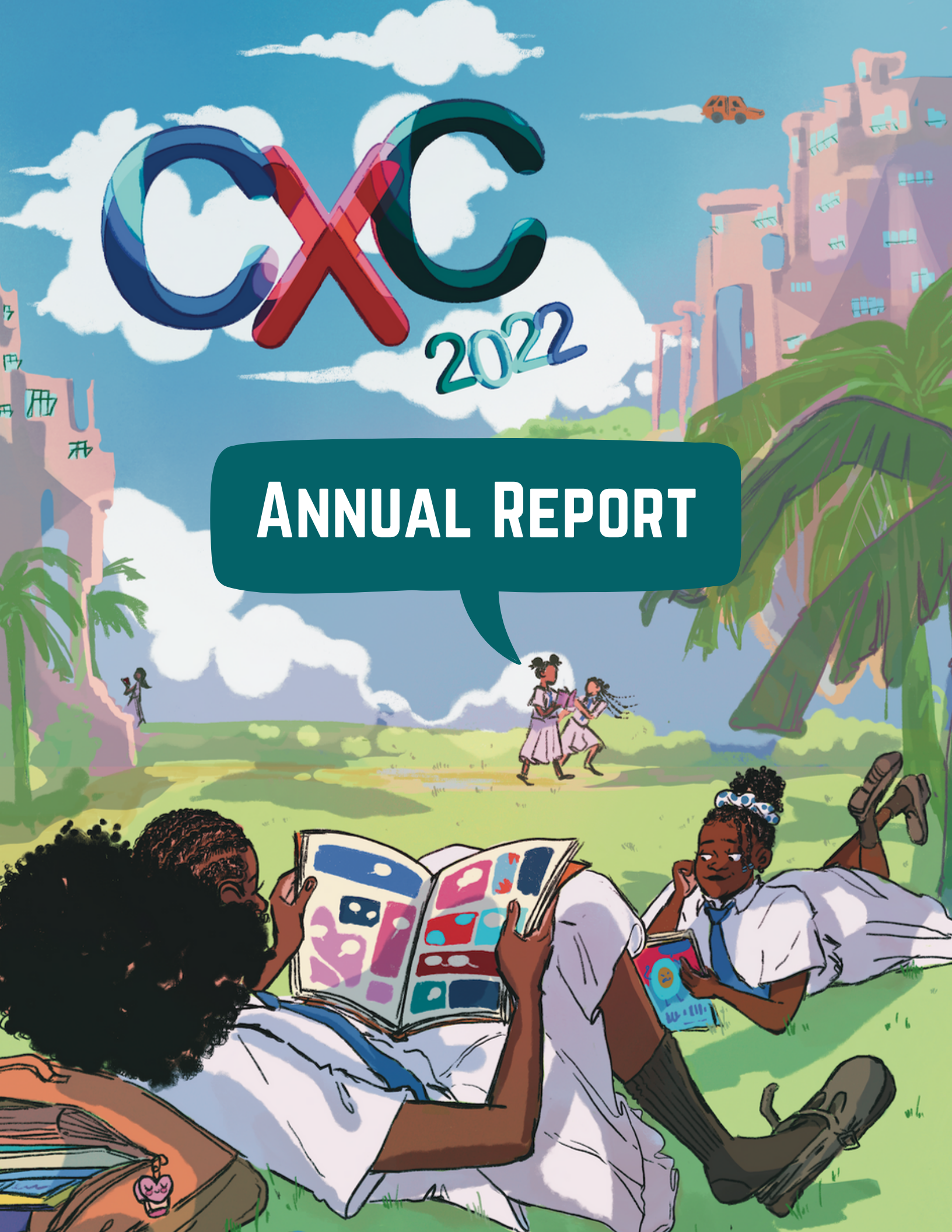


OXO
2022

ANNUAL REPORT





NOTE FROM JEFF SMITH

This past Fall, CXC once again partnered with art and education institutions to hold events in-person here in Columbus. This year was a great success and a good time was had by all! We continued to have a lineup of world famous and barrier-pushing guests. Our festival partners—the fantastic art institutions of the capital city—all put on wonderful events, exhibits and informative panels for our attendees during the free four-day festival celebrating the cartoon arts. Whether you're just curious or outright crazy about animation, graphic novels, comics and editorial cartoons, there's something for everyone. We talked about the booming young adult graphic novel market, watched animation from the 1930s, celebrated icons from the comics underground, listened to a roundtable of authors address the spurious efforts to ban graphic novels from libraries, and, of course, perused the very latest comics from publishers and indie artists at our expo at the downtown library on Saturday and Sunday.

