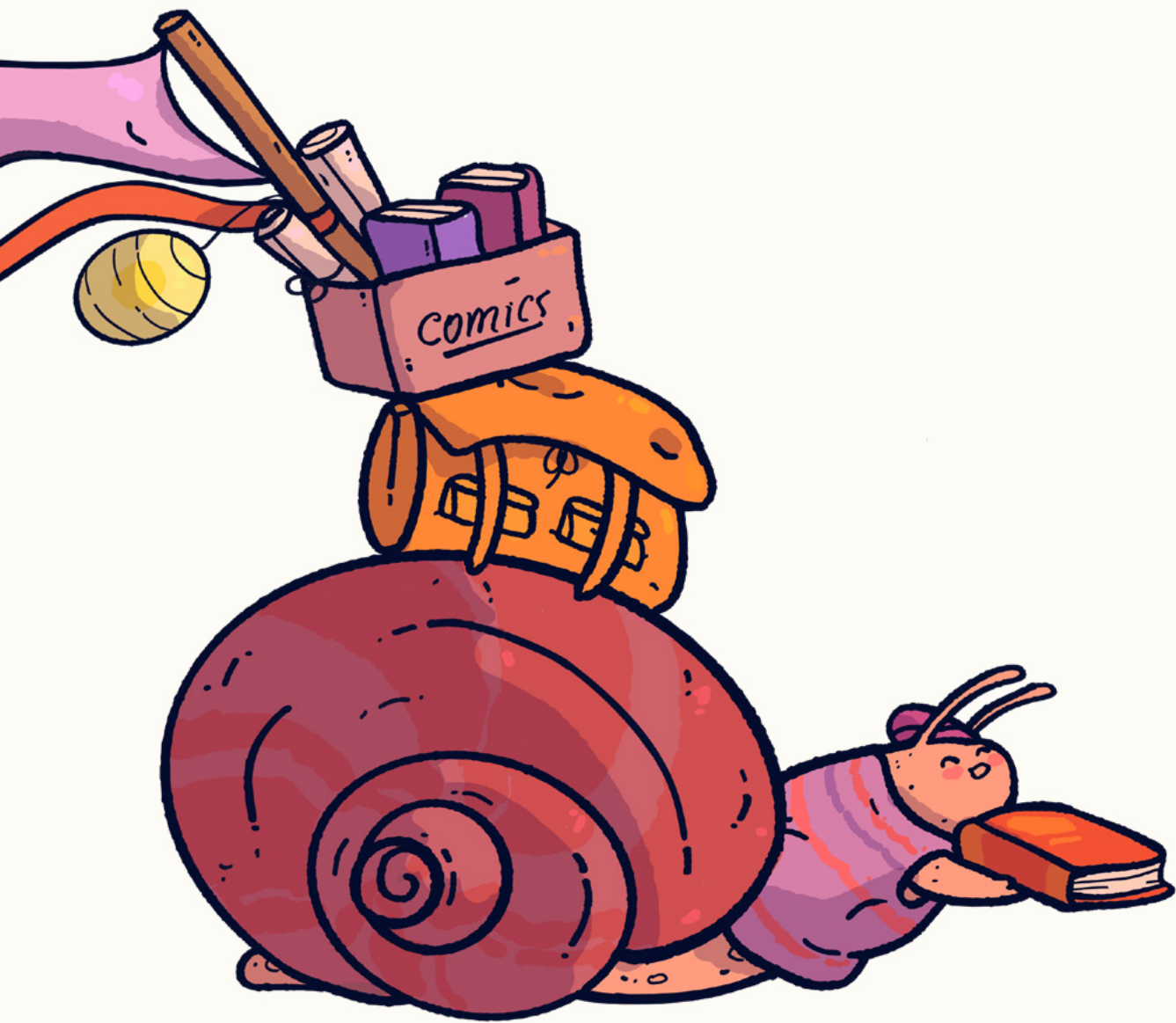




ANNUAL REPORT

 2025 Perth Comic Arts Festival



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

The Perth Comic Arts Festival acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation as the traditional owners of the land on which the festival operates, the sovereignty of which was never ceded, and pays respect to their elders, past and present.

CONTENTS

About PCAF	4
Chairperson Report	6
Programming	8
Secretary Report	10
Attendance	11
Market Hall	12
Creative Director	16
Tale Town	17
Communications	18
Partnerships & Projects	20
Other Events	22
Delegations	23
PCAF Stories	24
PCAF Academy	26
Treasurer Report	28
Partners	30
Sponsors	31

ABOUT PCAF

“PCAF shares its love for sequential storytelling with Perth in a free, creator focused event that’s all about making comics accessible for all ages.”

The Perth Comic Arts Festival is a not-for-profit organisation which works to foster, promote, and uplift the Western Australian comics community.

PCAF operates numerous free and accessible events throughout the year, including academic workshops, live comic readings, and, at the heart of all we do, an annual two day comic festival celebrating the diversity and passion of Western Australian comics.

Held in July each year, the Perth Comics Arts Festival weekend begins with the Academy Day, which features a packed program of talks and workshops where comic creators share and educate about the processes, theory and impact of comics creation and consumption.

Following this, the Market Hall Day showcases over one hundred local and visiting creators selling their original comic creations. Both days are free to attend and accessible to all.

PCAF also works to bring WA comics to the world stage through relationships with international comic festivals. The festival also hosts comic experts and creators from near and far who share their knowledge and passion with the WA community.

Entirely run by volunteers, all of PCAF’s activities are brought to life by passionate community members and supported through our Community Partners, Grants, and Sponsors.



Photos: Benjamin Loh

2024-2025 COMMITTEE

Campbell Whyte	Chairperson
Steven Martellotta	Secretary
Kristina Turner	Treasurer
Elizabeth Marruffo	Creative Director
Lola Baldsing	Deputy Chair
	Market Hall Director
Sarah Winifred Searle	Partnerships Director
Aśka	Programming Director
Stuart Medley	Grants Director
J. Harris	Communications Director
Dan Chambers	Senior Committee
Bre Manning	Senior Committee

Thank you to all who volunteered their time and skills to help the festival come to life.



