

CONnections Panel Descriptions

Main Programming (TSQD)

10:30 am – 11:20 am

The Magic of Names: Power, Identity, and Language in Fantasy. From true names to unspoken spells, how do naming conventions, word-based magic, and language shape character and world-building.

Wren Handman, David Falk, Ziggy Schultz

12:30 pm – 1:20 pm

The Language of Horror. It takes using language in a very specific way to create the suspense and description that goes into thrilling our souls and keeping us awake in the middle of the night.

Janine Cross, Rhea Rose, Linda DeMeulmeester, Ziggy Schultz, Konn Lavery, Corey Liu

1:30 pm – 2:20 pm

Whispers in the Archive: The Power of Lost and Forbidden Knowledge. From ancient tomes to encrypted databases, how does speculative fiction use silence, censorship, or hidden texts to shape world-building and tension?

Corey Van Egdome, Bonnie Jacoby, Peter Darbyshire, David Falk, Mark Feenstra

2:30 pm – 3:20 pm

Pallahaxi Players: We are lovers of fun and Speculative fiction who read short plays to audiences at various local conventions.

Casey June Wolf, Rhea Rose, Jules Zenthoefer, Linda DeMeulmeester, Janine Cross, Bonnie Jacoby

3:30 pm – 4:20 pm

Writing Craft: How does the sausage get made? What are all the moving parts that go into crafting a well-told tale?

Mark Feenstra, Cat Girczyc, Wren Handman, David Falk, Ziggy Schultz

Small Programming 204 (SE06-204)

10:30 am – 11:20 am

Science Fiction Model Fandom in Vancouver: Come explore the various creations of Vancouver creators.

Stan Hyde

11:30 am – 12:20 pm

Japan Wonderfest 2027 and more SF events on tour in Japan: Step out of the local bubble and experience the winded and fun of Japanese events.

Stan Hyde

12:30 pm – 1:20 pm

Build-a-Conlang: Constructing a Fictional Language from Scratch. Learn basic linguistic tools and start developing your own language, from phonetics, grammar and script, to cultural influences and real-world inspiration. Great for writers, GMs, and worldbuilders.

Noah Chinn, David Falk, Lynda Williams

3:30 pm – 4:20 pm

Beyond Words: Visual Storytelling in Comics, Games, and Film. How non-verbal narrative techniques--glyphs, signs, iconography, UI

design, and imagery--can be used to convey emotion, story, or danger when words aren't enough

Toren Atkinson, Beth Wagner

4:30 pm – 5:20 pm

Raised Voices: Oral Traditions in Fantasy and Futurism. Explore how cultures in speculative fiction preserve history and identity through oral storytelling, and what happens when those voices are threatened or revived.

Corey Van Egdom, Ziggy Schultz

Small Programming 205 (SE06–205)

11:30 am – 12:20 pm

Culture Clash: Miscommunication as Conflict. How authors and game designers use misunderstandings between cultures, species, or factions as the spark for tension, war, or growth in their stories.

Wren Handman, Ziggy Schultz, Mark Gledhill, Nina Munteanu, Lynda Williams

1:30 pm – 2:20 pm

Signals, Songs and Soundtracks: Music as Communication in Speculative Fiction. From alien calls to prophetic chants, music often bridges the gap between species or realities. This panel explores how music functions as message or code in speculative fiction (think *Close Encounters*, *Mass Effect*, *Arrival*).

Scott Betson

2:30 pm – 3:20 pm

Cosplay As Translation: Adapting Outfits and Body Language from Page to Reality. How do you bring written or animated descriptions of

costumes to life, especially when language or tech in the world is vague or symbolic? Cosplayers and designers share their process of translating abstract ideas into wearable art.

Mark Gledhill, Ziggy Schultz, Scott Betson

4:30 pm – 5:20 pm

First Words: Alien Languages and First Contact in Speculative Fiction. How do you say hello to a species you can't understand? A look at the narrative and cultural impact of first contact and alien linguistics in books, games, and film.

Noah Chinn, Holly Schofield, Lynda Williams

Author Readings (SE06-206)

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Mark Feenstra

11:15 AM - 11:30 AM

Bonnie Jacoby

11:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Konn Lavery

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Lena Gibson

12:30 PM - 12:45 PM

Wren Handman"

1:00 PM - 1:15 PM

Corey Van Egdom

1:30 PM - 1:45 PM

Noah Chinn"

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Lynda Williams

Free Play Games (SE06–106)

10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Free Play Games

The BCITSA Board Games Association is putting on gaming room complete with classic games like Catan and Monopoly plus whole new experiences like Arkham Horror and Terraforming Mars. Drop in and play anything from cards to Mahjong or sign up for a TTRPG run by our amazing guests!

Scheduled Games (SE06–103/104)

10:00 am – 6:00 pm

TTRPGs

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM: Avatar Legends:

3:00 PM – 6:00 PM: Eureka! Investigative Fantasy

10:30 AM – 2:30 PM: 10 Candles:

Board Games

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM: Dune

10:30 AM – 4:00 PM: Nemesis

10:30 AM – 1:30 PM: Small World