

PANEL ROOM SCHEDULE

10:10 AM to 10:50 AM

Cerroneth - LARP

with Laura & Joe Martin



Cerroneth is a live-action role-playing group owned and operated in Mississippi. Live action games totally immerse you in the game far better than your average tabletop game or MMORPG. Here you get the opportunity to garb yourself with fantastic period costuming (and sometimes makeup and prosthetics), pick up your trusty sword (a *boffer* weapon), and join the battle between hero and villain in combat!

11:00 AM to 11:50 AM

Inevitable Comics Presents:

How 2 Comics

with Michael J. Florio



How 2 Comics is Michael J. Florio's blueprint to navigating indie comics. Michael paved a path for himself into comics, and it's not as difficult as you think. In this intimate Q&A, he reveals how he broke into comics and dispels some of the industry's myths. Learn what you need to know where to start, how to navigate, and what it takes to see your imagination in print. The audience will have the opportunity to create a one-page comic. Michael draws from his experience as a podcast host, where he has interviewed over forty professionals, his time as a Comics Experience alumni, and his journey into crowdfunding—which helped him raise over \$500 thousand in funding for over forty projects.

12:00 PM to 12:50 PM

Diverse Realms: Librarians Unleash Representation

with Derricka Grayer, Rachel Maloy, Erik Cebrian, and moderated by HCLS



Get ready for an epic adventure as our panel of Gulf Coast librarians and library workers dives into the colorful world of representation in comics, video games, and other media! We're pumped to geek out over diversity and fantastic representation. From characters to storylines, we'll celebrate inclusivity across race, ethnicity, gender, and more. Our passion for comics and gaming fuels our quest for better representation, and we can't wait to share our excitement with you. Together, we'll embark on a journey to shake up stereotypes and level up the geekverse. So grab your cape and join us for a panel that's bound to be legendary!

1:00 PM to 1:50 PM

AI's Emerging Role in Independent Publishing and the Arts

with Jason Stuart



Jason Stuart will explore the influence of artificial intelligence on the realms of independent publishing, editing, and the broader arts and media landscape. This session delves into the transformative power of AI tools like ChatGPT in the creative process. It offers an overview of the challenges and opportunities AI presents to content creators, shedding light on how these technologies are reshaping storytelling, editorial practices, and media production. The discussion will not only address the practical applications of AI in publishing but also its broader implications for creativity and the future of the arts.

2:00 PM to 2:45 PM

Crafting Worlds: Story Backstory & Beyond

with Steven Harper & Madison Gillam



World building and backstory—How much is needed? How much is enough? This panel discussion will address the issue of backstory, and how much you need for your *Story*. Subjects covered will include story-writing, backstory, basic editing, revisions, illustrations, and *World Building*. Participants will be invited to brainstorm and hone their ideas as well.

4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

HCLS SuperFan Trivia
with Virginia & Judy



Step into the world of pop culture fandoms! We invite you to test your knowledge with trivia about movies, television, and comics. Get ready for fun and excitement as you compete for prizes and celebrate your favorite fandoms. Join us for an unforgettable experience where your love for pop culture takes center stage!

Visit us online at
hcls.info



**HANCOCK COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM**

EVENT ACTIVITIES

All Day Welcome Table

Pick up some event swag and try your hand at our prize wheel (while supplies last).



All Day HCLS Booth: Meet Your Friendly Neighborhood Librarians! Front Lobby

Get the most out of your library! Sign up for a library card and learn about digital access for comics on the Libby app.



Buy an event t-shirt featuring the amazing art of Alexander Cuevas! Buy a ticket for a raffle drawing of vintage comics. Proceeds will be donated to The Library Foundation of Hancock County.

All Day Video Gaming Room

Open gameplay on laptops and consoles, with a library of STEAM and Microsoft Xbox Game Pass titles. Come check out new titles and play with friends.



All Day Tabletop Gaming Area

Open gameplay and hosted games—try your hand at a selection of board games, card games, and role-playing games.



Join game host Brandon for an adventure, as he hosts playthroughs of *Red Dragon Inn*.

All Day Art Contest Exhibit

We are proud to display the submissions for the FAN★FEST Art Contest. Our winner is Alexander Cuevas. Thank you to everyone who participated!



11:00 AM to 11:45 AM Kids Korner Perry Guy, Picture Book Author

Special story reading by Perry Guy—author of *Treasures in the Sand* and *The Mardi Gras Boat Parade*.



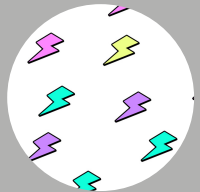
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM Cosplay Contest All Ages

Cosplayers check in at the Welcome Table, then meet at the Panel Room at 3:00 PM. Contestants will parade for the public in the Expo Hall at 4:00 PM for our special guest judges for a chance to show off their skill!



All Day Kids Korner

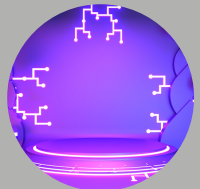
Super crafts and coloring all day for the smallest fans—find your super hero name! Enjoy stories throughout the day.



All Day Photo Ops

Capture your cosplay in all its glory in our slow motion, rotating photo booth.

Gather your friends to take pictures with one of our photo backdrops.



Visit us online at
hcls.info

