

# CARTOON CROSSROADS COLUMBUS

A COMICS, ART, AND ANIMATION FESTIVAL

# EXCE

2023



DEADLINE 500

ACTION CAT #1

AUTOBIO SHOMEN

# ANNUAL REPORT



## NOTE FROM JEFF SMITH

Hello again, everyone! Cartoon Crossroads Columbus 2023 is in the books, and it was a good one! We had terrific cartoonists and I heard many times that this was the best year yet. I think folks are now used to our schedule and used to popping all over the city of Columbus for the free four day art festival. And why not? Our partners offer up not only fantastic and important guests and programs, but beautiful settings, from the Columbus Museum of Art and the Columbus College of Art & Design to the Downtown Library, the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum and the Wexner Center for the Arts on the Ohio State University campus.

As some of you may know, I had a health scare at the very end of the summer and had to miss the festival, but I was able to follow along through videos and photos as well as talking to friends there. I want to thank everyone for their concern, cards and well wishes, and assure you I am 99% recovered, and will be back for next year, CXC's 10th anniversary! And we already have some amazing guests lined up!

See you there!

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



## NOTE FROM JAY B. KALAGAYAN

Part of the architecture of who we are is built on all the stories that we've consumed. Our favorite comic books, cartoon strips and animation have become part of our being. They are part of the foundation of who we are, how we think and how we interact with others.

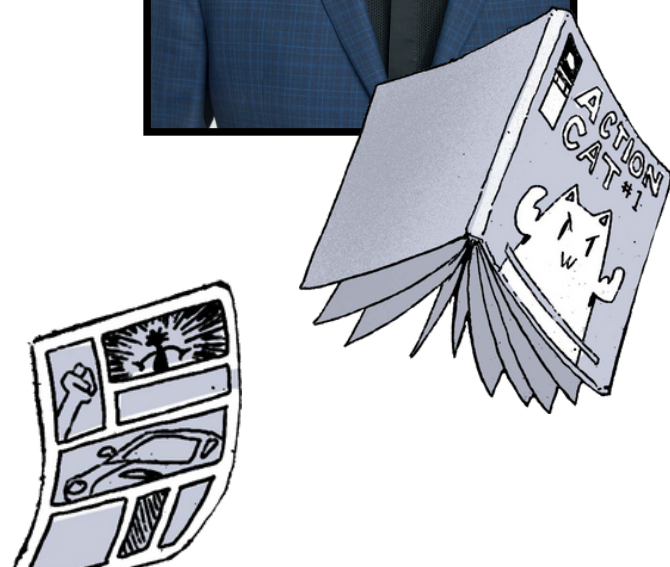
Think about all those stories for a moment. Stories you love. Stories you can picture in your head. We need to think about the stories that make up who we are. Then we need to think about who we want to be and explore the stories that will help us build a new foundation for our lives.

CXC provides materials to shore up your foundation with fresh and diverse stories.



A large, stylized handwritten signature of Jay B. Kalagayan in blue ink.

Jay Kalagayan  
CXC Executive Director



# THE STATS

**60** in-person events/activities

**13,203** total audience

**7,023** total online views for 2023 programming (as of 11/20/2023)

**97** artists paid for participation on panels/events

total paid to artists

**133** exhibitors in the expo

**50** NEW to expo in 2023

**43** Columbus based artists

# THE GUESTS

Derf Backderf  
Shelly Bond  
Tauhid Bondia  
Raeghan Buchanan  
Jessica Campbell  
Scott Chantler  
Brenda Chapman  
Daniel Clowes  
Keito Gaku  
Nicole Goux

M.S. Harkness  
Mars Heyward  
Jannie Ho  
John Jennings  
Denis Kitchen  
Calvin Reid  
P. Craig Russell  
Chase Schulte  
Joe Sutphin  
Raina Telgemeier

# MANGA AT CXC

Mangaka Keito Gaku and his editor Hidemi Shiraki spoke to Justin Hall and a packed public event at the Saturday night spotlight event at Columbus College of Art & Design. Keito Gaku talked about his creative process on his work *Boys Run the Riot* and *Aoba no Basket* as well as about being a trans manga artist in Japan. His editor Hidemi Shiraki shared insight in working with artists and the process of translating their work into English.

