



Harp in Shadows

A Sheik Zine

Harp in Shadows is a **digital fanzine** based on **Sheik** from the Legend of Zelda series. It will focus on **male, non-binary, and genderfluid** versions of Sheik in an effort to elevate non-traditional depictions of the character.

This document serves to compile all information for applicants and viewers in one place. If you have any further questions, please reach out to us on our social media accounts or via email. We hope you will join us on this journey!

Status

All orders have been sent!

Contact

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Schedule

March 19, 2023	Interest Check Opens
April 2, 2023	Interest Check Closes
April 9, 2023	Contributor Applications Open
May 9, 2023	Contributor Applications Close
May 16, 2023	Contributor Emails Sent
May 23, 2023	Contributors Confirmation Deadline
May 30, 2023	Pitches Finalized
June 2023	Contributors Announced
June 30, 2023	First Check-in
July 30, 2023	Second Check-in
August 30, 2023	Third Check-in
September 30, 2023	Final Deadline
October 31, 2023	Pre-orders Open
December 15, 2023	Pre-orders Close
Early January 2024	Digital Distribution of Zine

Zine Specifications

The zine will feature a mixture of **artists, digital merch artists, and writers**. We approximate that 40 artists, 10 writers, and 10 digital merch artists will be accepted, though the exact number will be finalized after the application period.

After feedback from the interest check, we have determined that the zine will be vertical in **A4 size (210 x 297mm)**. Artists who are interested may illustrate a two page spread (420 x 297mm). Since this is a digital zine, it will be in RGB color mode and 300 DPI.

Content Guidelines

- ❖ This is a **SFW zine**, and no R18 content is allowed. Minor themes of blood and violence will be permitted.
- ❖ **Spoilers** from the various games **are allowed**.
- ❖ The emphasis on this zine is on **he/him, he/they, and they/them** Sheik, but **he/they/she** Sheik is also allowed.
- ❖ As this is a character-centric zine, **no shipping content** is allowed.
However, we permit explorations of Sheik's relationship with various other characters.
- ❖ **AUs and canon divergent** interpretations are allowed.

Application Guidelines

- ❖ Applicants can apply to **multiple positions**. However, you will only be accepted for **one** position.
- ❖ Portfolios must include **completed works** and/or illustrations.
- ❖ Applicants must ensure that their **works are viewable**, whether it be Google Drive Links or social media profiles.
- ❖ Applicants must have **Discord** for communication purposes.
- ❖ **Please keep to the schedule**. If something comes up, please contact one of our mods so we can discuss how to proceed.
- ❖ Submissions will be conducted via **Google Drive**.
- ❖ All pieces must remain **zine-exclusive** until the zine distribution is over. The mods will give permission to post afterwards.
- ❖ Please remain respectful to one another and the mods.

Page Artists

- ❖ Digital and traditional art are **both accepted**.
- ❖ Portfolio must include **three** completed illustrations.
- ❖ While it is recommended to include an illustration of Sheik in your portfolio, this is **not required**.
- ❖ Give us a pitch of what you want to work on. While this is not compulsory, it is **highly encouraged**.
- ❖ Artists will be required to create either one full-page illustration, or a two-page spread.

- ❖ Please tell us if you would like to work on a comic, or with a writer for spot illustrations.

Digital Merch Artists

- ❖ Portfolio must include **three** examples of digital merch you have created before, whether it be emotes, wallpapers, animation, or music.
- ❖ In your pitch, tell us what sort of digital merch you are aiming to create.
- ❖ Previous works including Sheik are not required for the portfolio, but it is **highly encouraged**.

Writers

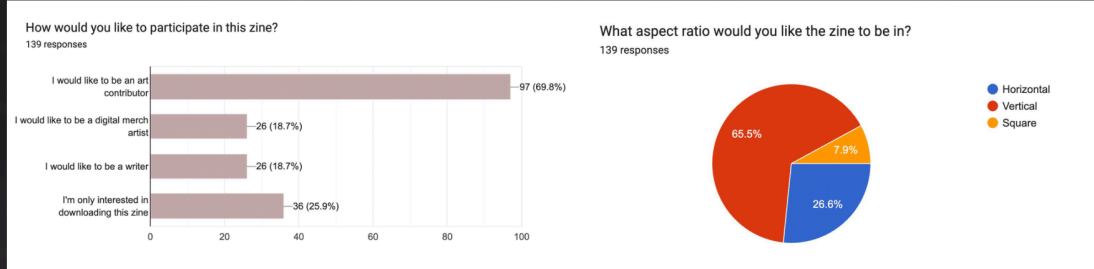
- ❖ Please link us to **two** examples of writings you have done before in your portfolio.
- ❖ One can be an excerpt of a fic you have already written, and another has to be between **1.5k-5k words**.
- ❖ Sheik need not be included, but is **highly recommended** to see how you characterize them.
- ❖ **One fic has to be Zelda related.**
- ❖ If your given fic is longer than the word count, our writing mod will read a part of the fic. Please indicate the section you would like him to read in your portfolio.

Financial Plan

- ❖ This is a **non-profit zine**. After the results of our interest check, we have determined that this will be a **charity zine**.
- ❖ All proceeds will be donated to GATE: Global Action for Trans Equality. Click [here](#) to learn more about them and their cause!
- ❖ All **contributors** will receive a **free copy** of the zine.
- ❖ We will be transparent throughout the process with our viewers and contributors. All receipts will be kept and all transactions will be logged in a separate document. The final amount donated will also be announced.

