A Con at your library
What is a Con?
Why host a Con?
Why host a Con?

• Bring teens into the library
Why host a Con?

• Bring teens into the library

• The teens want the Con
Why host a Con?

• Bring teens into the library

• The teens want the Con

• Outcomes
Consider this...
Consider this...

• Size of the event
Consider this...

• Size of the event

• Do not do this alone
Consider this...

• Size of the event

• Do not do this alone

• Your role
How to determine if teens are interested in a Con
How to determine if teens are interested in a Con

• Fandom signs
How to determine if teens are interested in a Con

- Fandom signs
- Clothing
How to determine if teens are interested in a Con

• Fandom signs
• Clothing
• Graphic Novels
How to determine if teens are interested in a Con

• Fandom signs
• Clothing
• Graphic Novels
• Movie selections
How to determine if teens are interested in a Con

- Fandom signs
- Clothing
- Graphic Novels
- Movie selections
- Con experience
How the Con happened at Maxwell
How the Con happened at Maxwell

• Asked teens to tap into their dreams
How the Con happened at Maxwell

• Asked teens to tap into their dreams

• Begin the dialog
How the Con happened at Maxwell

• Asked teens to tap into their dreams

• Begin the dialog

• Listen & take notes
Library Spaces
Library Spaces

• Size of the library
Library Spaces

• Size of the library

• Furniture & shelving - fixed or movable
Library Spaces

• Size of the library
• Furniture & shelving- fixed or movable
• Off limits areas
Library Spaces

• Size of the library
• Furniture & shelving- fixed or movable
• Off limits areas
• Number of Bathrooms
Library Spaces

• Size of the library
• Furniture & shelving- fixed or movable
• Off limits areas
• Number of Bathrooms
• Outside Spaces
Communication within the Library
Communication within the Library

- Director & superiors
Communication within the Library

• Director & superiors
• Colleagues & staff
Communication within the Library

• Director & superiors
• Colleagues & staff
• Library Board
Communication within the Library

• Director & superiors
• Colleagues & staff
• Library Board
• Patrons
Communication within the Library

• Director & superiors
• Colleagues & staff
• Library Board
• Patrons
• Justification for closing the library
Meeting Schedule
Meeting Schedule

• Core Group - limited number
Meeting Schedule

• Core Group - limited number

• Skills of the Group
Ground Rules
Ground Rules

• Behavior Expectations – language, respect for property
Ground Rules

• Behavior Expectations – language, respect for property

• Allow Teens to make Rules
Ground Rules

• Behavior Expectations – language, respect for property

• Allow Teens to make Rules

• Ensure All know the Rules
Create the Con Activity List
Create the Con Activity List

• Panel Discussions
Create the Con Activity List

• Panel Discussions
• Food
Create the Con Activity List

• Panel Discussions
• Food
• Vendors
Create the Con Activity List

- Panel Discussions
- Food
- Vendors
- Cosplay - Prizes
Create the Con Activity List

• Panel Discussions
• Food
• Vendors
• Cosplay - Prizes
• Games
Create the Con Activity List

• Panel Discussions
• Food
• Vendors
• Cosplay - Prizes
• Games
• Films/Videos
Create the Con Activity List

- Panel Discussions
- Food
- Vendors
- Cosplay - Prizes
- Games
- Films/Videos
- Guest Speaker
Create the Con Activity List

• Panel Discussions
• Food
• Vendors
• Cosplay - Prizes
• Games
• Films/Videos
• Guest Speaker
• Wrap-Up Panel
Delegate Responsibility
Delegate Responsibility

• Timetable/Responsibilities
Delegate Responsibility

• Timetable/Responsibilities

• Impress Timetable Importance
Delegate Responsibility

• Timetable/Responsibilities

• Impress Timetable Importance

• Anticipate Problems
Funding
Funding

• State Grant
Funding

- State Grant
- Grant Timetable
Funding

• State Grant

• Grant Timetable

• Grant Requirements
Explore Community Partnerships
Explore Community Partnerships

• Local Churches
Explore Community Partnerships

• Local Churches

• Community Outreach Programs
Explore Community Partnerships

• Local Churches

• Community Outreach Programs

• Youth Groups
Publicize for Additional Volunteers
Publicize for Additional Volunteers

• Schools
Publicize for Additional Volunteers

• Schools

• Library
Publicize for Additional Volunteers

• Schools

• Library

• Social Networking Sites
Publicize for Additional Volunteers

- Schools
- Library
- Social Networking Sites
- Scouts
Publicize for Additional Volunteers

• Schools

• Library

• Social Networking Sites

• Scouts

• Church Groups
Vendors, Film Licenses, Local Government
Vendors, Film Licenses, Local Government

- Contact Vendors
Vendors, Film Licenses, Local Government

• Contact Vendors

• Create Vendor Agreement
Vendors, Film Licenses, Local Government

• Contact Vendors

• Create Vendor Agreement

• Film Licensing
Vendors, Film Licenses, Local Government

• Contact Vendors

• Create Vendor Agreement

• Film Licensing

• Local Government Offices & Police
Estimate Attendance
Estimate Attendance

• Event Pre-registration
Estimate Attendance

• Event Pre-registration

• Knowledge of Venue Site
Estimate Attendance

• Event Pre-registration

• Knowledge of Venue Site

• Leave Wiggle Room
Organize the Publicity
Organize the Publicity

- Social Media
  camcon video
Organize the Publicity

• Social Media
• Community Websites
Organize the Publicity

• Social Media
• Community Websites
• Local News Media
Organize the Publicity

• Social Media
• Community Websites
• Local News Media
• Television & Radio
Organize the Publicity