CHAIRPERSON REPORT

2025 saw the Perth Comic Arts Festival continue its growth, collaboration and service to the comics community.

We continued to deliver programming and commissioning opportunities through the calendar year that supports and connects Western Australian comic makers. This includes our monthly PCAF Academy sessions as well as our PCAF Stories events.

Our meaningful partnerships continue to expand, with the State Library of Western Australia as our ongoing home for the festival weekend, we also continued our collaborations with the Centre for Stories to deliver their Hot Desk Fellowship and Spark Youth Program throughout the year, the Milktooth School of Art and Stories to support our emerging comic makers and Alliance Francaise with the delivery of teacher PD's and their first French Language comic competition and Tokyo Alley to deliver drop-in workshops.

We were invited to attend the annual Creative Australia Visiting International Publishers Program in Sydney to represent Australian comics to rights agents.

As a result of this opportunity, we developed the Western Australian International Rights Catalogue which will be an ongoing resource of local graphic novel works that are seeking international publication opportunities.



This catalogue was revised and then re-presented when PCAF delegates attended the Lakes International Comic Art Festival in England to network, deepen our knowledge of festival operations and promote Australian comics. While there, delegates also shared the most recent edition of TALE TOWN.

We again partnered with Trash Classics and Luna Cinema to present the spectacular, comic-adapted film, *Speed Racer* to audiences. PCAF commissioned a bespoke poster for the event and funded a limited edition run of prints that were used as give-aways at the event. This screening was the most highly attended in the history of Trash Classics.

Our partnerships have also extended to North Metropolitan TAFE, who announced a series of residencies, workshops and programs that

“The Market Hall recorded the highest number of exhibitors yet, with an especially notable increase in the number of exhibitors who were under 18 years old.”

will compliment and support PCAF and the creation of new comic works in the state.

Our annual Festival Weekend was celebrated on the ground floor of the State Library of Western Australia, which included our Market Hall, two exhibitions, and programming in the theatrette across the weekend.

The Market Hall recorded the highest number of exhibitors yet, with an especially notable increase in the number of exhibitors who were under 18 years old. A development that we anticipate will only increase in the future and we will need to provision support and resources towards.

We again invited international guests to take part in the Festival, with Lorena Alvarez Gomez from Colombia and Atsushi Kaneko from Japan bringing with them incredible skills, generosity and friendship. Their contributions to the festival expanded our offerings this year, with new Deep Dives –hands-on workshops being run during the week ahead of the festival.

Continuing our expansion and experimentation, PCAF held the first LOOK HEAR event, providing a place for comics and music to play together. This dynamic event served as the opening-night for the Festival.

PCAF's annual publication, TALE TOWN, returned with the theme 'Anger is an Energy'. The newspaper commissions and platforms emerging, established and veteran creators together in a publication that is distributed for free at events that PCAF attends at both nationally and internationally.

The annual PCAF exhibition that was commissioned as part of this year's program was *Gestalt Comics: The First Twenty Years* which celebrates the origins, trials and victories of Australia's most notable comics publisher across two exhibition spaces in the State Library of Western Australia.

Our marketing and promotion of the festival reached new heights, with increased banner signage throughout the CBD and a showcase of local talent on the Yagan Square digital tour. While our website received a refresh and we continue to gather vital data on our exhibitors and attendees which helps inform our future actions and priorities.

While PCAF continues to deliver on our core mission, which is to support, promote and connect Western Australian comics, our organisation is at a turning point. The quality and quantity of our programming continues to surpass even our own expectations, with our greatest challenge not being one of opportunities or ambitions, but of organisation and administration.

The ever-increasing operational workload is not always manageable by our limited team of who are essentially enthusiastic, amateur, volunteers. Our biggest job in the coming years is transitioning into a fully professional organisation with clear roles, responsibilities and the necessary accountability.

These goals will not be what is thought of as traditionally “fun”, but if we fail to do this, we jeopardise the future of this organisation. In order to secure the future of PCAF and the community it supports, we must pre-emptively face this challenge head on.

The future of PCAF is bright and the transformation and opportunity we have created for the local community is nothing compared to what we will be able to achieve with a further 9 years of progress.

Here's to another 9 years!

Campbell Whyte

2025 PCAF Chairperson



PROGRAMMING

The 2025 programming featured a brand new format of Deep Dives. This hands-on, limited participant workshop with our international guests allowed comic creators to get direct instruction and feedback from these accomplished artists.

On the Festival Weekend, highlights of the programming included hearing from the dynamic creative studio, Stick Mob and how they have been using comics to re-imagine Australia, challenging stereotypes, prejudices and envisioning a new future for the country.

Gestalt founders and creators also took to the stage to reflect on the past 20 years of publishing the best of Australian comics, including the lessons they've learnt and the challenges they've overcome.

As usual, the Comics Crush was the most popular Sunday event, with the VIP guests and local creators drawing live for a series of entertaining challenges.



INTERNATIONAL GUESTS

Atsushi Kaneko
Japan

Lorena Alvarez Gomez
Argentina

NATIONAL GUESTS

Stick Mob

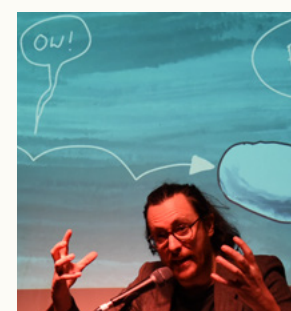
Declan Miller
Wendy Cowan
Seraphina Newberry
Alyssa Mason

Skye Ogden
Wolfgang Bylsma
Katie Houghton-Ward
Scott Wilson
Aude Yukiko



LOOK HEAR

LOOK Hear was a first-of-its-kind event, providing a place for comics and music to play together. Held at the Rosemount Hotel, the event served as the festival's opening night and featured comics-lead bands The Chantic and Sky Machine, joining Joshua Santospirito and local comic creators on stage.



Photos: Benjamin Loh & Sam Culbertson

SECRETARY REPORT

2025 was a landmark year for the Perth Comic Arts Festival, seeing great success with the flagship festival as well as providing free and diverse programming throughout the year.

