

## 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](mailto: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 10 minute audience Q&A for the 2019 and 2020 seated Worldcons (30 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: [Cleveland 2020 – SMOFcon 38](#)
- Person(s) Smofcon should contact about this questionnaire and about the Fannish Inquisition at Smofcon 35 (*including email address*):  
A: [Laura Griffis – patrona.giggles@gmail.com](#); [Eric Hogg – erichogg1969@gmail.com](#); [Stan Paulson – Paulson.stan@gmail.com](#); [Amy shuman – amykshuman@gmail.com](#)
- What dates are you bidding for?  
A: [December 4-6, 2020](#)
- 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: [Downtown - Cleveland, Ohio](#)
- What are your main facilities? How far are your hotels from your main venue?  
A: [Cleveland Renaissance Downtown Hotel](#)
- Who is your bid chair? Who is on your committee? What experience do they have in general? In running Worldcons?  
A: [Current Committee: Laura Griffis, Stan Paulson, Eric Hogg, Amy Shuman, Richard France, Suzie France, James Morison, Mark Carr, Vanessa Hall, William Lehman, Lisa Garrison, Lisa Meece, Ali Bower, David Morgan, Chandra Morgan-Henley,....and the list continues to grow in interest. Members have had experience working various conventions including ConCoction, MarCon, Origins, GenCon, WindyCon, CapriCon, DeCompression, OVFF, StarBase Indy, WhosYerCon, Ba-Con, MilleniCon, and more...](#)
- If known, who will be the chair of the convention? What experience do they have?  
A: [likely Laura Griffis - ConChair Cleveland ConCoction 2014 – 2019 , Registration – MarCon, Registration – DeCon, Artshow – Origins, Registration – Ba-Con,](#)
- Have you agreed to participate in Pass-Along Funds? Would you be willing to increase the percentage from 50% to 70% of surplus?  
A: [Likely, but we'd leave this to a Board Decision. Our group likes to support fandom whenever possible.](#)

### Travel

- What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Melbourne?  
A: [Closest airport is CLE International Airport; also can fly into Akron Regional Airport. Can report at later date with correct information for both airports if requested or required.](#)
- 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: [NonStop Cities are as follows: Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Boston, Cancun, Charlston, Charlotte, Chicago – MDW, Chicago – ORD, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Denver, Destin-Ft. Walton, Detroit, Ft](#)

Lauderdale, Ft Myers, Hartford, Houston, Jacksonville, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Millwaukee, Minneapolis, Montego Bay, Myrtle Beach, Nashville, New Orleans, New York – JFK, New York – LGA, Newark, Orlando, Orlando-Sanford, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, Punta Cana, Punta Gorda, Raleigh/Durham, Reykjavik, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, San Diego, San Francisco, San Juan, Sarasota, Savannah, Seattle, St Louis, St Pete-Clearwater, Tampa, Toronto, Washington DC – DCA, Washington DC – IAD, West Palm Beach

A: Air Canda, Allegiant, American Airlines, Delta, Frontier, IcelandAir, jetBlue, Southwest, Spirit, United, Apple Vacations

Website: <http://www.clevelandairport.com>

- 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: Convention site hotel is 25 mins or less from the airport via freeway access

## Facilities

- What hotel(s) are being used for the convention? How many rooms, what type, accessibility issues, etc.?  
A: 441 Guest Rooms, 50 Suites. 42 Accessible Rooms that meet current ADA guidelines. All meeting spaces are Accessible to current ADA guidelines.
- 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: Rooms in the \$125.00 - \$145.00 range. Suites are available at extra cost  
A: Can get answers later to the additional questions
- What does parking cost at your main hotels?  
A: Self Parking at \$30.00 per night. Valet Parking (with in/out privileges) at \$36.00 per night. Garage Access Height is 6 feet 6 inches. Accessible van parking is available.
- 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?  
A: Hotel and convention site are at the same location.
- Where will your large events (i.e. Hugo Ceremony and Masquerade) be held?  
A: SMOFcon bid – hotel has several function rooms that would fulfill our needs well
- Please describe the restaurant/scene near your site.  
A:  
Within 1 mile: E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street Entertainment District. Home to multiple restaurants by celebrity Chef Michael Symon,; The Cleveland House of Blues; and Hilarities Nightclub (a nationally known live comedy venue).  
Within 1.5 miles: The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum; The Great Lakes Science Center; Playhouse Square (The country's largest Performing Arts outside of New York City).  
Within 5 miles: Severance Hall (Home to the Cleveland Orchestra); The Christmas Story House (Cleveland Home that was used in the 1983 film A Christmas Story. Tours and Museum are available).  
Within 7 miles: The Cleveland Museum of Art; Homes of Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, co-creators of Superman (these are currently private residences and ARE NOT open to the public or for tours)

- What arrangements will be made for evening socializing and party space? Do you have a corkage waiver?  
A: Corkage and Forkage Fees/Waivers are currently being negotiated. In Ohio, Corkage is intimately tied to both Ohio Liquor Laws and The Ohio Board of Taxation (more so than in most states). Forkage is directly tied to Union contracts. Waivers are not impossible, but negotiations involve many people other than the hotel sales reps.
- Please describe the policies / laws regarding smoking in your hotel(s), convention center, and city.  
A: Can get the information re: legalities of site hotel asap post SMOFcon 36, as needed

Of Special Note...In 1966, the Cleveland Renaissance Downtown was known as The Cleveland Sheraton, the venue that hosted TriCon, the 24<sup>th</sup> World Science Fiction Convention.

At TriCon, Issac Asimov was the ToastMaster, Harlan Ellison won the Hugo for his short fiction "Repent, Harlequin, Said the Ticktockman" and Gene Roddenberry premiered both pilot episodes of the television series Star Trek.

### Miscellaneous

- What type of weather can we expect during your convention? What is the average temperature during that time of year?  
A: In December it can fluctuate from 50F to -20F, from sunny to snowy, depending on what the weather is next to Lake Erie. It's Ohio – don't like the weather, wait 5 minutes it'll change.
- What are some of the main tourist attractions of your city?  
A: See answer to restaurants – several attractions within 10 miles, and even more outside of that city radius
- Are you planning to have any membership discounts for certain groups, such as young adults, military, or seniors?  
A: SMOFcon bid, but this could be determined at a later date if needed/wanted
- Do you have a code of conduct?  
A: We do have a Code of Conduct/Harassment Policy within ConCoction - can be provided or reviewed/updated as needed.