



CRUCIAL
COMIX

2025 REPORT

THE STUFF WE MADE,
THE THINGS WE DID, WHERE
OUR MONEY CAME FROM,
AND WHERE IT WENT!

WHO ARE WE?

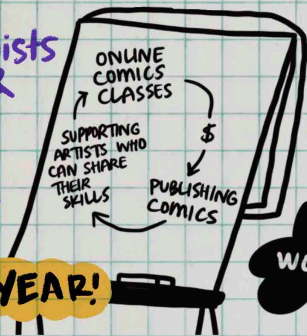


Crucial Comix

is a small press publishing
SHORT NARRATIVE NONFICTION
comics online & in print.

We're a **TEACHING PRESS**—
we run online classes with sliding-
scale prices. Most of the tuition
goes to the teacher, and the rest
goes toward **MAKING MORE COMICS!**

We started Crucial
in 2024 to be a
place where cartoonists
& readers can find &
publish nonfiction
comics, and take
affordable classes.



This is our first **FULL YEAR!**

WOW

IN 2025, CRUCIAL WAS RUN BY:

PUBLISHER
SHAY MIRK

&

EDITOR
AUDRA MCNAMEE



ABSOLUTELY
PULLING THIS
SMALL-PRESS
THING OFF

ALSO RELEASED
A BOOK & WENT
ON TOUR THIS
YEAR

JUST MET
WITH OUR
TAX PREPARER
SO WE REALLY
KNOW THESE
NUMBERS

LITERALLY COULDN'T
HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT
OUR WHOLE COMMUNITY OF
CARTOONISTS, TEACHERS,
READERS, & EVERYONE WITH
A PASSION FOR COMICS

CRUCIAL'S 2025 RATES:

We publish two kinds of comics:

LICENSED COMICS

Completed comics that may have been published elsewhere (eg instagram, another publication)

\$100

EDITED COMICS

Which are developed from the script stage in collaboration with editors

\$450

Teachers get 70% of tuition.
We run two kinds of classes:

ONE-SESSION WORKSHOPS

2025 average number of participants:

17

2025 average paid to teacher: **\$300**

MULTIWEEK CLASSES

2025 average number of participants:

15

2025 average paid to teacher: **\$1,500**

We plan to keep the same rates in 2026!

CRUCIAL'S 2025 STATS:

* Ran **8** multi-week classes

* Hosted **22** single-session workshops

* And ran the monthly Chronic Illness Comix Club meetup (facilitated by zareen choudhury)

* Published **50** comics

* **12** of which were created through Crucial's editing program

* Tabled at **14** comics & zine festivals



we're doing fewer next year (probably)

CRUCIAL'S 2025 EDITORS:

Every season, Crucial has a new cohort of volunteer editors who

REVIEW SUBMISSIONS
at a monthly meeting

&

WORK WITH CARTOONISTS
as they develop their comics

Crucial editors develop their editorial skills while making decisions about what we publish (so Crucial reflects many perspectives & tastes!)

In 2025, Crucial paid editors an honorarium of
\$25/monthly meeting
\$100/comic edited

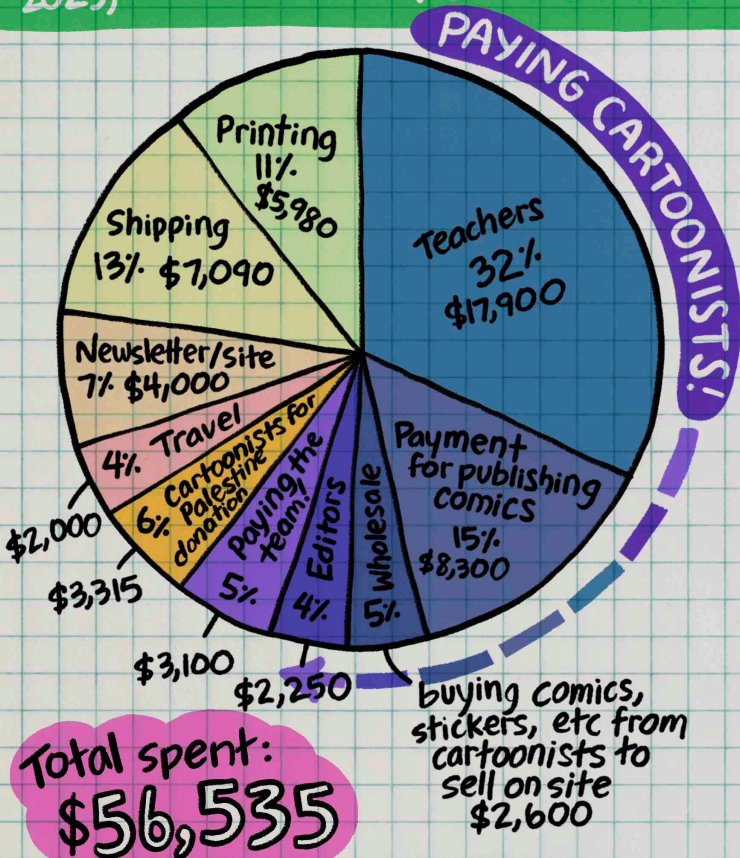
10 people participated as **CRUCIAL EDITORS!**

THANK YOU!

AL BENBOW
MATTEO FARINELLA
XENON HONCHAR
MATTIE LUBCHANSKY
MAKI NARO
SARA RYAN

& current editors ALI HOLMES,
GEETHA IYER, CK GORMALLY
AND SANIKA PHWADE!

