

Questionnaire Instructions

The questionnaire below includes some of the most commonly asked questions at a Fannish Inquisition. Please email the completed answers to stephen@boucher.org. We will post the answers on the Smofcon website, and will have printed copies available at Smofcon for review.

Please answer all the questions *in line* below. If a question doesn't apply to your convention please state: N/A.

If the answer won't be known until some future date, please provide an estimate of when you'll be in a position to answer. For example, for the question about room rates you might answer "These are expected to be agreed by [date]. Current internet rates are X per night room only for a double or twin and Y for single occupancy."

The Inquisition

All Smofcon members will be able to submit questions for the Inquisition in person at Smofcon prior to the Inquisition. Submissions will be anonymous. *All submitted questions will be edited to remove any personal attacks.* We will encourage questions to be hard, but we will not permit them to be insulting.

We will follow the general format that has been used recently. The Inquisition will be moderated by Stephen Boucher and Elizabeth McCarty. They will be asking all of the questions submitted to the Inquisition.

The focus of the FI will be seated Worldcons and announced Worldcon bids (a bid which has formally announced its committee, year, and site and which is actively bidding.) Other bids will be given a brief opportunity to introduce themselves.

We intend to be aggressive at sticking to schedule. Don't make us yank you from the stage! We will allow A/V presentations from the seated Worldcons and announced bidders only. Time spent messing around with tech will count against your limit, so make sure to meet with us in advance to ready your presentation.

There will be a single, approximately 2-hour session on Saturday evening

- Review the Rules of Engagement and introduce the Inquisitors (5 minutes)
- 5 minute presentations followed by 5 minute audience Q&A for the 2019 and 2020 seated Worldcons (20 minutes)
- Smofcon Selection
 - 2 minute presentations by future Smofcon bids (~10 minutes)
 - Short time for questions from the floor
 - Smofcon site selection vote (~10 minutes)
- 7 minute presentations by announced 2021 and 2022 Worldcon Bids (15 minutes)
- 2 minute presentations by unannounced and later Worldcon bids and any Hoax bids (~ 30 minutes)
- Break
 - 5 minutes for Audience to write and submit additional questions
 - 5 minutes for Inquisitors to review and incorporate questions
- Inquisition (until end of allotted session time or we run out of questions)

QUESTIONNAIRE

General

- Name of Bid:
A: Chicago in 2022 Worldcon Bid
- Person(s) Smofcon should contact about this questionnaire and about the Fannish Inquisition at Smofcon 35 (*including email address*):
A: Helen Montgomery and Dave McCarty. info@chicagoworldconbid.org
- What dates are you bidding for?
A: TBD. We are considering dates ranging from mid-August through Labor Day weekend.
- What is your proposed convention host city? Is your convention site in a city center location or a suburb? If a suburb, what are the transport options into the city center? How far is the site from the city center?
A: We are looking at several sites in the Chicagoland area, both downtown Chicago and suburbs.
- What are your main facilities? How far are your hotels from your main venue?
- A: TBD (see above)
- Who is your bid chair? Who is on your committee? What experience do they have in general? In running Worldcons?
A: The bid co-chairs are Helen Montgomery and Dave McCarty.
 - Helen has worked on multiple Worldcons in various roles, including Vice Chair (2012), Chair's Advisor (2011), Division Head (2008, 2014, 2019), Convention Center Liaison (2013). She has been the Chair's Advisor for two NASFiCs (2014, 2017). She has also worked on her home convention, Capricon, since 2000 in a variety of roles, including Chair (2009, 2010) and also Board President.
 - Dave has also worked on multiple Worldcons, including Chair (2012), Division Head (2007), and Hugo Administrator (2013, 2016, 2018). He has also worked on his home convention, Capricon, since 1999 in a variety of roles, including Chair (1999, 2000, 2004) and as a member of the Board of Directors.
 - The current Bid Committee members (i.e. voting members of the corporation, having paid bid dues) are: Helen Montgomery, Dave McCarty, Tom Veal, RJ Johnson, Ben Yalow, Kerry Kuhn, Barb vanTilburg, Brian Nisbet, Ann Marie Rudolph, Sandra Levy, Bill Thomasson, David Hirsch, Pam Burr, Gary Agin, Jay Spitzer, Leane Verhulst, Chris Rose, and Siobhan Murphy.
 - The Corporate Board of Directors are: Helen Montgomery, Dave McCarty, Sandra Levy, Barbara vanTilburg, Gary Agin, Bill Thomasson, and Pam Burr.
 - President of the Board: Helen Montgomery
 - Board Secretary: Dave McCarty
 - Treasurer: Sydnie Krause-Steele
- If known, who will be the chair of the convention? What experience do they have?
A: This will be determined by a vote of the corporation members in November 2019.
- Have you agreed to participate in Pass-Along Funds? Would you be willing to increase the percentage from 50% to 70% of surplus?
A: We plan to participate in pass-along funds. We have not discussed the possibility of a percentage increase with the members of the Corporation at this time, so cannot commit at this time. We are certainly willing to discuss it with them, however.

