

QUESTIONNAIRE

General

- Name of Bid:
A: Albuquerque for SMOFCon 37
- Person(s) Smofcon should contact about this questionnaire and about the Fannish Inquisition at Smofcon 35 (*including email address*):
A: Ron Oakes – smofcon37-abq@ron-oakes.us
- What dates are you bidding for?
A: December 6-8, 2019
- 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: Albuquerque, NM
 - One possible location is in Uptown – a commercial area near shopping malls and restaurants. 7.2 Miles from Downtown.
 - The other is Downtown along historic Route 66 directly adjacent to the Albuquerque Convention Center and 4 blocks from the Alvrado Transit Center where Amtrak and Intercity busses arrive.
 - Note that Albuquerque can be accurately described as a large suburb in search of its city, so its downtown is still mostly business with shopping and tourism spread out.
 - Transportation in Albuquerque is mostly by car. Shared Ride (Lyft/Uber) is recommended by one of our potential venues and is reasonable for getting around. Public transportation is available but is of somewhat limited use.
- What are your main facilities? How far are your hotels from your main venue?
- A:

Possible Venue: Albuquerque Marriott

- How many rooms?
 - 405 rooms, 6 suites
- How many are handicap accessible?
 - One or two rooms on each floor. All handicap rooms are kings, which will have a sofa bed by the time of the convention
- Are there any accessibility issues?
 - The hotel function space is all on one level and free flowing. The con suite will be accessible. We do not anticipate any accessibility issues with this venue.

Possible Venue: Hyatt Regency Albuquerque

- How Many Rooms?
 - 395 Rooms
- Are there any accessibility issues?
 - The hotel function space is on two levels, but we will be using only space on one level. The con suite space we will be using is fully accessible. We do not anticipate any accessibility issues with this venue.

Please describe your convention site facilities. For example, the quantity and sizes of function rooms, tech options, accessibility issues, etc.

The Albuquerque Marriott has an 8,236 square foot ballroom and some other nearby rooms. As this is the current home of Bubonicon, the local con-running community has experience in placing panels and other functions in this space. All of the function space is on the ground floor and has no access issues.

The Hyatt Regency Albuquerque has 30,000 square feet of function space. We will be using just a small part of this space.

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

The Albuquerque Marriott is located in the heart of the Uptown shopping district, across the street from The Winrock Town Center and very near Albuquerque Uptown and Coronado Center, all ripe with (mostly national chain) restaurants. Closest restaurants include Jason's Deli, Buca di Bepo, BJ's Brewhouse, and Romano's Macaroni Grill.

The Hyatt Regency Albuquerque is located in Downtown Albuquerque with a large number of restaurants and bars.

Who is your bid chair? Who is on your committee? What experience do they have in general? In running SMOFCons?

A: The bid committee is Ron Oakes, Tara Oakes, Rebecca Hewett, and Kevin Hewett, When the bid was announced at the November 2016 Albuquerque Science Fiction Association meeting, the idea was well received.

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- If known, who will be the chair of the convention? What experience do they have?
A: If known, who will be the chair of the convention?
 - Ron Oakes is the expected chair.
- What experience do they have?
 - Chair of 2 DuckKons in the Chicago area (2000 and 2001), 2 Conjectures in the San Diego area (2011 and 2013), and Westercon 68 / Conjecture 13 in San Diego

Travel

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

A: Prices check via Kayak and Southwest (US Domestic only) on November 24, 2018 for November 29-December 3, 2018 (So, with advance planning, fares should be lower)

AKL to ABQ, one route shown at \$1,063 USD

BOS to ABQ, multiple routes shown from \$462 on Southwest, \$419 on Kayak (multiple airlines)

ORD/MDW to ABQ, multiple routes shown from \$871 on Southwest (lowest fare class not available due to 4 days prior when searched), \$345 on Kayak (multiple airlines)

DFW/DAL to ABQ, multiple routes shown from \$615 on Southwest (lowest fare class not available due to 4 days prior when searched), and \$614 on American

DUB to ABQ, from \$832 on American

HEL to ABQ, from \$1,444 on American

LON to ABQ, from \$1,408 on American

LAX to ABQ, multiple routes shown from \$560 on Southwest (lowest fare class not available due to 4 days prior when searched), and \$559 on Multiple Airline from Kayak

MEL to ABQ, multiple routes shown from \$1,237 (USD)

- 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: The Albuquerque International Sunport recently started receiving flights to and from Guadalajara Mexico. However, it is currently not receiving commercial flights from any other international

destination.

- We are located roughly equidistant between Phoenix, Denver and Dallas, and are connected to these, as well as LAX, O'Hare, and Salt Lake City.
 - Which airlines service your airport?
 - Southwest is the largest carrier
 - United, American, Alaska, and Delta all have daily flights.
 - Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?
 - There are direct flights from all US locations
 - Some international locations require a second connection.
- 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:

- The Hyatt Regency Albuquerque is 5 miles from the Airport and 4 blocks from the Alvarado Transit Center.
- The Albuquerque Marriott is 6.5 miles from the Airport and 6.3 miles from the Alvarado Transit Center. The Marriott recommends using shared ride services to get to the hotel.

- 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?

A: Our last proposals had \$115.00 per night at the Marriott, \$93.00 per night at the Hyatt Regency. There are additional taxes and fees of about 14%.

- What does parking cost at your main hotels?

A: Parking will be free if we go with the Marriott. There will be a charge at the Hyatt which is still being finalized depending on our final proposal.

- Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

A: The Albuquerque Marriott is located in the heart of the Uptown shopping district, across the street from The Winrock Town Center and very near Albuquerque Uptown and Coronado Center, all ripe with (mostly national chain) restaurants. Closest restaurants include Jason's Deli, Buca di Bepo, BJ's Brewhouse, and Romano's Macaroni Grill.

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- What arrangements will be made for evening socializing and party space? Do you have a corkage waiver?

A: We are expecting at either venue most of the socialization will take place in the con suite as is usual at SMOFCon. We expect to have a corkage waiver covering at least that, and hopefully some additional rooms if needed. The Marriott is the current host of Bubonicon and is familiar with room parties and if needed we can make arrangements with them should they become our selected venue.

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

A: The hotels are non-smoking. All restaurants and bars in New Mexico are non-smoking. Smoking is not allowed within 15 feet of building entrances. The Marriott has designated smoking places outside.

Miscellaneous

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

during that time of year?

A: Weather is likely to be cool but sunny, however wind, rain and even snow are a real possibility in early December. However, if snow occurs it is likely to be less than 2 inches and will be gone shortly (but may well shut the city down until it is gone). Average high for December is 46°F (8°C) with an average low of 27°F (-3°C)

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

A:

- Old Town Plaza
- New Mexico Natural History Museum
- Albuquerque Museum
- Anderson-Abruzzo Balloon Museum
- National Museum of Nuclear Science & History
- Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway
- Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
- Maxwell Museum of Anthropology
- National Hispanic Cultural Center

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

A: At this point other than a Con-Suite only membership, we are discussing a membership for first time SMOFCon attendees from the Albuquerque Area.

- Do you have a code of conduct?

A: New Mexico Science Fiction Conventions will be writing a code of conduct for this and any future events that we sponsor which will be based on the best practices of other events. Expect it to be very similar to the SMOFCon 36 code of conduct.