

EVENT SCHEDULE LEGEND

Day & Start Time

Title	Room
<i>Moderator, Panelist(s)</i> Description (Duration Time*) *Note: All panels will be for 1 hour durations unless otherwise notated at the end of the description, with the exception of Film Room Events which vary.	

EVENT SCHEDULE

Friday 4:00 PM

Netherstorm <i>Thunderhead</i> A new unique, fantasy RPG by Thunderhead. (4 Hours)	Greenfield — Gaming
Paint and Take <i>Dean Martelle, Linda Martelle</i> Take some time from the con and make a little masterpiece gaming miniature that you can take with you when you are done. (3 Hours)	Great Room
Ravenloft - Pathfinder <i>Thomas Boice</i> Journey into the Legendary Demiplane of Dread using Pathfinder rules and see whether you can withstand the horrors of the night or merely fall victim to its predations. 4-10 players. Characters provided. (10 Hours)	Greenfield — Gaming
Under Where?!... <i>Fred Lathrop</i> Come join the ultimate dungeon crawl through the Ruins of Undermountain. Do you dare enter the playhouse of the mad wizard Hallaster? He's having a tea party and you're invited as "honored" guests. This is a massive magical dungeon where players can come and go at Hallaster's whim. Come join us for as long or as short as you like. All characters are pre made and ready for you to play. 2-8 players (10 Hours)	Greenfield — Gaming

Friday 5:00 PM

2015: Reality vs. Back to the Future <i>Sam Lippert, Cynthia Chestek, Andrew Drummer</i> How's the real world shaping up against the 2015 we saw in Back to the Future? What's cooler about reality than the vision we had then?	Huron
B4: Beads, Balloons, Bubbles and Badges <i>Larc Bogdan</i> Play with balloons and bubbles or make a beaded creation and decorate your badge.	KidFusion
Back to the Future Part II Marty McFly has only just gotten back from the past, when he is once again picked up by Dr. Emmett Brown and sent through time to the future. Marty's job in the future is to pose as his own son to prevent him from being thrown in prison. Unfortunately, things get worse when the future changes the present.	Henry Ford — Film
Dumb Questions 2015 <i>Myke Cole, Jim C. Hines, Mary Robinette Kowal, Aaron Thul, Diana Rowland</i> A panel where the sillier the question, the better. Please show up ready to try to stump the panel with goofball queries, or just set up a good joke to see what is done with - or to - it.	Michigan — Big Top
Gadgets and Apps for Writing <i>Elizabeth Shack, Christian Klaver, Douglas Hulick, Tobias Buckell</i> Scrivener, Evernote, writing books on phones and tablets!	Allen Park
Magic The Gathering <i>Kevin King, Alex Brandt</i> Learn how to build your own MTG deck, learn the basics of the game and play against other teens.	Windsor — TeenFusion
The Next Big Thing in YA <i>Lara Zielin, Susan Dennard, Jason Sanford, Joe Abercrombie</i> First, it was vampires. Then, it was dystopian future. What will be the next big topic to flood the YA market?	Southfield

Friday 5:00 PM Continued

Visual versus Textual Reading/Intelligence

Dearborn

Doselle Young, Peter V. Brett, Candra K. Gill, Phillippe McNally

Most movies/shows are judged by critics on their textual intelligence - the plot, the dialogue, etc. But visual intelligence is also important, and often missed in professional criticism. Tumblr memes spend days going over the tiniest visual cue in Captain America, while Pacific Rim is called "a dumb movie" - how can we improve our visual intelligence?

What About Peaceful Societies?

Erie

Kameron Hurley, Annalee Flower Horne, Saladin Ahmed, James Frederick Leach, Steven Erikson

Utopias are often described to be perfect, peaceful societies. Peaceful societies in Sci-Fi are almost without fail a reference to enforced peace and a situation to be escaped from - the dystopic novel. But what happens to peaceful societies that aren't part of a dystopia world? Can any society truly be peaceful? And what's the conflict worth writing about in an inherently peaceful society?

Friday 6:00 PM

Book Monsters and Other Placekeeping Tools

KidFusion

Larc Bogdan, Lisa Garrison-Ragsdale

Make bookmarks of all kinds of monstrous shapes.

Dragon's Den

Rotunda

Brian Decker, Anna Carey, Amy Zrnich, Chloe Zrnich, Dave Klecha, Angie Rush, John Davis

The Ann Arbor Science Fiction Association Board wants to hear how you will help take ConFusion into the future! Small grants available for particularly promising ideas!

Every Creature (Real and Fantastical) Poops

Dearborn

Rowena Cherry, Cindy Spencer Pape, Lucy Kennedy, Philip Kaldon

You may have read the book Everyone Poops, but it's so human-centric. What about mermaids, centaurs, and other fantastical creatures? Let's see if we can analogize from real species to arrive at a theory of fantastical pooping. (Caution: conversation may stray into food, sex and gestation.)

Game: People's Glorious Revolutionary Adventure

Warren

Bill Korsak

The Glorious Revolution is Coming! Somewhere in the North American Complex, a Communist Controlled Complex Population (CCCP) toils selflessly under the benevolent ruler of the Big Red One, Tovarich Computer, to bring the banner of Communism to other Alpha Complexes everywhere. A game for 30 or more trouble shooters.

Magic The Gathering

Windsor — TeenFusion

Kevin King, Alex Brandt

Learn how to build your own MTG deck, learn the basics of the game and play against other teens.

Reading Ron Collins

Model T — Boardroom

Ron Collins reads from his works.

Science v. Fiction: A discussion between John Scalzi and Dr. Cynthia Chestek

Michigan — Big Top

John Scalzi, Cynthia Chestek

Scalzi writes about controlling bodies remotely, and Dr. Cynthia Chestek studies the interaction between bodies and machines. Come listen to them talk about their respective work, what is possible now, and what might be possible in the future.

What We're Reading Now

Southfield

Amy Sundberg, Justin Howe, Jackie Morgan, Brian McClellan

Writers are almost always avid readers, and being in the business sometimes allows more insight into new and exciting authors, series, or just ideas that different people are playing with. If you've looked around and wondered what's good that's out now and in the near future, this panel may give you a new slew of books to track down.

Whose Cartoon Is It Anyway?

Allen Park

Jim C. Hines, Bill Bryan, Matt Feazell, Michael Boursaw, Bill Messner-Loebs

A cartoonist face-off — the audience gives the panel of cartoonists a situation to draw. Cartoonist #1 draws half of it - Cartoonist #2 finishes it and adds a punchline!

Friday 7:00 PM

GURPs on Demand

Bill Korsak

Quick improv RPG sessions, a perfect introduction for folks that have never tried role-playing games before. All items will be provided. 2-6 players

Greenfield — Gaming

Lino-block Art Demo

John Benson

2 hour demo of designing and producing linoleum block prints by John Benson (2 Hours)

Rotunda

Opening Ceremonies

Welcome to Back to the ConFusion! Meet our GoHs and special guests.

Michigan — Big Top

Move to the Music

Lisa Garrison-Ragsdale

Come make some musical instruments, a dance stick, and do some freeze dancing.

KidFusion

Roll your Role

Brian R. Bay

How to roll a character for a role playing game.

Windsor — TeenFusion

Stardust

Based on the book by Neil Gaiman. In a countryside town bordering on a magical land, a young man makes a promise to his beloved that he'll retrieve a fallen star by venturing into the magical realm. A simple trip turns into a haphazard adventure involving witches, sky pirates, and royalty.

Henry Ford — Film

Friday 8:00 PM

D&D 5.0

Thunderhead

Dungeons & Dragons immerses you in a world of adventure. Explore ancient ruins and deadly dungeons. Battle monsters while searching for legendary treasures. Gain experience and power as you trek across uncharted lands with your companions. The world needs heroes. Will you answer the call? (4 Hours)

Greenfield — Gaming

Dessert Reception

Karen Lord, Monte Cook, Shanna Germain, Aaron Thul, Heather Dale, Cynthia Chestek, Joe Abercrombie, Steven Erikson, Ted Chiang

Great Room

A meet and greet with our GoHs. Mix, mingle, and enjoy some sweet treats.

Ghosts of SyFy Past

Julie Winningham, Philip Kaldon, Aset, Steve Drew

Come reminisce about the actual science fiction SyFy used to show, and talk about the network's plans to get back to its science fiction roots.

Warren

Habitat

Matt Arnold

This is an unpublished but highly-playtested prototype. Weather chips are drawn from a bag to fill the Sky track. Each chip names one specific player to execute its action, so players will try to fill the bag with their own chips in order to take more actions than their opponents. Each chip, in clockwise order, allows its player to add or remove chips from the game; or adjust the order of chips on the Sky track; or put their own carnivores, herbivores, and plants on the Earth board encircled by the Sky track. The lifeforms chase each other, flee, eat each other, or freeze in place, depending on the Weather chip in the Sky track above their space. Timing is everything. Can you get the weather chips, carnivores, herbivores, and plants of your color to align in the right places at the right times? (2 Hours)

Greenfield — Gaming

Howard Scrimgoeur Concert

Howard Scrimgoeur

A long-time filker and filk fan, and member of the Filk Hall of Fame from the Toronto area, Howard has a deep knowledge of the history of the music of fandom. He support his singing with a traditional bodhran.

