

MACC POW! MACCLESFIELD'S COMIC ART FESTIVAL

Proposed dates for 2026 - Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th June 2026
Funding Requested from Macclesfield Town Council - £5000

2025 FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- To celebrate our 10th year running the festival (first year budget allowance £150 from Barnaby festival TOTAL)
- Attendance up from 2024, first year where the day didn't slow down, busy throughout with a queue outside the Town Hall ahead of 10am opening. Estimated 2000 people through the doors of the Town Hall building
- Welcoming our first US guest Tom Scioli attending from Pittsburgh, his first ever UK appearance.
- Highest attendance of 70+ creators from the world of comics.
- Supporting increased footfall into the Library with a free to attend workshop for all ages.
- Supporting footfall into cafes/bars/restaurants with increased, and in some venues, record-breaking weekend trade. Both i trade and also stationing creators in the venues doing live draws.
- Supporting CINEMAC with four night comic art film festival
- Supporting creators with paid workshops and comic art production work (launching the 2nd issue of GOOF COMIC see below)
- Educational partnership with Macclesfield College who documented the weekend with short films.
- Working with Macclesfield Artspace who created physical wooden 'sound effects' to display in town
- Visiting Parkroyal community school with cartoonist Tor Freeman for a live readalong of her new comic book with the students of year 6.
- Investing in comic art creators both locally and internationally
- Welcoming a visitor from Switzerland for the second year running
- Supporting local accomodation with guest attendance and visitors

GRANT BREAKDOWN BASED ON £4500 TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED FOR 2025

Town Hall room hire costs (Assembly, Capesthorpe and Council Chambers 8AM-5PM) **£2405**

Design, marketing and print **£650**

GOOF comic (launched at the festival, paying/supporting creators for their work inside. Many attended the festival increasing engagement with the readers young and old) Creation/production **£550**

Creator support for workshops delivered during the weekend **£400**

Guest weekend accommodation **£235**

Graphic novel reading room, setup and hosting in the Monocle Café **£100**

ARTSPACE wooden soundeffects creation **£50**

Creation of the Lew Stringer LEGEND IN CARTOONING AWARD (Lew celebrated 42 years in comics at the festival) **£50**

GUESTS FOOD AND WATER provision **£40**

AIRPORT PARKING FEES and mileage (pick-up and return for US guest) **£35**

TOTAL SPEND £4515

2026 FESTIVAL OBJECTIVES/PLANS/IDEAS

- To continue building on everything we have achieved so far and increase support and investment in comic creators worldwide*
- To bring US cartoonist (and first cartoonist laureate of Vermont) James Kochalka to the festival
- To continue our partnership with local businesses such as Flour Water Salt, Propersound, Cinemac, Pizza Express, N Carter and Sons, B&V trading, NOMAS, Monocle cafe, Red Willow, the DEPOT, and the Button warehouse. Whilst connecting with new businesses who recognise the impact the festival can have on what they do.
- To continue to bring new ways to champion comic art in Macclesfield, now recognised internationally.
- To work with schools across Macclesfield, and continuing to work with Macclesfield College students
- To work on a larger scale project with Artspace*
- To reduce spend on items when achievable. To only print what is needed, monitor requirements for food/drink provision without going over and leaving surplus that requires recycling/wastage/going into landfill etc
- To continue to work with Macclesfield Town Council and local business supporters, both who recognise what our festival has achieved in 10 years.

*** SUPPORTED BY 10% INCREASE IN GRANT. INCREASING WHAT WE CAN PAY CREATORS AND ORGANISATIONS SHOWS OUR STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE ARTS, AND THOSE WHO CREATE.**