PCAF continues to create opportunities for the Perth comics community to showcase and earn income from their work, with 2025 seeing more creators than ever before being served.

The 2025 PCAF festival was, by several measures, an undeniable success. Over the two days, the festival saw an roughly 6000 attendees, making excellent use of the additional space gained from last year, and still feeling cramped. 44% of attendees who filled in the survey were first-time PCAF attendees.

In 2025 the PCAF committee held 20 general meetings with a collective run time of 30.83 hours. The average meeting attendance has been 10 people, equating to approximately 308 hours of donated time spent in meetings organising the PCAF Festival. This does not account for subcommittee meetings or time spent on tasks outside of committee meetings.



The committee consisted of 9 chaired members, who received significant assistance from two senior committee members. The new committee structure introduced last year has been effective at partitioning responsibilities between members, and will be refined further heading into 2026. I would also like to note the contributions of Nina Dakin, who has been incredibly helpful in organising PCAF Stories events and will be joining the committee as shadow treasurer.

Looking ahead, I see two main challenges facing PCAF in 2026. The expanding workload for the committee is not a new problem, and will continue to be a challenge as PCAF begins integrating new members to assist in festival preparation. The second challenge will be the organisation making the transition from a small group of committed comics lovers to a larger and more structured organisation that stands as a landmark in both the Australian and international comic scene. The possibilities for the future are immense, and I am excited for another year of PCAF.

Steven

2025 PCAF Chairperson



Photos: Benjamin Loh

ATTENDANCE

Attendance to the 2025 Perth Comic Arts Festival was the highest it has ever been, with the PCAF organising committee estimating a total 6,000 attendees over the festival weekend.

Survey responses, while receiving a higher turnout than last year, still represent a small sample of total attendance figures. However, we can make some projections from these figures.



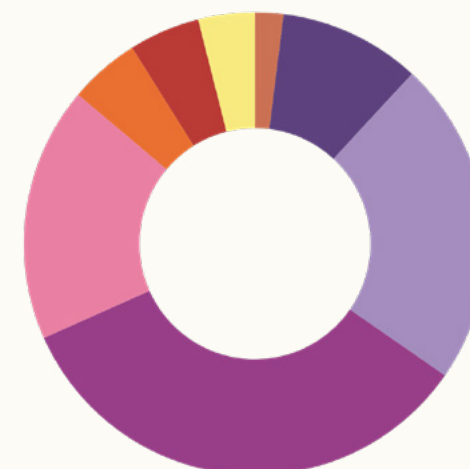
COMIC ENGAGEMENT



- Professional Comic Maker
- Hobbyist Comic Maker
- Comic Enthusiast
- Don't Engage Regularly

A majority of attendees identify as a comic enthusiast, however this category can overlap with comic makers of all levels.

AGE DEMOGRAPHIC



- < 12
- 13-17
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-45
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+

25-34 year olds continue to make up the majority of PCAF engagement, with ages either side almost matched.

MARKET HALL

The PCAF Market Hall has been experiencing continued growth with each progressive year, and 2025 has been no different.

In recent years the Market Hall applications have maintained a rate of 20% first time applicants, the increasing interest in the event reflected in the final exhibitor total growing from 109 to 129 since 2024. While growth is an ambition shared by many events, PCAF is dedicated to keeping the Market Hall as an artist alley exclusively for comic makers over diluting our focus for the sake of enticing more exhibitors. Our comics-centric curation only makes it all the more exciting when the number of artists in attendance increases.

These results point to success in our goals of raising the profile of the festival to attract experienced makers from home and afar, as well as encouraging new first time comic makers to start exploring the art form. An unexpected record set in 2025 was the Market Hall hosting 10 solo exhibitors (i.e. not exhibiting as part of an organisation such as Milktooth School of Art and Stories, or the Centre for Stories) under the age of 18, the most of any year yet.



PCAF prides itself on the Market Hall being accessible to comic makers at all stages of their career, and welcoming more of our youngest local artists promises a bright future for the Perth comics community.

The festival visitor attendance also jumped significantly in 2025, with an increase of 58% foot traffic. This growth has also contributed to the project total Market Hall spend increasing from \$112,000 in 2024 to around \$121,000 this year, or around \$20,000 spent every hour.



Photos: Benjamin Loh

“It is undeniable that the general public have an appetite for locally created original comics...”

Based on feedback from our exhibitors we have also estimated that around 4,600 to 5,100 individual comics went home with visitors, with 30% of surveyed exhibitors indicating they sold out of one or more titles. It is undeniable that the general public have an appetite for locally created original comics, and as PCAF continues to increase our marketing presence and community word of mouth we expect these figures will continue to climb.

A challenge ahead for future Market Hall's will be managing capacity. At the 2025 event it was apparent that the current size of the Market Hall, both in regards to exhibitors and visitors, is at capacity.

A reassessment of the layout of the Market Hall as well as engagement for a higher number of visitors will be needed, with exhibitors likely needing to be split over multiple floors of the venue to accommodate numbers comfortably and ensure a quality experience for all.

Between the 74 exhibitor survey respondents, a total of 101 new comics works were created specifically for the PCAF Market Hall, a staggering number to come from just over half of total exhibitors, with 89% of respondents “strongly agreeing” that participating in PCAF motivates them to create new comic work that they may not have made otherwise. More than just an economic opportunity, the Market Hall has continued to fuel the creative engine of local comic making. We believe that comics are an essential part of Perth’s cultural identity, and that this will only become more apparent with each new year of the festival.

