

Planning a Library Con

Hosting A Con in your Library: Librarycon is a wonderful way to foster the love of literature, art, and expression in families.

Partnerships: Finding partnerships is one of the most important things you want to do. If you have authors attend, you'll need to be able to sell their books. That's where your local bookstore comes in handy! You'll also need donations for prizes and most of the time if a business is participating in your event in some way, they'll likely be willing to promote the event and hang flyers up for you!

Artists and Vendors: Sometimes if artists find out about your LibraryCon they will reach out to you, but many will come if invited. You can go to local artist cons and ask them/network/get a card or find their websites/social media and sent them a friendly email! We actually had a tabletop game designer reach out to us and ask if he could have a table to demo/sell his game. Your local game and game stores are also a good place to ask about artists and vendors.

Budget: I did this year's LibraryCon on a whopping - \$0 budget! However, I would like to have the budget to be able to provide authors with a honorarium or maybe have a souvenir enamel pin made for patrons to take home.

Nintendo Labo Demonstrations by our local Nintendo Representatives



Cosplay Contest



Authors Attending: I started with authors that were either going on tour or were within driving distance. I invited Jessica Khoury and she drove 2.5 hours to attend! I also wanted authors that had written space-themed books to go with the SLC this year. If you want to invite an author to your library, check their website to see who their event point of contact is, most of the time it will be their publicist, but sometimes you can email the author directly. When emailing, you will need to let them know up front how many people you expect, what time they will need to arrive, what time they can go home, and who is selling their books.

Moderating Panels: If you are going to have special guests, whether that be authors, cosplay specialists, gamers, artists, ect. You may want to have a panel. Moderating Panels can be daunting, but preparing and learning as much about the topic as possible is key. Always have a back up plan! My original plan was to have a third author moderate our Spacey Author Panel, but she was unable to come last minute. Also, if your guest has written anything like a book or a comic, it would do you well to **READ** it beforehand!

A Note About Booksellers: Before asking authors to come, it is important to find out everything you can about the event. Like if you can have a local bookseller come in and sell books, how many titles they will order, ect. I definitely recommend solidifying that partnership before inviting authors. If for any reason you cannot have a local bookseller come in, make sure to explicitly state that in your initial email, but i genuinely hope you can! In my experience, it increases your odds with the author and the bookseller is likely to bring more foot traffic as well!



Jessica Khoury and Ashley Poston signing their books.



Rico Renzi colorist of "Spider Gwen" signing comics.

Ideas: Face painting, game demonstrations, raffle for prizes, cosplay contest, author panel and signing, kids craft for kids to take home, photobooth with props

The key to a good con is having something for everyone!