COSTUMING

Friday

As a newbie, where do you start? With an idea, with a drawing, or with thread and needle?

Pierre Pettinger(M), Nora Mai, Codi Coleman, Allison Altayar

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Art Demo with Anna Mulch

READING / SIGNING / ART
DEMO

Anna Mulch

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Renaissance Style Hair Braiding

GENERAL

Learn how to do ropes, 4-strand "round" braids, classic (3-strand) French and (3-strand) Dutch (or inverted-French or underhand) as well as a Crown braid (technically a horizontal modified (3-strand) French braid) and other advanced ideas like 5 and 7-strand fingering techniques; as well as shapes like hearts, spirals and a pullup-weave. All ages! (BYO-Brush, or use one provided.)

John Wardale

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Working to Deadlines

ARTIST

"You can't rush art!" unless there is a deadline, and then you might have to. Some tricks, traps, and compromises to keep you on track to finish when they want you to.

Brent Chumley(M), Snail Scott, Sherri Dean

Illini A - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

A Conundrum of Crowns

AUTHOR - FAN

Discuss why so many fantasy/sf governments seem to be kingdoms or autocracies. Why do authoritarians so often rule - when in either genre you could plausibly set up literally ANY kind of government?

Kurt Pankau(M), Jeremiah D. MacRoberts, R.J. Carter, Gracie York

Marquette B - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Friday

The Writing Life

AUTHOR - CRAFT

What's it like to be a full-time writer? How is being a professional writer for TV different from being a writer of books and short prose fiction? What are the boring parts of the career that aspiring authors should know about?

Donna J. W. Munro(M), Richard H Moon, Elizabeth Donald, Ray Tabler

Marquette A - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Autograph Session with Fran Wilde

READING / SIGNING / ART
DEMO, GOH

Fran Wilde

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Choosing a Venue

FANDOM

What goes into choosing a convention venue? Both budget and availability are factors, but how much does the type of convention impact what facilities you'll need?

Erin McFadden(M), Alan DeVaughan, Rich Zellich

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Unicorns of the World Unite (Maker's Panel)

GENERAL

Make a unicorn headband and mane. Welcome to people of all ages. Hot glue will be used! There is a \$5 material fee (paid when supplies are handed out), but you will take home the finished product. Limited to 20 people. (Cash/Venmo.)

Janine Wardale

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
3:00 PM

4:00 PM

CONCERT: David Phelps

FILK

Join the winner of multiple Archon Tin Filker contests in his second year on stage!

Mississippian - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Friday

Sew You Want to Make a Costume

COSTUMING

Basics for costuming and cosplay, including budget, material, other considerations.

Snail Scott(M), Nora Mai, Pierre Pettinger, Sandy Pettinger, Bruce Mai

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Mel Brooks Rocks!

MEDIA

We will discuss the life and legacy spanning his 100 years on this earth. The ideas that have sprung from his miraculous imagination are still affecting our lives today.

Susan Bien(M)

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

The Faults in Our Stars

MEDIA

No, not that movie. The scientific errors in our superheroes. For example, you have super speed, but how do your shoes stay together from all that friction? Being

unbreakable doesn't mean you're also super strong, does it?

Jack Glassman(M), Les Haven, Zi Teng Wang

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Creativity vs. Marketability

ARTIST, GOH

Making your own pieces and not "selling out" is great, but so is being able to eat and pay rent. Is it possible to do both?

Joy Alyssa Day(M), Allison Stein, Anna Mulch, Neko Pilarcik-Tellez, Audra Angelique

Illini A - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

The Golden Age of Science Fiction

AUTHOR - FAN

What classics are still legitimate classics? Are there any authors that deserve to be rediscovered?

Bryce Meyer(M), Kevin Randle, John Krabbe, Christopher Miskimon

Marquette B - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Friday

Research Rabbit Hole

AUTHOR - CRAFT

Researching a story can lead down fascinating (but not always productive) tangents. Learn how to organize re-research to spark story ideas, on-the-go research to flesh out drafts and revision, and when not to include your research in the story.

Brad R. Cook(M), George Sirois, Kathy L. Brown, LaShaunda C. Hoffman

Marquette A - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Autograph Session with Mark Tiedemann, Jimmy D. Gillentine, & Richard Moon

READING / SIGNING / ART
DEMO

Mark Tiedemann, Richard H Moon, Jimmy D. Gillentine

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

The Wild, Chaotic Future (and Past) of Star Trek in the 2020s

MEDIA

Excited to see a new series starring Kirk, Bones, and Spock? Keeping your fingers crossed for Star Trek: Legacy? Just pining for something new and interesting in the Trek universe? Whether you're mourning the death of Starfleet Academy or celebrating it, you'll want to join us for an expansive discussion about the current status quo on the Final Frontier, and a celebration of all things Trek!

Luke Smith(M), Paul Hahn

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Beginner Crewel (Session 1)

GENERAL

Crewel is an ancient art that "paints" a picture with stitched threads. In this class you will receive an introduction to some of the basic stitching techniques needed to replicate this embroidered art form. Attendees will receive supplies, choose their own colors, pick one pattern from provided options, and take their project and supplies with them when they leave. Due to small, sharp needles, please no children. NOTE – traditional crewel is completed with wool thread or

Friday

yarn but we will be using cotton embroidery floss. (2 hours)

(There will be two sessions to choose from, with the same information presented at each.) There is a \$10 material fee (paid when supplies are handed out), but you will take home the finished product. Limited to 20 people.
(Cash/Venmo/Cashapp.)

Jennifer Oleson

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
4:00 PM

4:30 PM

CONCERT: Eric Ray

FILK

What do unicorns, werewolves, and pirates have in common? They've all wandered into Eric Ray's songs. A familiar face in Archon filk circles, Eric steps into the spotlight for his first Archon concert this year! Come meet the creatures from your dreams.

Mississippian - Gateway Center
4:30 PM

5:00 PM

CONCERT: Magical Wanderings with Special Guest Filk GoH Tim Griffin

FILK,GOH

Enjoy the sonic stylings of two Musical Partners In Crime. Filk GoH Tim Griffin joins the duo for three of his songs!

Tim Griffin

Mississippian - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

The Many Faces of Superman

MEDIA

A constantly growing number of actors have played different versions of the most popular superheroes. How much does the specific actor chosen impact the role, or is it all about the writing?

George Sirois(M), Nick Butcher, Bryce Meyer

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Friday

Astronomy Before the Telescope

SCIENCE

Most histories of astronomy tend to skip from the Greek development of the geocentric model (~2nd century BCE to 2nd century CE), to the Copernican revolution (mid 16th century) giving the impression that, since the predominant model did not change, no real astronomy was taking place. This talk examines why that interpretation is incorrect and explores how astronomy flourished, and why progress stagnated.

Jon Voisey(M)

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Art Demo with Jeremy Shipley

READING / SIGNING / ART
DEMO

Jeremy Shipley

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Hold My Sword: Appreciating The Sidekick

GENERAL

The Chosen One isn't always the one who makes the story great. Without our loyal side characters, where would we be? Explore what makes a side character great, identify some of your favorites, and discover the power of being a true and loyal side character!