The 2023 Cartoon Crossroads Columbus festival will be our ninth edition, and yet it feels like we're just beginning!

See you in the funny pages, everyone!

JEFF SMITH

Jeff Smith
CXC Co-founder and Artistic Director,
cartoonist and publisher



NOTE FROM JAY B. KALAGAYAN

I love reminiscing about my childhood experience of comics, democratically accessible in those days via my neighborhood convenience store. That spinner rack brought me a multiverse of stories. It gave me my first, and maybe most lasting, lesson on the magic of exploring other perspectives. And I believe that **everyone** can find exciting new worlds in the comic medium.

As I beheld this year's Cartoon Crossroads Convention, I couldn't help but remember the spinner rack and feel awed to be a part of building a comic community on such a grand scale. Having CXC free for all to attend after the ravages of the pandemic is truly a feat for Columbus and for the cartoon community!

These creators' work sustained us when we couldn't be together. This year, as we gathered in person, I hope you explored new perspectives, delved into familiar comforts and met the creators of all those works.

It's my honor to be here with you.

Jay B. Kalagayan

Jay Kalagayan
CXC Executive Director

48 events/activities

11,154
total audience

98 vendors

\$78,058
total paid to artists

31
Columbus based artists

Queer banned books roundtable
featuring (from left to right)
Dr. Rachel Miller, MariNaomi, Maia
Kobabe, and Trung Le Nguyen.

BOOK BANNING: A HOT TOPIC

This year's highlights included an queer banned books roundtable in which artists whose books have been the targets of bans talked about what that means for them and what it means for their readers. The panelists included **Maia Kobabe**, author of *Gender Queer*, **Trung Le Nguyen**, author of *The Magic Fish* and **MariNaomi**, author of the *Life on Earth* series, along with comics scholar **Dr. Rachel Miller**. At this primetime event at the *Columbus College of Art & Design*, **Kobabe** said the part of the bans that has hurt the most is the idea that many readers, especially those with lower incomes, no longer have access to the books. The authors also discussed how strange it feels that publicity about the bans has contributed to increases in sales. This was a moving session, for the panelists and the audience.

CARTOONING OF ALL KINDS

The festival celebrated many forms of cartooning, including newspaper strips, with panels featuring **Peter Gallagher**, known for his weird and fun take on *Heathcliff*, **Barbara Brandon-Croft**, the country's first Black female cartoonist to have a nationally syndicated strip, and **Steenz**, whose took over the *Heart of the City* strip in 2020 and is part of a new generation of newspaper cartoonists.



2022 SPECIAL GUESTS

Vincent Alexander
Paige Braddock
Barbara Brandon-Croft
Peter Gallagher
Tom Gauld
Laura Harrison
Myisha Haynes
Mathew Klickstein
Keith Knight
Maia Kobabe
Trung Le Nguyen
MariNaomi
Lee Marrs
Ingrid Ochoa
Ed Piskor
Trina Robbins
Jim Rugg
Frederik L. Schodt
Maria Scrivan
James Spooner
Steenz
James Sturm
Ronald Wimberly

*Re-Ignition: The Craft of Rebellion -
A Conversation (featuring left to
right) CM Campbell, Ronald
Wimberly, and James Spooner.*

REBELS OF THE MEDIUM

Groundbreaking cartoonist and designer **Ronald Wimberly** returned to CXC this year and he was joined on a panel with cartoonist and tattoo artist **James Spooner**, moderated by **CM Campbell**, a Columbus-based cartoonist, CCAD faculty member and co-chair of CXC's programming committee. The three talked about how rebellious voices have long influenced comics and their own work, and how they see themselves in the comics landscape.

ALL GENRES, ALL AGES

CXC continued its tradition of having a robust track of programming for children and families, including a steady presence from the festival's co-founder and artistic director, **Jeff Smith**, and an array of special guests that included **Maria Scrivan**, the bestselling author of middle-grade graphic novels and a syndicated newspaper strip, breakout artist **Myisha Haynes**, author of *Anne of West Philly*, and **Ingrid Ochoa**, author webcomic *The Kiss Bet*, which has 1.5 million subscribers on Webtoon.



