



2026 FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Celebrating our 11th year running the festival, our attendance was up from 2026, with a busy weekend throughout for all involved across all eleven locations.
- We welcomed this year's international guest James Kochalka, attending from Vermont, USA. His first ever UK appearance. He was supported by additional funding from a number of local independent businesses who see the worth in the festival and its impact on the town.
- James ran a song writing workshop in Parkroyal Community School on Friday 26th alongside music teacher James Sinden and the school's choir and ukulele group. The resulting song about comics (and Macclesfield) was performed in the Town Hall on the Saturday.
- We showcased three exhibitions this year, one featuring MANGA comic art supported by our sister festival The Lakes International comic art in the Library. The second an exhibition of James Kochalka's watercolour comics 'Gentle Observation' at the Silk Museum. Our final exhibition was our first commissioned work from Bollington based oil painter Ava Reid, who has Downs syndrome, which was displayed in Red Willow, and will also be displayed in their Buxton premises in August.
- Hosting a full day of workshops on Sunday 28th at Room for Comics giving visitors the chance to create with international creators in an intimate settings, with visitors from around the UK.
- Highest attendance of 80+ creators from the international world of comics. This included our youngest creators, Drawn to creatures from South London who attended as a guest, and Florence Jackson and Aubrey Hope, who both displayed debut comics exclusive to the festival.
- We saw increased footfall into the Library with a free to attend workshop for all ages with cartoonist Roger Langridge and the Puppet Folk Experience who performed with Kermit the frog to a full house whilst Roger showed the attendees how to draw the Muppets.
- Increased footfall into cafes/bars/restaurants with increased, record-breaking weekend trade (fed back from owners)
- We also stationed creators in many of those businesses - Flour Water Salt, Pizza Express, Button Warehouse, Nomads, Waterstones, Quiet Cat Books, with creators and interactive elements.
- Hosting the Graphic Novel Reading Room free comic art library in residence at the Button Warehouse on the Saturday.
- Hosting two creator signings at Waterstones on the Saturday and Sunday
- Supporting CINEMAC cinema with a mini comic art film festival running over the weekend.
- A premiere screening of a documentary about the much-loved comic from the late 80s, OiNK at CINEMAC. This included a Q&A with a number of creators behind the comic, and drew a large additional crowd of fans of the comic on the Saturday evening.
- Supporting creators with paid workshops and comic art production work (launching the 3rd issue of GOOF COMIC see below)
- Working for a second year in a row with Macclesfield Artspace who created 20 physical wooden 'sound effects' to display in town to promote, and add additional visual support to the Libraries MANGA exhibition.
- Investing in comic art creators both locally and internationally
- Welcoming visitor Barbara Nigg from Switzerland for her third year running. Barbara supported many creators that weekend, contributed a comic to GOOF, and stayed locally for four days and is an ardent supporter and ally for the festival.
- Supporting local accommodation with guest attendance and visitors at Sleep Eat Repeat, the Travelodge, the BOHOTEL and the Bridge, Prestbury.
- Estimated 2000 people through the doors of the Town Hall building on the Saturday alone, not counting the additional footfall across the weekend.

GRANT BREAKDOWN BASED ON £5000 TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED FOR 2026

Town Hall room hire costs (Assembly, Capesthorpe and Council Chambers 8AM-5PM) **£2,500**

The Graphic Novel Reading Room - setup and hosting in the Button Warehouse **£300**

Ava Reid's commissioned exhibition 'Female Force' **£200**

GOOF comic issue three, launched at the festival, paying/supporting creators for their work inside. Half the creators attended the festival increasing new and continued engagement with the readers young and old. The comic was used during workshops - Creation/production **£470**

Creator support for workshops delivered during the weekend **£700**

Guest weekend accommodation **£270**

ARTSPACE wooden sound-effects creation **£200**

GUESTS FOOD AND WATER provision **£40**

AIRPORT PARKING FEES and mileage (pick-up and return for US guest) **£50**

Design/print **£270**

TOTAL SPEND £5000

2027 FESTIVAL OBJECTIVES/PLANS/IDEAS

- To continue building on everything we have achieved so far and increase support and investment in comic creators worldwide
- To this time bring two international cartoonists (one of whom will be female) to the festival with support from local business owners and international creator grants.
- To continue our partnership with local businesses throughout the town, placing comic art into their businesses to connect with them, integrating into the town centre and neighbouring schools. Whilst connecting with new businesses who recognise the impact the festival can have on what they offer.
- To continue to bring new ways to champion comic art in Macclesfield, now recognised internationally, receiving two award nominations as BEST INTERNATIONAL COMIC ART EVENT.
- To continue to work and commission Artspace as strong, creative partnership.
- To continue 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 with a hoped grand of £5000 as per this year, and to receive additional support from local business owners, both of whom recognise what our festival has achieved since 2016.



FEEDBACK

Low Stringer (our longest standing professional guest cartoonist of 42 years)

It's always an absolute pleasure to be at Macc Pow so I always appreciate the invite. Such a warm, friendly, upbeat show full of good people. This year was extra special because of the film premiere and having time to hang out after the show. Thanks again Marc and Jane. You're the best!

Kev Sutherland (GUEST)

Fab weekend, thanks so much for having me, and congrats on a brilliant event.

Tom Scioli (International GUEST from USA and festival Patron)

Macclesfield is lucky to have such a great little comics show, and comics fans are lucky to have an excuse to visit such a great little town. You promised me the Angouleme of Cheshire, and you did it!

