

2018-2019 GNCRT Annual Report

Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table



GNCRT Charge:

The Graphic Novels and Comics Round Table is a collaborative organization dedicated to supporting library staff in all aspects of engaging with graphic novels and comics, including collection development, programming, and advocacy. GNCRT offers support to all types of libraries serving all types of users, whether the library is just beginning to build a collection, growing it, or finding new ways to promote the collection's use and improve its visibility.

What We Do

- Advocate for and promote comics and graphic novels
- Develop programming and create Pop-Up libraries at comic conventions and library conferences
- Administer the Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants for Libraries
- Provide networking opportunities for library staff and educators involved with graphic novels and comics
- Curate and create resources for collection development, best practices, and programming
- Create outreach opportunities to grow membership and allow more access to our resources
- Discuss and advocate for issues around cataloging and metadata

GNCRT 2018-2019 Organizing Team

- Amie Wright
- Carla Riemer
- Eva Volin
- Marcela Peres
- Matthew Murray
- Mike Pawuk
- Natalie DeJonghe
- Robin Brenner

ALA Staff Liaison: Tina Coleman

**In early 2017 the process started to transition the Graphic Novels & Comics Member Interest Group (GNMIG) from an ad hoc member interest group into an official ALA member Round Table (RT). This transition request was first submitted to ALA Council at Midwinter 2017; Council asked for additional supporting documentation which was compiled during 2017-2018 by the Organizing Team. The transition period from MIG to RT lasted from 2017-2018. RT status was officially approved by Council during ALA Annual in June 2018. Membership in GNCRT officially opened in Sept 2018 and the first official GNCRT year was July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019. The first elected board took office July 1, 2019 following elections in April 2019. From June 2018-July 2019, the GNCRT was led by the Organizing Team.*

2018-2019 GNCRT Annual Report

Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table



Accomplishments 2018-2019:

**a normal Round Table 'year' is July 1-June 30; however, events happening in June 2018 carried over into July 2018 - including, importantly, the RT approval at ALA Annual. For these reasons June 2018 events are included below.*

<p>*June 2018</p>	<p>4th Annual Friday Forum at ALA Annual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Graphic Novels for Adult Readers with the takeaway goal that all attendees will leave with definitive proof that comics aren't just for kids (or teens) and that they are for all readers. • Swag Bag giveaways for first 100 attendees of the Friday Forum • #GraphiCon #alaac18 <p>Official Approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRAFT Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and Member Survey (Apr-May 2018) - documents presented to ALA Council in June 2018 as part of package making the case for transitioning the Member Interest Group into a Round Table • Round Table status officially approved by ALA Council vote during ALA Annual June 2018 • First GNCRT business meeting Mon June 25th from 9-10am • Graphic Novel and Comics Member Initiative Group becomes Round Table (June 26, 2018) - PRESS RELEASE <p>Breaking News! The Press responds to the RT's creation:</p>
<p>July 2018</p>	<p>GNCRT launches @libcomix on Twitter and Instagram:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 18, 2018 first tweet and launch of #libcomix! Link HERE • This tweet uses the logo created for the 'GraphiCon' 2012 by Dave Roman, when the RT was still a Member Interest Group. Interview at ALA Annual 2012 with Dave Roman explaining the logo design. <p>GNCRT at San Diego Comic Con</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of GNCRT's Organizing Team participated in several sessions on July 19, 2018 as part of the 3rd annual Comic Conference for Educators and Librarians (CCEL) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ If You Build It, They Will Come: Strategies for Successful Adult Graphic Novel Collection Development in Public Libraries
<p>Sept 2018</p>	<p>GNCRT Membership Opens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership officially opens on Sept 5, 2018: PRESS RELEASE • We have a GNCRT logo! Thank you Carla Riemer for getting this organized and achieved