Fairlane

Introduction to Netherstorm

Paul Jones, Donald Jones

Come learn about Netherstorm, a new unique, fantasy RPG by Thunderhead. We'll discuss system mechanics, original races, our spell creation chart, and other elements that give the player freedom in character creation and development.

Allen Park

Friday 8:00 PM Continued

Netherstorm

Greenfield — Gaming

Thunderhead

A new unique, fantasy RPG by Thunderhead. (4 Hours)

Roll your Role

Windsor — TeenFusion

Brian R. Bay

How to roll a character for a role playing game.

Urban Fantasy Authors Interview

Southfield

Jackie Morgan, Courtney Allison Moulton, Susan Dennard, Michael R. Underwood, Diana Rowland

Jackie Morgan interviews Courtney Allison Moulton, Susan Dennard, Michael R. Underwood, and Diana Rowland.

Friday 9:00 PM

Books You Read as a Kid that Screwed You Up for Years

Michigan — Big Top

Karen Lord, J.C. Daniels, Jen Talley, Wesley Chu, Whitney Ross

Clan of the Cave Bear, VC Andrews, the *wrong* Piers Anthony book... how screwed up were some of the books you picked up before you could drive? How did you overcome it? And what books are screwing up the next generation?

Eureka 7: Good Night, Sleep Tight, Young Lovers

Henry Ford — Film

Renton, son of scientists, and Eureka, a girl who can't live under the sun, are raised together when very young and become very attached to each other. One day, Eureka is taken away. Powerless at the time, Renton vows to rescue her. He enters the military and is soon assigned to the Independent Youths Unit 303 of the First Mobile Forces thanks to his exceptional performance alongside his Nirvash, a bio-mechanical armor/control system. Unknown to Renton, there is a plot to extinguish the alien invasion that is currently happening. It involves not only him, but Eureka too.

Fermilab, Particle Physics, and You

Allen Park

Bill Higgins

CERN may be the leader in accelerator physics, but Fermilab is ramping up to be the world leader in neutrino physics. Bill Higgins tells us all about the Long Baseline Neutrino Experiment and what they hope to find.

Friends of Bill W

Model T — Boardroom

How the **** Do I Make This???: Stump the Costume Experts

Warren

Mary Robinette Kowal, Suzette Mariotti, Alex Drummer, Kevin McLeod

A lively and popular discussion returns! Come ask a panel of experienced costumers your toughest questions about how to build oddball, unique, or just plain difficult things, from articulated wings to suits that light up when you talk.

Mary Sue and the Fake Geek Girls

Southfield

Mari Brighe, Delilah S. Dawson, Aset, Cherie Priest

Let's talk about our favorite female characters and female fans (and maybe a word or two about why fandom keeps trying to pretend they're not as awesome as we all know they are).

So This Is Your First ConFusion

Rotunda

Dave Klecha, Brigit Bradakis, Anna Carey

Welcome to your first ConFusion! To keep your actual confusion to a minimum, let us tell you what we're about and what we have to offer you this weekend!

Theme Circle: Fairytales and Legends

Fairlane

Heather Dale

Calling all minstrels to share tunes celebrating your favorite magical, mythical, and mysterious creatures and stories with special guest Heather Dale.

Where Batman Went Wrong

Dearborn

Jay S. Ridler, Bill Messner-Loebs, Michael Marcus, Jason Sanford

Many popular comic book characters have been with us for 50 or more years. Some have been reinvented multiple times to keep up with fads and changes in society. What makeovers have worked, and which have been deservedly short-lived. What characters are due for make-overs?

Friday 10:00 PM

Habitat

Greenfield — Gaming

Matt Arnold

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Open Filk

Fairlane

Keep the musical magic going until we all fall over.....

Reading Bradley P. Beaulieu/Michael R. Underwood

Model T — Boardroom

Bradley P. Beaulieu and Michael R. Underwood read from their works.

What Makes a Sex Scene Suck

Southfield

Shanna Germain, Selest deLaney, J.C. Daniels, Delilah S. Dawson

What are the sex scene offenses that lead to epic eye-rolling, and how can they be overcome?

Friday 11:00 PM

Game: People's Glorious Revolutionary Adventure

Warren

Bill Korsak

The Glorious Revolution is Coming! Somewhere in the North American Complex, a Communist Controlled Complex Population (CCCP) toils selflessly under the benevolent ruler of the Big Red One, Tovarich Computer, to bring the banner of Communism to other Alpha Complexes everywhere. A game for 30 or more trouble shooters.

Log Horizon

Henry Ford — Film

By its eleventh expansion pack, the massively multiplayer online role-playing game Elder Tale has become a global success, having a following of millions of players. However, during the release of its twelfth expansion pack: Novasphere Pioneers, thirty thousand Japanese gamers who are all logged on at the time of the update, suddenly find themselves transported inside the game world and donning their in-game avatars. In the midst of the event, a socially awkward gamer called Shiroe along with his friends Naotsugu and Akatsuki decide to team up so that they may face this world which has now become their reality along with the challenges which lie ahead.

Saturday 12:00 AM

Netherstorm

Greenfield — Gaming

Thunderhead

A new unique, fantasy RPG by Thunderhead. (4 Hours)

Numenera

Greenfield — Gaming

Thunderhead

Set in a far, far distant future, the *Numenera* RPG puts a new spin on traditional fantasy, creating something unique to reinvigorate the imagination of gamers everywhere. Player characters explore a world of mystery and danger to find leftover artifacts of the past: bits of nanotechnology, the datasphere threaded among still-orbiting satellites, bio-engineered creatures, and myriad strange and wondrous devices that defy understanding. *Numenera* is about discovering the wonders of the worlds that came before, not for their own sake, but as the means to improve the present and build a future. (4 Hours)

Saturday 1:00 AM

Neppu Kairiku Bushi Road (After Dark)

Henry Ford — Film

The story takes place in a time when the world is in the pits of despair after being ravaged by a poison called "shinobi" that came to earth via an asteroid. The people run away to the place called "Kairiku," a place that used to be the bottom of the ocean. Here, the people try and protect themselves against the effects of the poison. In such a world, there was a single light of hope. The "Holy Weapon Giga Road" and the legendary warrior "Yagyuu" are needed in order to counter the effects of the poison. In order to save the world, Ame, a princess of a fallen nation, stands up in order to save the world. (Mature Content: Viewer Discretion is advised)

Saturday 2:30 AM

Attack on Titan (After Dark)

Henry Ford — Film

Several hundred years ago, humans were nearly exterminated by giants. Giants are typically several stories tall, seem to have no intelligence, devour human beings and, worst of all, seem to do it for the pleasure rather than as a food source. A small percentage of humanity survived by enclosing themselves in a city protected by extremely high walls, even taller than the biggest of giants. Flash forward to the present and the city has not seen a giant in over 100 years. Teenage boy Eren and his foster sister Mikasa witness something horrific as the city walls are destroyed by a super giant that appears out of thin air. As the smaller giants flood the city, the two kids watch in horror as their mother is eaten alive. Eren vows that he will murder every single giant and take revenge for all of mankind. (Mature Content: Viewer Discretion is advised)

Saturday 4:00 AM

Assorted Gaming

Greenfield — Gaming

Thunderhead

Come join Thunderhead Games for some late night or early morning gaming. Play something in the game library or bring your own, they'll play just about anything. (4 Hours)

Saturday 5:30 AM

ReBoot

Henry Ford — Film

Inside of your computer is a world you've only dreamed of. A small system/city known as Mainframe is watched over by a "living on the edge" guardian named as Bob. With the help of the work-a-holic Dot Matrix and her hyper active little bother, Enzo, they protect Mainframe from viruses and games. As their lives grow more chaotic by the nanosecond, Bob becomes a part of their family and makes the city his home. Yet what starts off as casual battles and teasing of the viruses changes into a serious threat that could cost Bob, Dot, Enzo and their friends not only their lives, but Mainframe as well.

Saturday 7:00 AM

Geek Parent Meet Up

ConSuite

Meet other parents in the fandom community. Talk about the triumphs and hazards of geeky parenting. You bring the bottles, we'll provide the caffeine.

