



March 21, 2023
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STL SPEX Returns as SLICE October 2023

The St. Louis Small Press Expo (STL SPEX) will return this fall after a three-year hiatus, rebranding as the St. Louis Independent Comics Expo (SLICE). The event will take place at The Sheldon Concert Hall and Art Galleries on October 14, 2023, with a variety of workshops leading to the expo beginning in April.

SLICE is St. Louis's premier annual indie-print showcase, bringing together writers, artists, poets, and printmakers from St. Louis and beyond to showcase their self-published books, comics, zines, magazines, poetry, and more. As a nonprofit organization, SLICE supports St. Louis's small press community through workshops, artist meetups, and expositions to foster independent print culture in St. Louis.

The return of SLICE brings with it a new board of directors and general committee. "The new team organizing the expo is larger, more diverse, and committed to continuing the tradition of the expo and building on what has been done before," said board member and 2019 expo organizer Brandon Daniels. SLICE's rebranding also features a new logo designed by board member Audrey Westcott. "We all loved the zing of the new acronym and the allusions it draws to both papercraft and pizza, which is so deeply St. Louis. Where else do they slice their pizza up into little panels, like a comic?" said Westcott. "I wanted the new logo to be as zingy as the name and to represent the energy this crew is bringing back to the event."

Since its founding in 2014, SLICE has collaborated with local arts organizations like the Pulitzer Foundation and featured guests like Ignatz Award-winning cartoonists Ben Passmore (*DAYGLOAYHOLE*, *Your Black Friend*, *The Nib*) and Liz Prince (*Will You Still Love Me if I Wet the Bed?*, *Tomboy: A Graphic Novel*). The expo has grown consistently over the years, bringing in more than 1,300 attendees in 2019. "I'm so glad to be bringing the expo back to St. Louis. Since its inception in 2014, it's been one of the premier spaces for creators to share their work," said Steenz Stewart, president of the board. "And focusing on providing workshops and events year-round will bolster the comics and small press community even further."

Vendor applications for SLICE open on April 4, 2023. SLICE begins its workshop series on April 22, 2023 at the High Low with the Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts ([VLAA](#)). For more information and announcements on upcoming workshops, special guests, and more, visit [SLICE's website](#) and follow SLICE on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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