

2019-2020 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 2019-2020 Board (inaugural Board year):

- President (2 year term): Amie Wright
- VP/President-Elect (3 year term): Alea Perez
- Secretary (2 year term): Candice Mack
- Treasurer (1 year term): Eva Volin
- Member-At-Large (1 year term): Danica Sheridan
- Member-At-Large (1 year term): Matthew Murray
- Member-At-Large (2 year term): Marcela Peres
- Member-At-Large (2 year term): Moni Barrette

ALA Staff Liaison: Tina Coleman

ALA Executive Board liaison: Ed Garcia

ALA Councilor (interim): Gina Kromhaut (mid-year appointment)

**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*

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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.

Accomplishments 2019-2020:

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| <p>July 2019</p> | <p>Booklist's Special Issue: 'Booklist's Guide to Graphic Novels in Libraries'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Designating July, 'Graphic Novel Month' Booklist produced this special issue featuring several articles by GNCRT members including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collecting Manga 101 (Eva Volin) ○ Healthcare for the Masses: Graphic Medicine (Matthew Noe) ○ What Can the Graphic Novels and Comics Roundtable Do for Me? (Carla Reimer and Rachel Fryd) ○ Notes from the Field: Brittany Netherton Makes a Case for a New Collection (Brittany Netherton interviewed by Sarah Hunter) <p>GNCRT at San Diego Comic Con</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GNCRT presented several panels as part of the 4th annual Comic Conference for Educators and Librarians (CCEL) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comics State of the Union: The Blue Age of Comics, the Rise of Kamala Khan ○ Comics Librarianship Comics For All: Collection Development and Readers Advisory. ● GNCRT also sponsored a Sunday Comics, Coffee & Conversation round table with creators, retailers, library workers, and educators. ● Full list of all library and educator programming at SDCC: http://www.ala.org/rt/gncrt/events/sdcc |
| <p>Sept 2019</p> | <p>#CreatorsGetCarded - GNCRT launches new initiative for Library Card Sign Up Month: :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GNCRT spotlights comic creators to #GetLibraryCarded for #LibraryCardSignUp Month (Aug 27, 2019) - PRESS RELEASE ● ALA Compilation Video of all 30+ creators and their cards <p>Member Appreciation Swag Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In Sept 2019 membership opened for the first time for our new Round Table. To mark the start of this initiative we held a Membership Swag Raffle and sent swag from ALA headquarters to lucky members. ● Tweet from one lucky swag recipient: HERE <p>Banned Books Week Webinars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For the 2nd year in a row, GNCRT partnered with Image Comics and |

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| | <p>the Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) to offer 5 webinars to mark Banned Books Week (BBW):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mon Sept 23rd 'Historical Voices' ○ Tues Sept 24th 'Banned People & Post-Colonial Narratives' ○ Wed Sept 25th 'Banned Books & Civil Rights' ○ Thurs Sept 26th 'LGBTQ Challenges' ○ Fri Sept 27th 'Access Issues: Privatization & Gatekeeping' |
| Oct 2019 | <p>New cycle of Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants Open:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Applications now open for the 2020 Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants for Libraries (Oct 3, 2019) - PRESS RELEASE <p>New York Comic Con:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GNCRT presented several panels as part of the 3rd annual New York Comic Con at the New York Public Library (NYCC@NYPL) ● GNCRT also hosted a membership table at New York Comic Con on the floor of Javits Center. ● Full list of all NYCC at NYPL and GNCRT events: http://bit.ly/2019NYCCatNYPL <p>Best Graphic Novels for Adults Reading List is announced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table announces new Best Graphic Novels for Adults Reading List starting in 2020 (Oct 18, 2019) - PRESS RELEASE |
| Nov 2019 | <p>Ask Me Anything #AMA event on Twitter - to promote upcoming Nominations for new Board members - link via Twitter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NOTE: we used the #AMAGNCRT for this event <p>GNCRT remembers recently passed Tom Spurgeon - link via Twitter</p> |
| Jan 2020 | <p>Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table announces nominations open for 2020 Best Graphic Novels for Adults Reading List (Jan 2, 2020) - PRESS RELEASE</p> <p>ALA Midwinter 2020 included several events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Informal Member Meet Ups at Amalgam Comics and Barcade ● Ticketed Comics Breakfast ● GNCRT Member presence in ALA Lounge |
| Feb 2020 | <p>Ontario Library Association (OLA) Super Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our second time north of the border at OLA (Canada's largest library conference) and first official visit on the conference floor. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We had hundreds of visitors to the ALA booth and did 4 GNCRT giveaways as promotion. • Our purpose at OLA was twofold: 1) Better promote ALA membership (including student membership) to Canadians; 2) Better promote the Eisner Grants (newly open to Canadian libraries) <p>Freedom to Read Week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the 1st time ever, GNCRT hosted a Freedom to Read Week event - FTR is the Canada equivalent of Banned Books Week and is held each February with events organized by the Canadian Book & Periodical Council's Freedom of Expression Committee. • Freedom to Read Week webinar, 'Most Banned - and Most Awarded: Censorship, Comics, and a still lingering moral stigma' with special guest Mariko Tamaki, Michelle Arbuckle (Freedom of Expression Committee), and Angela Ocaña (Intellectual Freedom Round Table) • Topics discussed include: censorship, comics, intellectual freedom (and the difference between 'freedom of speech' in the US and 'freedom of expression' in Canada) - and why the juxtaposed award winning / most banned image of comics and graphic novels continues. |
| Mar 2020 | <p>C2E2 (Chicago Comic & Entertainment Expo):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Annual C2E2 Keynote: this year featuring Dr. Carol Tilley in conversation with GNCRT VP/President Elect Alea Perez • GNCRT hosted a Pop-Up Library (#LibPopUp) at C2E2 with creator signings, readers advisory, live draws, and art drops • Newly created resource - launched at C2E2: Comic Peoples Resources: Industry Finances <p>Launch of #LibcomixOnline Phase 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GNCRT Spotlights Online Comics Resources and Brings Comic Creators to Your Home with #LibcomixOnline: Libraries & Creators Assemble! (Mar 25, 2020) - PRESS RELEASE • Online programming to transition planned Con programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Creator Interviews (14 episodes) • Online member support for RA and resource needs including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A Quick Guide to Reading Library Comics At Home ◦ Readers' Advisory #LibcomixRA Book Match |
| Apr 2020 | <p>Second annual GNCRT Board election results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second year of newly elected GNCRT Board members was announced on April 8, 2020 • Link via @libcomix Twitter: http://bit.ly/2020GNCRTelectionResults |