Saturday 8:00 AM

D&D 5.0

Greenfield — Gaming

Thunderhead

Dungeons & Dragons immerses you in a world of adventure. Explore ancient ruins and deadly dungeons. Battle monsters while searching for legendary treasures. Gain experience and power as you trek across uncharted lands with your companions. The world needs heroes. Will you answer the call? (4 Hours)

Megaman NT Warrior

Henry Ford — Film

The year is 200X and everyone is now connected to the Cyber Network. People carry their own PET (Personal Terminal) and are paired up with an artificial intelligence program called a NetNavi (or NetNavigator). Computers have turned the world into a bright and shiny utopia but there's always trouble in paradise. While the invention of the PET and NetNavi has brought great benefits to the world, computer hacking, virus spreading and other high-tech crimes are becoming a major problem. A sinister organization by the name of World Three has appeared and they've vowed to destroy this technological wonderland. Enter our young hero, Lan Hikari, an intensely curious and cheerful fifth grader. Synchronized with his NetNavigator, MegaMan, he becomes a super-charged dynamo. In and out of the Net, Lan and MegaMan do their best to thwart World Three's never-ending quest to take over the world!

Saturday 9:00 AM

Author D&D

Great Room

Peter V. Brett, Myke Cole, Diana Rowland, Wesley Chu, Douglas Hulick, Joe Abercrombie, Jim C. Hines, Alexander Kammer

Come watch as some of your favorite authors join together in a rousing game of Dungeons & Dragons. During the game we ask that you refrain from interjecting or disrupting the players. (3 Hours)

Stretching

Ontario

Gabrielle Aumei

Start your morning with a session designed to show you how and when to stretch, to ease pain and improve energy.

All Your Data Are Belong To Us

Huron

Candra K. Gill, Randy Bradakis, Elizabeth Shack, Bill Higgins, Richard Herrell

What is "the internet of things?" How smart do we really want our devices to be? What will society look like when whole systems of objects talk to each other to shape our lives? And who controls the data our things collect?

Building a Better Dragon

Dearborn

Christian Klaver, Philip Kaldon, Cinda Williams Chima, Steve Buchheit

No two writers imagine the same dragon. How would yours be different? Flying, fire, temperament, teeth: what makes a good dragon?

Game: People's Glorious Revolutionary Adventure

Rotunda

Bill Korsak

The Glorious Revolution is Coming! Somewhere in the North American Complex, a Communist Controlled Complex Population (CCCP) toils selflessly under the benevolent ruler of the Big Red One, Tovarich Computer, to bring the banner of Communism to other Alpha Complexes everywhere. A game for 30 or more trouble shooters.

How to Like Problematic Things

Erie

Jim C. Hines, Phillippe McNally, Amy Sundberg, Sarah Gibbons, Aset

Lord of the Rings. A Song of Ice & Fire. Scott Pilgrim vs. the World. Many of us like things that are deeply problematic! Liking these works doesn't (necessarily) make you a jerk. How can we like problematic things and not only be decent people, but good allies and activists? How does one's background matter? How does one address the problems? This panel will discuss how to own up to the problematic things in the media you like, particularly when you feel strongly about them.

Kaffeeklatsch with Heather Dale

Model T — Boardroom

Heather Dale

Join our Music Guest of Honor for coffee, tea, and conversation. Limited to 10 participants. Sign up at OPS.

Nura: Rise of the Yokai Clan

Henry Ford — Film

This story is about Rikuo Nura, a kid that is 3/4 human and 1/4 yokai. He lives in a house full of spirits alongside his grandfather who is the leader of the yokai. Rikuo is destined to take over his grandfather leadership but his human side has no interest. Rikuo is just a normal kid who has no interest to become the leader of yokai.

So This Is Your First ConFusion

Allen Park

Dave Klecha, Brigit Bradakis, Anna Carey

Welcome to your first ConFusion! To keep your actual confusion to a minimum, let us tell you what we're about and what we have to offer you this weekend!

Staying Sane while Sluicing through Slush

Southfield

Scott H. Andrews, Christine Purcell, Justin Howe, Ferrett Steinmetz

How do you get through slush piles and find the gold?

Teen Ink Workshop

Warren — TeenFusion

Lara Zielin

Calling all teen writers! Are you curious about what publishing options are out there for kids your age? Do you wonder where to find a group of writers with whom you can share your work? Are you worried that a publishing option you've seen is a scam? Never fear! Young-adult author Lara Zielin has tips and tricks for how to start sharing your work with the world, and how to avoid pitfalls in the process. You're never too young to think about your publishing possibilities! (2 Hours)

Under Where?!...

Greenfield — Gaming

Fred Lathrop

Come join the ultimate dungeon crawl through the Ruins of Undermountain. Do you dare enter the playhouse of the mad wizard Hallaster? He's having a tea party and you're invited as "honored" guests. This is a massive magical dungeon where players can come and go at Hallaster's whim. Come join us for as long or as short as you like. All characters are pre made and ready for you to play. 2-8 players (6 Hours)

We Have Always Fought (In Real Armor)

Michigan — Big Top

Annalee Flower Horne, Gabrielle Aumei, Dave Klecha, Heather Gutterman, Cynthia Chestek

When it comes to armor, women in genre fiction tend to get the short end of--well, everything. We'll look at real women's armor from history through the present day, and discuss how to design science fiction and fantasy armor for women that's as impressive as it is protective.

Saturday 10:00 AM Continued

When Bad Writing Is Good Writing

Windsor — KidFusion

M.H. Mead

We want to write the best story we can, but sometimes our best isn't good enough...yet. Come learn why rough drafts are awesome, unfinished work is okay, and the first thing we write down is always the best thing, because it's finally out of our heads and on paper! This workshop will include fun activities and plenty of encouragement for young writers.

Saturday 11:00 AM

Authors Who Game

Erie

Leah Bobet, Cindy Spencer Pape, Cherie Priest, Rowena Cherry, Jay S. Ridler

Authors talk about their favorite games, of any type.

GURPs on Demand

Greenfield — Gaming

Bill Korsak

Quick improv RPG sessions, a perfect introduction for folks that have never tried role-playing games before. All items will be provided. 2-6 players (3 Hours)

Hey Where's My Script?

KidFusion

Alex Brandt

Improvisation games to encourage imagination and creativity.

Reading Carrie Harris/Tom Doyle

Windsor

Carrie Harris and Tom Doyle read from their works.

Reading Monte Cook/Shanna Germain

Rotunda

Monte Cook and Shanna Germain read from their works.

Researching the Imaginary

Dearborn

Sarah Gibbons, Jen Talley, Michael DeLuca, Brigid Collins, Courtney Allison Moulton

How do we research things that don't exist? Librarians and writers share their tips and tricks.

Sparring with Swords and Shields, Spears, and Viking Dane Axes

Ontario

Heather Gutterman, Doug Scholl, Michael Spagnuolo, Taylor Watkins, Doug Tobin

Polaris Fellowship of Weapons Study and Self Defense will demonstrate fighting techniques as they spar using Western European swords, shields, glaives, spears, knives, and the Viking Danish Long Axe.

The Other BMI: A Talk About the Brain-Machine Interface with Dr. Cynthia Chestek

Michigan — Big Top

Cynthia Chestek

Our Science GOH discusses her work and knowledge on how brains and machines can interact, and what it means for society.

Time Travel Devices, Doors, and Deus Ex Machinas

Southfield

Philip Kaldon, Ferrett Steinmetz, Andrew Zimmerman Jones, Laura Resnick

How to travel through time (in literature and media).

Workshop - Beginning Voice

Fairlane

Mark Bernstein

Never had a voice lesson? Come learn some of the basic stuff that singers do, from breathing to projection to diction. Participants only, please.

Saturday 12:00 PM

All About Numenera and The Strange

Michigan — Big Top

Monte Cook, Shanna Germain, Colin McComb

Come talk with our Gaming Guests of Honor about their award-winning RPGs Numenera and The Strange.

Characters We Love to Hate

Windsor — TeenFusion

Diana Rowland, Jason Sanford, Delilah S. Dawson

What characters have you read or watched that you really don't like but still want to know more about them?

Curing the Common Cold

Dearborn

Catherine Shaffer, Rowena Cherry, Julie Lesnik, Cynthia Chestek, Howard Scrimgoeur

Will we ever cure the common cold? What about the common cancer?

Dramarific Duct Tape

KidFusion

Sarah Jean Meyer

Duct tape is not just for taping ducks feet to the floor. You could make a hat or tie and so much more!

Saturday 12:00 PM Continued

Diversity in [blank]

Huron

Leah Bobet, Candra K. Gill, Sarah Gibbons, Aaron Thul, Mari Brighe

Issues of race, class, gender, identity, orientation, generation and geography are among the most important conversations being had today both within and across a broad range of fandoms (SFF, comics, gaming, cosplay, etc.). How do we navigate these discussions in a way that is useful and inclusive in increasingly diverse and global fandoms?

