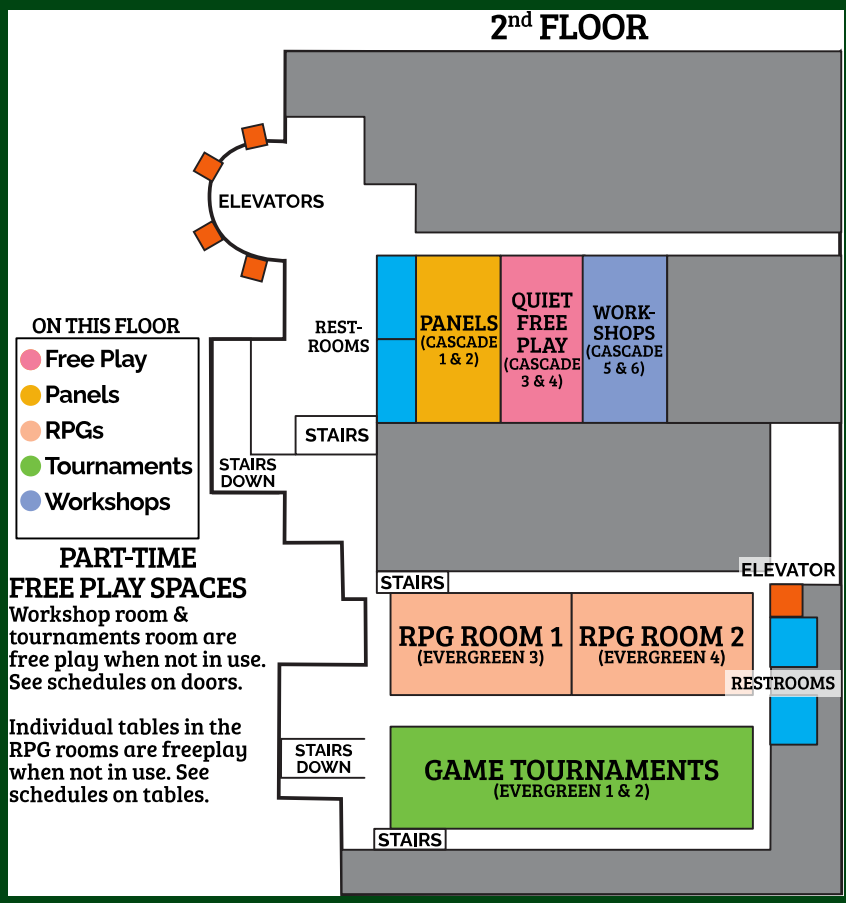
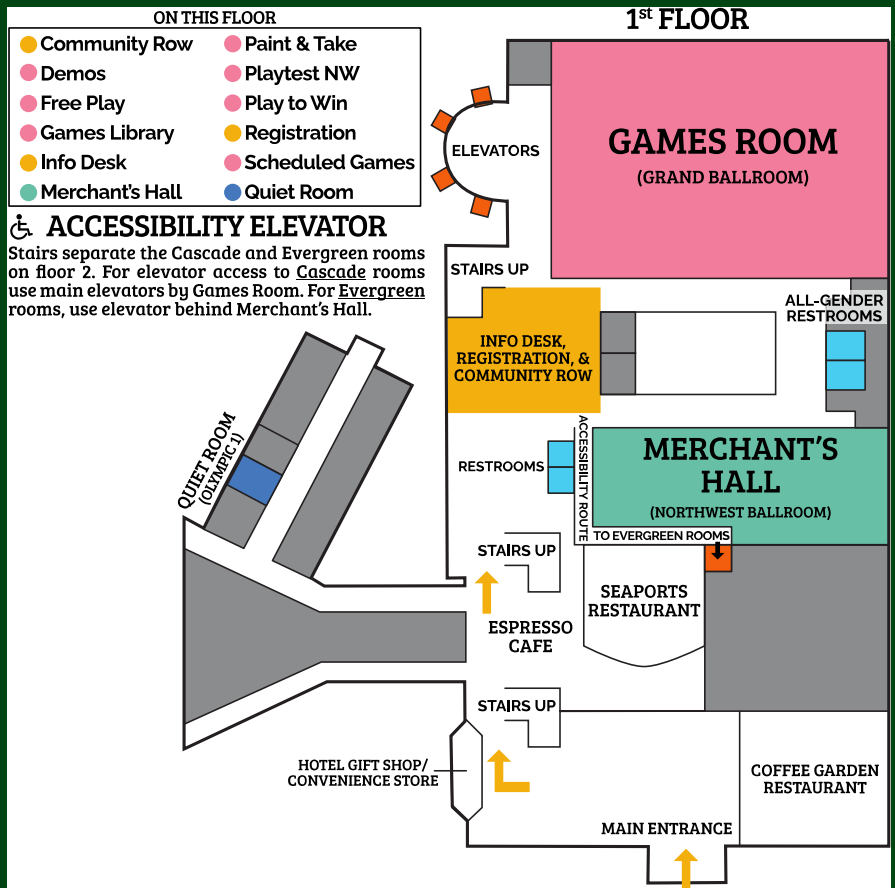




