

Anthrocon 2019 Guests of Honor

Steve Gallacci

Steve always had a passion for art and illustration as a small child; however, it is in 1974 while serving in the U.S. Air Force as a Graphics Specialist that he developed his professional experience with illustration and found an interest in the science-fiction fandom. By 1978, Steve was creating fanzines and laying the foundation for Albedo Anthropomorphics which is cited as one of the greatest inspirations of what would become the foundation of furry fandom.



Steve Gallacci is also known for his illustrations with the retro sci-fi adventure comic Fusion, Elin Winkler's Tales of the Fehnnik, and short bits for Ken Fletcher's Spontoon fanzine. Steve also works with custom modeling, creating object in various mediums such as wood and metal. Anthrocon is pleased to welcome such an impactful professional.



Ben Diskin

In his 30 years of voice acting experience, Ben Diskin has voiced a multitude of characters in anime, western animation, video games, and more.

In anime, he's known for the roles of Joseph Joestar in "JoJo's Bizarre Adventure: Battle Tendency," Sai in "Naruto Shippuden," Ban in "The Seven Deadly Sins,"

SonicFox

Four-time EVO champion and winner of the 2018 Best eSports Player award, Dominique "SonicFox" McLean. Part of team Echo Fox, SonicFox is well known for competing while in fursuit and displaying a carefree attitude at tournaments. He is, also, known within the professional gaming world for his versatility to pick up a new game or character and master it for professional play quickly.

It was at the age of 3, through the influence of his older brother, that SonicFox first became interested in fighting games. Since the age of 13, he has found success in fighting games such as Injustice: Gods Among Us and Dragon Ball FighterZ. Most humbly in his Best eSports Player acceptance speech at the 2018 Games Awards, SonicFox said he "never did it for the fame," that he's "done all this just to make new friends and bonds in the community." Anthrocon is pleased to welcome such an inspiring young icon within the furry fandom.



Death Gun in "Sword Art Online," Shoutmon and Cutemon in "Digimon Fusion," and many others.

In western animation, he starred as Numbuh 1 and Numbuh 2 in "Codename: Kids Next Door," Eddie Brock/Venom in "The Spectacular Spider-Man," Boris Badenov in "The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle," and Baby Gonzo in the 2018 remake of "Muppet Babies."

He's been doing video game voice over since the early days of the PlayStation 2. He was Eric Sparrow in "Tony Hawk's Underground," Young Master Xehanort in the "Kingdom Hearts" franchise, Daichi Shijima in "Devil Survivor 2: Record Breaker," Jakob, Saizo, Hayato, and Matthew in "Fire Emblem: Fates" and "Fire Emblem: Heroes," Rokuro in "Tales of Berseria," Sig and Lemres in "Puyo Puyo Tetris," and Mega Man in "Mega Man 11."

His most notable FURRY role is Haida in Sanrio's "Aggretsuko" and, real talk, he knows that's the only reason you'd want to meet him and he's totally cool with that. In fact, he's sitting in front of his computer right now, thinking, "Okay, I have no idea why I'm writing this bio. Let's face it, the only reason I got invited was because of Haida. I know it; they know it; why beat around the bush? I mean, ain't no one here to see the voice of Humphrey from the 'Alpha and Omega' sequels or Valefor from 'Magi: Adventure of Sinbad.' Although, I guess I should write those down somewhere just in case and waaaaaaait a minute...! I just did! Wow, good job, Me!"

He also writes terrible bios for convention appearances and clearly can't be trusted to tie his own shoes, let alone self-promote. ... Come say hi!!

Anthrocon Quick Facts

Anthrocon began as Albany Anthrocon in 1997, and since then has grown into the largest Furry convention in the world, appearing in the 2008 edition of *Guinness Book of World Records*.