Fantasy Authors Interview

Southfield

Jackie Morgan, Brian McClellan, Wesley Chu, J.C. Daniels

Jackie M. interviews Brian McClellan, J.C. Daniels, and Wesley Chu

From Circle to Stage

Fairlane

Michael Nixon, Jason Neerenberg, Mark Bernstein

How does singing on stage in front of an audience differ from singing in an open circle? What adjustments do you have to make to your performance?

Historical Weapon Techniques vs. Stage Combat

Ontario

Heather Gutterman, Doug Scholl, Michael Spagnuolo, Taylor Watkins, Doug Tobin

Polaris Fellowship of Weapons Study and Self Defense will demonstrate the difference between stage combat and historical weapon techniques as they spar using Western European swords, shields, glaives, and spears. A variety of training and steel weapons will be displayed.

I Suck

Erie

Jim C. Hines, Merrie Haskell, Myke Cole, John Scalzi, Robert J. Bennett

A panel of authors play "dueling suck" with their own works, trying to see who can best generate a vacuum.

Iron Artist

Great Room

Bill Bryan, John Benson, Ken Redington, Matt Feazell, Michael Boursaw, Mike Kucharski, Richard Smith, SEVENTEEN17JEWELS, Bill Messner-Loebs

Drawing/sculpture isn't usually a performance art, but Iron Artists show how they work while creating a piece of art (or craft) on the assigned topic. (3 Hours)

Netherstorm

Greenfield — Gaming

Thunderhead

A new unique, fantasy RPG by Thunderhead. (4 Hours)

Night of the Necromancer - Pathfinder

Greenfield — Gaming

Paul Krausnick

Life was peaceful for the Sharpfang tribe of kobolds till the necromancer moved in to the ruins nearby. Necromancers bring adventurers and adventurers are trouble for everybody. Can the tribe's mightiest kobolds drive him out before the adventurers find out about him? 4-6 players (4 Hours)

Phases of the Moon

Warren

Bob Trembley

Come see our lovely Moon, featuring beautiful imagery from the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter! Bob Trembley discusses lunar phases, features, and formation, as well as a short history of lunar exploration.

Secret Histories and Alternate Universes

Allen Park

Ferrett Steinmetz, Courtney Allison Mouton, Laura Resnick, Ron Collins, Jay S. Ridler

How do you take our world and build out from it? Simply add dragons to the Napoleonic wars, or create a history of secret witches running the American Revolution?

Storytelling Beyond the Novel

Rotunda

Tom Doyle, Michael DeLuca, Christine Purcell, James Frederick Leach, Bradley P. Beaulieu

Looking beyond the three-act structured novel, beyond standard English, and beyond the U.S., what are other forms and traditions of storytelling? How do they get adapted, incorporated, and added to the canon?

Saturday 1:00 PM

#weneeddiversebooks

Dearborn

Justin Landon, Cinda Williams Chima, Saladin Ahmed, Delilah S. Dawson, Myke Cole

This group was formed to address the need for all types of diversity in children's literature. The hashtag has been used to highlight examples of diversity in books across many genres. Come discuss the ways that social media movements can be used to effect real change in literature, and hear about some recommendations for books highlighting diverse characters and settings.

Saturday 1:00 PM Continued

Bugs, Magic and Protein

Erie

Kameron Hurley, Julie Lesnik, Cindy Spencer Pape

We share the planet with quintillions of insects, so it's no surprise that they have an unfathomable range of uses. Let's make the versatility of insects work for us, from a food source to a magic system.

Current State of Short Fiction

Rotunda

Catherine Shaffer, Scott H. Andrews, Ron Collins, Elizabeth Shack

An update on the state of short fiction in the fantasy/SF world - who's writing, publishing, and reading?

Galaxy Game / Unbound Book Launch

Michigan — Big Top

Karen Lord, Jim C. Hines

Karen Lord and Jim C. Hines introduce their new books!

Hands on Introduction to Computer Programming

Windsor — TeenFusion

Richard Herrell

Get an introduction to the basics of computer programming and see if the IT bug bites you.

Introduction to Netherstorm

Warren

Paul Jones, Donald Jones

Come learn about Netherstorm, a new unique, fantasy RPG by Thunderhead. We'll discuss system mechanics, original races, our spell creation chart, and other elements that give the player freedom in character creation and development.

Romancing the Vulcan

Southfield

Wesley Chu, Whitney Ross, Amy Sundberg, Tom Doyle

Emotionally restrained heroes were popular in the age of reason; after Romanticism swept Europe, Jane Austen's Darcys and Knightleys were the only emotionally Vulcan-esque heroes left in media for quite some time. From Darcy/Lizzie on the page, to Spock/Uhura on the screen and Spock/Kirk in our fanfic, we love human passion rubbing up against Vulcan reason. What are other models of this dynamic? What's so appealing about loving a Vulcan... or being one?

So You Want to Make Games, Huh?

Huron

Carrie Harris, Monte Cook, Shanna Germain, Colin McComb, Philippe McNalley, Rick Smith

From board games, to tabletop RPGs, to computer games and app-based games, come talk about the ins-and-outs of creating your own worlds and adventures.

Solar Observations

Meeting Point in Front of Gift Shop

Bob Trembley

Observe the Sun with Bob Trembley's telescope! You'll be able to see sunspots, prominences, and other surface features with 2 solar-safe telescopes, as well as discuss many other features of our nearest star with Bob. (2 Hours)

Super Smash Bros Wii U (Free Play)

Henry Ford — Film

All of your favorite Nintendo characters are back, along with plenty of new faces, in the fourth entry in the beloved Super Smash Bros. series. In a major first for the franchise, a special mode lets eight players fight simultaneously in local multiplayer. Prepare for pure zanny fun and shenanigans!

Three-Fifths Concert

Fairlane

Cathy McManamon, Jason Neerenberg, gundo

Three of the members of the folk-rock band Toyboat bring their own blend of singing and instrumentals.

Tropes We're Over

Allen Park

Robert J. Bennett, Selest deLaney, Saladin Ahmed, Jackie Morgan

Dead parents in children's lit, daddy issues, women who exist only to be killed... what other tropes are we done with?

Saturday 2:00 PM

Fat Phobia in Fiction

Dearborn

Selest deLaney, Sarah Gibbons, Elizabeth Shack, Wesley Chu, Brent Seth

Hey, look! A fat person in a fantasy/science-fiction book! What's that? They're the evilest evil-doer in the land? Oh, wait, no, they're just lazy and cruel! Well, that's better. Fat, likable characters - do they exist?

Gabrielle Aumei Concert

Fairlane

Gabrielle Aumei

From the Indianapolis area, please welcome a performer who is new to ConFusion.

Saturday 2:00 PM Continued

MG/YA Books for Adults

Allen Park

Susan Dennard, Courtney Allison Moulton, Whitney Ross, Delilah S. Dawson

YA Focused! Writers are almost always avid readers, and being in the business sometimes allows more insight into new and exciting authors, series, or just ideas that different people are playing with. If you've looked around and wondered what's good that's out now and in the near future, this panel may give you a new slew of books to track down.

Numenera

Greenfield — Gaming

Thunderhead

Set in a far, far distant future, the *Numenera* RPG puts a new spin on traditional fantasy, creating something unique to reinvigorate the imagination of gamers everywhere. Player characters explore a world of mystery and danger to find leftover artifacts of the past: bits of nanotechnology, the datasphere threaded among still-orbiting satellites, bio-engineered creatures, and myriad strange and wondrous devices that defy understanding. *Numenera* is about discovering the wonders of the worlds that came before, not for their own sake, but as the means to improve the present and build a future. (4 Hours)

Paint and Take

Great Room

Dean Martelle, Linda Martelle

Take some time from the con and make a little masterpiece gaming miniature that you can take with you when you are done. (6 Hours)

Ted Chiang/Steven Erikson Interview

Southfield

Justin Landon, Ted Chiang, Steven Erikson

Justin Landon interviews Steven Erikson and award-winning author Ted Chiang.

Vids for Kids

Warren — KidFusion

Mary Lou Klecha, Julie DeJong

Fanvids are music videos created by fans, using clips from TV shows, movies, anime, etc. Come enjoy a selection of kid-friendly fanvids!

Wibbly Wobbley, Timey Wimey, Stuff

Windsor — TeenFusion

Alex Brandt

Dr. Who is still HOT and we all want a sonic screwdriver and a bow tie!

Writing in the Space Between Genres

Rotunda

Diana Rowland, M.H. Mead, Christian Klaver, Christine Purcell, Brigid Collins

Somewhere between urban fantasy and hard sci-fi, there are zombie operas in space. What are some of the interesting interstitial spaces you've read or written in?

Saturday 3:00 PM

Are We Living in a Golden Age of Gaming?

Dearborn

Phillippe McNally, Colin McComb, Aaron Thul, Sam Lippert, Shanna Germain, Monte Cook

What is gaming now, and what does it mean for both the social connections we make and the public perception of gaming in this more genre-friendly world?