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| | <p>#LibcomixOnline April webinars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #NTYCD (New To You Comic Book Day): LIVE from your local comic shop! 3 episode mini series to boost indie shops still delivering during COVID-19 and give members suggestions for 'new to you' comics • Graphic Medicine Responds: Comics in the Time of COVID (Webinar) • GNCRT / ALIA Crossover (Webinar) - talking with our newly formed Australian counterparts in ALIA (Australian Library and Information Association) Graphic |
| May 2020 | <p>#LibcomixOnline May webinars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Comics Publishers & Libraries are Working Together During COVID-19 Pandemic - And What Comes Next (Webinar) • Creator Interviews continuing series (14 episodes) <p>Announcement Eisner Grant Winners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants for Libraries Recipients Announced (May 27, 2020) - PRESS RELEASE; winners include our first Canadian library! |
| June 2020 | <p>BCALA x GNCRT partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GNCRT Affirms ALA Executive Board Statement Standing with BCALA • GNCRT announces launch of collaborative Black Lives Matter comics reading list with BCALA (June 9, 2020) - PRESS RELEASE <p>ALA Annual - Virtual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Annual GNCRT President's Program: A (Comics) History in the Making - 825 Favorites / 653 - 703 Attendees • Virtual Booth - 203 view / 60 asset views / 1 info request |

Membership Stats (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020):

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| Quarter 1 Membership (Sep/Oct/Nov) | Total: 918 (Personal: 907 / Org: 6 / Corp: 5) |
| Quarter 2 Membership (Dec/Jan/Feb) | Total: 995 (Personal: 985 / Org: 6 / Corp: 4) |
| Quarter 3 Membership (Mar/Apr/May) | *Missing information due to ALA processing interruption |

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| Quarter 4 Membership (Jun/Jul/Aug) | *Missing information due to ALA processing interruption |
| As of summer 2020, GNCRT has ~1000 members currently | |

GNCRT in the News (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020)

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| <p>Eisner Grant Winners Honored at ALA Annual ALA 2019 (<i>Library Journal</i>, July 1, 2019)</p> |
| <p>In and Beyond the Library: GNCRT's State of the Comics Union: Past, Present, and Future ALA 2019 (<i>Library Journal</i>, July 2, 2019)</p> |
| <p>Comic Conference for Educators and Librarians at Comic-Con (<i>Publishers Weekly</i>, July 5, 2019)</p> |
| <p>Comics creators team up with the GNCRT & ALA for #GetLibraryCarded campaign (<i>The Beat</i>, Sept 1, 2019)</p> |
| <p>NYPL @ NYCC: Selected Panels (<i>Publishers Weekly</i>, Sept 6, 2019)</p> |
| <p>Image Comics, ALA team up for week of library livestreams (<i>The Beat</i>, Sept 25, 2019)</p> |
| <p>ALA & GNCRT to launch 'Best Graphic Novels for Adults Reading List' — nominations open in January (<i>The Beat</i>, Oct 21, 2019)</p> |
| <p>ALA & GNCRT open nominations for 2020 Best Graphic Novels for Adults Reading List (<i>The Beat</i>, Jan 3, 2020)</p> |
| <p>American Library Association opens applications to their Artist Alley in June (<i>The Beat</i>, Feb 24, 2020)</p> |
| <p>"We Know That's Not True": An Interview With Amie Wright (<i>The Comics Journal</i>, May 11, 2020)</p> |
| <p>Voices and Links for #BlackOutTuesday</p> |

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(The Beat, June 2, 2020)

[Libraries Offer Access to Graphic Novels in Pandemic](#)
(Publishers Weekly, June 5, 2020)

[This Moment in Comics: Diversity and change in graphic novels](#)
(American Libraries, June 29, 2020)

GNCRT Press Releases (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020)

[GNCRT spotlights comic creators to #GetLibraryCarded for #LibraryCardSignUp Month](#)
(Aug 27, 2019)

[Applications now open for the 2020 Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants for Libraries](#)
(Oct 3, 2019)

[Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table announces new Best Graphic Novels for Adults Reading List starting in 2020](#)
(Oct 18, 2019)

[Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table announces nominations open for 2020 Best Graphic Novels for Adults Reading List](#)
(Jan 2, 2020)

[GNCRT Spotlights Online Comics Resources and Brings Comic Creators to Your Home with #LibcomixOnline: Libraries & Creators Assemble!](#)
(Mar 25, 2020)

[2020 Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants for Libraries Recipients Announced](#)
(May 27, 2020)

[GNCRT announces launch of collaborative Black Lives Matter comics reading list with BCALA](#)
(June 9, 2020)

Archival Documents:

- [2018-2019 GNCRT Annual Report](#)
- [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

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- *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 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](#)