THE GUIDE TO APPLYING FOR

SOL CON

THE BROWN, BLACK, + INDIGENOUS COMICS EXPO

SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2020

APPLY TO BE: WORKSHOP LEADER | EXHIBITOR | PANELIST

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10
SOL-CON STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

FRIDAY, SEPT. 11
EXPO + WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12
SOL-CON IN THE COMMUNITY AT GLASS AXIS IN FRANKLINTON
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FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIALS

FACEBOOK: @SolConOhioState
TWITTER: @SolConOhioState
INSTAGRAM: @solconohiostate
WEBSITE: https://odi.osu.edu/laser-programming
SÕL-CON ACCESSIBILITY

If you are in need of any accommodations related to disability, neurodivergence, mental health, allergies, or other wellness resources while you are applying for SÕL-CON 2020 and when visiting Columbus in September, please do not hesitate to let us know. We want to do what we can to make this space as comfortable, positive, and affirming as possible for our exhibitors, attendees, and participants. Please send any accommodation requests to LASER Co-Executive Coordinator, Katlin Marisol Sweeney, at sweeney.464@buckeyemail.osu.edu, or to LASER Co-Executive Coordinator, Carlos Kelly, at kelly.1327@buckeyemail.osu.edu as soon as possible so that we can find ways to support you during the event. If you have a request that requires additional privacy or attention, please let us know so that we can support you to the best of our abilities.

LASER MISSION STATEMENT

LASER (Latinx Space for Enrichment and Research) was founded in 2009 to focus on scholarship and mentoring of Latinx students. It provides a forum for Ohio State faculty, staff, and students to build a scholarly community on campus and to prepare, recruit, and retain Latinx scholars from high school to college and on to graduate school.

We aim to provide resources, access, mentorship and guidance to our LASER scholars, all with the hopes of making college a tangible experience for the Latinx community and other historically underrepresented peoples. We are a Latinx organization serving local communities of color in Columbus by creating opportunities for our youth of color to engage with their peers, to connect with role models from our community, and to become leaders themselves through mentorship.

LASER has four signature programs each academic year: SÕL-CON and Pan Dulce Night during the fall semester and Latinx Role Models and Pan Dulce Night during the spring semester.
### UPDATES TO THE EVENT

**SÖL-CON 2020** marks the fifth anniversary of the event. The programs featured during this year’s SÖL-CON are all either updated versions of what we have offered in the past or are new offerings. These changes reflect feedback we received verbally and in a Qualtrics survey made available to the community following last year’s event, as well as goals we have adopted moving forward for community outreach beyond OSU’s campus.

**NAME CHANGE:** A major change to this year’s event is the revision of SÖL-CON’s title. We have updated our name from **SÖL-CON: The Brown & Black Comix Expo** to **SÖL-CON: The Brown, Black, & Indigenous Comics Expo**. This change reflects our ongoing commitment to communities of color while also acknowledging that the experiences of Indigenous creators are distinct from the experiences of other communities of color and are often among the most underrepresented in the comics industry and in higher education. By changing our name, we acknowledge that more needs to be done to support Indigenous creators and scholars. Our organization seeks to support the projects, careers, and visions of Indigenous creators as we have done with Black, Afro-Latinx, Latinx, Chicanx, and Latin American creators in past years, among others. It is our hope that SÖL-CON can serve as a model for how Latinx-led organizations (like LASER at OSU) can generate collaborative, accessible spaces for creators of color from a range of historically underrepresented backgrounds to be supported and celebrated at the forefront.

**PARTNERSHIP WITH GLASS AXIS:** This year, we will be partnering with Glass Axis to bring comics and glass art to local youth of color beyond OSU’s campus. We will launch this initiative through our inaugural SÖL-CON in the Community event, which will take place at Glass Axis’ art center in Franklinton. For your convenience, we are including Glass Axis’ website link here and encourage you to take a look at their offerings: [https://www.glassaxis.org/](https://www.glassaxis.org/)

**NOTE:** We will be announcing a SÖL-CON kickoff event soon in collaboration with Glass Axis. Plan to regularly check our social media pages for when this announcement is made.