Tim Quinn (GUEST)

MACCPow - sheer delight in the centre of Macclesfield! The perfect event for children, parents and grandparents alike. Loved every second.

James Kochalka (International from USA GUEST)

I had such a wonderful time as a guest of the MACC-POW! festival. Now that I'm back in the USA I can't stop talking about how awesome Macclesfield is. Great job, Marc and Jane!

Tor Freeman (GUEST and festival Patron)

I have been attending MACC-POW! as a contributor and guest for more than 10 years. It's my favourite convention - it has a unique community feel, and over the years I've seen the same visitors return again and again. Where else can you see a Kermit impersonator sing Rainbow Connection, hear a school ukulele band perform their own song about comics and be forced to draw a dinosaur on a skateboard in under a minute? I've also loved seeing this convention grow under the dedication and hard work of Marc and Betty Jackson. I love MACC-POW! and will always come back!

Emma Reynolds (GUEST)

Such an amazing community atmosphere, we love coming to MaccPow every year and seeing familiar faces and meet new people too - just so life-affirming and wholesome and good. Thank you for all your hard work and continued enthusiasm, community events like this are so important - and comics rule!!

Barbara Nigg (Visitor from Switzerland)

What an amazing job you all do to pull this together! I leave so inspired and in awe of the community, creativity and goofiness! Thank you!

Chris Common-Swings (Visitor)

I've been struggling with creativity and making things ever since my accident two years ago, and I'm so glad I came to your show. The joy of comics was on every stall and I've come back more determined than ever to get back to it. So thank you so so much. It was a wonderful day

Theatre of Science (Visitor)

Absolutely fantastic event, we felt so welcome, thank you so much for all the hard work making it happen!

James barber-chadwick (Mayor)

I absolutely LOVED spending Saturday at the festival - what an outstanding job you've all done. Very proud to support MACC-POW and I will continue to do so even after my time as Mayor ends.

Dopemeat comics (Exhibitor)

I had a great day there on Saturday. So good to see comics having such prominence in the town! Thanks for all your hard work.

Louise Harder (Visitor)

I love where you are going with this! In today's techno world, kids need more people like you. You're both an inspiration, you're showing how you do things differently, creatively and develop their fine motor skills. You're also discovering their hidden talents.

Lynne Jones (Visitor)

Fan-tas-tic! Thank you for putting in the hard work, making such a creative weekend happen, opening up our imaginations and putting Macc on the comics map.

Gemma Burleigh (Owner of the Button Warehouse)

We were delighted to be part of this year's MACC-POW! hosting the Graphic Novel Reading Room, alongside Emma Reynold's wonderful five-minute portraits, created such a welcoming atmosphere, and it was fantastic to see so many people enjoying creativity, conversation and community throughout the weekend. It was a privilege to support Marc, Jane and everyone involved in bringing such a unique event to Macclesfield, and we're proud to have played a small part in its' success.

Toby Johnston (Bakery manager at Flour Water Salt)

We are always excited to be involved with MACC-POW!, and this year we had insane footfall, much busier than even our usual busy weekends! A phenomenal event that the whole Macclesfield community benefits from.



GRANT BREAKDOWN BASED ON £5000 TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED FOR 2026

Town Hall room hire costs (Assembly, Capesthorpe and Council Chambers 8AM-5PM) **£2500**

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AIRPORT PARKING FEES and mileage (pick-up and return for US guest) **£50**

Design/print **£270**

TOTAL AMOUNT £5000

EXHIBITOR INCOME FROM TABLE SALES

30 x tables at £55 **£1650**

3 x tables at £75 **£225**

31 remaining tables guest/or supported creators NO CHARGE

TOTAL INCOME - £1875

LOCAL BUSINESS FUNDING

Received from local businesses to support bringing cartoonist James Kochalka over from the USA **£1000**

IN-KIND BENEFITS

No in-kind benefits or reciprocal agreements have been made.

ADDITIONAL COSTS/RUNNING AND SET-UP TIMES OUTSIDE OF GRANT AWARDED

Creation of 2026 poster and festival brand theme throughout all remaining promo items, online and print **£500**

Website formatting/skinning and full programme population **£300**

Annual hosting **£100**

Guest invite and liaison - 1hr per week on average, based on 20 weeks (minimum) **£1000**

Exhibitor call-out, portfolio review and liaison from conception to festival delivery **£1000**

Social media promotion - 1hr per week on average, based on 20 weeks (minimum) **£1000**

Local business liaison/meetings for programme involvement **£300**

Meetings with local business partners for local funding, time spent **£250**

Collection of MANGA exhibition from Barrow, 5 hour round trip **£150 (TIME/MILEAGE)**

Setup and take down of MANGA exhibition in the library 3.5 hours **£125**

Setup and take down of James Kochalka exhibition in Silk Museum 2 hours **£75**

Setup and take down of Ava Reid exhibition Red Willow 2.5 hours **£100**

Airport pick up/drop off time for James Kochalka **£50**

Full day festival setup x 2 people Friday 26th June **£500 (at £250 each)**

Full day festival running and take down x 2 people **£500 (at £250 each)**

Volunteer fees if charged as employed role - full day at £100 each x 6 - **£600** (Negative amount, but shown for savings clarity)

GOOF comic - Additional creator funding at £70 per page x 6 creators **£350**

GOOF comic print x 300 copies **£520**

Pop up banners x 3 **£150**

TOTAL AMOUNT £6970

MARC JACKSON

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

17/8/2026