Lola Baldsing
2025 Market Hall Director

2025 EXHIBITORS

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| A1 Gestalt | B29 Leah Addison | D15 Sarah Winifred Searle | E21 Safia Slawinski |
| A2 Comics on Country | C1 Pigeon Princess | D16 Can Yalcinkaya, the Graphic Scholar | E22 Nazario Whyte |
| A3 Art & Craft World | C2 Kaywinnit | D17 Kieran Alexander & Christopher Wood | E23 Teodor |
| A4 Activity Area | C3 Nathanael Whale | D18 Akreampuff | E24 Midnight Panda Comix |
| A5 Rabble Books & Games | C4 Ben Crappsley | D19 Eleri Harris | E25 Centre For Stories |
| A6 Guest Signings | C5 Ever's Art | D20 Aska | F1 Campbell Whyte |
| B1 PCAF Info Desk | C6 Sheydedart | D21 Soolagna Majumdar | F2 Elizabeth Marruffo |
| B2 fung draws | C7 Hannah Hanashiro | D22 Joshua Santospirito | F3 Milktooth School of Art and Stories |
| B3 Brenton e. McKenna | C8 Eden L* | D23 Glom Press | F4 Zoes Comics |
| B4 Rachel Coad | C9 KINROKU | D24 Stuart Medley | F5 feydeer |
| B5 Westerly | C10 Lanklongus | D25 Bruce Mutard | F6 Goblin Bane |
| B6 Wild North Comics | C11 Sparkly Sci-Fi | D26 Niina Aoki | F7 DEMONIK |
| B7 Xerox Days | C12 Grace Greenfeather | D27 ali illustrations | F8 Rory Woods |
| B8 The Illustration Club | C13 Small Town Spells | E1 Azurevoltage | F9 Crazy Angel Art |
| B9 Curtin Illustration Club | C14 Maha Malik Art | E2 Caramel Coda | F10 Fay |
| B10 Sponthanaeity | C15 Strange Creatures | E3 Glasses & Disasters | F11 Dragon Legacy |
| B11 George Rex Comics | C16 Sam / KindleSpark | E4 baileif | F12 Fascher |
| B12 Amplified Press | C17 Selachimorpha | E5 Zalienn | F13 Canismenace |
| B13 Skyfocx | C18 Skye Lupick | E6 RAT JAM | F14 KingyoCo |
| B14 Luke Milton and Lizzy Lang | C19 Panel Per Day | E7 eideticmoose | F15 eskrimko |
| B15 Martles Comics | C20 L.G. Veldenmire | E8 ScarandAChai | F16 Aw Shux! |
| B16 Languid Bones | D1 Ariel Slamet Ries | E9 radiostarkoi | F17 Laundry Press |
| B17 Nina's Comics | D2 Reimena Yee | E10 pegastars | F18 Izzy French |
| B18 so-PHINE | D3 Max Loh | E11 peripaws | F19 their dandelion |
| B19 CYBERFRANKIE | D4 Crys Kirk | E12 Charlene's Art | F20 harrinaut |
| B20 Clemency Comic | D5 ahmadhasanx | E13 Consulate General of Japan | F21 sketchysally |
| B21 Brepai | D6 Deku-Tri Arts | E14 Tokyo Alley | F22 cowdoy |
| B22 birdblitz | D7 JNG_GNJ | E15 lavmoi | F23 EmJay Tatts |
| B23 Jorden Allen-Barr | D8 Harriet Jane | E16 Linkraptor Art | F24 Sky Machine |
| B24 Jessica Robley | D9 Neet's Arts and Tales | E17 Gavin Aung Than | F25 Adam Yojimbo Comics |
| B25 Bagel Press | D10 Regina's Comics | E18 K. Turner Arts | F26 Leander D'Cruz |
| B26 Kathy Sarpi | D11 Danae McMiles | E19 Little Sapling Books | F27 MuddyLane Art |
| B27 StudioBeeDraws | D12 Elton Fernandes | E20 Paper & Palette | F28 POPPTARTZE |
| B28 Alex Chase | D13 Elton D'Souza ART | | F29 amiwaffletoday |
| | D14 Pete Correy | | |



CREATIVE DIRECTOR

The annual PCAF exhibition that was commissioned as part of this year's program was, Gestalt Comics: The First Twenty Years which celebrated the origins, trials and victories of Australia's most notable comics publisher across two exhibition spaces in the State Library of Western Australia.

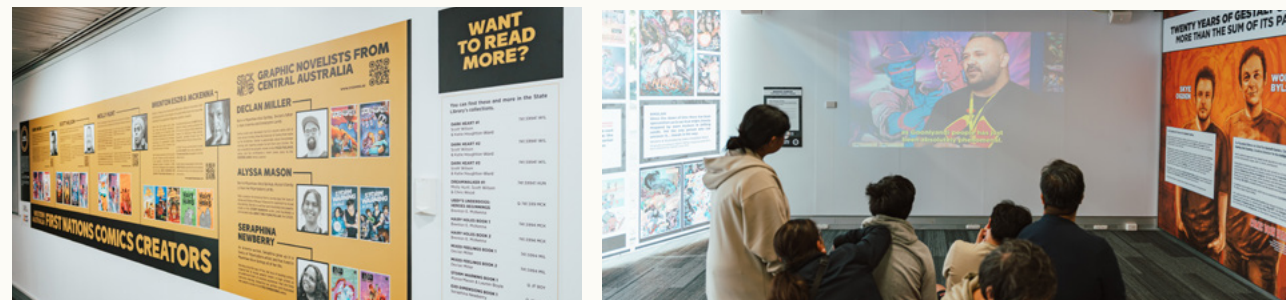
The history and achievements of Gestalt are remarkable, not just locally, but nationally, as one of the very few dedicated comic publishers in the country and one of even fewer to have made it happen for 20 years. The exhibition ran for seven months, and with the gallery location at the entrance of the Library, it meant every visit to the building got to experience the best of Australian comics on display.

Liz Marruffo

2025 PCAF Creative Director



PCAF 2025 Poster illustrated by Ali Marbeck



Photos: Benjamin Loh

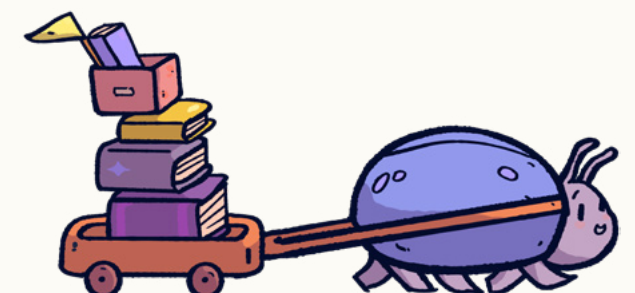
TALE TOWN



Tale Town Cover: Jordan Allen-Barr

PCAF's annual publication, TALE TOWN, returned with the theme, Anger is an Energy, commissioning and platforming emerging, established and veteran creators together in a publication that is distributed for free at events that PCAF attends at both nationally and internationally. With so much to be angry about in the world today, this issue challenged creators to consider what they do with the anger they feel. Where does it go? How can it be useful? Can it keep us safe? Can it fuel our creativity? Can it save the world?