**SEPARATION FROM CXC:** It is important to note that this year marks the first time in which SÖL-CON will not be partnering with Cartoon Crossroads Columbus (CXC). We encourage comics creators who are interested in exhibiting at SÖL-CON to also consider participating in CXC’s events. For your convenience, we are including CXC’s website link here: [http://cartooncrossroadscolumbus.com/](http://cartooncrossroadscolumbus.com/), as well as the dates of their event: **October 1-4, 2020.** Please note that CXC is scheduled for a different weekend and in a different month than SÖL-CON.

**TABLE RESERVATION:** This is the first year that exhibitors who are tabling and selling their work at SÖL-CON will be able to reserve their spot (where their table is located in the room) in advance of the event. Details are forthcoming and are likely to be available in August once we have a final headcount on how many exhibitors will be at the SÖL-CON in the Community event. **Please note that this table reservation is exclusively for WHERE the table is located, NOT table size.**
ACTION ITEMS FOR APPLYING TO SÕL-CON

To participate in SÕL-CON 2020, you must complete the following application: http://go.osu.edu/solcon2020.

You MUST apply by August 1, 2020 at the absolute latest to ensure that a spot is reserved for you.

For your convenience, we are including here a list of the information that you will be required to provide to complete the application:

- First and last name
- Whether you are participating as an individual creator or as an entity
- Home or business address
- Phone number
- Email address (that you will check regularly)
- A bio (maximum of 300 words) that can be featured on the SÕL-CON website
- Your exhibitor class
- Your tentative attendance plan for the Graduate Symposium
- Your tentative interest (if any) in leading an educational workshop for youth
- Your tentative interest (if any) in leading an educational workshop for university students
- Your tentative attendance plan for the SÕL-CON Evening Reception
- Your tentative interest (if any) in leading a comics class for Glass Axis artists
- Your tentative interest (if any) in tabling at the SÕL-CON in the Community event
- Your tentative interest (if any) in reserving a table location at the SÕL-CON in the Community event
- Your tentative interest (if any) in having your work preserved at the SÕL-CON Archive at the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum

The following list includes the information that is optional for you to provide when completing the application:

- Website or personal page
- Any accessibility needs or accommodation requests
- NOTE: You will be contacted later on for a headshot or an artist image to accompany your bio

The following events offered during SÕL-CON require that you RSVP:

- SÕL-CON Evening Reception on Friday, September 11 from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- SÕL-CON in the Community on Saturday, September 12 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In past years, exhibitors have tabled during the Friday Expo Day at OSU’s Columbus campus. This year, this program has shifted and will take place during the SÕL-CON in the Community event on Saturday, September 12. The Friday Expo Day will be transformed exclusively into a day of workshops and demonstrations for local youth and university students. Please plan accordingly; details are to follow.
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NOTE: This schedule is subject to change. We anticipate that there may be additions to the schedule as we receive travel confirmations and availability updates from our presenters and exhibitors. A finalized schedule will be provided to you closer to the date of the event.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020
THE SÖL-CON Graduate Symposium
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | The Ohio State University | Will Eisner Room | Sullivant Hall 205 | 1813 N High St.