2018-2019 GNCRT Annual Report

Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have buttons as well as print at home postcards, FAQs, and brochures for members to promote GNCRT - produced in time for our first Membership large scale event at NYCC in Oct 2018 <p>Banned Books Week Webinars: Inaugural Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GNCRT partners with Image Comics & CBLDF for 5 days of webinar to mark Banned Books Week 2018 Celebrate Banned Books Week at Your Library with Image Comics' Library Livestreams (Image Comics Press Release, Sept 2018)
Oct 2018	<p>New York Comic Con:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GNCRT presented several panels as part of the 2nd annual New York Comic Con at the New York Public Library (NYCC@NYPL) GNCRT hosted a membership table and membership drive at the NYCC @ NYPL event GNCRT also hosted a Pop-Up Library (#LibPopUp) at New York Comic Con with creator signings, readers advisory, live draws, and art drops. Full list of all NYCC at NYPL and GNCRT events: http://bit.ly/2018NYCCatNYPL or view the NYCC @ NYPL Quick Guide
Dec 2018	<p>#libcomix2018review - our first year-in-review / origins story crowdsourced hashtag event -- encouraging members to share memories from our first official year as a Round Table:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On Twitter - On Instagram
Jan 2019	<p>ALA Midwinter 2019 included several events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After Hours Member Meet Up- sponsored by Fantagraphics and Oni Ticketed Comics Breakfast GNCRT Member presence in ALA Lounge
Feb 2019	<p>Ontario Library Association (OLA) Super Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st time north of the border at OLA we held an after hours reception for library workers and educators at the Beguiling comics shop in Toronto, ON during OLA. Reception held to promote the RT, ALA (which is the accrediting body for Canadian library schools), and the Eisner Grant which (for the first time ever) were open to Canadian Libraries to apply <p>Emerald City Comic Con:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st ECCC Keynote event with Chelsea Cain - kicking off the library and educator day at the Seattle Public Library GNCRT also coordinated two panels for ECCC at the Seattle Public

2018-2019 GNCRT Annual Report

Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table



	<p>Library and signal boosted all library and educator programming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full list of all GNCRT assisted ECCC programming: http://www.ala.org/rt/gncrt/events/eccc
Mar 2019	<p>Eisner Week: March 1-7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar to Celebrate #WillEisnerWeek - Panelists: Dr. Carol Tilley, Matthew Noe, and Kate Mowery <p>C2E2 (Chicago Comic & Entertainment Expo):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st C2E2 Keynote event with Lucy Knisley, interviewed by Betsy Bird (*event also live streamed on ALA's Facebook page) • GNCRT also sponsored 5 sessions of professional development panels at C2E2, including offering for the 1st time (at C2E2) PD credit through RAILS and the State of Illinois for several sessions. • 1st Library / Educator Networking Session at a Con is a success with more than 85+ attendees and tabletop discussions • GNCRT hosted a Pop-Up Library (#LibPopUp) at C2E2 with creator signings, readers advisory, live draws, and art drops • Full list of C2E2 2019 GNCRT programming: http://www.ala.org/rt/gncrt/events/c2e2 <p>WonderCon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the 1st time GNCRT presented events at WonderCon: panel session, 'Comics in Your Community', and a Coffee & Conversation with comics creator Scott Snyder (WYTCHEs). • Full list of all WonderCon 2019 GNCRT Programming: http://www.ala.org/rt/gncrt/events/wondercon
Apr 2019	<p>First GNCRT Board election results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first elected Board was announced on April 10, 2019 • Link via ALA CONNECT: http://bit.ly/2019GNCRTelectionResults <p>GNCRT partnered with AASL on two webinars for April - School Library month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing the Gatekeepers: How to Turn Comic and Graphic Novel Skeptics Into Believers • Comics Librarianship: Essential Tools for the School Librarian
June 2019	<p>ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo sponsored webinar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libraries, Comics and Superheroes of Color: Strengthening our Reading Communities with panelists Saladin Ahmed (Marvel comics); Chloe Ramos-Peterson (Image Comics); Deirdre Hollman (Black Comics Collective); and Erwin Magbanua (Chula Vista Library)