Featuring Atsushi Kaneko, Campbell Whyte, Aw Shux! Comix (Lux Hannah Pemberton & Shen Zeng), Dandelion Chambers, Hanae Meyer, Caramel Coda, Link Parsons, Max Loh, Languid Bones, Eden Andrews, Ella Marriott, Al Sarich, S R Henderson, Sam Kindlespark, Jorden Allen-Barr, Steven Martellotta, Ali Marbeck, birdblitz, Mhairi Harris, Fascher, Stuart Medley, Lorena Alvarez Gomez.



COMMUNICATIONS

This year the Communications team explored opportunities to build PCAF's presence in the State Library and around Perth - marking a big step up in the festival marketing.

More investment was made into creative signage and opportunities for public engagement/interaction. A highlight was the comic photo wall which saw lots of use on the festival day.

Wayfinding signage is also increasing as an area of attention as attendance to the festival grows and the space occupied expands.

This year PCAF had the opportunity to showcase comic artwork from our guests and Committee on the Yagan Square Digital tower. Not only was this a great opportunity to promote the festival in the lead up, but it was a fantastic way to finish the weekend with a final showing of all the works to the artists on Sunday night.



Merch Photos: Bre Manning



Photos: Benjamin Loh



Photo: JHarris

PARTNERSHIPS & PROJECTS

2025 saw a number of new meaningful partnerships and projects, whilst cultivating our highly successful past collaborations.

We continued our partnerships with the Centre for Stories to deliver their Hot Desk Fellowship and Spark Youth Program throughout the year, the Milktooth School of Art and Stories to support our emerging comic makers, and Tokyo Alley to deliver drop-in workshops during their convention.

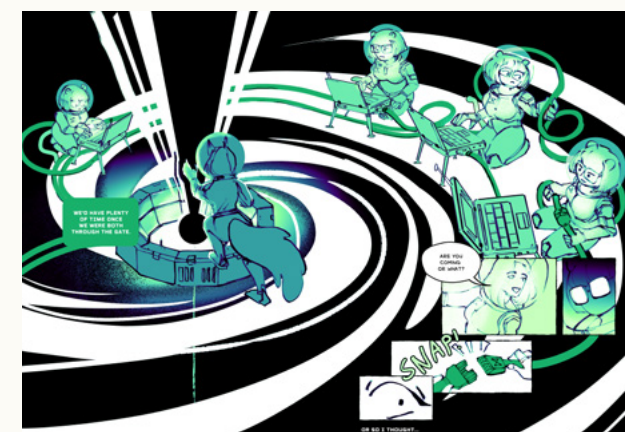
Our partnerships have also extended to North Metropolitan TAFE for the first time, who in conjunction with PCAF announced a series of residencies, workshops and programs that will compliment and support PCAF and the creation of new comic works in the state. We also worked with Alliance Francaise with the delivery of teacher PD's and their first French Language comic competition



COMIC CREATOR HOT DESK FELLOWSHIP

PCAF is proud to have collaborated with Centre for Stories, an inclusive literary arts and cultural organisation, on our second annual Comic Creator Hot Desk Fellowship! We accepted applications from Western Australian individuals who were both writing and drawing an original comic. The program provided a \$1500 stipend, \$200 printing allowance, CFS workspace, PCAF mentorship, and a free PCAF Market Day table, culminating in the print launch of the finished comic at our festival.

The 2025 Comic Creator Hot Desk Fellowship was awarded to Oscar McKay to work on their graphic-novel-in-progress, Avoidance. Over the festival week, Oscar performed a previously-completed zine to PCAF's lively Look Hear audience, then successfully launched their shiny new chapter on Market Day! Their rambunctious sci-fi comedy contributed to the joyful atmosphere of 2025's celebration theme.



Illustrations by Oscar McKay

SPARK YOUTH PROGRAM

As part of the Centre For Stories youth program, The Spark Project, young comic makers took part in a comics making mentorship run in collaboration with the Perth Comic Arts Festival.

This mentorship was run by Lola Baldsing who closely worked with four young creatives to develop their skills and original stories, with their hard work debuting at the PCAF Market Hall in the Figment Comic Anthology.



OTHER EVENTS

TOKYO ALLEY

WA's longest-running active anime convention and artist market Tokyo Alley partnered with PCAF again this year, trading exhibitor spaces at our respective events.

While there, PCAF spread word about our annual festival and year-round activities, and co-organised a hands-on comic-making activity with Millktooth School of Art and Stories.

The overlap of our communities continues to grow with 2025 being PCAF's first year welcoming a guest from Japan, and we look forward to continuing to collaborate in future.