J.M. Finn(M)

Illini A - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Media Literacy and Science Fiction

FANDOM

People are not being taught to think critically about the information they consume anymore. Conspiracy theories are on the rise, even with something like the moon landing and recent Artemis mission. How do we disseminate what is real and what isn't, especially in the media?

*Jeremiah D.
MacRoberts(M), Diana
Morgan, Thomas Stratman, Zi
Teng Wang, Allison Stein*

Friday

Marquette B - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Everyone's Using AI (So What's Ethical Anymore?)

AUTHOR - CRAFT

A Discussion for Writers
Contending with this Brave New World.

Matt Davids(M)

Marquette A - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Autograph Session with John Sies, John Hornor Jacobs, & Angie Fox

READING / SIGNING / ART
DEMO

*John Sies, Angie Fox, John
Hornor Jacobs*

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

The History of Dwarves

GENERAL

Learn more about dwarves, ranging from a focused look at Tolkien's dwarves to a broader exploration of dwarves across media.

Max Camero(M)

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

5:30 PM

CONCERT: The Gateway Girls

FILK

Take a musical tour of a twisted Saint Louis with The Gateway Girls Tour Company! They're so excited for the Great Confluence and Summoning of Vorgax the Void Bringer, and hope to see you there!!!!!!!

Mississippian - Gateway Center
5:30 PM

6:00 PM

Opening Ceremonies

GOH

*Joy Alyssa Day, Tim
Griffin, David Mack, Larry
Niven, Wyatt Weed, Fran Wilde*

Lasalle - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

Friday

FRIDAY LARP: S.L.U.G.S.

GAMING

At the end of the rail line lies Bedlam, a booming frontier town built on the promise of wealth and glory. Fortune seekers, outlaws, preachers, prospectors, and desperate souls from every corner of the frontier have flocked here, each hoping to strike it rich in the Ghost Rock mines or claim a piece of the town's prosperity. But beneath the bustle, dark spirits linger, and strange happenings haunt the dusty streets. Folks whisper that something ancient stirs below the earth, and that the greatest Ghost Rock mother lode ever discovered lies just one swing of a pickaxe away. Now, a mysterious poker game has come to town, promising untold riches to the victor.

Join the St. Louis Underground Gaming Society as we journey into the Weird West of Deadlands, where every opportunity comes with a price, the law is more suggestion than rule, and the line between salvation and damnation grows thinner with each passing sunset. No one arrives in Bedlam by accident—and few ever leave unchanged.

Cost: \$5

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
6:00 PM

7:00 PM

OUTDOOR CONCERT: Bardic Bros

FILM

Come join the Bardic Bros out on the patio for an hour of mostly original music, including several songs never before performed at Archon!

NOTE: This concert will be taking place outside in the front of the Gateway Center. In the event of bad weather, it will take place in the Mississippian room.

Mississippian - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

Real Physics in Space Fantasy

SCIENCE

Could that really happen?
Discuss the physics in your favorite franchise like Star Wars and more.

*Paul Hahn(M), Zi Teng
Wang, Jack Glassman*

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

Friday

DUNESDAY!

MEDIA

They're calling it "Dunesday": Both Dune 3 and Avengers: Doomsday arrive on December 18. Which are you more excited about, and why? Will they together break the box office, or cancel one another out?

Van Allen Plexico(M), Rodney Britt, Jimmy D. Gillentine, Darren Orf

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

Beginning Tools

ARTIST

What to spend money on and what to wait on when you're just starting out as an artist and don't know for sure what you'll need or want or can afford.

Allison Stein(M), John Sies, Mike Cole, Audra Angelique

Illini A - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

Legends in Movies: Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellan

MEDIA

The adventures of Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellan: both play major roles in multiple sci-fi/fantasy franchises. What is it about them that make it so?

Nick Butcher(M), Thomas Stratman, Joseph Weihrauch

Marquette B - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

Embracing Fear

AUTHOR - CRAFT

Facing the blank page, submitting work for publication, and getting dreaded rejections can trigger paralyzing fears. Learn how writers can work with fear, both personally and when crafting characters, to turn this challenging emotion into an ally.

Diana Morgan(M), Jessica Mathews, Jennifer Stolzer, LaShaunda C. Hoffman

Marquette A - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

Author Reading with George Sirois & Jeremiah D. MacRoberts

READING / SIGNING / ART
DEMO

George Sirois, Jeremiah D. MacRoberts

Friday

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

Yes Please, With Monsters Presents: Why Should I Care About Ice Planet Barbarians?

AUTHOR - FAN

Today there is more crossover between romance and science fiction than ever before. Alex, Jess, and Meg are three librarians who love monstrous, alien, and paranormal romance. Join us to keep it strange and steamy, discussing different pieces of media that feature love in all its beastly forms.

*Yes Please, With Monsters
Podcast*

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

8:00 PM

OUTDOOR CONCERT: Rockabilly Bones and The Black Spots

FILK

Rockabilly Bones and The Black Spots are back and ready to drop an atom bomb on Archon with classic and rockabilly renditions of your favorite tunes,

straight from your Pip-Boy radio. It's gonna be 16 Tons of fun! [16 Megatons, that is.]

NOTE: This concert will be taking place outside in the front of the Gateway Center. In the event of bad weather, it will take place in the Mississippian room.

Mississippian - Gateway Center
8:00 PM

Dark At The Top Of The Stairs Screening and Q&A

MEDIA,GOH

After the death of his twin brother, a man goes to the family house he has just inherited to deal with his past, his own personal demons - and a ghost.

Join Fan Guest of Honor Wyatt Weed and his wife Gayle Gallagher for a screening of their movie and Q&A following. Wyatt Weed and Gayle Gallagher are married filmmakers who, along with Robert Clark, make up the production company Pirate Pictures. Wyatt and Gayle have been making films in the St. Louis area for nearly 20 years. During the Covid-19 pandemic, they became frustrated that most creative projects had shut down. So in the spring of 2021, they decided to make their own

Friday

feature film, by themselves and in their own house. Gayle would be the camera operator, Wyatt would act, and together they would write, direct, and produce the film. The result is *Dark At The Top Of The Stairs*, a micro-budget "Covid feature".

Wyatt Weed(M)

Lasalle - Gateway Center
8:00 PM

Losing Main Character Energy?

AUTHOR - CRAFT

Have you ever grown bored of your main character? What can you do to make them more interesting, or is it better to kill them off?

Kasey Mackenzie(M), Michales Joy, Christine Amsden, Kurt Pankau, Matt Roggentine

Marquette A - Gateway Center
8:00 PM

Hallway Costume Contest

Lobby Foyer - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
8:00 PM

9:00 PM

Dance

Madison C & D - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
9:00 PM

OPEN FILMING

Mississippian - Gateway Center
9:00 PM

The Annual Mad Poet Reading

READING / SIGNING / ART
DEMO

Listen to Joey Froehlich, The Mad Poet, read selections of his mad poetry. Highly recommended and highly unique!