2018-2019 GNCRT Annual Report

Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table



	<p>ALA Annual programming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Full list of all ALA Annual GNCRT events: http://www.ala.org/rt/gncrt/events/alaannual ● 5th Annual Friday Forum at ALA Annual: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Topic: 'Social Justice and Comics' - panels resulted in the creation of social justice reading and resource lists ○ Swag for the first 150 attendees to the Friday Forum ● GNCRT sponsored 'Comics Breakfast' ● 1st GNCRT President's Program: 'Comics State of the Union' with Raina Telgemeier, Jaime Hernandez, and Jason Lutes ● Artist Alley scavenger hunt -with custom coasters ● Eisner Reception with Grant winners announced and presentation of awards by the Eisner Family
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Membership Stats (Sept 5*, 2018-June 30, 2019):

Quarter 1 Membership (Sep/Oct/Nov)	Total: 312 (Personal: 308 / Org: 1 / Corp: 3)
Quarter 2 Membership (Dec/Jan/Feb)	Total: 512 (Personal:502 / Org: 5 / Corp: 5)
Quarter 3 Membership (Mar/Apr/May)	Total: 644 (Personal:632 / Org: 7 / Corp:5)
Quarter 4 Membership (Jun/Jul/Aug)	Total: 788 (Personal: 776 / Org 7 / Corp: 5)

**our normal 'year' is July 1-June 30; however, membership in the GNCRT officially opened on Sept 5, 2018*

GNCRT in the News (July 1*, 2018-June 30, 2019):

**a normal Round Table 'year' is July 1-June 30; however, events happening in June 2018 carried over into July 2018 - including, importantly, the RT approval at ALA Annual. For these reasons news from June 2018 is included below.*

<p>Breaking News! ALA Approves Graphic Novel Roundtable (The Beat, June 25, 2018)</p>
<p>ALA 2018: Graphic novels shine in a very different Hall H (The Beat, June 27, 2018)</p>

2018-2019 GNCRT Annual Report

Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table



[Celebrate Banned Books Week at Your Library with Image Comics' Library Livestreams](#)
(Image Comics Press Release, Sept 2018)

[The ALA Is Ready To Shake Things Up...With Comics](#)
(Publishers Weekly, June 7, 2019)

[ALA 2019: Where the Comics Publishers Are and What They Are Doing](#)
(The Beat, June 20, 2019)

[ALA 2019: Librarians Celebrate Graphic Novels!](#)
(The Beat, June 21, 2019)

GNCRT Press Releases (July 1*, 2018-June 30, 2019)

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[Graphic Novel and Comics Member Initiative Group becomes Round Table](#)
(June 26, 2018)

[ALA's new Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table is open for membership](#)
(Sept 5, 2018)

[Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants for Libraries add a third grant starting in 2019](#)
(Oct 17, 2018)

[Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grant deadline extended to February 8](#)
(Jan 9, 2019)

[Winners of the 2019 Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants for Libraries Announced](#)
(May 2, 2019)

[ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo presents webinar: 'Libraries, Comics and Superheroes of Color: Strengthening our Reading Communities'](#)
(May 28, 2019)

Archival Documents:

- [DRAFT Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and Member Survey \(Apr-May 2018\)](#) - documents presented to ALA Council in June 2018 as part of package making the case for transitioning the Member Interest Group into a Round Table
- *no 2017 report exists as this is when the transition process started to a RT. Report for transition request from MIG to RT first submitted during ALA Midwinter 2017; Council

2018-2019 GNCRT Annual Report

Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table



asked for additional supporting documentation which was compiled during 2017-2018. Transition from MIG to RT lasted from 2017-2018. RT was officially approved during ALA Annual June 2018. First official year for GNCRT was July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019.

- [GNMIG 2016 Report to ALA Council](#)
- [GNMIG 2015 Report to ALA Council](#)