• Social Media
• Community Websites
• Local News Media
• Television & Radio
• Gaming Stores
Organize the Publicity

• Social Media
• Community Websites
• Local News Media
• Television & Radio
• Gaming Stores
• Comic Book Shops
Organize the Publicity

- Social Media
- Community Websites
- Local News Media
- Television & Radio
- Gaming Stores
- Comic Book Shops
- Teen Hangouts
Organize the Publicity

• Social Media
• Community Websites
• Local News Media
• Television & Radio
• Gaming Stores
• Comic Book Shops
• Teen Hangouts
• Colleges & schools
Finalize Activities Schedule
Finalize Activities Schedule

• Set Dates & Times
Finalize Activities Schedule

• Set Dates & Times

• Get People to Commit
Finalize Activities Schedule

• Set Dates & Times

• Get People to Commit

• Library as Meeting Place
Finalize Activities Schedule

• Set Dates & Times

• Get People to Commit

• Library as Meeting Place

• Leave Wiggle Room
Finalize Agreements
Finalize Agreements

• List Expectations for All Parties Involved
Finalize Agreements

• List Expectations for All Parties Involved

• Listen to their Needs
Security & Weapons
Security & Weapons

• Parents as Security
Security & Weapons

• Parents as Security

• Weapons Check In
Age Limit
Age Limit

• Lower Age Limit
Age Limit

• Lower Age Limit

• Upper Age Limit
Week of the Event
Week of the Event

• Refer to Schedule
Week of the Event

• Refer to Schedule

• Reassure Teens
Week of the Event

• Refer to Schedule

• Reassure Teens

• Thinking outside the Box
24 Hours before the Event
24 Hours before the Event

• Last Minute Details
24 Hours before the Event

• Last Minute Details

• Last Minute Personnel Changes
24 Hours before the Event

• Last Minute Details

• Last Minute Personnel Changes

• Help Teens Decompress before the Event
Day of the Con
Day of the Con

• Arrive Early!
Day of the Con

• Arrive Early!
• Food for Volunteers
Day of the Con

• Arrive Early!
• Food for Volunteers
• Be Flexible
Day of the Con

• Arrive Early!
• Food for Volunteers
• Be Flexible
• Be a Role Model
Day of the Con

• Arrive Early!
• Food for Volunteers
• Be Flexible
• Be a Role Model
• Connect with Volunteers & Participants
Day of the Con

• Arrive Early!
• Food for Volunteers
• Be Flexible
• Be a Role Model
• Connect with Volunteers & Participants
• Appreciate the Hard Work
Day of the Con

• Arrive Early!
• Food for Volunteers
• Be Flexible
• Be a Role Model
• Connect with Volunteers & Participants
• Appreciate the Hard Work
• Enjoy Yourself!
Hard Learned Dos & Don’ts
Hard Learned Dos & Don’ts

• Schedule all programs to begin and end at same time
Hard Learned Dos & Don’ts

• Schedule all programs to begin and end at same time
• Publish the schedule of events
Hard Learned Dos & Don’ts

• Schedule all programs to begin and end at same time
• Publish the schedule of events
• Reasonably priced food
Hard Learned Dos & Don’ts

• Schedule all programs to begin and end at same time
• Publish the schedule of events
• Reasonably priced food
• Change is good
Hard Learned Dos & Don’ts

• Schedule all programs to begin and end at same time
• Publish the schedule of events
• Reasonably priced food
• Change is good
• Vendors & sales
Hard Learned Dos & Don’ts

• Popular sales items
Hard Learned Dos & Don’ts

• Popular sales items
• Costume malfunctions
Hard Learned Dos & Don’ts

• Popular sales items
• Costume malfunctions
• Dressing room/bathroom issues
Hard Learned Dos & Don’ts

• Popular sales items
• Costume malfunctions
• Dressing room/bathroom issues
• Openness with Parents
Hard Learned Dos & Don’ts

• Popular sales items
• Costume malfunctions
• Dressing room/bathroom issues
• Openness with Parents
• The Hook
Rose Burdick  rburdick@onlib.org
Glossary

• Larping- Live action role playing. Participants take on the role of characters in a live setting according to a set of pre-arranged rules. Gamemasters control the event by deciding on the rules and settings. Characters are created by the player and can be terminated or neutralized by the player or other players in the game.

• JohnLock- The bromance between John Watson and Sherlock Holmes in BBC’s Sherlock.
• Dragon Con- Takes place in Atlanta, is a multi-genre convention. [http://www.dragoncon.org/](http://www.dragoncon.org/)

• Comic Con- This Con is so big it sells out in minutes. This convention attracts major movie & television production companies. [http://www.comic-con.org/](http://www.comic-con.org/)

• Cosplay (Cos-play)- Costume play, refers to dressing up as a character from a storyline & sometimes behaving as they would in a given situation. Cosplay can be done at a Con setting but can also be seen in teens dressed up in character walking around in the mall.
• Magic: The Gathering - A fantasy trading card game involving wizards using magic to defeat the opponents. The game can be played informally or in tournaments. Consensus is, the person with the most money to spend on cards, wins.

• PadLock - Anthropomorphized characters of a notepad and a clock in the online storyline “Don’t Hug Me, I’m Scared”.  
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9C_HReR_McQ  
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtkGtXtDlQA
• Know your Meme- useful website to learn about what are the latest trending memes. Be aware that by the time they make it here they might be past peak. http://knowyourmeme.com/