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Volunteers arrive to set up room and coffee
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Coffee available to exhibitors and the public
9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Welcome statement
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Student Panel A
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Break
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Student Panel B
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Undergraduate Video Games Panel
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Break
2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Pro Scholars Panel
3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Parting remarks

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020
SÖL-CON EXPO DAY: Comics Workshops for Elementary Schoolers and Undergraduate/Graduate Students
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | The Ohio State University | Hale Hall | 154 W. 12th Ave

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Volunteers and workshop leaders arrive
8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Youth arrive on busses (send volunteers to meet at Union)
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Youth Workshops, Session 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Break
10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Youth Workshops, Sessions 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3
11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Break
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch, film screening, & Creators Talk Back Panel
1:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Break (Youth head to busses)
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Undergraduate & Graduate Workshops, Session 1.1 & 1.2
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Undergraduate & Graduate Workshops, Session 2.1 & 2.2
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Clean up Hale Hall; head over to Glass Axis; break

6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. | Glass Axis | 610 W Town St

6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. SOL-CON Evening Reception for Exhibitors
10:00 p.m. – whenever SOL-CON Post-Reception Hangout

Exhibitors are free to decide

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2020
SÖL-CON in the Community
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Glass Axis | 610 W Town St

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 am. Comics Class for Glass Axis Artists & Event Set-Up
1-2 comics creators will lead a workshop for Glass Axis team. While this class is happening, other creators will be arriving to the Glass Axis location to get set up for the expo.

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. SÖL-CON in the Community
Comics expo, glass art classes, gallery viewing, and food available

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. SÖL-CON en la Comunidad
Interpreters will be on site to assist Spanish-speaking families and students who attend the events and expo. These families are welcome to join us earlier in the day, but this two-hour time frame will be when interpreters will be available.

OVERVIEW OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10:

The SÖL-CON Graduate Symposium (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) – Graduate and undergraduate students will present on research that they are currently conducting within the broad field of comics studies and video games studies. Professional scholars will also be invited to speak to their experiences with incorporating comics studies, popular culture studies, visual culture studies, Indigenous and Native Studies, Latinx Studies, African American, Black, and Afro-Latinx Studies in their research, university service, teaching, etc.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11:

SÖL-CON Expo Day & Workshops (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) – The Expo Day is when youth of color and OSU students, faculty, and staff will be coming through to hang out with and meet y’all (and support your work) by watching comics demonstrations and participating in workshops. The morning session will feature workshops led by comics creators for local elementary schoolers of color. We are looking for folx to teach our youth the building blocks of comics and art through interactive workshops, as well as to lead demonstrations for students to see what you have produced in the broad fields of art and visual cultures. We will be sending out a call for workshop proposals in February for folx to submit ideas of what they would bring to these workshop sessions.

The afternoon session will feature workshops for undergraduate and graduate students to attend—both interactive and lecture-style—and learn from comics creators about topics related to comics and visual cultures. These workshops are offered as extra credit opportunities to students to encourage attendance from those who are already interested in these topics and from those who have never been exposed to comics before.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This year is the first time that we will not be offering an artist alley on Friday and will be shifting this program to the Saturday event. We have made this decision so that we can maximize space and ensure that when folx arrive to an event, they have the opportunity to spend more time at your tables without getting distracted or pulled away by other programming.

Evening Reception for Exhibitors (6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.)— RSVP REQUIRED! This event is exclusively for comics creators who are participating in the Expo Day & Workshops and/or in the SÖL-CON in the Community event. It replaces
the Evening Reception that has typically occurred on the Thursday of SŌL-CON in past years and is intended as a time for community building. We highly encourage that creators attend this event to celebrate the Expo Day & Workshops, as well as to transition into the SŌL-CON in the Community event the following day. This event will include the following: food truck, ornament-making class led by Glass Axis team, opportunities to drop-off tabling materials for the following day, icebreaker and team-building activities, and hangout time.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12:

Comics Class for Glass Axis Artists & Event Set-Up (9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)— More information to follow.

SŌL-CON in the Community (11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)— RSVP REQUIRED! This event replaces the artist alley that has historically taken place during the Friday Expo Day at SŌL-CON. This event will include the following: opportunities for attendees to visit exhibitor tables and purchase art; Glass Axis tours happening every hour; food truck and coffee cart available; discounted Glass Axis classes available to attendees throughout the day; gallery open for viewing; local schools invited for walk-throughs, etc.

SŌL-CON en la Comunidad (2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)— More information to follow.