2022 AWARD WINNERS

Cartoon Crossroads Columbus has named the 2022 winners of awards that honor established creators and newcomers.



Keith Knight, the cartoonist behind the *K Chronicles* and *(th)ink* and the television series *Woke*, won the **Master Cartoonist Award**.

“By using humor, Keith has exposed the insecurities and hypocrisy of modern society for almost three decades now,” says CXC Artistic Director Jeff Smith, “His cartoons ring true because they are honest.”

Artistic director Jeff Smith presents Master Cartoonist Award to Keith Knight.

Trina Robbins and **Lee Marris** won the **Transformative Work Award** for their work as part of the *Wimmen's Comix* collective from the 1970s to the 1990s, and for their careers across media.

“Robbins’ and Marris’ groundbreaking work with *Wimmen’s Comix* collective truly defines Transformative,” said Caitlin McGurk, chair of CXC’s Awards Committee and curator of comics and cartoon art at the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum. “Their efforts paved the way for femme and queer creators whose essential voices are at the forefront of the industry today.”

CM Campbell presents Lee Marris and Trina Robbins with the Transformative Work Award.



2022 AWARD WINNERS

Cartoon Crossroads Columbus has named the 2022 winners of awards that honor established creators and newcomers.

Victoria Douglas won the **Emerging Talent Award** for their work creating *Cinnamon*, the story of a house cat having extraordinary adventures. Douglas also runs *Halftone Hospital*, a free repository of tools for comics production.

“From the kinetic way that Victoria Douglas illustrates, to their approach to printing, they seem to represent something new and electric in the zeitgeist of comics,” said CM Campbell, a member of the Awards Committee and a cartoonist.

The emerging talent award comes with a no-strings-attached \$7,500 prize provided by Cartoon Books.

Victoria Douglas accepts the Emerging Talent Award, presented by CXC co-founders Vijaya Iyer and Jeff Smith.



In addition to those three awards announced at the festival held Oct. 6-9, CXC’s organizers also presented the previously announced **Tom Spurgeon Award** to **Frederik L. Schott**, the writer, translator and manga scholar. The Spurgeon Award honors those who have made substantial contributions to the field of comics, but are not primarily cartoonists.

“Fred Schott’s contributions to cartoon art perfectly exemplify the example set by Tom Spurgeon for whom this award is named,” says Lucy Shelton Caswell, CXC co-founder and the founding curator of the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum. “His work expanded the world of American comics readers to include manga and its impact continues to grow.”

CXC Awards Committee chair Caitlin McGurk, CXC Board President Rebecca Perry Damsen and Frederik L. Schott, CXC 2022 winner of the Tom Spurgeon Award.





9

1 CXC Executive Director Jay Kalagayan, CXC board member Jack Beeler and CXC president Rebecca Perry Damsen at the opening night reception.



10

2 Attendees of the Talk & Teach "Taking The Pain Out of Drawing" hosted by Kriota Willberg in conjunction with AAEC.

3 Moderator Sydney Heifler interviews Wimmen's Comix artists Lee Marrs and Trina Robbins.

4 Attendees of the Friday night after party at Seventh Son, hosted by cartoonist MS Harkness.

5 CXC Expo on Saturday afternoon.

6 Moderator Shena Wolf hosts panel of newspaper comic artists including Peter Gallagher (Heathcliff), Steenz (Heart of the City), Jim Keefe (Sally Forth), and Barbara Brandon-Croft (Where I'm Coming From)

