



So You Want to Host a Comic Con at Your Library?

Alsip -Merrionette Park Public Library District,
Oak Lawn Public Library, Palos Heights Public Library,
& Tinley Park Public Library

Libraries



Alsip -Merrionette Park
PL District

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Public Library

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Tinley Park
Public Library

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Agenda

- How each Library got started with their mincons
- Successes
- What went wrong?
- Q&A

Getting Started: AMPPLD

- Building off previous work
- Brainstorming
 - Deciding themes/ zones
 - Setting up a shared folder



Getting Started: OLPL

- Working on 10th Annual FanFest
- Originated as Free Comic Book Day Event
- Family friendly, library wide
- Attracts over 500 participants
- Working Group meets monthly



Getting Started: PHPL

- Budget & Proposal Director/Management
- Committee Member Staff from all departments
- Meetings Once/month, twice/month, every week leading to event



Getting Started: TPPL

- A staff member had the idea who brought it to their manager
 - Not all departments were receptive, but administrative support was key
- Talk to other libraries!



Great Ideas: AMPPLD

- Walkthrough discussions during planning phase
- Include all departments
- Collaboration opportunity
- Use library features as a part of event/activities
- Marketing
 - Collaborating on logo





Great Ideas: OLPL

- Moved to 2nd Saturday in May, 10am-3pm
- Scheduling activities that last all day
- Tie program into the year's theme
- Engage with community partners

• Utilize new whole library





Great Ideas: PHPL

- Arcade game rentals
- Facepainting
- Meet and greet with Icecream social Bluey
- Local authors
- Princess Party with Popcupbobatea
- Mirabel and Isabella Scavenger hunts





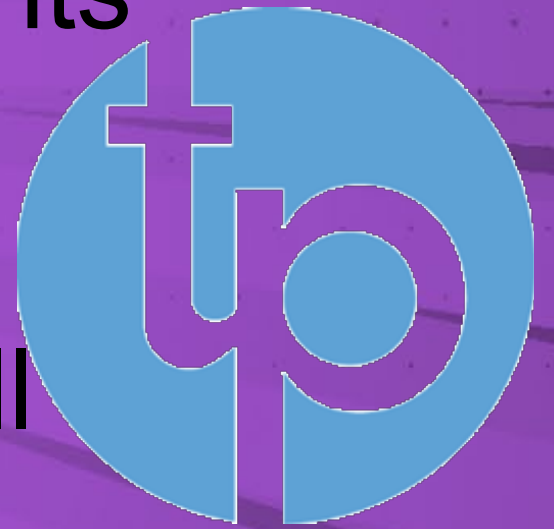
Great Ideas: PHPL

- 3D printed D&D figurines
- Friendship bracelets
- Halloween jars
- Paper crowns
- Pins made on Glowforge
- Perler Beads
- Sand jars



Great Ideas: TPPL

- Stretching it to a month long instead of a day/week
- Community engagement
- Planning monthly meetings with most departments represented
- You don't need to create new programs
- Save the dates most successful marketing, but all marketing materials have been helpful



Great Ideas: TPPL

- Drawing classes for kids and teens
- Added more adult programs
- Day of programs
 - Cosplayers- be mindful of donation based groups
 - Green screen
 - Drop in craft
 - Button making
 - Balloon artist
- Artist Alley
 - Scavenger hunt
 - Stamp sheet
- Video game tournament
- Gaming (truck or space)
- Lorcana event
- Tie into movies/ games coming out
- Prize Packages - tickets



That Didn't Go As Planned: AMPPLD

- Previous years: bomb scare & poor advertisement
- Building renovations
- Staff leaving
 - Co-chairs needed
 - Communication differences



That Didn't Go As Planned: OLPL

- Poor attendance at panels
- Stamped exhibitor maps
- Placement of teen volunteers
- Buffer time between activities

Keep record of what doesn't work



That Didn't Go As Planned: PHPL

- After hours movies showing
- Trivia
- Artemis Starship Simulator
- Vendors
- Cosplay contests
- Exelsior
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Panels



That Didn't Go As Planned: TPPL

- First year was only a week, it felt too rushed/crowded and staff felt pressured
- Programs were catered to particular audiences and some age groups have been left out
- Defining fandom
 - Even staff members don't know

Fandom Bingo for adults





**Does anyone
have questions?**

THANK YOU



Alsip -Merrionette Park
PL District

TBD 2026



Oak Lawn
Public Library

Sat. May 9, 2026
10am-3pm



Palos Heights
Public Library

Sat. Sept 27, 2025
9am-3pm



Tinley Park
Public Library

All September 2025
Grand Finale Sat. Sept 27
10am-3pm