Joey Froehlich

Illini A - Gateway Center
9:00 PM

Will AI Replace Editors?

AUTHOR - CRAFT

Short answer: no, not good editors, but AI companies are sure going to try.

Gracie York(M), Thomas Stratman, Christine Amsden

Marquette A - Gateway Center
9:00 PM

Saturday

10:00 AM

"It Must Be for Ritual Purposes!"

GENERAL

Panelists bring weird (or ordinary) objects, and subject them to analysis as alien artifacts. Arguments encouraged!

Jack Glassman(M), Christine Nobbe, Brian Katcher, Snail Scott, Marella Sands

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Roswell: Where It All Started

SCIENCE

What is the latest on the Roswell incident almost 80 years later?

Kevin Randle(M)

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Marvel and Star Wars on TV: Did Disney Kill the Golden Goose?

MEDIA

In an era of prestige television, it seemed natural to put these properties on TV. But did they oversaturate the market and destroy the brands? How much is too much of a good (?) thing? Can Disney still salvage the situation?

Van Allen Plexico(M), Joseph Weihrauch, Darren Orf, John Radke

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Overcoming Stage Fright

COSTUMING, GOH

Tips and tricks to compensate for your nerves and participate in the Masquerade. You can be scared of public speaking and still have tons of fun on stage.

Codi Coleman, Susan Bien, Wyatt Weed(M)

Lasalle - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Combining 2D and 3D Art

ARTIST, GOH

Wood, glass, metal, plastic, canvas, fabric... Bring extra dimension to your painting, and extra detail to your sculpture.

Saturday

Joy Alyssa Day(M), Rachael Mayo, Allison Stein, Anna Mulch

Illini A - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

It's Not a Mistake, It's a Creative Detour

COSTUMING

What happens when working on something creative and "things go wrong"? How do you change your mindset and turn what originally was seen a "mistake" in a costume, cosplay or other sewing project or handiwork project?

Janine Wardale(M)

Marquette B - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Writing Prompts and Inspiration Sources

AUTHOR - CRAFT

Writing can be ecstatic: when we create a perfect line of dialogue, a description that's fresh and provocative, or find the ideal word to make a sentence soar. Learn tips to cultivate this joy throughout the writing process, from exciting new ideas to final revision.

Kathy L. Brown(M), Brad R. Cook, Diana Morgan, George Sirois

Marquette A - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Autograph Session 1 with Larry Niven

READING / SIGNING / ART DEMO, GOH

Larry Niven

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

From LitRPG to Phenomenon: The Rise of Dungeon Crawler Carl

AUTHOR - FAN

Dungeon Crawler Carl by Matt Dinniman has exploded in popularity this year and gained millions of fans seemingly overnight. Join us to discuss why Carl is suddenly everywhere, our love of Carl, Princess Donut, and everything that makes this series special.

Gracie York(M), Debbie Manber Kupfer, John Sies

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Saturday

Temari Balls: Make Your Own Japanese Folk Art

GENERAL

Temari ("hand ball" in Japanese) is a folk craft born in ancient Japan to originally delight and entertain children with a toy thread ball, but evolved into a complex art form. This is a workshop where you will learn how to make these balls. (Due to working with needles, this workshop is not appropriate for children.) (3 hours)

There is a \$10 material fee (paid when supplies are handed out), but you will take home the finished product. Limited to 20 people.
(Cash/Venmo/Cashapp.)

Jennifer Oleson

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
10:00 AM

11:00 AM

Art Demo with John Sies

READING / SIGNING / ART
DEMO

John Sies

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Defense of Earth

SCIENCE, GOH

What defenses do we have for Earth against incoming giant meteoroid impacts?

Jack Glassman(M), Larry Niven, Kevin Randle, Bob Perry

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Artist Talk in the Art Show

ARTIST

Join Archon's Art Show Artists as they talk about their work and process!

Ballroom A - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

DC's Second Cinematic Universe Attempt

MEDIA

How's the James Gunn version of the DCEU going so far and what are our hopes for the future of that franchise? What do we even want from a DC cinematic universe?

Dan Yezbick(M), Thomas Stratman, Patrick Jones, Matthew Edward Munro

Saturday

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Memorable Archon Costumes

COSTUMING

A look back at some of the
fantastic costumes to cross our
stage.

*Nora Mai(M), Pierre
Pettinger, Bruce Mai*

Lasalle - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Are Fan-Run Cons Dying Out?

FANDOM

Are they being eclipsed by For
Profit Cons? Or will they
experience a resurgence soon?

*Joseph Weihrauch, Heather
Hinson(M), Les Haven, Zo Allen*

Illini A - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Creating Skits for the Masquerade

COSTUMING

Are you wanting to perform in
the Masquerade, but don't know
where to start in creating a skit

around your costume or theme?
This is the panel for you! This
panel is dedicated to helping
others develop their own skits.

*Max Camero(M), Lindsey
Wolfford*

Marquette B - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Textile and Text

AUTHOR - CRAFT

Clothing for writers of
Speculative Fiction.
Incorporating fabric and clothing
into your world building,
character building, and sensory
detail.

Mary Haselbauer(M)

Marquette A - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Author Reading with Elizabeth Donald & Diana Morgan

READING / SIGNING / ART
DEMO

Elizabeth Donald, Diana Morgan

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

How Popular Media Gets Mental Health Wrong

Saturday

GENERAL

Mental health professional tackles common misconceptions about mental health as depicted in popular media. Schizophrenia and Multiple Personality Disorder are not the same thing. A bonk on the head does not cause nor does it cure amnesia. Mental illness does not mean LOL Random!

Chuck Bond(M)

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Car Show

Movie, TV, and fan made themed vehicles.

Front Parking Lot - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

12:00 PM

Celebrating The Void: The Marvel Movies Outside the MCU

MEDIA

Marvel is unique in that it has and had so many properties outside of its main cinematic universe. Some have been fantastic and some... not so

much. Let's discuss them! What is their status now?

George Sirois(M), Van Allen Plexico, Mike Phoenix

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

De la Stella Fisse: The First Celestial Atlas

SCIENCE

Despite the constellations having ancient origins and tables of stellar coordinates dating to antiquity, it wasn't until the 16th century that anyone had the bright idea to use these to plot the constellations accurately. This panel explores this first celestial atlas, entitled De la Stella Fisse, by Allessandro Piccolomini from 1540 and explores the background of its creation amidst a background of love and war. (This panel also includes a display of a 1579 copy of the book)

Jon Voisey(M)

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Disclosure Day? The Truth about UFOs

SCIENCE

Saturday

What is the current state of learning the truth about UFOs? Are we any closer to the real truth?

Kevin Randle(M), Jack Snyder, Joe Rauscher

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Strange Substance

COSTUMING

Using found objects and unusual materials in costuming, with strategies and suggestions, and Q&A.