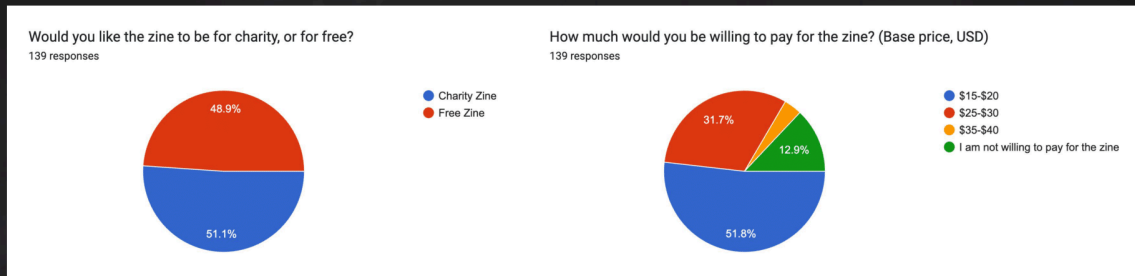
Interest Check Results

Participation and Aspect Ratio



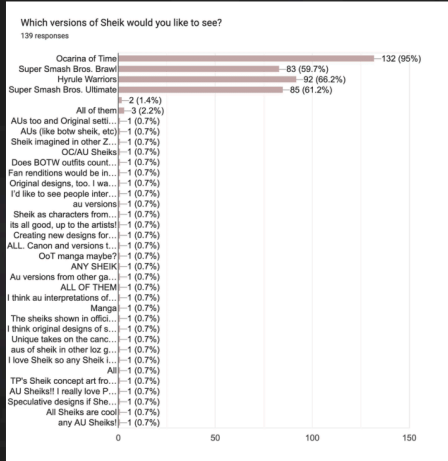
We received 139 responses for the interest check, which means we will continue onto the applications phase of the project! Furthermore, most people want to see a vertical zine. We have decided to keep it A4 sized. Artists who are interested may illustrate a double-page spread as well.

Charity and Costs



After receiving 51.1% of the vote, Harp in Shadows will proceed as a charity zine. Many of the charities that were recommended were for LGBTQ+ and transgender support charities. After narrowing down the list, we will conduct a vote amongst the contributors to decide the charity to donate to. The cost of the base zine will be between \$15-\$20 dollars, depending on the number of final pages.

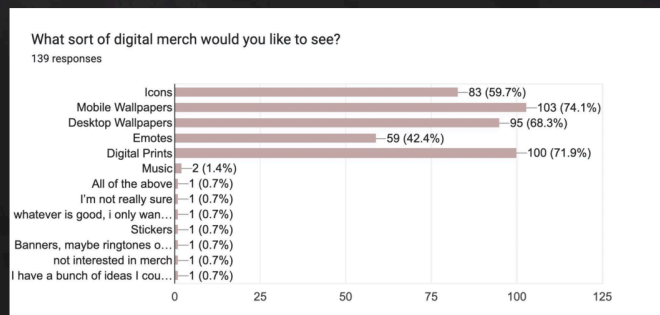
Versions of Sheik



Other than the four main titles Sheik appears in, there is support for seeing Sheik interpretations in other games they do not appear in. AUs and original settings for Sheik are also sought after. We encourage applicants to come up with their own ideas for Sheik and to pitch them to us upon applying!

If applicants would like to hear about the prompts that were recommended to us, please feel free to approach us via our social media or by email!

Digital Merch



Other than the votes above, we have received suggestions for merch that can only be obtained digitally, such as animations and music. We will make these options available for applicants under the digital merch form. Those who are interested in making digital merch beyond this scope may also pitch their ideas while applying!

Q&A

- **What is the word count for finished pieces?**
 - Currently, the estimated word count for prose will be between 1.5k-2.5k words. This can be discussed further with our writing mod.
- **Are we exploring the race or just Sheik alone?**
 - Just Sheik—this is “HiS” zine, after all!
- **Are you looking for cartoony/anime art style or more realistic/semi realistic?**
 - All art styles are welcome!
- **Are we considering music/musicians?**
 - We had not until this interest check. The mod team isn’t familiar with music composition, but if this is still alright with you, you may apply as a musician under digital merch applications!
- **How do I participate?**
 - Contributor applications open on 4/9 (April 9), aka Sheik’s day!
- **Are small animations accepted?**
 - Yes, if you are interested in making a small animation for the zine, it will be welcome! We will consider it as digital merch.

Q&A

- **Have you ever run a zine before?**
 - Mod Nate was a mod for the Path of the Goddess zine. For full transparency, the other mods have not run a zine before, which is why we are limiting the zine to digital-only. But we are fully confident in our capabilities in delivering this zine to you!
- **Will there be physical copies or only digital?**
 - This is a digital-only zine.
- **Is the zine beginner friendly? Anyone (any level) can join in?**
 - Of course! Anyone who wants to show Sheik some love is welcome.
- **Are you taking guests?**
 - We will consider taking guests if enough people are interested and nominate someone. Currently there are no restrictions on the number of guests we are willing to take in. Please reach out to us if you think a certain creator will fit the scope of the zine!

Q&A

- **What kind of depictions of Sheik are we trying to portray in this zine?**
 - Our goal in this zine is to shine a light on this character and their less popular forms. This includes, but is not limited to: transmasc; cisgender male; nonbinary; and genderfluid, among others. This also means we have been a little more focused on those depictions which are more traditionally “masculine”, seeing as we don’t want to pander to Nintendo’s cisnormative claims. But again, the focus of the zine is *Sheik’s less popular/widespread identities*.
- **How do I upload my portfolio?**
 - Via a link uploaded to your Contributor Application(s)!