



# GRAPHIC NOVELS & COMICS ROUND TABLE

American Library Association Graphic Novels & Comics Roundtable (GNCRT) /  
<http://www.ala.org/rt/gncrt> / @libcomix

## 2021 – 2022 Presidential Priorities

Developed by Matthew Noe

I ran for GNCRT President with a goal of increasing the ways we interact with other organizations engaged with the realm of comics, education, and librarianship. In addition, we need to maintain the momentum from the last year with our efforts to streamline and organize the work of the round table – processes that are a necessary step for any new organization. These goals remain, as you'll see below, but they, along with every other goal we set for this year (such as communication as a priority), come with a heavy dose of patience and caution.

Patience, because we owe it to ourselves and to our members to be kind to ourselves and the mindful of the workload we take on. While it can at times feel we aren't moving fast enough, it is vital to remember that we remain a new round table within ALA and we *are* doing good work, whether that takes the shape of new initiatives or the maintenance of existing ones. Let us not fall into the trap of discounting the work maintaining.

Caution because, as I write this in August 2021, we are still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic – despite all pushes to ignore that reality to the contrary – and things may change again at any moment. GNCRT made great strides in our online programming in 2020 and as that work continues, we can take this opportunity to re-enter the realm of face-to-face programming with *planning* and *purpose*. This is our chance to build systems so that we are acting more often than we are reacting. Let us take it; and let us remain flexible.

With all of this in mind, here are the priorities I have in mind for the coming year.

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### Organizational Structure

- Adapt handbook best practices for committees into one-sheet recruitment documents
- Formalize Annual Report process and structure
- Detail appointment best practices and processes, including setting a timeline that allows a more seamless transition from ALA year to ALA year
- Develop a (working) financial plan for the round table

## Partnerships

- Connect with other organizations engaged in the work of comics and education and libraries, both within and outside of ALA, with the purpose of collaboration at the forefront
  - Specifically target partnerships with LIS programs and ALA Affiliate groups
- Host a comics organization membership fair

## Communication

- Conduct a thorough update of the GNCRT website
- Streamline the process for communication across social media, newsletter, and website
- Increase opportunities for membership to pitch ideas and needs to the board
- Revisit board town halls and determine best approach for regular informational and social engagement with members

## Special Initiatives

- Finish Development of a GNCRT Mentorship Program (such that it can be implemented in 2022-23)