



December 16, 2016

Hi, Everyone:

I wanted to send out an end of the year letter to the CXC mailing list, to my friends that work with comics, and to my friends in general. It's later in the month than this should go out but as it's my birthday, I hope I can be forgiven.

My show, like so many other non-profits and charities, could use your support.

Since 2015 I've been working every day on the Cartoon Crossroads Festival in Columbus, Ohio. This is a literary show for comics and cartooning held in the Fall. Instead of celebrating characters like Spider-Man that exist across all media, we celebrate those characters' cartoonist creators and the work they make with pen and ink that brings these creations and their stories to life. Unlike many comics shows, our events are free except on rare occasions paid tickets are necessary for crowd control or something similar.

We launched in 2015 with a two-day show that brought in 1200 people to a handful of great venues here in Columbus. In 2016 CXC ran a four-day show with a preview night that brought in 7500 people to various events.

We've had Raina Telgemeier, Art Spiegelman, Françoise Mouly, Garry Trudeau, Kate Beaton, Sergio Aragones and three dozen others as special guests now, with more to come. Jeff Smith is our Festival President.

We've had the support of local institutions ranging from the Columbus Metropolitan Library to Columbus College Of Art & Design to Columbus Museum of Art to what may be the world's

best place for comics: the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum. We've loved helping introduce them to you and likewise.

The idea is that as the show grows we can not only become one of the world's great showcases for all that's possible in comics and cartooning, but that we can additionally, directly assist the professional community with advice and guidance, by outreach to those in need or at risk, and by building resources all to help better make cartooning an activity, a vocation and even a career of honor, opportunity and just reward.

Our shows in 2015 and 2016 were exciting and fun, but we are just getting started.

I hope you'll consider us in your year-end giving. We are fully-registered non-profit and all donations are deductible. We are pay-palable at [cxcfestival@gmail.com](mailto:cxcfestival@gmail.com). We are reachable by check and other physical means at 523 S. 4th St. Columbus OH 43206. Every single donation no matter the size is a cherished vote of support. We'd love to add your names to ours.

Your donations help keep the show free. They go directly to people that help provide programming. They keep our table prices frozen at their current level. They help us build programs and provide awards. All of this happens in the increasingly vibrant, artist-supportive and very low-cost city of Columbus, where dollars travel far.

Your money at this moment also helps us bridge a crucial gap at the show's early stages as more fundraising opportunities are expected to come our way the more we accomplish and put ourselves on the cultural map.

We hope to see you at a future show, where we may be able to thank you in person and directly welcome you into our community. Thank you for any consideration of this at the end of a busy and unique 2016.

My best wishes to you and yours in all the ways we head into the hope and challenges of a new year.

All best,

Tom Spurgeon  
Festival Director  
Cartoon Crossroads Columbus

PS — Attached find this letter in document form for easy printing out, if you'd like.

PSS — We'll be gearing up in 2017 with a pair of brand new web sites, a first announcement of special guests by February 1, and an earlier exhibitor application process so we can better serve you. We have three of 22 special guests determined so far. 2017 is going to be a great year!