Autograph Session

Huron—Ontario—Erie

Joe Abercrombie, Scott H. Andrews, Leah Bobet, Rowena Cherry, Ted Chiang, Myke Cole, Brigid Collins, Ron Collins, Heather Dale, J.C. Daniels, Tom Doyle, Steven Erikson, Carrie Harris, Jim C. Hines, Kameron Hurley, Philip Kaldon, Karen Lord, Brian McClellan, Cindy Spencer Pape, Cherie Priest, Christine Purcell, Diana Rowland, Ferrett Steinmetz, Amy Sundberg, Lara Zielin

Come meet your favorite authors, artists and musicians and have them sign things! (Please limit your signing requests to 3 items per person.)

Breaking Down the Caveman Diet

Michigan — Big Top

Maureen J. Devlin

What did cavemen *really* eat? Biological anthropologist Dr. Maureen Devlin from the University of Michigan Department of Anthropology walks us through the evidence, and what the contents of their fridges may have resembled.

Fanfic: Threat or Menace

Rotunda

Julie Winningham, Cinda Williams Chima, Mary Lou Klecha, Susan Dennard

Threat to your free time? Menace to your emotions? Let's talk about how the wild world of fanfic is treating us these days.

Saturday 3:00 PM Continued

Game: People's Glorious Revolutionary Adventure

Warren

Bill Korsak

The Glorious Revolution is Coming! Somewhere in the North American Complex, a Communist Controlled Complex Population (CCCP) toils selflessly under the benevolent ruler of the Big Red One, Tovarich Computer, to bring the banner of Communism to other Alpha Complexes everywhere. A game for 30 or more trouble shooters.

How To Raise Your Nerd

Southfield

Randy Bradakis, Peter V. Brett, Roxanne King, Jen Talley, Richard Herrell

Fannish parents discuss raising the next generation of fans.

Iron Artist for Teens

Windsor — TeenFusion

Alex Brandt

You are given a theme, a secret ingredient and art supplies. You must create a masterpiece within 30 minutes. Can you do it?

KookieKlatsch Storytime: Merrie Haskell

KidFusion

Merrie Haskell

Merrie Haskell reads from some of her favorite genre picture books (Dragons Love Tacos by Adam Rubin to start!) and kids have juice and cookies while listening. (30 Minutes)

Mike Nixon Concert

Fairlane

Mike Nixon

A skilled singer, songwriter, and guitarist, Mike is known for his work with the band Toyboat. Here he takes a solo spotlight.

Where're OUR Superhero Movies?

Allen Park

Candra K. Gill, Julie Lesnik, Aset

The recent announcements of the Wonder Woman and Captain Marvel movies are exciting, as are the reveals of the Black Panther and Cyborg movies and Jason Momoa as Aquaman, but how do we remind Marvel And DC Entertainment that this a great start, but not adequate representation overall?

Saturday 3:30 PM

KookieKlatsch Storytime: Mary Robinette Kowal

KidFusion

Mary Robinette Kowal

Mary Robinette Kowal reads and kids have juice and cookies while listening. (30 Minutes)

Saturday 4:00 PM

Autograph Session

Huron—Ontario—Erie

Saladin Ahmed, Bradley P. Beaulieu, Robert J. Bennett, Tobias Buckell, Cinda Williams Chima, Wesley Chu, Monte Cook, Delilah S. Dawson, Selesté deLaney, Michael J. DeLuca, Susan Dennard, Shanna Germain, Merrie Haskell, Douglas Hulick, Christian Klaver, Mary Robinette Kowal, Courtney Allison Moulton, Laura Resnick, Jason Sanford, John Scalzi, Catherine Shaffer, Patrick S. Tomlinson, Michael R. Underwood, Doselle Young

Come meet your favorite authors, artists and musicians and have them sign things! (Please limit your signing requests to 3 items per person.)

Character Creation - You're Not Just Rolling Dice Anymore

Southfield

Colin McComb, Michael Marcus, Philippe McNalley, Andrew Drummer, Myke Cole

How can gamers craft compelling characters, from the PCs to the DM/GM making memorable NPCs or the Big Bad. Can you do in in a board game as well? People ask for stories/character development in video game RPGs; is it any different when you're in charge of a piece of the narrative only (e.g. sitting at a table playing with other people) than when you're making decisions in a video game and the rest of the world has already been set up for you?

Fan GOH Induction

Fairlane

Aaron Thul

Fan Guest of Honor Introduction and Induction is a traditional ConFusion event, wherein any attending Fan GoHs of years past welcome the new Fan GoH to the club.

GURPs on Demand

Greenfield — Gaming

Bill Korsak

Quick improv RPG sessions, a perfect introduction for folks that have never tried role-playing games before. All items will be provided. 2-6 players (2 Hours)

Saturday 4:00 PM Continued

Game: Iron GM

Great Room

Thunderhead Games

People often speak about the best GMs they've had, or the best campaigns they've GM'd. What if those various GMs could go head to head in competition to see who is truly the best? Want no more! Your wish has been granted. Come test your mettle among other GMs who deem to beat you for the title, "Iron GM". (3 - 4, 15 - 24 players needed.) Using the rules from D&D 5.0, the GMs will have only an hour to prepare their adventure. Likewise the players have only an hour to build their characters. So come judge or be judged as player and GM respectively. (5 Hours)

Leatherworking 101

Warren

Ken Redington

Ever wonder what leather to use for a costume project or how it is sewn? In Leatherworking 101, Ken Redington gives a basic discussion class describing the different types of leather and how they are used. It includes tips on dying, sewing, cutting, and basic terms for leathercrafters.

Making Money as an Artist

Rotunda

Michael Boursaw

You've heard it all your life: "a successful artist must be a successful business person." What activities and techniques, at cons and in daily life, are successful in bringing in the cash making your art possible?

Netherstorm

Greenfield — Gaming

Thunderhead

A new unique, fantasy RPG by Thunderhead. (4 Hours)

Polymer-Fu

Allen Park

Tomak Baksik

Cheap trix in moldmaking, resin casting, pressure/slush/rotocasting, glass and carbon fiber etc. Let's find out what gold leaf looks like on Bondo.

Ponypalooza

KidFusion

Larc Bogdan

My Little Pony crafts, coloring, cartoons and conversation.

SodaKlatsch: Karen Lord, Carrie Harris

Windsor — TeenFusion

Carrie Harris, Karen Lord

Carrie Harris and Karen Lord come read from their works and talk to the teens.

Time Travel (in)Possibilities

Dearborn

Bill Higgins, Philip Kaldon, Ron Collins, Andrew Zimmerman Jones

Would 1.21 gigawatts get the job done, or would the flux capacitor even work? Time for our panelists and audience to debunk our favorite time travel devices in literature and popular media.

Saturday 4:30 PM

Back to the Future Part II

Henry Ford — Film

Incase you missed Friday's showing we're having a special encore celebrating Back to Confusion.

Saturday 5:00 PM

Cartooning With Kids

KidFusion

Kurt Erichsen

Local Cartoonist, Kurt Erichson, leads the kids in creating vehicles of the future.

Clothing Your Characters

Warren

Cindy Spencer Pape, Annalee Flower Horne, Merrie Haskell, Delilah S. Dawson

They say 'clothes make the man,' but they also make his physical and social world. Help our panel of writers and costumers build and dress a fictional world, and learn how you can use costume details to enhance the depth and verisimilitude of your work.

Effective Role Playing

Windsor — TeenFusion

Amy Sundberg, Carrie Harris, Leah Bobet, Brigid Collins

How do you stay in character during a RPG so that the game progresses and you have fun at the same time?

Saturday 5:00 PM Continued

Fat Girls Like Sci-Fi, Too

Southfield

Mari Brighe, Julie Winningham, Aset

Genre media is no exception to the magazine ideal's of women's bodies. From the downsizing of iconic fat woman Amanda Waller in her translation to live-action, to Joss Whedon's obsession with waifish heroines, the diversity of bodies is sorely lacking. But can we even have a discussion of representing diverse bodies in genre media without body-shaming actresses?

Fighting Techniques of the Wooden Staff Class

Huron—Ontario—Erie

Heather Gutterman, Doug Scholl, Michael Spagnuolo, Taylor Watkins, Doug Tobin

Polaris Fellowship of Weapons Study and Self Defense will conduct a hands-on class on basic 'Fighting Staff' techniques. The staff, which was originally used as a walking stick and cattle prod, has remained a favorite for martial arts enthusiasts due to its versatility and elegance. Children under 18 who participate in this class, and handle a wooden staff, must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian. Observers are welcomed and need not have a signed waiver. (If you wish to reserve a training slot you can signup for this class at the Convention's Operations office, but we hope to be able to accommodate all attendees this year due to the larger room we've been assigned).