Jan 10th - 12th, 2025

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Seattle Airport

SeaTac, WA



Orcacon Map

# Welcome To



# OrcaCon 2025

An Inclusive Tabletop Games Convention

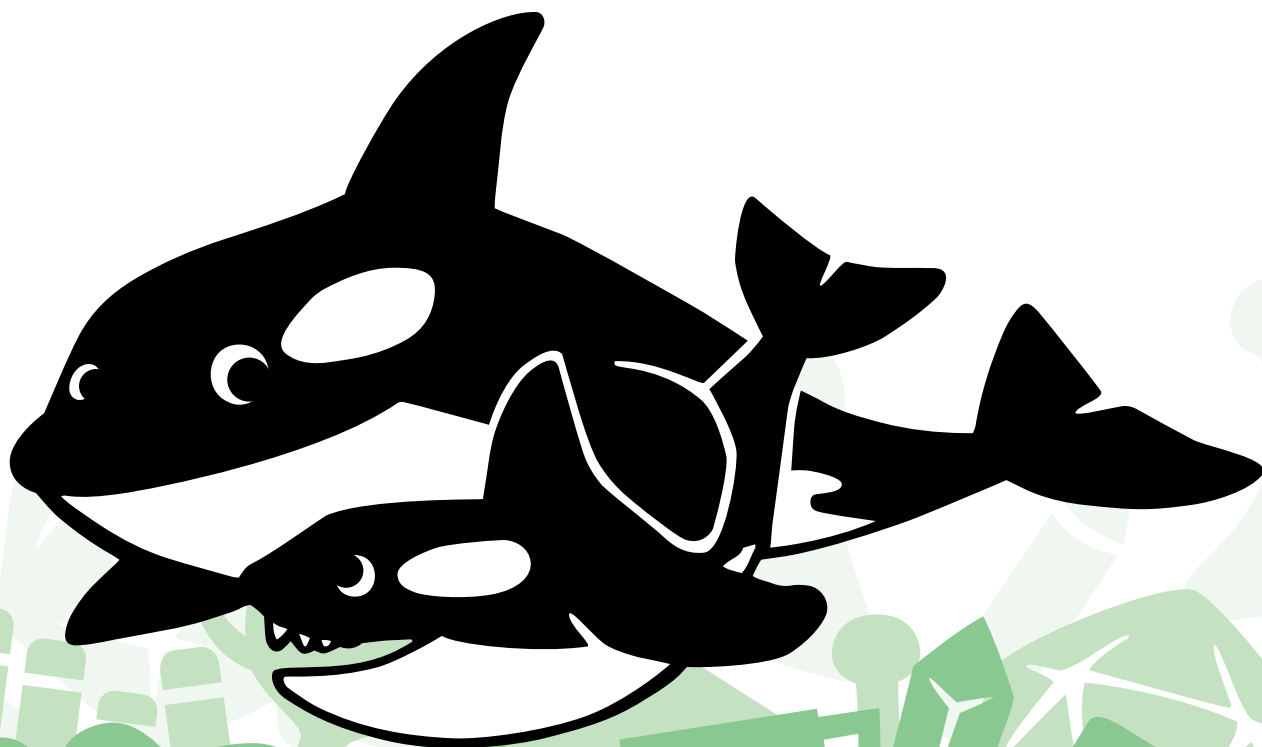
January 10-12, 2025

DoubleTree Sea-Tac, Seattle, Washington



# WHAT IS ORCACON?

We are a cozy inclusive tabletop games convention with a focus in diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. We highlight marginalized voices in tabletop games, including people of color, the LGBTQ+ community & people with disabilities. We strive to create a welcome and inclusive environment for new and seasoned players. Join us for a weekend of your favorite board games, card games, role playing games, miniatures games, and more!