# CXC FOR FAMILIES

Our weekend Kids Track programming had record attendance, engaging children and families in cartoon-related activities. Creator-driven events were led by Raina Telgemeier, Jannie Ho, Steve Hamaker, Coni Yovaniniz, Rodrigo Vargas, Jerzy Drozd and Jessica Ruskin from the Charles M. Schulz Museum.

# ANIMATION AT CXC

Animation was in the spotlight at The Wexner Center for the Arts with DreamWorks Animation archivist Chase Schulte and a 20th anniversary screening of *Prince of Egypt* with co-director Brenda Chapman. To kick off the festival, we premiered the Ohio Animation Showcase at the Gateway Film Center featuring 10 Ohio-based artists.



Dave Filipi in conversation with Brenda Chapman at The Wexner Center for the Arts.

# 2023 AWARD WINNERS

Cartoon Crossroads Columbus has named the 2023 winners of awards that honor established creators and newcomers.



**Raina Telgemeier, the cartoonist whose graphic novel *Smile* helped to define a category of comics for young readers, won the Transformative Work Award.**

“With *Smile*, **Raina Telgemeier** changed the comics industry in wonderful ways,” said Shena Wolf, former director of comics development at Andrews McMeel Universal and a CXC Awards Committee member. “She made a deeply personal book that resonated to such a degree that its success shifted the way we talked about comics. *Smile* showed people who hadn't seen themselves in comics (as subjects or creators) that yes, comics were for them. Comics are for everybody. It widened the lens of comics (as understood by the general public), and did it with craft, humor, and heart.”

**Daniel Clowes, the groundbreaking alternative cartoonist whose works include *Ghost World* and *Monica*, won the Master Cartoonist Award.**

“**Daniel Clowes** is an artist that has helped to shape generations, reframing modern aesthetics and classic narratives with a technical prowess that was only matched by a boundless sense of humor,” said CM Campbell, a cartoonist and member of the Awards Committee. “As a storyteller Daniel Clowes reveals a special kind of truth. His work is frank in its framing of a subjective reality, a master in the craft of sharing his distinct point of view.”



# 2023 AWARD WINNERS

Cartoon Crossroads Columbus has named the 2023 winners of awards that honor established creators and newcomers.

Evan Salazar won the Newly Emerging Talent Award for works that include his self-published *Rodeo*, an anthology with memorable characters and a distinctive style.

“Using a narrative style that was familiar, yet strange, **Evan** is creating comics that make me curious about what will happen next,” said Chris Pitzer, former publisher of AdHouse Books and a member of the Awards Committee. “His talent for world-building is pretty exceptional.”

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



From left to right: Caitlin McGurk, CXC Awards Committee Chair, Evan Salazar, and Lucy Shelton Caswell, CXC co-founder

Calvin Reid was presented the Tom Spurgeon Award. the writer and editor. The Spurgeon Award honors those who have made substantial contributions to the field of comics, but are not primarily cartoonists.

“**Calvin** was one of the very first grown ups to get that comics are an art form, not a genre; they are a medium of literature,” says Vijaya Iyer, Cartoon Books publisher and CXC co-founder, “It took a pivotal figure like **Calvin Reid** to not only recognize the value of comics and graphic novels, but to use his position as a writer at the most important book trade magazine, *Publishers Weekly*, to shout it from the mountain top!”