Heather Dale Concert

Michigan — Big Top

Heather Dale

Come hear our Music Guest of Honor! As a modern woman with Celtic roots, Heather finds new insight within old material, and cheerfully fuses the Celtic folk tradition with a healthy mix of world music and rock influences.

To Mars!

Allen Park

Jim Beyer

A presentation by the Michigan Mars Society on their work on how to get people to Mars, and what we'd do when we got there.

Where the %*\$# Are All My Bookstores!?

Dearborn

Michael R. Underwood, Christine Purcell, Douglas Hulick, Rowena Cherry

Ah, the good old days when you could just drive down the street to pick up your favorite book. Or is it easier now to just click a "Buy" button? How has the book selling industry changed in the last 20 years, and are bookstores going to quietly disappear?

Saturday 6:00 PM

Cats, Dragons, and Doctor Who

Rotunda

Christian Klaver, Mike Kucharski, John Benson, Sam Lippert, Brent Seth

How does an artist bring creativity to cats, dragons, or established characters — X-Men, Batman, Doctor Who for example? Should an artist put his or her own stamp on stock characters, or establish a following for new characters?

Chocolate Ritual

Warren

Lady Sarah

A decadent ConFusion tradition.

Choose Your Own Apocalypse

Allen Park

Tom Doyle, Aric Haley, Candra K. Gill, Catherine Shaffer

From the fictional zombie apocalypse in The Walking Dead to the very real and tragic Ebola outbreak in West Africa, apocalypses are on everyone's minds. If we were seeking to design the best apocalypse, what would be take into account? What constitutes an effective apocalypse, and what mechanism would work best?

Masquerade Muster

Fairlane

Annalee Flower Horne, Suzette Mariotti, Mary Robinette Kowall

For all competitive entries in the Masquerade, this event is mandatory. Assemble to muster for the parade, be viewed by the judges, and have optional workmanship judging done. Competitors may enter as Novice, Journeyman, Master or Junior levels. Please be on time. Exhibition entries may attend the Muster or just join the parade, ending at the Masquerade. Pre-Registration for the Masquerade is STRONGLY encouraged. Sign up at OPS.

Planetary Conjunction

Meeting Point in Front of Gift Shop

Bob Trembley

Observe a conjunction of Mars, Mercury, and Venus with Bob Trembley's telescope!

Saturday 6:00 PM Continued

Science and Society

Dearborn

Aaron Thul, Mari Brighe, Cynthia Chestek, Howard Scrimgoeur

How do changes in science impact our society? Are we losing or gaining faith in science and the scientific method? Come discuss this year's scientific discoveries/changes and how they've impacted our culture.

Self Defense and Situation Awareness

Huron—Ontario—Erie

Heather Gutterman, Doug Scholl, Michael Spagnuolo, Taylor Watkins, Doug Tobin

Polaris Fellowship of Weapons Study and Self Defense will conduct an interactive class on self defense, conflict avoidance, and situation awareness. Children under 18 who participate in this class must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian. Observers are welcomed and need not have a signed waiver. (If you wish to reserve a training slot you can sign up for this class at OPS, but we hope to be able to accommodate all attendees this year due to the larger room we've been assigned).

Thunderhead Throwback: Villains & Vigilantes

Greenfield — Gaming

Thunderhead

You can combat the forces of evil! You can become a champion of truth and an idol of millions! You can be a superhero and defend the human race against injustice and villainy! You can do all this as a character in VILLAINS AND VIGILANTES. (6 Hours)

Tom Smith Concert

Michigan — Big Top

Tom Smith

Once again, Tom Smith brings humor, energy, and a damn good time to everyone.

What Should I Read Next?

Southfield

Andrea Johnson, Justin Landon, Brian McClellan, Leah Bobet, Jay S. Ridler

Suggestions of what to read next, based on what you just read and loved.

Saturday 6:30 PM

Xam'd: Lost Memories

Henry Ford — Film

Sentan Island is a small island surrounded by the Yuden Sea. It exists in a state of dreamlike tranquility, cut off from the war between the Northern Government and the Southern Continent Free Zone. Our hero, Akiyuki Takehara, lives on Sentain Island along with his mother Fusa. He is currently separated from his father, the town doctor Ryuzo, but the bond between father and son remains. One day, after taking Ryuzo the lunch that Fusa has made for him as usual, Akiyuki arrives at school, where he is caught up in an explosion along with his friends, Haru and Furuichi. The explosion produces a mysterious light, which enters Akiyuki's arm, causing him excruciating pain. He's given no time to understand it, however, as the white-haired girl who rode on the bus with him guides him to a power unlike anything he's ever known.

Saturday 7:00 PM

Dayjobs as Book Research

Warren

Steve Buchheit, J.C. Daniels, Laura Resnick, Steven Erikson, Robert J. Bennett

Works which are or have been influenced and informed by their creators' non-fiction careers (past or present). Not research for a book, but professional experience that incidentally inspires a character, plot or setting.

Gotta Eat 'Em All!

Allen Park

Julie Lesnik

Listen to Dr. Julie Lesnik discuss her research in entomophagy, i.e. the consumption of insects as food. Come for the talk, stay for the free samples.

Interstellar Economies

Dearborn

Ted Chiang, Karen Lord, Aaron Thul, John Scalzi

Economies are part of a complete world-building experience, and are often very challenging to create. How does money and trade work when ships are flying from planet to planet, from species to species?

Masquerade

Michigan — Big Top

Annalee Flower Horne, Suzette Mariotti, Mary Robinette Kowal, Heather Dale

Come see - or show off - the best costumes of the night! Judges will scrutinize. Crowds will cheer. Audiences will swoon. Honors will be awarded. Special guest emcee is our Music GOH Heather Dale!

Playing Solo vs. In a Band

Fairlane

Cathy McManamon, Jason Neerenberg, Ron Collins

Playing with other people is a very different dynamic from working alone. How do you adjust, and make it work?

Saturday 7:00 PM Continued

Pizza and Pajama Party

KidFusion

Larc Bogdan, Lisa Garrison-Ragsdale

THIS IS A KIDS ONLY PAID EVENT: Register for this event at the registration table. Come ready to party in your pajamas! We will have Pizza, Pop, Popcorn, along with movies, games and crafts. (6 Hours)

Teen D&D

Windsor — TeenFusion

Brian R. Bay

Brian R. Bay is the Dungeon Master of this beginner level Dungeons and Dragons game. If you were not able to roll your own character on Friday night, you can still play. (9 Hours)

Under Where?!...

Greenfield — Gaming

Fred Lathrop

Come join the ultimate dungeon crawl through the Ruins of Undermountain. Do you dare enter the playhouse of the mad wizard Hallaster? He's having a tea party and you're invited as "honored" guests. This is a massive magical dungeon where players can come and go at Hallaster's whim. Come join us for as long or as short as you like. All characters are pre made and ready for you to play. 2-8 players (7 Hours)

Writers as Fans, Fans as Critics, Critics as Writers and Fans

Southfield

Seleste deLaney, Justin Landon, Jackie Morgan, Andrea Johnson, Jim C. Hines

Reviews are not for authors, they're for fans. But many authors are engaged, critical fans. How can authors engage with fans without creating a chilling effect on criticism?

Saturday 8:00 PM

Beer, Brewing and Books

Rotunda

Steve Drew, Michael J. DeLuca, Scott H. Andrews, James Frederik Leach, Douglas Hulick

Beer in fiction. You read it. You want to drink it. Let's talk about fictional brews, real brews, and why no one in science fiction/fantasy drinks Bud Light.

Bill Roper and Erica Neely Concert

Fairlane

Bill Roper, Erica Neely

Bill and Erica offer up songs both funny and serious.

Building the Next Great Epic

Dearborn

Bradley P. Beaulieu, Brian McClellan, Laura Resnick, Patrick S. Tomlinson, Monte Cook

What does it take to plan, write, and sell an epic series?

Joe Abercrombie & Kameron Hurley Interview

Southfield

Justin Landon, Joe Abercrombie, Kameron Hurley

Justin Landon interviews best-selling author Joe Abercrombie and Hugo winner Kameron Hurley.

Kaffeeklatsch with Karen Lord

Model T — Boardroom

Karen Lord

Join our Guest of Honor for coffee, tea, and conversation. Limited to 10 participants. Sign up at OPS.

Mutants and Masterminds

Greenfield — Gaming

Thomas Boice

Help stave off a super powered crimewave in the midst of a cosmic alien invasion. Choose your hero from a menagerie of super powered archetypes and save the day!!! 4-10 players (6 Hours)

Netherstorm

Greenfield — Gaming

Thunderhead

A new unique, fantasy RPG by Thunderhead. (4 Hours)

Time Travel Vids

Allen Park

Mary Lou Klecha, Julie DeJong

Fanvids are music videos created by fans, using clips from TV shows, movies, anime, etc. Come watch a selection of fanvids themed around time travel and alternate universes!

