

Meet Our Artists

If you'd like to follow their work, here's a short bio and links to their shops.

Acrylikhan's Workshop

Using today's maker technologies and the skills of an artisan, Acrylikhan's Workshop produces life-sized creations covering multiple fandoms, which are both technically accurate and stunningly beautiful.

Artistic Dragon:

Artistic Dragon Studios specializes in anime/manga. Addie Atable is an illustrator and instructor for anime workshops, and his wife Annie models for their art. They are staff artists in Anime Central and mainly draw Chibi Chubbies, caricatures of people, in artist alleys at anime conventions. If you see Addie and Annie in a convention or a workshop, get a Chibi Chubby commissioned!

Website: www.artisticdragon.com

Aviña Comics:

Aviña Comics is a Chicago-based comic book publisher. Featuring such titles as Lockjaw and Pistolero, Lucha Forever and the Mighty Camazotz. Each written by founder John Emmanuel Aviña.

Max Bare:

Max Bare is a Chicago-based cartoonist and illustrator. He is the creator of HERO BEARDS, the self-published middle grade comic featuring super heroes with super beards. He has been published by Lion Forge (Rolled & Told), Scout (By the Horns) and Really Easy Press (Sally-Ho!). Max collaborates with his wife Melissa Sue Stanley on illustration for packaging and comics as marketing for brands like Revolution Brewing.

Instagram: [@maxbareart](https://www.instagram.com/maxbareart)

Website: maxbareart.com

Ara Bonsignore:

Ara has been building with LEGO for as long as he can remember. His favorite things to build are robots and military vehicles. He is excited to display his builds at the Barrington Area Library.

Justin Castaneda:

Justin Castaneda is a comic artist and children's book creator from Chicago's south side. He is the creator of the horror comic-picture book hybrid, *The Murder Balloon*, and the hardcover children's book, *HEART*.

Website: <https://whenuwerelittle.art>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@whenuwerelittle>

Instagram: [@whenuwerelittle](https://www.instagram.com/whenuwerelittle)

CSPL Studio 1:

CSPL Studio 1, owned and designed by POC artist Artie McFly, showcases pop culture comic art characters in a fresh and captivating way. He takes joy in creating and selling comic illustration prints and stickers that offer a refreshing twist on representation. You can find designs on Instagram at [@CSPLStudio1](https://www.instagram.com/CSPLStudio1).

Fat Cat Stickers:

Fat Cat Stickers brings fun, creative designs for those who have a love of pop culture, feminism, and cats! You can find designs on Instagram at [@Fat.Cat.Stickers](https://www.instagram.com/Fat.Cat.Stickers).

Shawn Lenore:

Shawn Lenore is from Valparaiso, IN and has a degree in animation from the University of Southern California. She's been making her comic *How to be a Werewolf* since February 2015. It's a story featuring complex characters who are all figuring themselves out (and sometimes each other out) and trying to learn to not be afraid of whatever comes next.

Website: howtobeawerewolf.com

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/shawnlenore>

Tumblr: <https://shawnlenore.tumblr.com/>

Alex Lissau:

Nerdy Creations Studio is run by Alex, a young entrepreneur out of the Chicago suburbs. They sell pillows, Perler bead sprites, necklaces, and more! Everything is handmade, and they have stuff for all ages.

Etsy: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/nerdycreationsstudio>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nerdycreationsstudio/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nerdycreationsstudio/>

Tumblr: <https://nerdycreationsstudio.tumblr.com/>

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@nerdycreationsstudio>

Russell Lissau:

By day, he is a mild-mannered newspaper reporter. By night, he battles evil writing comic books including Vegas-based crime-thriller *The Hardways*, *Batman* and the Eisner-nominated *Little Earthquakes: The Graphic Album*.

Sara Michaels:

Sara is a children's book illustrator, painter and graphic designer. As an illustrator, she appreciates all things art-related. One of her specialties is to take recognizable pop culture

references and reinterpret them into offbeat, slightly creepy manifestations. Her illustrations have been published in two children's books and she currently work full-time as a graphic designer and illustrator.

Shop link: [//Etsy.com/shop/SEMillustrations](https://Etsy.com/shop/SEMillustrations)

Merch link: semillustrations.threadless.com

Instagram: [@sem.illustrations](https://www.instagram.com/@sem.illustrations)

Facebook: [@semillustrations](https://www.facebook.com/@semillustrations)

Jessie Phan:

Jessie is a local artist who loves everything related to video games, k-pop, and cute animals. Jessie uses art to celebrate her passion, and bring smiles to everyone who shares the same. She has a variety of stickers and art prints that fans of any age will enjoy.

Instagram:

https://instagram.com/jessiephanart?igshid=MTNiYzNiMzkwZA%3D%3D&utm_source=qr

Tiktok:

<https://www.tiktok.com/@jessiephanart? t=8hs4LjqRRNb& r=1>

Kelsey Rankin:

Kelsey Rankin of Hemp Club Jewelry and Boho Earth Headbands creates earthy, whimsical jewelry using natural crystals and stones, and also makes handcrafted flower crowns and tiaras in colorful styles for all. Find a unique selection of natural crystals, essential oil diffuser jewelry, hemp macramé necklaces, bracelets, beaded earrings, and wire wrapped rings at her booth. She will also be making custom pieces on the spot during the show!