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# POLICIES

## MISSION STATEMENT

OrcaCon is a tabletop games convention, which includes board and card games, role-playing games, and miniature games. OrcaCon is focused on creating a safe and welcoming space for promoting the tabletop games hobby, supporting diversity in tabletop games, and building a community of both novice and experience game players.

A selection of our most important policies are included here. Our complete policy document can be found at the Info Desk or [OrcaCon.org](https://orcacon.org).

## ORCACON'S ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

OrcaCon is dedicated to providing a great convention experience for everyone, regardless of gender, sexuality, disability, physical appearance, body size, race or religion. For this reason, we will not tolerate any form of harassment of convention participants. Con participants found to be engaging in harassment may be sanctioned or expelled from the con without refund. We expect participants to follow these rules at all convention venues and convention-related social spaces such as the hotel restaurant.

### Harassment includes:

- offensive verbal comments about gender, sexuality, disability, physical appearance, body size, race or religion
  - showing sexual images in public spaces. Discussion or images related to sex, pornography, discriminatory language or similar is welcome if it meets all of the following criteria:
    - » organizers have specifically granted permission in writing
    - » it is necessary to the topic of discussion and no alternative exists
    - » it is presented in a respectful manner, especially towards women and LGBTQIA people
    - » attendees are warned in advance in the program and respectfully given ample warning and opportunity to leave beforehand.
- This exception does not allow use of gratuitous sexual images as attention-getting devices or unnecessary examples



- intimidation, stalking or following
- photographing or recording someone without their permission
- sustained disruption of talks or other events
- uninvited physical contact
- uninvited sexual attention

Participants asked to stop harassing behavior must comply **immediately**.

## What should I do if I am being harassed?

You may find the harassment stops if you clearly say 'no' or 'please leave me alone', or simply walk away. We would appreciate it if a volunteer was still informed, to help us identify any repeat offenders.

If you continue to be harassed or notice someone else being harassed, please contact a volunteer immediately. Con volunteers will help participants contact venue security, provide escorts, or otherwise assist those experiencing harassment. The con volunteer will take whatever steps they can to assist you in feeling safe, and will put you in contact with or bring you to an appropriate staff member.

You do not have to give us details of the harassment. If you wish to report, we will take details of the harassment and work with you so you feel safe. It helps us maintain the safety of the wider convention environment, as well as enforcing our anti-harassment policy. If you report a serious criminal matter, please be aware that we may be obliged to contact the police. We would take into account any concerns you may have around involving them.

## PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY

Cameras and camcorders are not allowed in the Merchants Hall. Photography of all other aspects of the convention is allowed, as long as it does not disrupt events or the flow of traffic, and the subject does not object. Please be considerate and ask first before taking pictures of guests, other attendees, or the general public. **Video recording is permitted in panel rooms with permission from the speakers only.** Video recording of Special Guests, attendees, and volunteers near their personal hotel rooms is prohibited.

# ANTI-RACISM POLICY

Like society in general, racism permeates geek culture and geek spaces, making them less welcoming and safe for POC (People of Color). At OrcaCon, we want to prioritize the voices of people who are often spoken over or erased in geek spaces, and make OrcaCon as accessible as we can to people from all racial backgrounds. Problems POC attendees of geek events talk about include:

- People critiquing their cosplay costumes without being asked
- Being expected to be an authority on POC characters in various shows or comics
- Being talked down to or assumed to be less knowledgeable about topics being discussed

## Hate Symbols and Associated Iconography:

As we strive to provide a welcoming, safe environment for all attendees, symbols associated with historical atrocities and current hate groups are strictly forbidden from the convention. This includes (but is not limited to) swastikas, Nazi uniforms, cosplays closely based on Nazi uniforms, and paraphernalia associated with these organizations.