World-building in Fantasy and Science Fiction Gaming

Warren

Donald Jones, Richard Tacholka

Join Thunderhead and Tri Tac in a discussion about the techniques and guidelines used in creating a fantasy or science fiction setting.

Saturday 9:00 PM

A Glimpse Behind the Curtain: The Business Side to Writing and Publishing

Southfield

Michael R. Underwood, Tobias Buckell, Kameron Hurley, Whitney Ross

There are many resources available about developing the craft of writing, but many writers enter the business without knowing the nuts and bolts of how the industry works - query letters, agents, advances, contracts, and more. This roundtable with established authors and publishing professionals will cover these topics and more, tailored to audience questions.

Blue Exorcist

Henry Ford — Film

This world consists of two dimensions joined as one, like a mirror. The first is the world in which the humans live, Assiah. The other is the world of demons, Gehenna. Ordinarily, travel between the two, and indeed any kind of contact between the two, is impossible. However the demons can pass over into this world by possessing anything that exist within it. Satan the god of demons, but there's one thing that he doesn't have, and that's a substance in the human world that is powerful enough to contain him!! For that purpose he created Rin, his son from a human woman, but will his son agree to his plans? Or will he become something else...? An exorcist?

Drum Jam

Fairlane

Cathy McManamon, Jason Neerenberg

Come keep the beat with Cathy and Jason.

Friends of Bill W

Model T — Boardroom

fyeahTumblrpanel.tumblr.com

Warren

Julie Winningham, Mary Lou Klecha, Julie DeJong

Tumblr is an increasingly popular social media platform, but it's also baffling and sometimes surprisingly antisocial. If you use Tumblr, what are you doing with it? If you don't, come on in and hear what it's all about!

Is Paradox Really So Bad?

Rotunda

Catherine Shaffer, Andrea Johnson, Steve Buchheit, Ted Chiang, Doselle Young

So there you are, back in 2015, and you almost run right into yourself! But really, who cares? Is the universe really going to end? Or will you just walk away saying "Well, that was the most screwed up thing I'm going to see today?" How bad would time travel paradox be, really?

SF/F Spelling Bee

Dearborn

Aaron Thul, Merrie Haskell, Tarri Klecha, Jen Talley

Come compete in the most fantastically fictitious spelling bee ever! Will you win the prize(s)?

Saturday 10:00 PM

Jupiter Rising

Meeting Point in Front of Gift Shop

Bob Trembley

Observe the moon and Jupiter with Bob Trembley's telescope!

Open Filk

Fairlane

Fly into the night with songs and silliness and all sorts until we can't stand it anymore!

Sunday 12:00 AM

Assorted Gaming

Greenfield — Gaming

Thunderhead

Come join Thunderhead Games for some late night or early morning gaming. Play something in the game library or bring your own, they'll play just about anything. (8 Hours)

Super Smash Bros. Wii U (Free Play)(After Dark)

Henry Ford — Film

Adult Swim, all kids out of the pool. Try out the new 8 player smash mode with a mature crowd.

Sunday 2:30 AM

The Irregular at Magic High School (After Dark)

Henry Ford — Film

The story follows siblings Tatsuya and Miyuki Shiba as they prepare to enter the Magic High School. In the future mankind has learned how to use magic through advanced science and spell sequencing. However, not everyone is proficient at Magic. Those that attend the few Magic High Schools spread across the world. But even within the ranks of magic users there's divisions. At Magic High there are two classes. Blooms, the top tier students and Weeds, those who have magic ability but are lacking in their abilities to use it well. While Miyuki makes it into the top tier student body Tatsuya does poorly on the practical tests for the entrance exam and is bumped down into the "Weeds."

Sunday 6:00 AM

Gundam Build Fighters

Henry Ford — Film

The story is set in the near future when GunPla Battles, competitions that pit Gundam plastic models against each other, have become popular worldwide in the "Second GunPla Boom." Sei Iori, a first-year middle-school student and the only son of a model shop owner, is talented at building GunPla, but inexperienced in the GunPla Battles. He encounters a mysterious boy named Reiji, who happens to be an accomplished Gundam Fighter. Together, they strive for the GunPla Battle world championships.

Sunday 10:00 AM

.hack// Legend of the Twilight Bracelet

Henry Ford — Film

Shugo and his sister Reina haven't seen much of each other since their parents divorced. Hoping to be able to spend some time with her brother Shugo, Reina enters a contest to win limited edition characters in the online game known as "The World." When she wins the contest, Reina and Shugo now enter "The World" together in the guises of the legendary players Black Rose and Kite. However, not all is well in The World. Invincible monsters are appearing in the game among other problems. Will Shugo and Reina be able to figure out what's going on and put a stop to it?

Dramarific Duct Tape

Windsor — TeenFusion

Alex Brandt

Duct tape is not just for taping ducks' feet to the floor. You could make a hat or tie and so much more!

Game: People's Glorious Revolutionary Adventure

Dearborn

Bill Korsak

The Glorious Revolution is Coming! Somewhere in the North American Complex, a Communist Controlled Complex Population (CCCP) toils selflessly under the benevolent ruler of the Big Red One, Tovarich Computer, to bring the banner of Communism to other Alpha Complexes everywhere. A game for 30 or more trouble shooters.

Hard Limits: "I would write anything for love but I won't write that"

Erie

Myke Cole, Laura Resnick, Joe Abercrombie, Saladin Ahmed

No amount of fame or money could convince me to write _____ (Fill in the blank!) What are some of your writing limits, and why?

Kaffeeklatsch with Shanna Germain & Monte Cook

Model T — Boardroom

Shanna Germain, Monte Cook

Join our Gaming Guests of Honor for coffee, tea, and conversation. Limited to 10 participants. Sign up at OPS.

Life Drawing

Rotunda

Mike Kucharski, Anastasia Lewgowsky

Join Mike Kucharski in drawing a live (clothed) model. Sharpen your skills in figure drawing, including costumes and props. Note: attendees will need to bring their own drawing materials.

Netherstorm

Greenfield — Gaming

Thunderhead

A new unique, fantasy RPG by Thunderhead. (6 Hours)

Post-Colonial SF

Huron

Tobias Buckell, Leah Bobet, Steven Erikson, Robert J. Bennett, Karen Lord

Can our world's own colonization history help us write the stories of future colonizations? What were the pitfalls? And how can we avoid them? Or are we just doomed to repeat history...

Reading Patrick S. Tomlinson/Philip Kaldon

Warren

Patrick S. Tomlinson and Philip Kaldon read from their works.

Sunday Morning Cartoons and Comics

KidFusion

Lisa Garrison-Ragsdale

Come watch some cartoons and create comics with your friends.

Thunderhead Throwback: Villains & Vigilantes

Greenfield — Gaming

Thunderhead

You can combat the forces of evil! You can become a champion of truth and an idol of millions! You can be a superhero and defend the human race against injustice and villainy! You can do all this as a character in VILLAINS AND VIGILANTES. (6 Hours)

Sunday 11:00 AM

CGI Workshop

Richard Smith

You don't need to resources of LucasFilms to make your images come to life. Rick Smith shows how you can make your own animations.

KidFusion

Cinda Williams Chima Author Interview

Cinda Williams Chima

Cinda Williams Chima is interviewed by members of TeenFusion.

Windsor — TeenFusion

Costuming From Ink and Pixel

Annalee Flower Horne, Alex Drummer

From anime to comic books to CGI and video games, animated worlds are full of iconic, stylish characters. But it often takes a little work to translate their costumes into the real world. Come learn how to examine your source material to choose the right fabric, colors, and construction techniques to bring your favorite animated characters to life.

Allen Park

How to Kick your Start

Shanna Germain, Michael Marcus, Monte Cook, Steve Drew

Kickstarter, Patreon, IndieGoGo... how can they be used successfully?

Southfield

Kaffeeklatsch with Aaron Thul

Aaron Thul

Join our Fan Guest of Honor for coffee, tea, and conversation. Limited to 10 participants. Sign up at OPS.

Model T — Boardroom

Karen Lord Interview

Tobias Buckell, Karen Lord

Best-selling author Tobias Buckell interviews our Author Guest of Honor Karen Lord.

Michigan — Big Top

Recording Your Own Music

gundo, Gabrielle Aumei, Heather Dale

Thinking of recording your own music? Here's some of the stuff you need to consider.

Fairlane

Science or Science Fiction?

Philip Kaldon, Jason Sanford, Andrew Zimmerman Jones, Patrick S. Tomlinson, Brent Seth

Science fiction novels continue to impress with amazing technological advances in so many areas. What's more impressive, though? That some of them are reality! Come talk about some of the things you see on the news today that you first read about years ago in a book.

Erie

Sources of Modern Folk Tales

Cherie Priest, Diana Rowland, Steve Buchheit, Justin Howe, Tom Doyle

What makes a folktale in our modern world? What sources influence the creation of today's folklore, e.g. urban legend, propaganda, celebrity worship, true crime, disaster drama etc? Does modern folk culture differ from the historical in content, scope or morality?