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/HempClubJewelry>

<https://www.facebook.com/BohoEarthHeadbands>

Kat Renee:

The artist Katrine Renee creates unique bleach design clothing that is 100% upcycled. Her shop also includes hand built ceramics, stickers and other one of a kind works.

Website: katrinerenee.com

Instagram: [@katrinerenee.art](https://www.instagram.com/@katrinerenee.art)

Laura Reyes:

Laura Reyes is a Mexican-American illustrator residing in the Chicagoland area. Her goal in her artwork is to tell a story and to connect to the audience who views it. She also hopes her artwork can brighten up someone's day and inspire ideas. She is inspired by her culture, friends and family, and everyday things in her life.

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/pastellas/>

Space Gallery Online:

Unique and original merchandise: Mini-figures sets: Super Heroes, Star Wars, Avengers, Doctor Who, Anime, Harry Potter etc.

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. She has her own Instagram where she posts updates on her most recent projects and art advice and tutorials. When she is not creating art, she crochets and plays with her puppy dog Bloo in her free time.

Website: <https://www.sydneyhellgeth.com/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/squidneydoodles/>

TikTok: [squidneydoodlesart](https://www.tiktok.com/@squidneydoodlesart)

Twitter/X: [squidneydoodles](https://twitter.com/squidneydoodles)

Stephanie Varga:

Stephanie is an illustrator/webcomic artist who loves to draw heartfelt characters with a dark fantasy twist. She enjoys Asian dramas and spooky TV shows, which influence her work.

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/9outofpen?igsh=MXA2eG5nY2Joa2Ntbw==>

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@9outofpen? t=8inbSQE8kAc& r=>

Sunnyside Art:

Sunnyside Art is a Chicago-based Illustrator who likes to spend much of her time with felines and foods!! Her artwork consists of fan art from her childhood favorites, contemporary artwork incorporating her Japanese culture, and cute cat illustrations!

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sunnyside.a.r.t/>

Facebook: <https://Facebook.com/sunnyside.illustration>

Website: <https://www.sunnyside-art.com/>

Meet Our Cosplay Groups

Many of the cosplayers here are volunteers and go to events to help support causes they're passionate for. We appreciate them being here to take photos, answer questions, and help make this event awesome!

The 501st Legion

The Midwest Garrison is the Illinois chapter of The 501st Legion, the world's largest Star Wars Imperial costuming club. The 501st is dedicated to the movie-quality costumes of the "villains" of the Star Wars universe. The 501st Legion promotes interest in STAR WARS and facilitates the

use of these costumes for STAR WARS-related events as well as contributes to the local community through costumed charity and volunteer work. We are “bad guys doing good!”

CosMeetUp Chicago:

We are a social networking group of photographers and cosplayers in the Chicago geek community. We provide unique safe spaces for local photographers and cosplayers to meet, collaborate, learn, raise money for charities, and simply have fun.

Website: <https://www.cosmeetupchicago.com/>

Costumers with a Cause:

Our organization is 100% volunteer with five active branches across the United States. When we fundraise for an organization or cause, 100% of those funds go to that organization or cause. Costumers with A Cause (CwC) runs solely on private and corporate donations specifically sent to us to keep us up and running. Costumers with a Cause is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization of costumers, cosplayers, and photographers with big hearts and creative talents who choose to make a difference in the world.

We make a difference by visiting hospitalized and homebound children suffering from chronic and terminal illnesses, and children with disabilities, bringing smiles, laughter, fun, dance, recognition and support to those in need. CwC supports multiple non-profit community organizations, foundations and events that align with our goals, morals and values!

Website: <https://www.costumerswithacause.org/>

Ghostbusters:

The Windy City Ghostbusters are a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization made up of Chicagoland Ghostbusters enthusiasts who make and build their own Ghostbusters Universe-inspired costumes and props. The proceeds from Windy City Ghostbusters events go to La Rabida Children's Hospital and other like organizations. We're ready to believe you!

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/WindyCityGB>

Trashgoblins:

The Trashgoblins are a Chicago-based community cosplay collective with a mission to support and empower cosplayers and creative-types, but especially those who are just starting out or have limited means to support their passion. Their creative process stems from storytelling, with a preference toward collaborative projects. The Trashgoblins also open their home and workshop (Trashgoblins HQ) to anyone in the community that needs a space, a tool, some help, some feedback, or just some company.

Website: TrashgoblinsInc.com

Instagram: [@trashgobs.inc](https://www.instagram.com/trashgobs.inc)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/trashgoblins.inc/>

YouTube: [@trashgoblinsinc.646](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC646)

Podcast homepage: <https://www.trashgoblinsinc.com/podcast> ("YuckMouth Media Presents: Talking Trash" - also available anywhere you get your podcasts)

League of Enchantment:

The League of Enchantment is a 501(c)3 nonprofit with the mission to work together with local hospitals, community organizations, and events to bring hope and smiles to kids and kids at heart. Locally, we work in various capacities with Lurie Children's Hospital, St. Alexius/Amita in Hoffman Estates, and the Tunnels to Towers charity in their fund-raising efforts. Whether it is a smile, hug, photo, or a simple conversation with a child, we are here to make a difference in their lives all through the power of cosplay.

Website: [League of Enchantment Chicago - Charity Cosplay](#)

Instagram: [leagueofenchantmentchicago](#)

Facebook: [League of Enchantment Chicago](#)