IN 2025, CRUCIAL'S EXPENSES WERE:



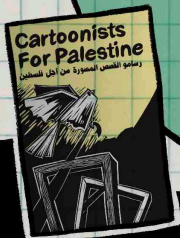
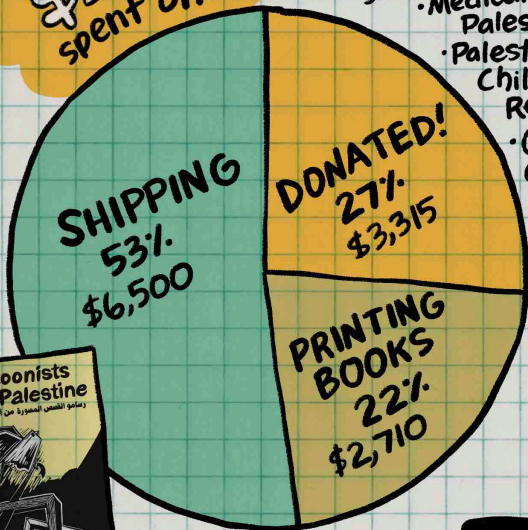
ZOOM IN ON THE CARTOONISTS FOR PALESTINE BOOK:



Total collected:
\$12,210
spent on:

DONATIONS
SPLIT BETWEEN:

- Medical aid for Palestinians
- Palestinian Children's Relief Fund
- Ghassan Abu Children's Fund
- ANERA



IN JANUARY 2026,
WE PRINTED 2,000 MORE COPIES OF THE BOOK.
WE PLAN ON DONATING MORE TO MEDICAL
AID GROUPS THIS COMING YEAR.

ZOOM IN ON PAYING THE TEAM:



IN 2025:

We paid Shay
\$1,350 for work on
Crucial &
\$4,650 for teaching

We paid Audra
\$1,750 for work on
Crucial &
\$1,550 for teaching

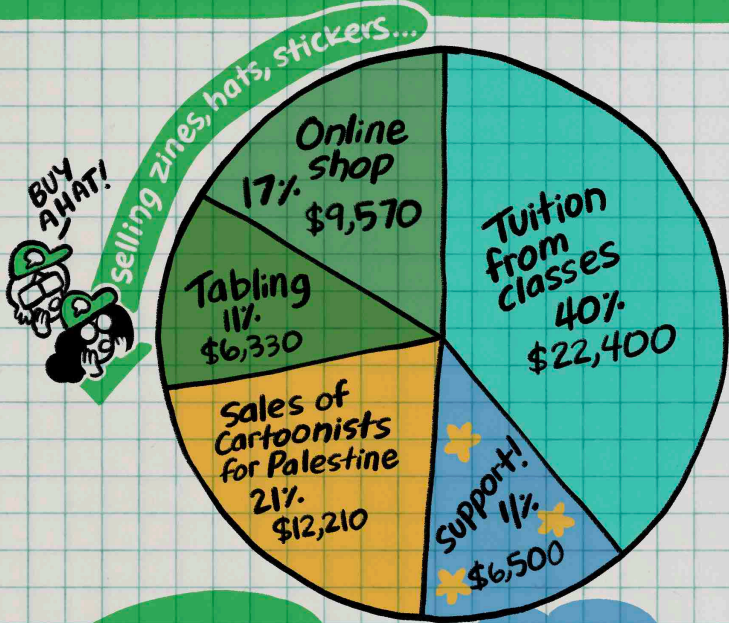
Paying ourselves
a fair amount is
one of the things
that will make
it possible to keep
Crucial running
for a long time.

IN 2026:



Shay got a
grant which
will support
their work on
Crucial in 2026!
We plan on
paying Audra
\$400/month!

CRUCIAL'S 2025 INCOME:



Total
2025 income:
\$57,000

IN 2025,
CRUCIAL RECEIVED

- ✿ \$5,000 from the Perrault family
- ✿ \$600 from the Sequential Artists Workshop
- ✿ \$900 from Patreon supporters

we're
in the
green

the
scheme is
working

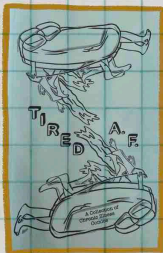
2025
NET PROFIT:

\$1,500

thank you
for your
support!

feeling
stable &
sustainable
headed into
2026!

IN 2025, CRUCIAL RELEASED IN PRINT:



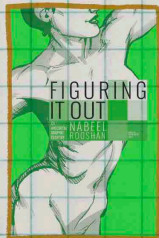
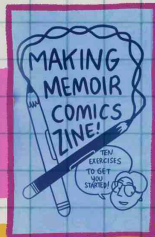
Tired AF: A Collection of Chronic Illness Comics,
edited by Zareen Choudhury
w/16 contributors

OCD & Me
by Scott McCormick



Adult ADHD
by Megan
K. Barry

Making Memoir Comics Zine
by Shay Mirk



& we printed Figuring It Out by Nabeel Rooshan,
on our site soon.

WE HAVE SO MANY PEOPLE TO THANK!

- * All our editors, again ♥
- * Everyone who submitted a comic this year.
- * Everyone who led a class or workshop!
- * Zareen Choudhury for running the Chronic Illness Comics Club monthly meeting this year ♥
- * Casper Mayberry, our summer 2025 intern!
- * Everyone who supported Crucial including through Patreon or sharing our work.
- * Everyone who took a class or read a comic!

in 2026, we plan to:

- ✧ Make at least one more anthology zine!
- ✧ Apply to some grants!
- ✧ Research co-ops (nonhierarchical structures baybee).
- ✧ Run more community-oriented online classes!
We've got classes on pitching your graphic novel, magical realism in comics, and coloring comics coming up.
- ✧ Keep publishing comics that are important to Crucial editors and cartoonists.



Comics are crucial.

Share your cool nonfiction comics with us! Our submissions are open!