**We stand united against white supremacy, neo-Nazis, and the “alt-right.” We denounce their toxic hate, fear, and violence.**

While in an ideal world, it would be easy to separate fictional characters who wear these items from real world events, in our current political climate we do not believe it is possible. Anyone wearing or displaying an item of clothing, prop, or other item considered a hate symbol will be asked to remove it from the convention and refusal to do so will result in ejection from the convention without refund.

**This sort of behavior will absolutely not be tolerated.** (Thanks to Trae Dorn from **Nerd & Tie** for the updated language)

## Why does OrcaCon need an anti-harassment policy?

We've implemented an anti-harassment policy in response to widespread reports of harassment in geek communities and at conventions. Read more about why action on harassment at geek conventions is necessary by visiting the **Ada Initiative**.

Nerd and Tie:



Ada Initiative:





# ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

OrcaCon hopes to enable respect, dignity, and ability for all members of the con. Below are some examples of what that may look like in the OrcaCon setting.

- **Ask to Help:** Please ask if someone would like help before assuming they are incapable of helping themselves.
- **Capable, NOT Incapable:** Treat others as capable and with abilities rather than incapable and with disabilities. Do not assume individuals with disabilities want advice.
- **Personal Boundaries:** Please respect others' physical and emotional boundaries as you would wish for others to do to you. An example would be: do not touch someone's wheelchair without prior permission, even to move it.
- **Respect Blue Zones:** Please be respectful of any areas at the con marked with blue tape. Chairs or areas marked with blue tape are reserved for anyone that need to sit up front in order to lip read or effectively hear. Wheelchair spaces are also marked in blue. Blue zones at the con MUST be kept clear at all times to allow people to safely enter and leave the con. Be mindful of your surroundings when stopping to chat with others in the hallways and aisles.
- **Keep Pathways Clear:** Keep doorways unblocked and free of merchandise and/or clutter. This is for everyone's benefit as blocking walkways, through ways, and doors creates an unsafe situation, not just in an emergency.
- **Air Quality:** Smoke can be a big trigger of breathing issues and migraines. Please wash your hands if you smoke. Avoid wearing any type of perfume or cologne.
- **Say Something:** You can be an advocate for accessibility by speaking up if you see something that can be a barrier. For example if you see pathways blocked politely ask for them to be cleared or let Con staff know.

If you see any barriers to accessibility or have any ideas/concerns to help improve our con please contact our Accessibility Coordinator at [accessibility@orcacon.org](mailto:accessibility@orcacon.org) or drop by our Information Desk.

# GAMES & MERCHANTS

OrcaCon 2025 will have around-the-clock gaming, starting at 10:00am on Friday, and ending at 6:00pm Sunday. We will have a Play & Win Library, an Open Play Library, Scheduled Games, Tournaments, and Demo Tables.

## OPEN PLAY

A huge amount of OrcaCon is all about people playing games with their friends, or playing games with other attendees. We have a lot of open play tables both in some ballrooms and scattered around the hotel in the wings.

Our Games Admin tables in the Grand Ballroom are there for you to get assistance helping you find a great game or more players. We'll have LFG (Looking for Group) signs, so you can get more players when you bring your own games or borrow something from one of our libraries. Individual tables in the workshop rooms are also available for free play when not in use.

Due to the inclusive nature of our convention, we do not allow the following games in the public convention spaces, due to their content or theme:

- Cards Against Humanity
- Secret Hitler
- Tanto Cuore
- Kingdom Death Lamentations of the Flame Princess
- Reality Check: The Game of Privilege
- Virtue Signal: the Game of Social Justice
- Commissioned
- Mansplaining

## MERCHANT HALL

At Orcacon 2025, we are pleased to host over 30 artists, vendors, and craftspeople. All artists and merchants will be set up in the Northwest Ballroom on the First Floor (marked **Merchant's Hall** on your map).

A full list of this year's merchants is available on Tabletop Events followed by selecting **Northwest Ballroom**. You can also select a merchant's name from the list for a description.