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14

1. Comics graduate student panelists **Natalia Colón Alvarez**, **Sydney Heifler**, and **Morgan Podraza** with moderator **Andrew J. Kunka**.
2. **Josephine Culkin**, **Calvin Reid**, **Bill Rosarium**, and **Tauhid Bondia** at the CXC special guest welcome party.
3. Audience at *The Prince of Egypt* director **Brenda Chapman's** Q&A session.
4. Museum Coordinator at The Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum, **Anne Drozd**, interviews keynote speaker **Raina Telgemeier**.
5. Audience at **Raina Telgemeier** keynote.
6. **Irene Velentzas** interviews **Daniel Clowes** with closed captioning provided by PRI Court Reporting.
7. CXC Expo Saturday.
8. Audience at **Keito Gaku** keynote hosted by Columbus College of Art & Design.
9. **Ben Passmore** interviews **Raeghan Buchanan** at The Columbus Museum of Art.
10. Attendees at the queer brunch, hosted by The Columbus Museum of Art.
11. Attendee of CXC Exhibitor **Steve Hamaker's** coloring workshop for children.
12. **A.C. Esguerra**, **Sloane Leong**, and **Andrew Neal**, discuss their work with the Cartoonist Cooperative.
13. Fans get their books signed by Raina Telgemeier.
14. CXC Volunteer After-Party at Pins Mechanical Company.

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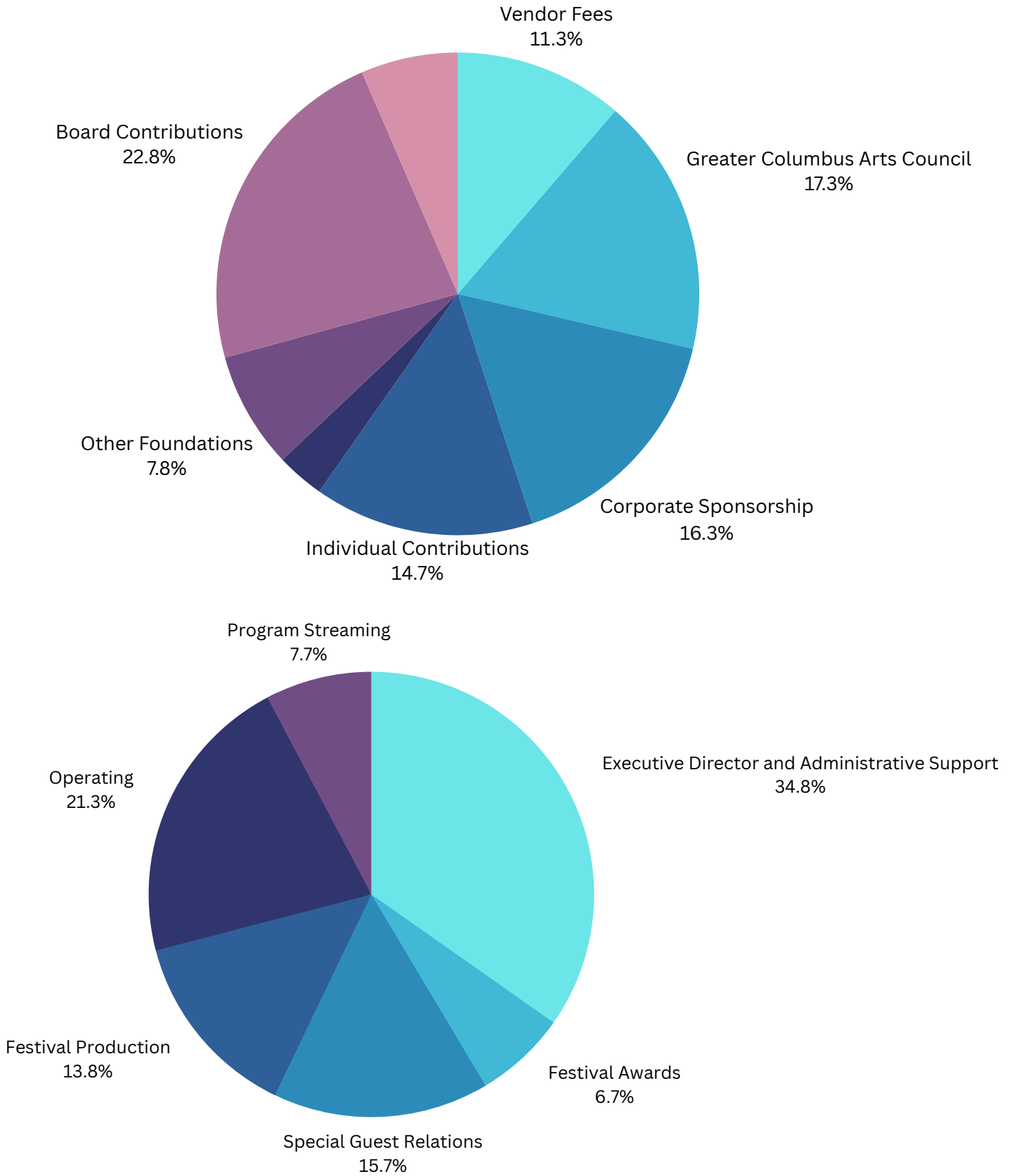
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Lexi Ramos  
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Grace Ellis  
Grace Griffith  
Jaime Hernandez  
Dylan Horrocks  
Francoise Mouly  
Rafael Rosado  
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Jeff Smith  
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Craig Thompson