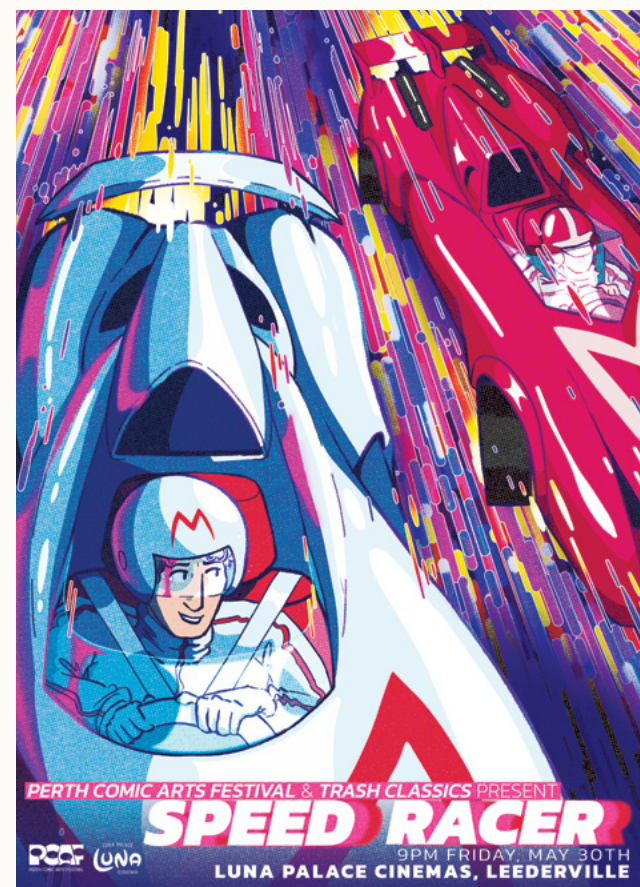


Illustration: Dandelion Chambers

TRASH CLASSICS

We were delighted to partner again with Tristan Fidler of VHS Tracking to co-host a screening of *Speed Racer* (2008) for the 2025 season of Trash Classics held at Luna Palace Cinemas in Leederville.

Speed Racer is an action-packed technicolour adventure based on the manga created by Tatsuo Yoshida in the sixties, later adapted into an anime that first broadcast on Australian screens in the sixties and seventies.

Directed by the Wachowskis, it follows racecar driver Speed Racer (actual name) as he uncovers a plot of corruption and mystery following the death of his brother, Rex Racer, while he navigates the world of competitive racing and corporate sponsorship. The world of *Speed Racer* is intensely saturated, maximalist and dizzyingly camp, with an incredible cast featuring Emile Hirsch, Christina Ricci, John Goodman, Sarah Sarandon and Matthew Fox.

The event was well-attended, with a fantastic cosplay contest and an energized crowd.

We're excited to collaborate with Tristan Fidler and Luna Palace Cinemas for Trash Classics again in 2026!



DELEGATIONS

VISITING INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHERS WITH CREATIVE AUSTRALIA

PCAF was honoured to be invited by Creative Australia to their 2025 Visiting International Publishers event, held in Sydney in May. Through VIPs, CA invites prominent professionals from around the world to meet with the local publishing industry here, enabling them to exchange knowledge, build relationships, and promote Australian literature.

PCAF coordinated a catalogue of Western-Australian comics projects to present in a special session of comic-enthusiast VIPs, and we promoted our community's incredible work by encouraging local and international publishers, editors, and agents to reach out.

Outcomes will be seen long-term, but we're pleased to already hear of direct results for our catalogue participants in the form of new literary agent representation and interest in featured comics pitches.

CORPORATE PLAN COVER

The cover illustration featured on Creative Australia's 2025-2029 Corporate Plan is none other than our 2025 PCAF poster imagery created by Ali Marbeck! We're over the moon that the Government of Australia's principal arts investment and advisory body chose this artwork for such prominent key materials. creative.gov.au/about-us/corporate-documents/corporate-plans



SYDNEY COMICS ART MARKETPLACE

PCAF attended the first ever Sydney Comics Art Marketplace (aka SCAMP) and distributed free copies of the 2025 TALE TOWN.

The festival is proud to support fellow independent comic celebrations around Australia and will continue to promote Perth as a comics destination on a national and international level.

LAKES INTERNATIONAL COMIC ARTS FESTIVAL

PCAF was represented at Lakes International Comic Arts Festival by three of the committee. The team brought copies of the WA comics catalogue and the 2025 TALE TOWN.

TALE TOWN in particular was distributed for free to attendees of the event and across the country at various comic stores.

PCAF STORIES

PCAF Stories are free live-reading events that transform comics into compelling performance art, hosted at the State Library of WA Theatre, and the Shoe Bar.

They provide an opportunity to spotlight and celebrate the remarkable range of comics being created by our local super-talented artists right here in WA.

In 2025, PCAF delivered two PCAF Stories events: the adult “After Dark – Alien Edition” in May and “Dangerous – Kids Edition” in November.



Photos: Benjamin Loh



8 May

AFTER DARK: ALIEN EDITION

Presenters: Luke Milton and Lizzy Lang, Izzy French, Sophie Richmond and Eden Andrews, Frankie Stevo, Coda Owens, Nina Dakin, as well as MCs Nina Dakin and Aśka.

Audiences were taken on a journey through UFO encounters, intergalactic disputes, quests for self-discovery, and striking visual stories exploring alienation, strangeness and wonder.

This After Dark event took place in the evening and was curated specifically for an adult audience at an 18+ venue.



9 November

KIDS: DANGEROUS EDITION

Presenters: Kylie Howarth, Aśka, Scott Pritchett, Leah Addison, Steven Martellotta, as well as MCs Nina Dakin and Aśka.

The session was filled with laughter, gasps and squeals, and with plenty of audience participation, as the crowds were plunged into the world of dangerous comics. The event also featured a hands-on workshop, along with a mini-market where audiences could pick up copies of the artists' work.



PCAF ACADEMY

This year continued the much-loved PCAF meetups, held on the first Sunday of most months in the State Library of WA's Geographe Room. These regular gatherings extended PCAF's presence across the entire year, providing a welcoming space for connection, collaboration and skill-sharing among comic creators at all stages, from emerging artists to established professionals.

Each free session included an artist talk and practical workshop activities, encouraging participants to explore a range of approaches to making comics. The impact of these monthly meetups continues to be reflected during the annual festival weekend, where both exhibitors and attendees presented completed comics that had begun life through the Academy's monthly sessions.

2 February

MAKING COMICS USING CREATIVE LIMITATIONS

with Steven Martellotta

Steven explored how creative limitations can be used to keep comics projects achievable and on track. Participants discussed scope, time management and practical strategies for increasing productivity while still making ambitious and satisfying work.

2 March

TYPOGRAPHY MASTERCLASS

with Nathanael Whale

Local illustrator and designer Nathanael Whale led a deep dive into typography in comics. The session covered hand lettering speech bubbles, setting tone through type choices, and creating impactful sound effects that truly popped off the page.

6 April

AUTOBIO COMICS

with Sarah Winifred Searle

Sarah Winifred Searle facilitated a workshop on autobiographical comics, examining how personal stories can be developed in both loose, journal-style formats and polished long-form works. Participants explored examples and completed guided creative exercises.