## SCHEDULED GAMES

An up-to-date listing of our scheduled games, panels, and other programming can be found on Tabletop Events:

<https://tabletop.events/conventions/orcacon-2025>

## KID'S TABLES

We have special tables for kids to play at in the Grand Ballroom.

## PLAYTESTNW

PlaytestNW is a hub for playtesters, designers, and gamers to coordinate play testing events and games in the Pacific Northwest.

PlaytestNW hosts playtest events at board game stores, cafes, coffeehouses, and conventions throughout the Greater Seattle area. Smaller events feature three or four game designers showing off their games to get your verbal and written feedback. Larger events can have a dozen designers... or more!

There's nothing more valuable to a game designer than a gamer willing to test their new game idea and offer fresh insights into game-play dynamics and prototype presentations. As soon as you sit down at the table you're "on the team" and your experience and feedback are golden. If you're eager to try out tabletop games still in development and help the designers to make each game the best it can be, you're in the right place.

Visit [playtestnw.com](http://playtestnw.com) for more information.



Playtest NW Site:



# SPECIAL GUESTS



**Kathleen Mercury**



**Amanda Panda**



**Joseph Carriker**



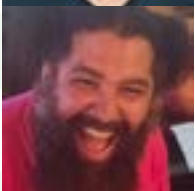
**Banana Chan**



**Stefan Pokorny**



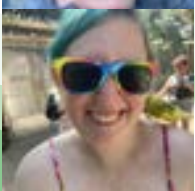
**Jacob Mundell**



**PhantomMeeple**



**Emma Larkins**



**Carla Kopp**

**Joseph Z Chen**



**AnnaMaria Phelps**



**Fertessa Allyse**



**Rob Carlos**



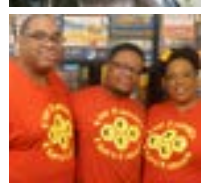
**Connor Alexander**



**John  
"OnlyPlayWizards"  
Bultena**



**Our Family Plays  
Games**



**Jenny Jarzabski**



Special Guest Bios:





# MEET THE CREW

## DONNA PRIOR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*They/Them*

Donna is the Community Director at Catan Studio and is the Executive Director of OrcaCon. They insist they are NOT a Hobbit.



## TANYA DePASS, DEI CONSULTANT

*She/Her*

Tanya DePass is the founder and Director of I Need Diverse Games, a not-for-profit organization based in Chicago, which is dedicated to better diversification of all aspects of gaming. She's a partnered Twitch variety broadcaster, and often speaks on issues of diversity, feminism, race, intersectionality & other topics at conventions.



## STEVE HOBBS, ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

*He/Him*

When Steve's not supervising state and local elections as Washington's Secretary of State, he loves to spend his free time reading comic books with his boys or playing Axis and Allies with his friends.



## BEN EVANS, VENUE COORDINATOR

*He/Him*

This is Ben. He's super busy with a game launch. He's got no time for bios, even though he's a rad dude. It's because he's awesome, that we're writing this out for him.



## PAUL ANDERSON, TREASURER

*He/Him*

When Paul volunteered at the first OrcaCon he knew nothing about board games or conventions. Now he's a board member & host of the Geeks of Cascadia podcast/YouTube channel.



# BARRY WILSON, HEAD OF GAMES (EMERITUS)

*He/Him*

Born of Hippies in the uncharted backwoods of the Pacific Northwest, Barry Wilson was literally raised by wolves.



# CHIP NOLAN, DESIGN COORDINATOR (EMERITUS)

*She/Her*

Chip has been volunteering for conventions for decades now, and she considers working at nerdy events as part of who she is. She made the original OrcaCon logo!