7 Special guest Myisha Haynes and her mother tabling at Haynes' booth at the CXC Expo.

8 Attendees of the Sunday morning queer brunch at the Columbus Metropolitan Library patio, hosted by Justin Hall.

9 Attendees of the Talk & Teach "The Magic Fish" hosted by Trung Le Nguyen.



11

10 Behind-the-scenes tour of the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum archives.

11 Exhibitor Jonathan Todd leading a children's autobiographical comics workshop.



12

12 Historical biography in comics panel featuring (from left to right) Grace Ellis, Nate Powell, and Scott Chantler.

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gateway film center

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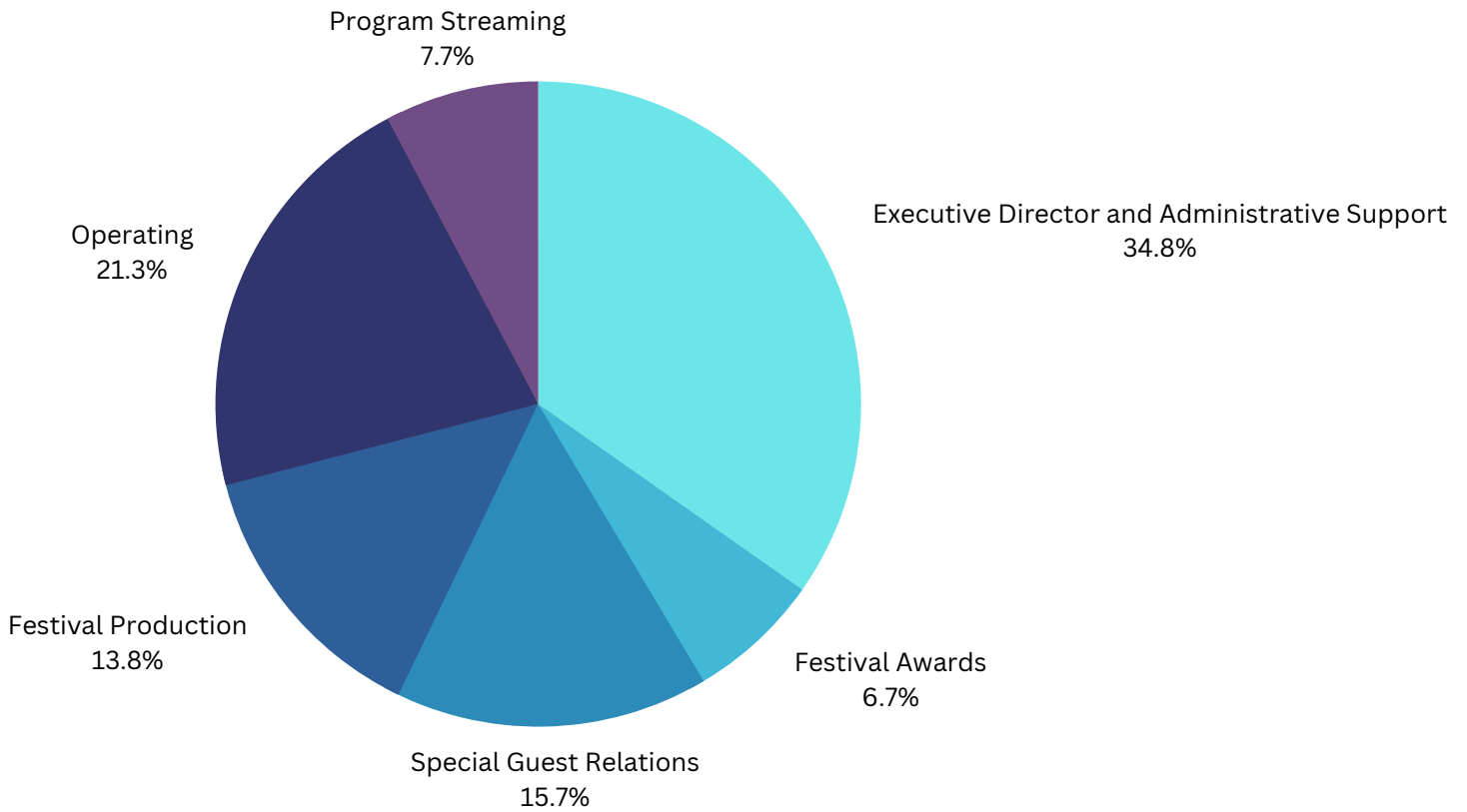
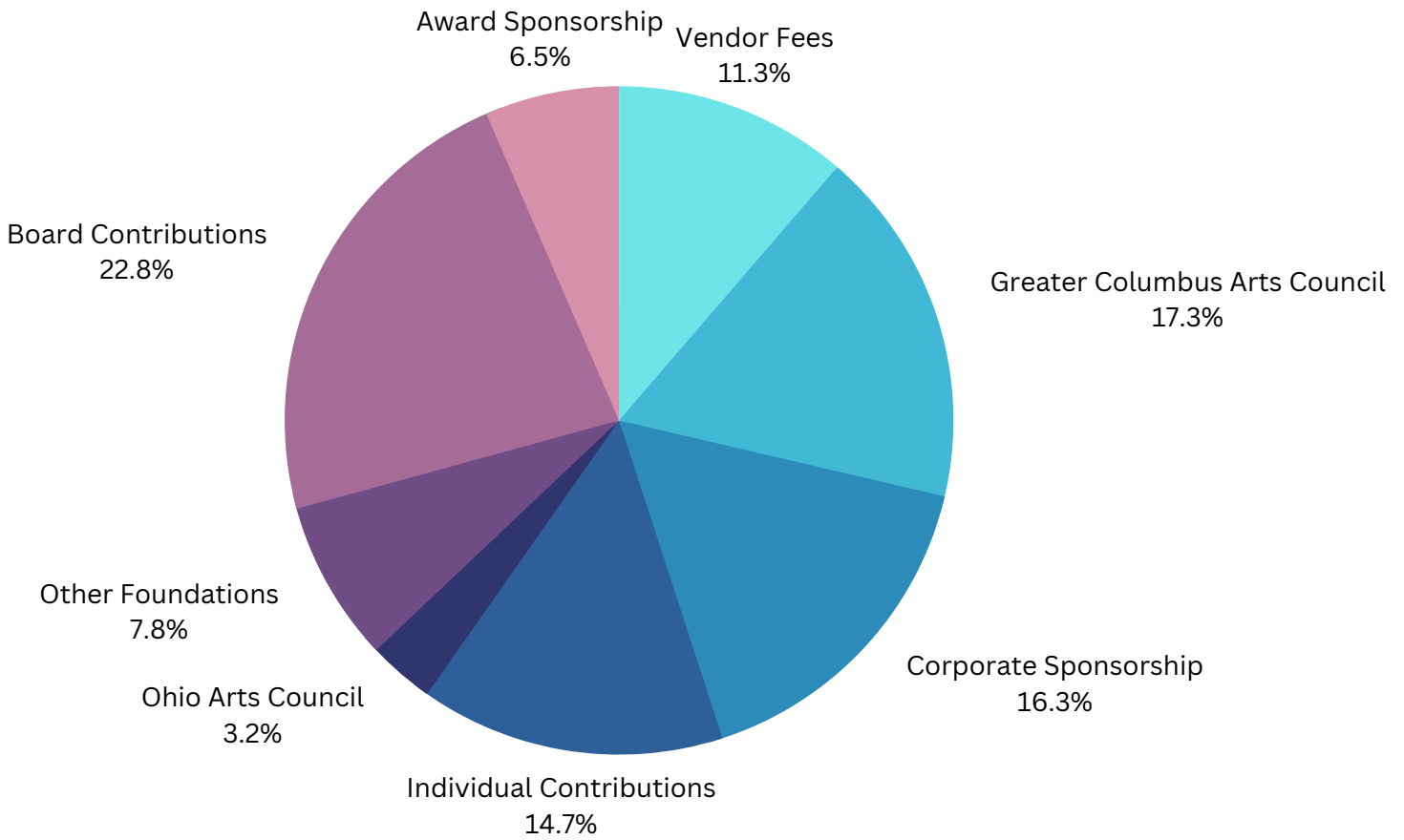
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* Denotes fund from
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CARTOON CROSSROADS COLUMBUS INCOME AND EXPENSES



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Lalo Alcaraz
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Grace Ellis
Grace Griffith
Jaime Hernandez
Dylan Horrocks
Francoise Mouly
Rafael Rosado
Katie Skelly
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Art Spiegelman
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2017 CONTINUED

Chris Sproule
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Alexander Stewart
Tillie Walden
Chris Ware
Signe Wilkinson
Connor Willumsen
Judd Winnick
Chip Zdarsky

2019 CONTINUED

Patrick McDonnell
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Terry Moore
The Nib
Dav Pilkey
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P Craig Russell
Frank Santoro
Jay Stephens
Tom Tomorrow
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2020 CONTINUED

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Spike Trotman
Mark Waid
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Shannon Wright
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2016

Sergio Aragones
Charles Burns
John Canemaker
Julia Gfrörer
Brandon Graham
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Ed Koren
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Mark Osborne
Stan Sakai
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Skottie Young

2018

Darrin Bell
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Olivia Jaimes
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Liniers
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