4 May

DRAWING THE BODY IN ACTION

with Chris Wood

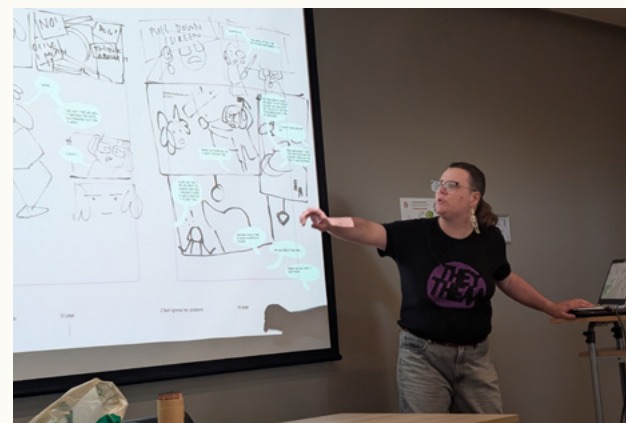
Comic artist Chris Wood introduced the fundamentals of figure drawing and anatomy, with a focus on movement and storytelling. Participants applied these principles across different styles, learning how to frame the body effectively for comics.

1 June

PRE-CAFF: PREPPING FOR PRINT

with The Illustration Club

The Illustration Club walked participants through preparing comics for print, including page setup, bleed, file formats and colour settings. The workshop provided practical guidance for anyone planning to print work for PCAF or future projects.



3 August

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

with Steven Martellotta

This session marked the beginning of a new PCAF year, reflecting on the 2025 festival before turning that inspiration into action. Participants took part in creative exercises and planning activities to kickstart new comics projects.

7 September

STAYING ON TRACK

with Eden Andrews and Sophie Richmond

Eden Andrews and Sophie Richmond shared their approaches to maintaining motivation and building sustainable workflows for long-form comics. The session focused on practical tools, collaboration and communication to help creators stay focused and productive.

5 October

GOLDEN COMIC WRITING TIPS

with Nina Dakin

Nina Dakin unpacked her process for writing comics of all sizes, from zines to full scripts. Participants learned techniques for keeping dialogue fresh, structuring stories, editing effectively, and pairing words with strong visual choices.



2 November

HUMOUR IN COMICS

with Oscar McKay

Oscar McKay led a lively session on making comics funny, examining what makes audiences laugh and how pacing and timing shape humour. Participants explored playful strategies to loosen their practice and bring more comedy into their work.

7 December

SILENT COMICS

with Jorden Allen-Barr

Comic-maker Jorden Allen-Barr introduced the world of silent comics, drawing on examples from history and his own award-winning work Manta. The workshop explored visual storytelling without words and guided participants through creating their own silent narratives.



TREASURER REPORT

The Perth Comic Arts Festival is known as a home-grown event that shines the spotlight on local, national and now international comic artists, allowing audiences from across Australia to engage with comic works inside and out.

It was no different this year, due to the hard work of the committee, the networks that surround and support them, and of course the community that has stood by us, through thick and thin, and that continues to grow alongside the festival.

We had the highest attendance over the festival weekend so far, as well as consistent attendance at monthly PCAF Academies and PCAF Stories events. Our partnership with the State Library of Western Australia has expanded our horizons and the size of the Market Hall, allowing more artists to table and

sell their comics than ever before. We also got back in touch with our roots with a comics exhibition, showcasing that comics aren't just about physical books but storytelling.

The festival was able to achieve so much in 2025 due to the amount of grant funding we received. Our grants team persisted and put in many hours to write the best grant applications so we could have the highest amount of successful grants yet. With 4 individual grants totaling close to \$110,000, the committee was aware of our responsibility to the community to continue to uplift them but also continue to improve from previous years.

While grant funding made up the foundation of the festival's financial strength, there were other vital income streams that helped fund important parts of the festival weekend.

Table payments from the Market Hall help cover the cost of table hire as well as the printing of artist badges. There was also another round of PCAF-branded merchandise featuring mascots designed by this year's poster artist Ali Marbeck. However, the focus for merchandise is more towards community outreach and from feedback over financial gain. This is the same with our memberships, allowing members of the community to know and be a part of everything PCAF first.

There were even two new forms of income streams: our Containers for Change account, where anyone can donate their 10c can refunds to the festival, and receiving donations via our Humanitix ticketing system. We had a rise in individual donations through both options totaling over \$300.

It should be noted that there has been less financial stress on the festival this year due to multi-year grant funding from the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (formerly DLGSCA) and Creative Australia. Our established grants team has also been very on-top of upcoming grants and deadlines so they deserve a huge thanks.