**2016**

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Charles Burns  
John Canemaker  
Julia Gfrörer  
Brandon Graham  
Jay Hosler  
Ben Katchor  
Keith Knight  
Ed Koren  
Sacha Mardou  
Mark Osborne  
Stan Sakai  
Seth  
Raina Telgemeier  
Ann Telnaes  
Garry Trudeau  
Carol Tyler  
Ron Wimberly  
Skottie Young

**2017**

Dorf Backderf  
Peter Bagge  
Kyle Baker  
Lilli Carre  
Howard Cruse  
Kelly Sue DeConnick  
Kat Fajardo  
Emil Ferris  
Ann Marie Fleming  
Matt Fraction  
Kevin Huizenga  
Jarret J. Krosoczka  
David Mack  
Nilah MaGruder  
Mike Maihack  
Ann Nocenti  
Laura Park  
Mimi Pond  
Dana Simpson  
Chris Sprouse  
Leslie Stein  
Alexander Stewart  
Tillie Walden  
Chris Ware  
Signe Wilkinson  
Connor Willumsen  
Judd Winnick  
Chip Zdarsky

**2018**

Darrin Bell  
Brian Michael Bendis  
Jessica Campbell  
Sally Cruikshank  
Michael Deforge  
Liana Fink  
Matt Fraction  
Kelly Gallagher  
Roberta Gregory  
Dustin Harbin  
Olivia Jaimes  
Lynn Johnston  
Kazu Kibuishi  
Annie Koyama  
Hartley Lin  
Liniers  
Jason Lutes  
Richie Pope  
Keiler Roberts  
Jeff Smith  
Ngozi Ukazu  
Noah Van Sciver  
Charles Vess  
Kriota Willberg  
Georgia Webber  
Jim Woodring

**2019**

Association of American  
Editorial Cartoonists  
(AAEC)  
Natasha Alterici  
Ho Che Anderson  
Robb Armstrong  
Eddy Atoms  
Adebukola Buki Bodunrin  
Matt Bors  
MK Czerwiec  
Ezra Clayton Daniels  
Liana Fink  
Mary Fleener  
Eleri Harris  
Jaime Hernandez  
Kevin Huizenga  
Hellen Jo  
Terri Libenson  
Rachel Lindsay  
Mattie Lubchansky  
Patrick McDonnell  
Mike Mignola  
Carta Monir  
Terry Moore  
The Nib  
Dav Pilkey  
Hilary Price  
P Craig Russell  
Frank Santoro  
Jay Stephens  
Tom Tomorrow  
Georgia Webber

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Graham Annable  
Gabriel Bá  
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Josh Bayer  
Kate Beaton  
Jack Beeler  
Tara Booth  
Brian "Box" Brown  
David Brown  
Mike Cavallaro  
Miriam Centeno  
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Thierry Mornet  
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Peter Gallagher  
Tom Gauld  
Laura Harrison  
Myisha Haynes  
Mathew Klickstein  
Keith Knight  
Maia Kobabe  
Trung Le Nguyen  
MariNaomi  
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