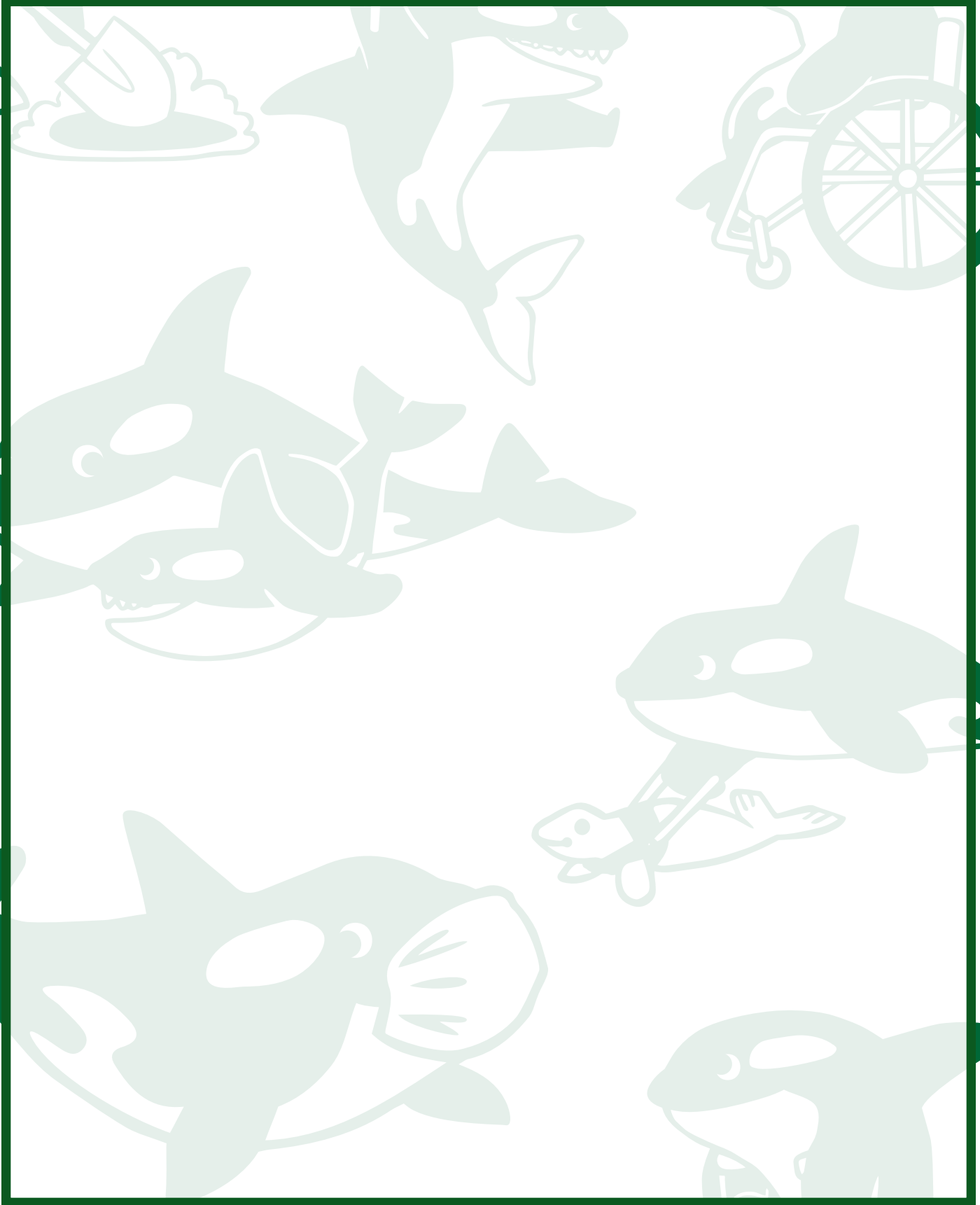
## STAFF

- Maria Moore - Convention Manager
- James Moore - Web Lead
- Heather Curtin - Merchant's Hall, Community Row Lead
- Josie Costa - Accessibility Coordinator
- Lee & Jennifer Pate - Registration Leads
- Shannon Wick - Volunteer Coordinator
- Taya Steere - Quiet Room Coordinator
- Fran Stewart - Special Guest Liaison
- Sarah L. Stewart - Programming Coordinator
- Kit Burlingame - Games Admin Lead
- Rick Labadie - Game Hosts Lead
- Dee Notman - RPG Coordinator
- Jesse Ferguson - Publications Lead

Staff Bios:



# NOTES





**SCAN FOR DIGITAL PROGRAM:**