Dearborn

The Comics Code

Saladin Ahmed, Michael R. Underwood, Doselle Young, Peter V. Brett

Where have all the diverse, feminist comics gone? How about the 1930s and 40s, in the days before the Comics Code?

Huron

Sunday 12:00 PM

Book Reviewing 101

Andrea Johnson, Seleste deLaney, Justin Landon, Jackie Morgan, M.H. Mead

Starting and running your book review blog, how to get ARCs, and more.

Warren

Costuming Kids

Ken Redington, Heather Malokofsky, Kat Malokofsky

Building costumes for kids presents unique challenges, from working with your kid to select a costume to building something sturdy enough for play and versatile enough for growth spurts. Veterans of the craft will share their tips and tricks for teaming up with your kids to build costumes they'll be thrilled to wear.

Allen Park

Extreme Weather in Science Fiction

Tobias S. Buckell, Patrick S. Tomlinson, Andrew Zimmerman Jones

First the ice caps begin melting, and then we get Sharknado. How have real-world weather events influenced science fiction? Can we use science fictional ideas to solve our real-world environmental crises?

Dearborn

Sunday 12:00 PM Continued

Hey Where's My Script?

Alex Brandt

Improvisation games to encourage imagination and creativity.

Windsor — TeenFusion

Kaffeeklatsch with Dr. Cynthia Chestek

Cynthia Chestek

Join our Science Guest of Honor for coffee, tea, and conversation. Limited to 10 participants. Sign up at OPS.

Model T — Boardroom

Monte Cook & Shanna Germain Interview

Mary Robinette Kowal, Monte Cook, Shanna Germain

Hugo Award winning author Mary Robinette Kowal interviews our Gaming Guests of Honor Monte Cook & Shanna Germain.

Southfield

Powderfilk Biscuits

Mark Bernstein

"Giving shy filkers the strength to stand up and sing what needs to be sung." Want to sing in the circle, but haven't been able to work up the nerve to jump in? We want to hear from you, and talk about the things that stand in our way.

Fairlane

Tephra

Thomas Boice

Suspense and Adventure await in this Steampunk fantasy setting built around the d12. 3-8 players (4 Hours)

Greenfield — Gaming

Time Travel TV

Michael R. Underwood, Whitney Ross, Michael Marcus, David M. Stein

From Doctor Who to Outlander, what's going on with time travel on TV?

Huron

Why is Captain America Working For Our Jaded Ironic Disaffected Selves?

Merrie Haskell, Karen Lord, Kevin McLeod, Julie Winningham

It's a grimdark world--but one of the most popular comic book heroes of recent years is Captain America, who still stands for truth and justice. Is a good man too boring in a world of dark knights? What do we love about Cap?

Erie

Sunday 12:30 PM

Paint and Take

Dean Martelle, Linda Martelle

Take some time from the con and make a little masterpiece gaming miniature that you can take with you when you are done. (2.5 Hours)

Great Room

Super Smash Bros. Wii U (Free Play)

All of your favorite Nintendo characters are back, along with plenty of new faces, in the fourth entry in the beloved Super Smash Bros. series. In a major first for the franchise, a special mode lets eight players fight simultaneously in local multiplayer. Prepare for pure zanny fun and shenanigans!

Henry Ford — Film

Sunday 1:00 PM

An Opportunity to Experience Sword and Shield Fighting Techniques!

Heather Gutterman, Doug Scholl, Michael Spagnuolo, Taylor Watkins, Doug Tobin

Polaris Fellowship of Weapons Study and Self Defense will conduct a hands-on introduction to sword and shield fighting techniques. Previous martial arts experience may be helpful but is NOT required. Children under 18 who participate in this class, and handle a training weapon, must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian. Observers are welcomed and need not have a signed waiver. (If you wish to reserve a training slot you can sign up for this class at OPS, but we hope to be able to accommodate all attendees this year due to the larger room we've been assigned). (2 Hours)

Ontario

Illuminati

Richard Herrell

Play Steve Jackson Game's cult classic where players pretend to play as secret organizations pursuing hidden agendas. Use the CIA to capture the Boy Sprouts, or destroy the Communists using Gun Nuts. Alternate game is Pandemic, where players race to save the world and cure multiple plagues.

Windsor — TeenFusion

Languages for Aliens and Elves

Aric Haley

When you're creating a language, do you start from scratch or beg/borrow/steal from existing languages?

Allen Park

Sunday 1:00 PM Continued

Lego Mania

KidFusion

Lisa Garrison-Ragsdale

Make a Monster or a Spaceship! The limit is your imagination!

Post-Binary SF

Warren

Brent Seth, Kameron Hurley, Jason Sanford, Shanna Germain

Non-binary gender exists—it is not new, it is not confined to people in one cultural or linguistic group. Non-binary pronouns are in use by real people. The future, whether it incorporates non-binary gender(s) or goes beyond the binary—and it will do one, or both, of these things, in reflection of the reality of non-binary gender—will see shifts in language. It is absurd for science fiction not to reflect this. It is especially absurd in a genre used to language invented for the story. How can we improve on this?

Songwriting

Fairlane

Cathy McManamon, Michael Nixon, Heather Dale, gundo

What goes into crafting a song, from idea to music to lyrics? What makes a song "work"?

The Kids Are All Right

Dearborn

Jackie Morgan, Ron Collins, Carrie Harris, Justin Howe

Blah, blah, greying of fandom, we've all heard it. But why are we still talking about it as an inevitability? What are kids into these days? YA and Middle Grade literature is filled with SF/F, as are tv shows and movies aimed at kids, while things like Tabletop encourages families to play more games. The kids are here, and they're doing just fine.

Tough Love for New Writers

Michigan — Big Top

Mary Robinette Kowal, Lara Zielin, Cherie Priest, Wesley Chu, Brigid Collins, Douglas Hulick

Seriously, you're not going to get famous or make any money. Learn how!

We Fell in Love in a Hopeless Place

Erie

Seleste deLaney, Susan Dennard, Ferrett Steinmetz, Cinda Williams Chima, Christian Klaver

How to add romance into stories where all the bad is going on!

Sunday 2:00 PM

Illuminati

Windsor — TeenFusion

Richard Herrell

Play Steve Jackson Game's cult classic where players pretend to play as secret organizations pursuing hidden agendas. Use the CIA to capture the Boy Sprouts, or destroy the Communists using Gun Nuts. Alternate game is Pandemic, where players race to save the world and cure multiple plagues.

Lego Mania

KidFusion

Lisa Garrison-Ragsdale

Make a Monster or a Spaceship! The limit is your imagination!

Powersuits and Prosthetics

Michigan — Big Top

Ron Collins, Patrick S. Tomlinson, Cynthia Chestek, David M. Stein

Science Fiction has long imagined a future when technology can replace or enhance human limbs. Join Science Guest of Honor Cynthia Chestek and our costume panelists to discuss how to design plausible robotics for your science fiction hero.

Reading Jason Sanford/Leah Bobet

Model T — Boardroom

Jason Sanford and Leah Bobet read from their works.

Rustbelt Dystopias

Southfield

Michael J. DeLuca, Christine Purcell, M.H. Mead, Cherie Priest

Dystopian novels seem to like our beloved rustbelt cities as settings. Perhaps it's easier to imagine a future dystopia in Detroit than it is in San Diego, sure. The fall of the rustbelt industries may also be useful as a warning... this, too, could happen to you...

The Convention of the Future

Dearborn

Aaron Thul, Diana Rowland, Dave Hogg, Sam Lippert

With the fast rise of multi-media focused conventions like DragonCon, etc., what do we see as the future of SF conventions?

Sunday 2:00 PM Continued

Wait, There's More To Comics Than Superheroes?

Erie

Carrie Harris, Andrea Johnson, Matt Feazell, Bill Bryan, Doselle Young

Superheroes remain popular comic book characters — but comics can be any subject matter or genre. What are your favorite comics with unusual themes and characters?

We're Probing Space

Allen Park

Bill Higgins

Rosetta is chasing comets, Dawn is on its way to the asteroid belt, New Horizons will be visiting Pluto in less than a year, and Curiosity is touring the mountains of Mars. Come and hear what's new with these exciting projects!

Sunday 3:00 PM

Closing Ceremonies

Michigan — Big Top

Come celebrate the end of another great ConFusion, and see a little of what we have in store for next year!

Sunday 4:00 PM

Feedback Session

Michigan — Big Top

ConFusion 2015 ConCom

Give the ConCom compliments, ask questions, provide concerns. Review the con with the all-volunteer ConCom and Staff.

Sunday 5:00 PM

Dead Dog

ConSuite

Ring out the end of Back to the ConFusion with the last of the last. We will be open until the food or our patience runs out!