

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 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: SmofCon 38
- Person(s) Smofcon should contact about this questionnaire and about the Fannish Inquisition at Smofcon 35 (*including email address*):
A: Jannie Shea
alyconart@gmail.com
- What dates are you bidding for?
A: December 4th – 6th, 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: Montreal city center.
- What are your main facilities? How far are your hotels from your main venue?
A: Holiday Inn Centre-Ville which is also are only facilities. If required, we can arrange for an overflow hotel.
- Who is your bid chair? Who is on your committee? What experience do they have in general? In running Worldcons?
A: Jannie Shea.
The committee is still forming. We are recruiting from all Canadian fandom.
- If known, who will be the chair of the convention? What experience do they have?
A: Jannie Shea. 35+ years in fandom, running everything from green room to program division head. She is well versed in Worldcons and well-travelled with a bevy of friends from all strata of the convention running world.
- 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 are willing to consider Pass-Along Funds.

Travel

- What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Melbourne?
A: London, UK to Montreal CAN \$423 USD
Boston, US to Montreal CAN \$200 USD
Chicago, US to Montreal CAN \$247 USD
Los Angeles, US to Montreal CAN \$333 USD
Melbourne, Australia to Montreal CAN \$963 USD
Dublin, Ireland to Montreal CAN \$358 USD
Wellington, New Zealand to Montreal CAN \$1,233 USD
Nice, France to Montreal CAN \$442 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: Yes. There are 32 international airlines that fly directly into Montreal's Trudeau Airport.

All the American cities listed above fly directly in. European flights fly direct from London and Paris, respectfully. Transpacific flights require one or more connections.

- 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: Public transit costs \$10 CDN for a day pass that will allow you to use the Airport STM bus (the 747) which goes from the Montreal Trudeau Airport to downtown in 25-35 minutes, depending on traffic conditions. The 747 picks you up just outside of the arrival's terminal.

Taxi costs in Montreal from the airport to anywhere downtown are capped at \$40 CDN.

Facilities

- What hotel(s) are being used for the convention? How many rooms, what type, accessibility issues, etc.?

A: Holiday Inn Centre-Ville is newly renovated to allow for increased accessibility. There are 235 rooms, which includes 6 suites, and 11 accessible rooms.

- 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: \$125 CDN. Breakfast is not included in this rate. Wifi is included in this rate. This rate is the result of a last-minute search for this year. We will negotiate better rates. This rate includes the 5% goods and services charge on hotels in Canada.

- What does parking cost at your main hotels?

A: There is a self-parking fee of 24.26 CAD.

- 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: The main hotel hosts the convention site.

- Where will your large events (i.e. Hugo Ceremony and Masquerade) be held?

A: N/A

- Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

A: Plentiful and upscale. Montreal's restaurant scene is wide and varied. The Holiday Inn Centre-Ville is located on the edge of a picturesque Chinatown and the Old Port section of Montreal, both of which are famed for their variety and wide range of options.

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

A: We will have a consuite available for evening socialization and sponsored hospitality. Function space will be available for socialization in the evening. An in-house restaurant and bar are also available for informal socialization. We intend to negotiate the corkage waiver with the hotel.

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

A: It is illegal to smoke within a habitable area or within 9-meters (30 feet) of a door or window that can open to the outside.

Miscellaneous

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

A: Montreal in December is the start of winter. Temperatures range between 30F and 18F, with chances of rain or snow.

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

A: Old Montreal and the Old Port: Explore the birthplace of a great metropolis in the Americas, founded in 1642. It has beautiful shops, lovely squares, and a quaint European old-world feel with cobbled streets and bilingual markets.

- La Grane Roue de Montreal: A 60-meter observation wheel, with 42 top-of-the-line climate-controlled cabins. See and appreciate the panoramic views of the city, and the Saint-Laurence River. This is new since Anticipation.

- Notre-Dame Basilica: A masterpiece of Gothic Revival architecture, built between 1824 and 1829.

- RESO – the underground city: 33 km of connecting passageways, plazas, and meeting places. It is home to about 2,000 retail outlets and 200 restaurants. The network also connects to 10 major hotels, museums, concert halls, university campuses, 8 metro stations as well as train and bus stations. The RESO has grown since Anticipation.

- A bevy of world-class museums (Montreal Archaeology and History Complex, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Contemporary Arts, Biodome, Biopere, Holocaust Museum, Planetarium, and many more).

- A wide variety of seasonal concerts and performances. This year the Montreal Symphony Orchestra is presenting a Bach festival. Every year there is a series of concerts performed in the most beautiful regions of the city: Quartier des spectacles (new since Anticipation), the Mount Royal, the Plateau and elsewhere.

- Ice rinks for skating (both indoors and out).

- And for those Hockey Fanatics, the Montreal Hockey season will be in full swing (Go Habs Go!).

- Christmas markets. Many seasonal markets run from the end of November through the start of December.

- Cirque du Soleil.

- LuminoTherapy: an interactive art instillation combining light and sound. (New since Anticipation)

- Railway Christmas. A special Christmas display at the Canadian Railway Museum.

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

A: This is under consideration.

- Do you have a code of conduct?

A: We will.