Attendees from around the world come to Anthrocon for our many workshops and seminars, which focus on acting, costume-building, animation, writing, art and design, and more. We count among our ranks professional sports mascots, animators, cartoonists, puppeteers, artists, illustrators, and writers, as well as those who simply think that it would be a wonderful thing if animals could walk or talk like we do.

Anthrocon moved to Pittsburgh in 2006 after outgrowing its previous venue, and has been responsible for an economic impact of \$34.1 million in direct spending in Pittsburgh.

Anthrocon has raised more than \$300,000 for charities since 1997.

The sole purpose of the organization is to operate a yearly convention in order to bring Furry fans from all over the world—some as far away as Germany, Australia, and Japan—together in a relaxed social atmosphere where fans of all ages feel welcome.



Anthrocon Fursuit Parade. The parade goes outside the convention center and had 1,980 participants in 2018.



Anthrocon Dealers' Room. Attendees of all ages come to Anthrocon from as far away as Germany, Australia, and Japan to attend workshops and seminars, buy and sell artwork, exhibit costumes, and socialize with their fellow fans.



Donations to the Anthrocon Charity Auction. Anthrocon has raised more than \$300,000 for charities since 1997.

What is Furry Fandom?

The word “anthropomorphic” (literally “resembling the human form”) refers to animals or objects given human characteristics. Anthropomorphic animals include the gods of ancient Egypt with their dog- and crocodile-heads, the tool-using characters of the Sonic the Hedgehog video games, or the talking ponies of the *My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic* television series. Only within the last three decades has anthropomorphic animal—or more commonly, “Furry”—fandom coalesced into its own distinct entity. Fans are found in all corners of the world, and come from all races and ages and creeds. We are bound together across the most daunting barriers by our mutual admiration for these beasts of myth and legend who, by simple reflection, give us a better window into understanding ourselves.

A large number of Furry fans are employed in scientific or technical fields. A significant percentage have college diplomas and many of those hold advanced degrees. This, perhaps, is what leads many casual observers to raise an eyebrow. “Why would someone like this be interested in cartoon animals? Isn’t that unusual?” If we look at the world around us, however, we will see that anthropomorphized animals are an integral part of our culture. We use them to represent our political parties. We talk to our dogs (and some even imagine they talk back, though in their own way). We put a tiger in our tank. We cheer for mascots — anthropomorphic animals dressed in team uniforms — at our favorite sporting events. Our casual observer may simply be unaware that it is only in the last forty years that cartoons and cartoon animals have been relegated to the world of children. Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, and their ilk were once targeted primarily to an adult audience, their productions filled with innuendo and biting political satire. Furry fans today simply have not forgotten those roots. The average Furry fan is cast from the same mold as the science fiction or sword-and-sorcery fan; all of us imagine strange and thrilling worlds and try to picture ourselves living in those worlds.

Today, Furry fandom is an artistic and literary genre that is practiced and enjoyed by tens of thousands worldwide. We count among our ranks professional sports mascots, animators, cartoonists, puppeteers, artists, illustrators, and writers, as well as those who simply think that it would be a wonderful thing if animals could walk or talk like we do. If you as an adult still occasionally like to watch old cartoons, or have a stuffed animal sitting on the dashboard of your car, or buy cereal because it has a cool tiger on the box, you may well enjoy what our fandom has to offer.



Detail of Fursuit Parade Group Photo. While they may be the most recognizable part of the convention, only 20% of Anthrocon’s attendees wear costumes.



Anthrocon 2018 Conbook Art. Thousands of talented artists, writers, costumers, puppeteers, performers, and everyday fans participate in Furry fandom worldwide.