Travel

- What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Melbourne?

A: Based on Expedia searches done in August 2018 for June 2019:

- Auckland: \$1380-\$1900 (1-2 stops)
- Boston: \$190-\$300 (nonstop available)
- Chicago: FREE!!!
- Dallas: \$350-\$430 (nonstop available)
- Dublin: \$480-\$1000+ (nonstop available)
- Helsinki: \$660-\$860 (nonstop available)
- London: \$375-\$670 (nonstop available)
- Los Angeles: \$355-\$370 (nonstop available)
- Melbourne: \$1260-\$2000 (1-2 stops)

- Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport? Which airlines? If not, where is the closest international airport? Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?

A: Most major carriers, both domestic and international, can be found at O'Hare, with the exception of Southwest, which has their hub at Midway. O'Hare is a hub for both American Airlines and United Airlines.

- How far is your convention site from the nearest airport/train station and what is the likely cost of getting to the hotels by both public transport and taxi from that airport/train station?

A: There are multiple transportation options. Union Station (Amtrak train) and Greyhound (Bus) are both downtown.

- The Blue Line elevated train comes in from O'Hare Airport, and the Orange Line from Midway.
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Mode	Cost: O'Hare to downtown	Travel time: O'Hare to downtown	Cost: Midway to downtown	Travel time: Midway to downtown
CTA trains	\$5 or less*	45 min	\$2.25 or less*	25 min
Taxi	around \$40	25-90 min	around \$25	15-40 min
Shuttle Van Services	over \$25	25-90 min	over \$15	15-40 min

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Facilities

- What hotel(s) are being used for the convention? How many rooms, what type, accessibility issues, etc.?
- What are your hotel room rates? Do these rates include breakfast? Do they include internet in the room? How firm are these rates? What additional taxes and fees are there?
- What does parking cost at your main hotels?
- What is the distance from the nearest door of your main hotel(s) to the closest entrance of the convention site? What are the transportation options for those who prefer not to walk or who have mobility difficulties?
- Where will your large events (i.e. Hugo Ceremony and Masquerade) be held?
- What arrangements will be made for evening socializing and party space? Do you have a corkage waiver?

A: We are talking with multiple venues in downtown Chicago and one suburban location. No decisions have been made regarding hotel / convention facilities.

- Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

A: Chicago is a world-class city for restaurants.

- Please describe the policies / laws regarding smoking in your hotel(s), convention center, and city.

A:

- Hotel(s): Some hotels have smoking rooms
- Convention Center: No smoking or vaping allowed in convention facilities
- City: No smoking or vaping in enclosed public spaces

https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph/supp_info/inspections---permitting/smoke_free_illinoisact.html

Miscellaneous

- What type of weather can we expect during your convention? What is the average temperature during that time of year?

A: Average temperatures in August are 63-82F / 17-28C.

- What are some of the main tourist attractions of your city?

A:

- Museums – The Art Institute of Chicago, The Museum of Science and Industry, The Adler Planetarium, Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum of Natural History, and Museum of Contemporary Art, to name a few.
- Parks – Millennium Park and Grant Park (home to Buckingham Fountain) are both downtown. Both have several free music festivals and other events during the summer.
- Arts – There are several Broadway-quality theaters in downtown, and dozens throughout the city as a whole. Orchestra Hall, home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, is downtown, as is the Lyric Opera.
- Sports – during the summer, there are opportunities to see the World Series Champion Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox (baseball) and the Chicago Fire and Chicago Red Stars (soccer).
- And more! Too much to name here.

- Are you planning to have any membership discounts for certain groups, such as young adults, military, or seniors?

A: TBD

- Do you have a code of conduct?

A: We are currently developing our Bid's Code of Conduct and anticipate it being in place early next year.