Snail Scott(M), Codi Coleman, Sandy Pettinger, Jeanna Crawford

Lasalle - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

The Last Frontier

FANDOM

Discuss the early days on the internet (the ARPANet, as opposed to the later Internet) including the invention of email protocols.

Bryce Meyer(M), Rich Zellich, R.J. Carter

Illini A - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Creativity, Imagination, and Mental Health Benefits

GENERAL

A one-hour panel exploring how creative and imaginative endeavors can improve mental health. The discussion will touch on depression and anxiety, and how engaging in creativity and imagination serves as a powerful tool for coping with distressing emotions.

Daniel Robb(M)

Marquette B - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Disability Representation in Science Fiction

AUTHOR - CRAFT

How do you write disability in a science fiction world? Disabled characters have existed in media for decades. From Daredevil to Sun Spider, representation is important and has a huge impact on how we think about disability in our world. But how do you create authentic characters? Is problematic representation still helpful? Join us as we discuss characters of the past and how

Saturday

to make your characters more authentic.

Diana Morgan(M),Elizabeth Donald,Brian Katcher,Sela Carsen,Matt Roggentine

Marquette A - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Author Reading with Jan Gephardt, Debbie Manber Kupfer, & Kathy L. Brown

READING / SIGNING / ART DEMO

Jan Gephardt,Debbie Manber Kupfer,Kathy L. Brown

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

What Could Have Been: Alternate History

AUTHOR - FAN

Alternate history has been a plot device in many shows, like Star Trek. Which eras would you like to see an alternate history created about?

Thomas Stratman(M),Christopher Miskimon,Matthew Edward Munro,Marella Sands

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

12:30 PM

Mandatory Masquerade Meeting

Center Hall B - Gateway Center
12:30 PM

1:00 PM

OUTDOOR CONCERT: Ars Arcanum

FILK

Raise your horns with your fellow adventurers! Fresh from Gen Con, Ars Arcanum invites you to an hour of theatrical fantasy metal, where doomy riffs, folk melodies, and unlikely musical styles collide. Join our party outdoors at full volume! NOTE: This concert will be taking place outside in the front of the Gateway Center. In the event of bad weather, it will take place in the Mississippian room.

Mississippian - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Neurodivergent? Welcome Home to Fandom

FANDOM,GOH

Saturday

It's no secret that fandom welcomes a variety of people. Why do you think it is that neurodivergent people are attracted to fannish things?

Tim Griffin(M), Angela Williams, Codi Coleman, Betsy Britt

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Sex and Babies in Space

SCIENCE

Put on the red alert, ...er, light! If we ever want to colonize space, sex and babies must be considered. What differences or logistics need to be thought of and put in place? Will they be able to come back to Earth?

Jan Gephardt(M), Jack Glassman, Bob Perry, Christine Nobbe

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Charity Auction

Benefits The Megan Meier Foundation

Ballroom A - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Twenty Minutes into the Future

MEDIA

Max Headroom, the TV Show that Attempted to Make Cyberpunk Mainstream.

Matt Davids(M)

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

The Work of Artist Guest of Honor Joy Alyssa Day

READING / SIGNING / ART DEMO, GOH

Join Artist Guest of Honor Joy Alyssa Day as she talks about and demonstrates her process and work.

Joy Alyssa Day

Lasalle - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Ideas: Where Do They Come From?

ARTIST

We find inspiration in a variety of sources, but is it better to create entirely new works or is it okay to create art based off of our favorite movies, characters, etc.?

Saturday

Douglas Ferguson(M), Rachael Mayo, Mike Cole, Neko Pilarcik-Tellez

Illini A - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Making Vs. Wearing

COSTUMING

A costume may be truly impressive, but comfort and movement have to be addressed or it may never be seen.

Bruce Mai, Pierre Pettinger(M), Allison Altayar

Marquette B - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Writing for Comics and Graphic Novels

AUTHOR - CRAFT

Graphic novels and comic books are perennial reader favorites. Get tips on crafting your own graphic novel or comic book from an industry insider.

Max Hoven(M)

Marquette A - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Author Reading and Autograph Session with

Guest of Honor Fran Wilde

READING / SIGNING / ART
DEMO, GOH

Fran Wilde

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Dragons!

GENERAL

Dragons are the greatest fantasy creature. Prove us wrong!

Kasey Mackenzie(M), Brent Chumley, Debbie Manber Kupfer

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Art Demo with Snail Scott

READING / SIGNING / ART
DEMO

Snail Scott

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
1:00 PM

2:00 PM

Fannish Jeopardy - Presented by Filk

Saturday

FILK

Like Jeopardy, every question must be guessed based on the clue "Answer". Except in this game, every clue is a nerdy, fannish in-joke mundanes would never get. 3 contestants will be randomly chosen from the audience.

Mississippian - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Art Jam!

ARTIST

A creative space to make art. Bring your own supplies or use the provided supplies and materials. Our experts will help guide you, provide inspiration, or give critiques!

Rachael Mayo(M), Mike Cole, Angela Williams

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Project Hail Mary: From Novel to Screen

MEDIA

We discuss the beloved book and possibly even more beloved movie adaptation! Amaze amaze amaze!

Gracie York(M), Angie Fox, Jamie Madigan, Christine Amsden,

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Godzilla's Cosmic Threat!

MEDIA

Godzilla x Kong: Supernova! Space Godzilla is back! Can Kong and Godzilla stop him? Panelist discuss the upcoming movie and what they hope will happen.

Jimmy D. Gillentine(M), Van Allen Plexico, John Radke

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Don't Fear the Machine

COSTUMING

The sewing machine is not your enemy. Learn basic concepts of sewing, how to read patterns and even try out a basic sewing machine and where to find good information when you get stuck.

Susan Bien(M), Nora Mai, Sandy Pettinger

Lasalle - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Saturday

Getting Started as a Professional Artist

ARTIST, GOH

It's not enough to just make great art. A professional artist has to know how to run a business as well. We'll discuss what skills and items you'll need to make a great start as a professional artist.

Joy Alyssa Day(M), Sherri Dean, Neko Pilarcik-Tellez

Illini A - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

AI Is Here to Stay — So Make It Work for You

GENERAL

The debate is over: AI is a permanent part of the creative landscape. The real question isn't whether to use it — it's how to use it without surrendering the human spark.

In this hands-on panel, filmmaker Jack Snyder and creative director Doug Ferguson — game industry veteran — pull back the curtain on their real-world AI workflows. From AI-generated proof-of-concept films augmented with live actor performances to AI-assisted workflows that give your studio superpowers, they'll share what actually works, what doesn't,

and how to make AI serve the vision — not replace it

Jack Snyder, Douglas Ferguson

Marquette B - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Avoiding Scams and Gifts as a New Author

AUTHOR - CRAFT

Unfortunately, there are some bad actors out there who want to capitalize off your hard work. Learn how to recognize and avoid the scammers.

Richard White(M), Cole Lanahan, Elizabeth Donald, Christopher Miskimon, David Benem

Marquette A - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Open Speculative Poetry Jam with Kathy Bailey

READING / SIGNING / ART
DEMO

Speculative poetry is having a moment; the first Hugo award in poetry was handed out last summer at WorldCon in Seattle. Come and share your fantastical poetry about the future, the monsters that haunt your dreams, or the beings that live near distant stars.

