

Seminole Comic Con to celebrate inventive and artistic spirit

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By TIFFANY RAZZANO, Tampa Bay Newspapers

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SEMINOLE – After taking 2017 off, the Seminole Community Library at St. Petersburg College’s Seminole campus is bringing back its popular comic and maker convention Saturday, March 24, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The library has partnered with the Gulf Coast Makers to revamp and rebrand the event as the Gulf Coast Maker & Comic Con, said Chad Mairn, who manages the Innovation Lab at the library.

This free showcase celebrates the DIY inventive and artistic spirit by offering more than 100 exhibits, presentations and performances throughout the SPC campus.

“It was kind of a risk to take a year off and a lot of people were disappointed, I think, but I think it’s rebranded and maybe it will be better, I hope,” he said.

Though there’s a focus on science, this year, there’s something for everyone, Mairn added.

“There’s a lot to see and do,” he said.

Electrathon will offer electric car races, and there will be drone races as well.

“That’s going to be really cool,” he said.

Tesla will set up with their latest models of electric cars. There will also be heritage makers – blacksmiths, weavers and woodworkers – showing off their skills, make and take activities, pop-up concerts by students in SPC’s music industry recording arts program, virtual reality demos, an inventors showcase and flash mobs.

Gamers on the Edge will be back with their video game room.

“Every year they’ve been here and they’ve done really great work,” Mairn said. “That room has always been filled to capacity.”

Serenity Games will also host a board game room, which "was really popular last year," he said.

Programming includes a science show hosted by Mike Davis, SPC's natural science chair based out of the Tarpon Springs campus.

"He does these shows that has crazy smoke coming out of a petri dish or has a book catch on fire," Mairn said. "He does these really engaging, fun science activities that kids can be really blown away by. It's really just fun science."

The Really Live Literature Series will feature improv actors performing their versions of various book titles. Author Mark Muncy will also discuss Florida myths, monsters and legends featured in his book "Eerie Florida."

Laura Spence, the Pinellas County Schools STEM coordinator, will lead a workshop on comic strip creation and STEM.

Film and video game animation veteran Tony Mecca ("X-Men Days of Future Past," "Rio 2," "Furious 7," "Snow White and the Huntsman") will answer questions about his career.

Meanwhile, in the Deconstruction Zone, attendees will get to take apart every day items to see how they work.

For more information about the Gulf Coast Maker & Comic Con, visit gulfcoastmakers.com/gulf-coast-makercon.