



# Fur-land of opportunity

## A LOOK INTO THE FANDOM OF FURRIES



PHOTOS AND STORY BY SUMMER BARRAZA  
MANAGING EDITOR

Before any convention there is a fandom, and before a fandom there is the artist who pioneers that fandom – but not all art is made by big time production studios, this art is made by fandom. Tyler Whorff, a student at Clackamas Community College and artist in a mostly online community creates freelance furry art – the illustration and design of anthropomorphic animals, under the alias Corre con Lobos, a striped hyena. Most furies go by their fursona alias for privacy and separation from outside of the fandom, to protect their identities from co-workers and loved ones due to possible misunderstanding of their fandom.

Whorff specializes in reference sheets or ref sheets, which is the first step into creating a fursona, which are illustrations animals with human characteristics that resonate deeply with the customer – think of Disney's Robin Hood, or Timon from Lion King. Whorff asks for commission pay to create the bones of the customer's suggestions, imagination and



Furlandia hosted several dance competitions, above, and impromptu dance-offs in the convention space through out the entirety of the convention.

captures the simplicities or complexities of fur markings, scars, clothing and so forth by illustrating profiles of every angle of the fursona. "I really like designing characters and I really like how many options there are as a furry.

You can make you character look however you want it to look, or you can pay someone to draw it if you can not draw," Whorff said.

When a commission is complete, usually in the same day for Whorff, the customer can take

their ref sheet to any within the furry community to have it come to life. Whorff's first commission left a mark on him as a customer, "...This is the art of his character and just so happy about it I commissioned me for a ref sheet. I don't remember much he paid me for it, it was \$30 or \$40, which usually what I do, but he got a bunch of not-for-work art afterwards. My profile picture was changed to a new art every week was like, 'I did that! My art can get art'."

Whorff charges \$100 for ref sheets and it's by commission, which in comparison to full time artists, can be from \$300 according to Whorff. Whorff uses his commission money to support himself and his partner Jeffrey Bess. Bess helps us pay for food on this trip – it helps that. You know he's not get crazy, but maybe that maybe he could get more maybe it could be a living.

Bess supports his partner through social media, part within the community. Joof, a shiba inu mix, is yourself to it, taking it in as a lot of people do, I'm. It's like a spectacle, commissions or make do enjoy it."

However, Whorff's art pay, but dreams and aspirations. One of the perks of being curious is being able to very own furry convention displaying and selling Dealer's Den – which who has attended the convention and Bess registered for in advance as the convention public, but to those who both left on May 24 to a four hour long drive from Eugene.



Tyler Whorff ventures out of reference sheet artistry to purchase a plastic cast fursuit head at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel on May 26 to design the startup stages of a fursuit for next year's Furlandia.