Saturday

Kathy Bailey

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress at 60

AUTHOR - FAN

It is 60 years since Robert A. Heinlein published one of his most important works. Today, a story about an AI that wins a presidential election with "deepfake" images seems eerily topical. Let's talk about it!

*Jack Glassman(M), Rodney
Britt, Jeremiah D.
MacRoberts, Cindi Gille-
Rowley, Paul Hahn*

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Basic Kumihimo: Beginner Japanese Rope Braiding

GENERAL

Kumihimo is a traditional Japanese artform and craftwork for making braids and cords. This is an introductory level workshop where you will learn how to make these cords.

There is a \$10 material fee (paid when supplies are handed out), but you will take home the finished product. Limited to 20 people.
(Cash/Venmo/Cashapp.)

Jennifer Oleson

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
2:00 PM

3:00 PM

ONE SHOTS

FILK

Sign up to perform a single song.

Mississippian - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Downsizing Your Treasures

FANDOM

You know it's not worth a lot of money, so what do you do with your life's treasures when it's time to downsize?

*Dan Yezbick(M), Cindi Gille-
Rowley, Joe Rauscher, Rich
Zellich*

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Saturday

A History of Constellations

SCIENCE

The modern sky contains 88 officially recognized constellations. But many of these constellations have ancient origins. In this panel, we'll explore these origins as well as how interpretations and depictions competed and changed over time. (This panel also includes presentation of a 16th century book and other prints relevant to the discussion)

Jon Voisey(M)

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Why Most Tabletop Role-Playing Books Fail

GENERAL,GAMING

And How to Successfully Publish Yours!

Matt Davids(M)

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Beyond the UFO: Space Aliens on the Silver Screen

MEDIA

Creatures from outer space have been featured in movies since the beginning of movies. From A Trip to the Moon, The Day the Earth Stood Still, Alien, Independence Day, Arrival, and everything in between and beyond, how have those silver screen portrayals shaped our culture and the movies that have come after? Which alien movies have provided the foundation of our modern concept of aliens? Which alien movies do we love to hate and which don't get the credit they deserve? Join us for a discussion about movies, aliens, and movie aliens.

Kevin Randle(M),Kathy Bailey,Donna J. W. Munro,Audra Angelique

Lasalle - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Designing Alien Creatures or Worlds

ARTIST

More than just a nose wrinkle or pointy ears. How to take your head out of "normal" space and create something truly alien. Can you make it believable? Can you make it understandable?

Saturday

Jan Gephardt(M), Rachael Mayo, Zi Teng Wang, Brent Chumley

Illini A - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

How to Run a Masquerade

COSTUMING

An inside look at how the best Masquerade in SF is run.

Pierre Pettinger(M), Sandy Pettinger, Bruce Mai

Marquette B - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Marketing and Promotion for SFF Authors

AUTHOR - CRAFT

Learn basic tools for promoting your work, including maximizing your digital and tips on SEO (search engine optimization).

Max Hoven(M), LaShaunda C. Hoffman, Jennifer Stolzer, Jessica Mathews

Marquette A - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Author Reading with Marella Sands, Van Allen

Plexico, & Christine Nobbe

READING / SIGNING / ART DEMO

Marella Sands, Christine Nobbe, Van Allen Plexico

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Conversation with the Con Chairs & Staff Session 1

GENERAL

Have some suggestions? Want to share a great idea? Hated everything? Want to know how to connect with those in charge? Now's your chance to share your thoughts.

Erin McFadden(M), Scott Corwin, Patricia McFadden

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

The New Comics Canon: The Most Must-Read New Comic Books of 2025-2026

MEDIA

Name a genre. Name a storytelling style. In terms of pure creative freedom, there's

Saturday

no medium that can hold a candle to comic books. And there's SO MUCH good stuff hitting the stands right now — from DC's Absolute line to the Energon Universe, from the recently reborn Vertigo to a wild kaleidoscope of indie creators. Come join us for a comic shop-style hangout where we share the stuff we're loving right now — and let us know about the stuff you're digging, too!

Luke Smith(M), Jeremy Shipley, Paul Hahn, Chris Sagovac

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
3:00 PM

3:30 PM

CONCERT: Uncle Fluffy

FILK

It's been fifteen years since the collapse, since the global disaster that ended civilization and left the world a ruined wasteland and humanity all but extinct. But there were survivors. And those survivors had children. And those children deserve educational music that can help them survive this horrific new hellscape. And Uncle Fluffy is going to bring it to them.

Kurt Pankau

Mississippian - Gateway Center
3:30 PM

4:00 PM

So You Want To Be a Guest...

FANDOM

How do conventions choose their guests? What is expected of them? What's the difference between a guest and a Guest of Honor?

Les Haven(M), Erin McFadden, Patricia McFadden, George Sirois, Alan DeVaughan

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Space Mining: Back to the Moon

SCIENCE

Including mining the cometary volatiles trapped in the lunar cryogenic polar craters. What else could we mine for resources for space colonists?

Bob Perry(M), Bryce Meyer, Richard H Moon, Christine Nobbe

Saturday

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Filmmaking in the Age of AI

MEDIA

Filmmaker Jack Snyder shares what he's learned using AI in real-world film projects and how these tools can help small teams move faster, think bigger, and expand what's possible on limited resources. Snyder will also screen his award-winning sci-fi AI short film ANOMALY and discuss how he blends traditional filmmaking with AI. He'll discuss where the technology proved useful, where it fell short, and why AI, used the right way, can keep creativity in the hands of humans while creating new opportunities and new creative jobs instead of simply eliminating them. (2 hours)

Jack Snyder(M)

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Battling Imposter Syndrome

ARTIST,GOH

Just about every creative professional has had sometimes debilitating bouts of "Imposter

Syndrome". Hear what can you do if you start doubting yourself and listening to those darned little voices.

*Jamie Madigan,Douglas
Ferguson,Sherri
Dean(M),Jeanna Crawford,Joy
Alyssa Day*

Illini A - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Balloon Animal Sculpting

GENERAL

Come one, come all! Learn about balloon sculpting and how to make a balloon dog (and other ideas as time permits).

John Wardale

Marquette B - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Finish Your Book: A How-To

AUTHOR - CRAFT

Getting through that last step without turning to drink.

*Marella Sands(M),Joey
Froehlich,Zo Allen,Angie
Fox,Cole Lanahan*

Marquette A - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Saturday

Autograph Session with R.J. Carter & Jeremiah D. MacRoberts

READING / SIGNING / ART
DEMO

*R.J. Carter, Jeremiah D.
MacRoberts*

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

How to Be a Filmmaker: The Work of Wyatt Weed

MEDIA,GOH

Join Fan Guest of Honor Wyatt
Weed as he talks about his
projects and long career.