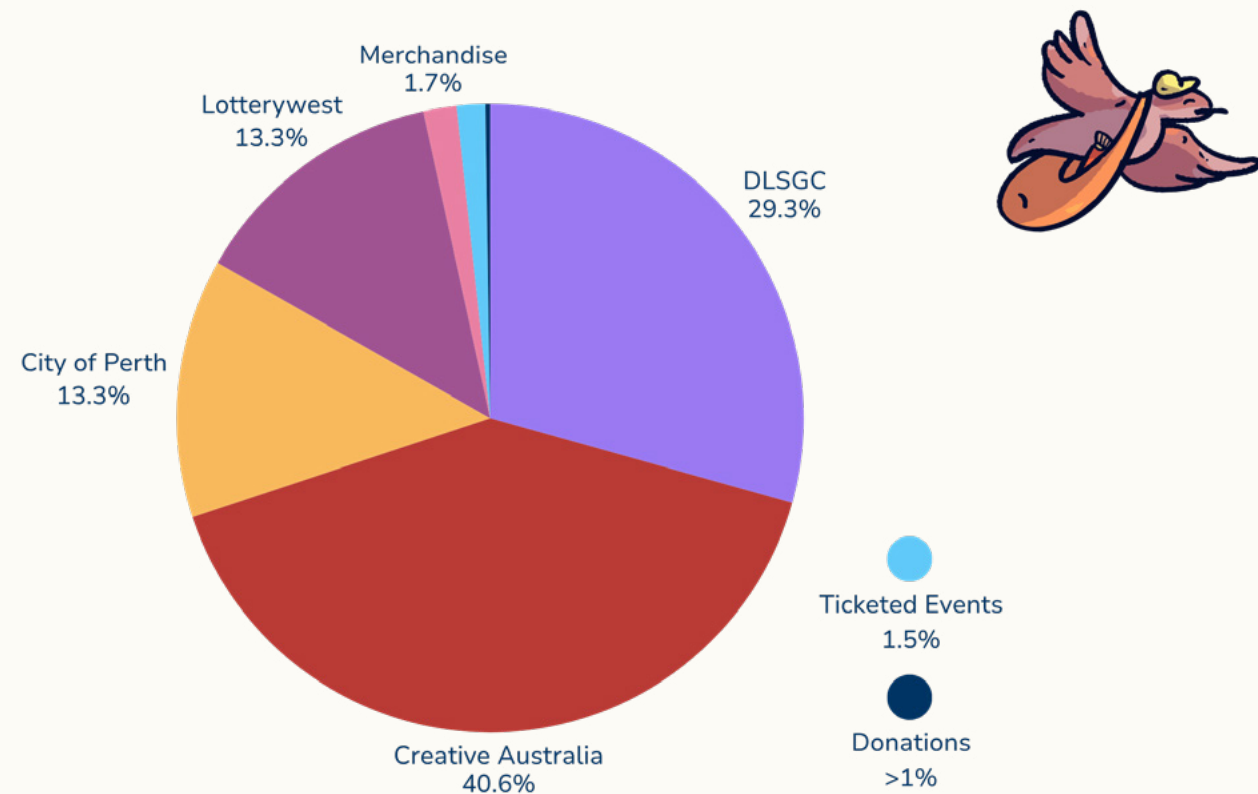
Our established connections with partners such as the City of Perth and LotteryWest have also reduced this stress.

All of the money and the committee's hard work goes into upholding the festival's mission of giving back to the community. Recent partnerships with Centre for Stories has led to a comic artist sponsorship in the lead up to the festival. Consistent paid opportunities like PCAF Academy allow comic artists & groups to run workshops and be fairly compensated for their work. The festival also provides paid opportunities to local, domestic and international artists to be featured in our annual TALE TOWN newspaper.

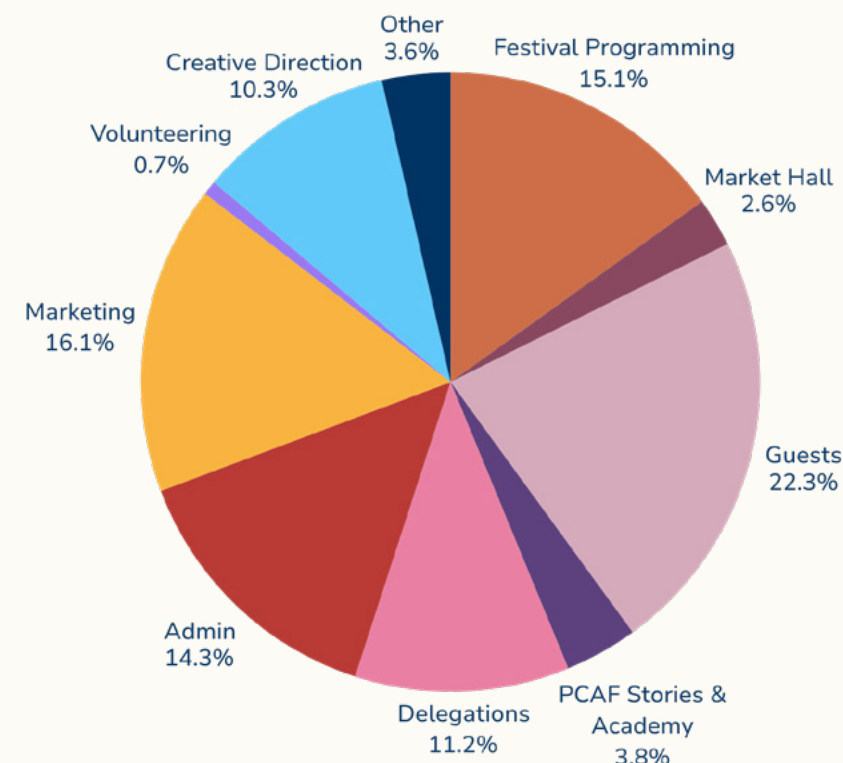
In many ways, PCAF can continue to grow as a festival, but it's also important that the festival continues to be a reliable example of a domestic comics event for up and coming events across Australia. PCAF continues to shine bright and illuminates a bright path for the future, continuing at a steady pace from both the committee's dedication and a stable financial threshold.

Kristina Turner
2024 PCAF Treasurer

INCOME SOURCES



EXPENSES BREAKDOWN



Year	Funding
2021	\$10,000
2022	\$20,000
2023	\$15,000
2024	\$93,000
2025	\$107,000

PARTNERS



THE STATE LIBRARY OF WA

PCAF is incredibly grateful to SLWA for hosting our 2025 event, and providing a venue for our year-round activities.

THE ILLUSTRATION CLUB

The Illo Club brings together Perth Illustrators for hang outs, activities and collaborative publishing. This year the Illo Club ran a Pre-CAF event, giving tips to exhibitors on how to run their stall on Market Day. The advice was especially tailored to PCAF's set up, and many exhibitors expressed that it was helpful for the preparations.

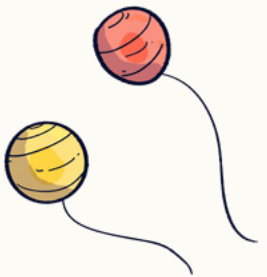


COMICS ON COUNTRY

Comics on Country is a not-for-profit organization that supports First Nations creators to tell their stories through comics, with facilitated titles published through an imprint of Gestalt Comics.



SPONSORS



PCAF extends its gratitude to our 2025 sponsors and funding bodies. Their continued financial support enables PCAF's growth and stability.



Australian Government



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA





PERTH COMIC ARTS FESTIVAL

www.pcaf.org.au

@perthcomicartsfestival