Previous Anthrocon Data

Date/Location	Theme	Guests of Honor	Charity	Attendance
July 4-6, 1997 Albany, NY	"An East Coast Furry Con"	Daphne Lage, Watts Martin	\$2,200 for Therapy Dogs/K9 Friends	300
July 3-5, 1998 Albany, NY	"Here Be Dragons"	Jeffrey A. Carver, Uncle, Kage, Jim Groat	\$3,200 for Whiskers	Estimated 600
July 2-4, 1999 Valley Forge, PA	"The Furry Revolution"	Vicky Wyman, S. Andrew Swann	\$3,600 for Great Valley Nature Center	Estimated 842
June 30-July 2, 2000 Valley Forge, PA	"Furries of Myth and Legend"	Sara Palmer, Paul Kidd	\$6,500 for the National Greyhound Adoption Program	1,128
July 27-29, 2001 Philadelphia, PA	"Furries in Flight"	Bill Holbrook, Dan DeCarlo	\$7,200 for Reins of Life	1,457
July 11-14, 2002 Philadelphia, PA	"Invention"	Heather Brunton, Lisanne Norman	\$13,200 for Canine Partners for Life	1,648
July 17-20, 2003 Philadelphia, PA	"Creatures of the Night"	Mark E. Rogers, Guy Gilchrist	\$8,348 for Support Our Shelters	1,949
July 8-11, 2004 Philadelphia, PA	"Summer Games"	Michel Gagné, Stan Sakai	\$7,200 for Forgotten Felines & Fidos (FFF)	2,404
July 7-10, 2005 Philadelphia, PA	"Heroes"	Peter Laird, Timothy Albee	\$6,400 for Greater Philadelphia Search & Rescue	2,370
June 15-18, 2006 Pittsburgh, PA	"Making History"	Scott Shaw!, Diane Duane	\$8,400 Western Pennsylvania National Wild Animal Orphanage	2,489
July 7-10, 2007 Pittsburgh, PA	"Looking to the Future"	Robert Paulsen, Carolyn Kelly, Mark Evanier	\$7,608 for Animal Friends	2,849
June 26-29, 2008 Pittsburgh, PA	"It's a Jungle Out There"	Floyd Norman	\$13,154 for Pittsburgh Parrot Rescue	3,390
July 2-5, 2009 Pittsburgh, PA	"OMG Aliens!"	Bob Balistreri, Bob Boyle, Joe Harris	\$8,992 for Animal Rescue League Wildlife Rehabilitation Center	3,776
June 24-27, 2010 Pittsburgh, PA	"Modern Stone-Age Furries"	James Gurney, Jim Martin	\$12,849 for Fayette Friends of Animals	4,238
June 23-26, 2011 Pittsburgh, PA	"Anthropomorphic Institute of Magic"	Peter S. Beagle, Andy Runton	\$11,522 for the Toonseum	4,400
June 21-24, 2012 Pittsburgh, PA	"A Midsummer Night's Dream"	Mike Kazaleh, Dev Madan	\$20,656 for Hello Bully	5,179
July 4-7, 2013 Pittsburgh, PA	"The Fast and the Furious"	Larry Dixon, Mercedes Lackey, Tom Minton	\$31,255 for Equine Angels Rescue	5,557
July 3-6, 2014 Pittsburgh, PA	"Secret Societies"	Lee Tockar, Jim Cummings	\$32,372 for National Aviary	5,861
July 9-12, 2015 Pittsburgh, PA	"Viking Invasion"	Kimlinh Tran, The San Diego Chicken	\$35,910 for Western Pennsylvania Humane Society	6,348
June 30-July 3, 2016 Pittsburgh, PA	"Roaring Twenty"	Trevor Devall, Tracy Butler, Joaquin Baldwin	\$32,579 for the Pittsburgh Zoo	7,308
June 29-July 2, 2017 Pittsburgh, PA	"Take Me Out to the Ballgame"	Charlie Adler	\$37,598 for Hope Haven Farm Sanctuary	7,544
July 5-8, 2018 Pittsburgh, PA	"Movie Monsters"	Len Simon, Ursula Vernon	\$42,051 for South Hills Pet Rescue	8,407



Since 1997, Anthrocon has endeavored to provide a professional convention for fans of anthropomorphic animals. Attendance has reflected our goal and we thank all of our attendees for their patronage.