Wyatt Weed(M)

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Beginner Crewel (Session 2)

GENERAL

Crewel is an ancient art that
“paints” a picture with stitched
threads. In this class you will
receive an introduction to some
of the basic stitching techniques
needed to replicate this
embroidered art form. Attendees
will receive supplies, choose

their own colors, pick one
pattern from provided options,
and take their project and
supplies with them when they
leave. Due to small, sharp
needles, please no children.
NOTE – traditional crewel is
completed with wool thread or
yarn but we will be using cotton
embroidery floss. (2 hours)

(There will be two sessions to
choose from, with the same
information presented at each.)
There is a \$10 material fee (paid
when supplies are handed out),
but you will take home the
finished product. Limited to 20
people.
(Cash/Venmo/Cashapp.)

Jennifer Oleson

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
4:00 PM

4:30 PM

Art Auction

Ballroom A - Gateway Center
4:30 PM

CONCERT: The Creative Cats

FILK,GOH

Saturday

Cat and Aidan Greenberg
perform songs of Science,
Space and Fantasy.

Mississippian - Gateway Center
4:30 PM

5:00 PM

CONCERT: Filk GoH Tim Griffin

FILK,GOH

Tim Griffin is an award-winning songwriter, performer, and storyteller on a nonprofit mission to make education more fun and exciting for kids and adults. Join in for wacky (but peer-reviewed!) songs about physics, civics, psychics, solar cycles, estate planning, and that weird stain on the lab floor.

Tim Griffin

Mississippian - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Close-Up Magic with Zi

GENERAL

Come see a close up magic
show!

Zi Teng Wang

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

O'Neill Cylinder Space Settlements

SCIENCE

A discussion about Gerard K. O'Neill's theoretical space settlements: proposed large space habitats rotating for artificial gravity built from resources exported from the Moon, including O'Neill's trick for Space Megastructures to turn to face the Sun during their year without using rockets.

*Richard H Moon, Bob
Perry, Bryce Meyer(M), Joe
Rauscher*

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Whispers from the Static: Analog Technology as a Source of Horror

GENERAL

How do outdated technologies—landline phones, VHS tapes, radio static, and rotary dials—evoke unease in today's digital world? This panel examines the eerie alienation of analog devices and their growing role as unsettling motifs in horror fiction and film.

Saturday

Darren Orf, Jeanna Crawford, John Hornor Jacobs(M), Jimmy D. Gillentine

Illini A - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

The Future of Table Top Gaming

GENERAL, GAMING

Will it slowly go out of style, or is the in person aspect strong enough to maintain it's popularity? Is there still any money to be made for creators?

Nick Butcher(M), Jamie Madigan, Michales Joy, Douglas Ferguson

Marquette B - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Writing While Neurodivergent

AUTHOR - CRAFT

Writing and creating while neurodivergent can be challenging. How do you overcome roadblocks? How do you deal with challenges like hyperfocus and task paralysis? How do you balance the challenges of everyday life with your creative journey? Join a panel of neurodivergent writers and creators to discuss how they approach creative pursuits

and get tips and tools to help you on your journey.

Diana Morgan(M), Kasey Mackenzie, Sela Carsen, Debbie Manber Kupfer, Jeremiah D. MacRoberts

Marquette A - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Author Reading and Autograph Session with Toastmaster David Mack

READING / SIGNING / ART
DEMO, GOH

David Mack

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Starting a Podcast and Guesting on One

GENERAL

Hear our experts discuss the do's and don'ts, podcast etiquette, and how to get off the ground and running!

George Sirois(M), Van Allen Plexico, Audra Angelique

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Saturday

6:00 PM

Be the Player Every GM Wants at the Table

GENERAL, GAMING

Upping Our Role-Playing Skills.

Matt Davids(M)

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

That Was Better

GENERAL

Egads! The TV show was better than the source material!

Darren Orf(M), Heather Hinson, Matthew Edward Munro

Illini A - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

The Business of Writing

AUTHOR - CRAFT

Tips and advice on learning how to deal with publishers, editors, and the whole shebang.

Angie Fox, Cole Lanahan, Kevin Randle, Debbie Manber Kupfer(M), Joey Froehlich

Marquette B - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

Steal This Panel

AUTHOR - CRAFT, GOH

What makes a heist great, and how to make it believable for your readers.

Van Allen Plexico(M), Fran Wilde, David Von Allmen, Kasey Mackenzie, David Mack

Marquette A - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

Author Reading with Mark Tiedemann, ZiTeng Wang, & Ray Tabler

READING / SIGNING / ART DEMO

Mark Tiedemann, Ray Tabler, ZiTeng Wang

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

Developing an Audio Drama

GENERAL

While not as popular as in radio's heyday, audio dramas are experiencing a resurgence. Come learn how to start creating your own from your ideas.

Saturday

Jack Snyder(M), George Sirois, Jeremiah D. MacRoberts, Audra Angeliue

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

Saturday LARP

GAMING

St. Louis, early 1990s, in an alternate universe. The Continental is one of the hottest clubs in the Central West End, drawing musicians, hustlers, hip suburbanites, scene regulars, fixers, and supernatural troublemakers from across the metro area. Tonight starts like any other crowded night: music, drinking, flirting, grudges, business, and people who probably should not be in the same room together. Adding to the usual noise is a rumor that the club owner, Michael Jones, is looking to sell out. As the night unfolds, favors change hands, alliances shift, old problems resurface, and everyone begins to realize The Continental may be worth more than anyone bargained for. A 25–30 player, rules-light St. Louis fantasy LARP inspired by Mage: The Ascension, focused on nightlife, social maneuvering, faction politics, betrayal, and supernatural intrigue. No prior knowledge of Mage is required...or expected.

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
6:00 PM

7:00 PM

Defying Gravity: Wicked Parts 1 & 2

MEDIA

A discussion of impressions of the movie, comparisons between the movie and the stage show, and if full production movies are better than an on stage recording of the production such as Hamilton.

Paul Hahn(M), Joseph Weihrauch, Jimmy D. Gillentine, John Krabbe

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

World Building 101

AUTHOR - CRAFT

Whether you're a writer or a gamer, the world where your adventure is taking place deserves to be fleshed out. The panelists will give tips on how to create a world from scratch, how much is too much world building, and how to make it

Saturday

believable no matter how
fantastic it is.

*Richard White(M), Richard H
Moon, Mark
Tiedemann, Michales Joy, Sela
Carsen*

Marquette A - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

7:20 PM

Masquerade & Masquerade Overflow Seating Begins

Center Hall B - Gateway Center
7:20 PM

8:00 PM

OPEN FILKING

FILK

Mississippian - Gateway Center
8:00 PM

The Archon Masquerade

Center Hall B - Gateway Center
8:00 PM

9:00 PM

Dance

Madison C & D - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
9:00 PM

10:00 PM

The Rocky Horror Picture Show Annual Screening

Join your fellow Transylvanians
in doing the Time Warp again –
this year in honor of Tim Curry.
(1975, rated R, 2 hours)
(Screening will follow The
Masquerade.)

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
10:00 PM

Sunday

10:00 AM

Masquerade Show and Tell

Center Hall B - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

William Shatner's TekWar

MEDIA

The Forgotten Science Fiction Franchise with Novels, TV Movies, a TV Show, and a Video Game.

Matt Davids(M)

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Plot vs. Theme vs. Subtext

AUTHOR - CRAFT

The definition seems simple: in narrative fiction, the plot is what happens, the theme is what the story is all about, and the subtext is what the characters think about it all but don't say openly. But how do these three crucial elements of storytelling work together? Are motifs part of the theme, the subtext, or something wholly separate? Our panel of veteran scribes will discuss all this and more.

Kurt Pankau(M), Christine Amsden, David Von Allmen, Ray Tabler,

Illini A - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

The Life and Works of Isaac Asimov

AUTHOR - FAN

Discuss one of the most famous science fiction writers whose work is still woven throughout popular culture.

Jack Glassman(M), Alan DeVaughan, Bryce Meyer, Mark Tiedemann

Marquette B - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

How People Speak: Using Phonetic Dialog in Your Work

AUTHOR - CRAFT

Intentionally using phonetic dialog can immerse the reader further into your setting or character, and make the experience more interesting. However, this can cross the line into stereotypes and bigotry. How do you stay on the right side of the line?

Sunday

*Shawntelle Madison, John
Krabbe(M), Sela Carsen, R.J.
Carter, Brian Katcher*

Marquette A - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Author Reading with Richard C. White & Kevin Randle

READING / SIGNING / ART
DEMO

Richard White, Kevin Randle

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Yule Monsters: The Dark Side of Holidays

GENERAL

Discussing Old World holiday
traditions and lore.

*Nora Mai(M), Heather
Hinson, Dan Yezbick*

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

11:00 AM

SONGWRITING WORKSHOP with Filk GoH Tim Griffin

FILK, GOH

Tim Griffin(M)

Mississippian - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Ghosts of the American Century: Horror in History's Wake

AUTHOR - FAN

Historical horrors—wars,
segregation, economic
collapse—often echo in fiction.
Panelists examine how genre
can confront (and amplify)
America's darker histories
through allegory and unease.

*Donna J. W. Munro, John Hornor
Jacobs(M)*

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

St. Louis Costumers' Guild Open Meeting

COSTUMING

Annual open meeting -
everyone welcome! Meet &
greet (plus a tiny bit of
business). (2 hours)

Host: St. Louis Costumers Guild

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Star Trek: Then & Now

Sunday

MEDIA,GOH

Our panel discusses Star Trek's long cultural presence across many media, how it has changed with the times from 1966-2026, what its most recent iterations as audio drama and webtoons say about its evolution, and what they speculate future incarnations of Star Trek might be like.

Luke Smith(M), Wyatt Weed, Patrick Jones

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Unison! Idol Fest

The Unison! Idol Fest is Archon's premiere stage for Midwestern idols and dance groups alike! Love of performance and music drives the core of the festival: our dancers! Show up and show out for our fantastic cast of all-around super stars and cheer them on as they take the stage!

Longtime mainstays of Japanese cultural festivals and anime conventions, Archon is pleased to present our third Idol Fest!

Lasalle - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Mason & Dixon and Gravity: How Two Surveyors Mapped the American Frontier and Wound Up Weighing the Earth

SCIENCE

In 1763, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon began a survey of the region of North America around the Pennsylvania border. Although intended as a solution to a land-ownership dispute, their work wound up as a component of the conflicts, a century later, that resulted in the American Civil War. But an additional, unexpected consequence of their work was the first experimental measurement of the mass of the Earth! This took place thirty years before rigorous experiments were conducted on the topic. In this presentation, I will discuss how the remarkable precision of 18th century surveying and the scientific rigor of two surveyors led to this often-overlooked discovery.

Jack Glassman(M)

Illini A - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Sunday

Non-Denominational Worship Service

GENERAL

Marquette B - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Real History in Speculative Fiction

AUTHOR - CRAFT,GOH

Our panelist explain the opportunities, challenges, and pitfalls of using actual history in your speculative narrative.

*David Mack(M),Kathy L.
Brown,Mike Phoenix,Zo
Allen,Ray Tabler*

Marquette A - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Author Reading with Jimmy D. Gillentine & R.J. Carter

READING / SIGNING / ART
DEMO

Jimmy D. Gillentine,R.J. Carter

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Conversation with the Con Chairs & Staff Session 2

GENERAL

Have some suggestions? Want to share a great idea? Hated everything? Want to know how to connect with those in charge? Now's your chance to share your thoughts.

*Scott Corwin(M),Erin
McFadden,Patricia McFadden*

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Constructive Criticism Versus Trolling

FANDOM

Do you know where the line is between being helpful and being rude? Obviously some people not only don't care, they take pride in being negative. Does it really accomplish anything?

*Betsy Britt,Gracie York,Angela
Williams(M),Tony Mast,Richard
White*

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
11:00 AM

Sunday

12:00 PM

Teaching Core Curriculum Through Music

FILK,GOH

And how music helps kids (and adults) learn.

Tim Griffin(M)

Mississippian - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Rebooting the St. Louis Science Fiction Society

FANDOM

A club meeting of StLSFS members past and prospective - a discussion on restarting active meetings.

Rich Zellich(M)

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Forgotten 80s TV Science Fiction

MEDIA

A Retrospective on Otherworld, The Highwayman, Probe, and Hard Time on Planet Earth.

Matt Davids(M)

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Life as a Pro Artist

ARTIST,GOH

Highs and lows, receptions and loneliness, all-nighters and full days asleep... How to manage the parts of the life of an artist.

Neko Pilarcik-Tellez(M), John Sies, Mike Cole, Joy Alyssa Day, Brent Chumley

Illini A - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Inside the World of Ringworld

AUTHOR - FAN

Let's discuss the classic science fiction series Ringworld. Why has it never been adapted, other than as games? What's holding it back?

Paul Hahn(M), Rodney Britt, Richard H Moon

Marquette B - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Short and Sharp: The Horror of the Story Collection

Sunday

AUTHOR - CRAFT,GOH

From folk tales to modern literary horror, the short form is fertile ground for experimentation and dread. This panel delves into what makes a collection cohesive, surprising, and unforgettable.

Fran Wilde,David Benem,Elizabeth Donald,John Hornor Jacobs(M),Zo Allen

Marquette A - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Author Reading with Thomas Stratman & John Krabbe

READING / SIGNING / ART
DEMO

Thomas Stratman,John Krabbe

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

The Heirs of Dr. Demento

GENERAL

Where can fans of weird, wonderful original and parody songs look for their fix now?

Jeanna Crawford(M),Kurt Pankau,Gary Hanak

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

STL Whovians Open Club Meeting

GENERAL

The October meeting for the Doctor Who and British Sci-Fi fan club.

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
12:00 PM

1:00 PM

Tin Filker Song Contest

FILK

The subject was announced 1 month before the con: Minimum 2 verses and a chorus or the equivalent thereof. Entries may be performed by the songwriter or someone else, but the song's author must be present.

Mississippian - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Book Banning May Not Be Exactly What You Think

GENERAL

Book banning rose substantially in 2022, and since then the

Sunday

average publishing date of banned books has been 2008. What's up with that and how are we fighting back?

Brian Katcher(M), Heather Hinson, Mark Tiedemann

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

“What’s Going To Happen To My Cool Stuff?” Tips On Preparing Your Comics, Vinyl, and Other Collectibles for Your Beloved Heirs

FANDOM

You have loved collectibles all your life, but eventually they'll be inherited by someone else. Who gets your stuff, and how will they know what to do with it? Join our expert panelists for an introduction to strategic planning for bequeathing, liquidating, or donating your collection. They'll discuss current markets, high end collections, special cases, and pedigrees as well as recommendations for dealing with inherited items.

Dan Yezbick(M), Thomas Eyssell, Mike Wotka

Salon 1 - Gateway Center

1:00 PM

Too Many Cooks Spoil the Supe

MEDIA

Comic books are one of the original shared worlds, with a constantly changing group of creators working with the same characters and introducing new elements. The various inconsistencies creeping in over decades led to the major reboot projects like Crisis on Infinite Earths. Then the reboots became a regular promotional event until it became nearly impossible for casual fans to keep up.

R.J. Carter(M), Paul Hahn, Mike Phoenix

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

What Will the Future Need From Art and Artists?

ARTIST

Do we even know in a time where art and the freedom to express oneself artistically is under attack?

Jeremy Shipley(M), Brent Chumley, Jeanna

Sunday

Crawford, Allison Stein, Snail Scott

Illini A - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Knowing is Half the Battle!

MEDIA

Discuss the great cartoons that we watched when the school bus dropped us off and unironically raising our glass to the Reagan administration for the FCC giving the green light to making 30-minute-long toy commercials for us.

Nick Butcher(M), Neko Pilarcik-Tellez, John Krabbe, George Sirois

Marquette B - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Our Characters, Ourselves

AUTHOR - CRAFT, GOH

How much of their selves do writers put into their characters? And what do writers learn about themselves from their creations?

Kathy Bailey(M), Matt Roggentine, Glen Cook, David Mack

Marquette A - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Autograph Session 2 with Larry Niven

READING / SIGNING / ART DEMO, GOH

Larry Niven

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Popcorn Sci-Fi: Guilty Pleasure or Great Storytelling?

GENERAL

Explosions! Space battles! Snappy one-liners! Some science fiction is designed to be a thrilling ride rather than a deep philosophical exploration. Join our panel as we debate whether "popcorn sci-fi" deserves more respect, discuss what makes it fun, and ask whether entertainment alone is enough to make a story great.

Diana Morgan(M), Patrick Jones, Mike Cole

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

2:00 PM

Dead Dog Open Filk

Sunday

FILK

Mississippian - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Space Farming: The Undiscovered Country

SCIENCE

We're going to need to feed our space colonists. Potatoes or Peanuts? What crops in space should we grow first?

Bryce Meyer(M), Bob Perry, Zi Teng Wang

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Welcoming Younger Fen Into the Fold

FANDOM, GOH

Anime is the big draw from younger generations, but otherwise, why are younger fans not embracing the traditional nerd culture?

Betsy Britt(M), Nick Butcher, Tim Griffin

Illini A - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

3:00 PM

Closing Ceremonies

GOH

*Wyatt Weed, Fran Wilde, Larry Niven, David Mack, Tim Griffin.
Joy Alyssa Day*

Lasalle - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Children's Programming

FRIDAY

Here There Be Dragons Scavenger Hunt!

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Come grab a clue book from Children's Programming, and solve all the tasks and riddles. Each step will get you a dragon sticker. Once you have received all the stickers, come back and show us your book for a prize! (Please come get your prize by 1 PM on Sunday.)

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Cardboard Armor

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Come make your own armor out of cardboard and show it off!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Live Action Duck Hunt

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Are you an expert marksman? Come show off your skills with a nerf gun and try and shoot as many ducks as you can.

Salon 5 - Gateway Center

4:00 PM

Live Action Angry Birds

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Come help vanquish the pigs and get the birds' eggs back.

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Rocket Time!

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Come build your own rocket and launch it!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

SATURDAY

Choose Your Fighter!

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Choose and paint a miniature monster! We will be playing a game later where your monsters will battle!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Duct Tape Armor and Instant Costuming

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Children's Programming

Join us to make your own costume! Have fun bringing your own character to life by using your creativity.

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Teens' Scavenger Hunt! (Ages 13-17)

CHILDREN'S
PROGRAMMING, TEEN

Join us for a teens' scavenger hunt! You can solo this or join a group. (Please note, one member of the team will need a phone to download Action Bound.) PLEASE NOTE: The end will be directly after the Teen's Cosplay Contest. Please join us at 1 for prizes. Prizes will be given out to all who completed the scavenger hunt. (2 hours)

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Boffer Sword Making & Fighting

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Join Children's Programming to make your own Boffer Sword (foam)! After making your own Boffer Sword, learn some real skills to use it!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center

12:00 PM

The Seventh Annual Greater Archon Children's Costume Extravaganza!!! (Trademark Pending)

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Come show off your costume!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Teen's Cosplay Contest

CHILDREN'S
PROGRAMMING, TEEN

PLEASE NOTE: Directly after the Children's costume extravaganza, the Teen's Cosplay Contest (ages 13-17) will be held. Please come sign up by 12:00 PM on Saturday to enter the Teen's Cosplay Contest, so we can have your name and costume information. Please be in the room by 1:00 PM to be in the contest.

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

CLOSED FOR LUNCH

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Children's Programming

Children's Programming will be closed for lunch. Please join us again at 3 PM!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Foul Play (Teens 13-17)

CHILDREN'S
PROGRAMMING, TEEN

Come play "Foul Play". It's a beautiful day, and four of you are terrible geese.

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Build a Fairy House

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Come build a fairy house. Who knows, if a fairy likes your home, maybe one will move in?

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Battle of the Beasts!

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Bring your newly painted monster in for a game to show off their skills!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Archon's Ninja Warrior

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Come join us for several minute to win it games. Who will come out on top?

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

MonsDRAWsity Learn and Play

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Calling all detectives! We need your help in identifying monsters that are running amok! Join us for this game where you use your artistic skills to sketch out the monster described to file a case report!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

King of Tokyo Learn and Play (Teens 13-17)

CHILDREN'S
PROGRAMMING, TEEN

Come learn to play King of Tokyo. Control giant monsters and robots to battle and take over the city!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

Children's Programming

SUNDAY

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Sock Puppets!

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Come make your own sock
puppet!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Storytime with Jessica

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Listen to stories with Jessica
Mathews.

Jessica Mathews

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Honey I Shrunk the Art!

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Come make shrinky dinks!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Gaming Hour

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Come play games from
Children's Programming library
or bring your own to enjoy!

**See
you
at
ARCHON
50!**