

# **QUESTIONNAIRE**

## **General**

### **Name of Bid**

Smofcon Seattle 2024

### **What dates are you bidding for?**

December 6-8, 2024

### **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 centre? How far is the site from the city centre?**

\* Seattle, Washington

\* In a central area of Seattle (there are a few “downtown” neighborhoods we are looking at). Seattle is a major city with a comprehensive and modern public transit system, as well as the usual private transportation options (taxi, Uber, Lyft, car rentals).

### **What are your main facilities? How far are your hotels from your main venue?**

\* We will choose a hotel in our target area. Given the uncertainty of 2020 hotel markets, we have not yet chosen a specific venue. We have experience with many hotels and contacts with many others in the Seattle downtown areas. We expect all function space to be in our chosen hotel. We plan to start looking at hotels next year when we have a better idea of when we will be able to plan in-person events.

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

\* Marah Searle-Kovacevic is the bid chair. Marah has chaired ConComCon, a conrunning convention held annually in or around Washington state, and has played a senior role in Worldcons and local conventions in many cities.

Sally Woehrle is the hotel liaison. In addition to chairing Sasquan, Sally has been the hotel liaison for many regional and local conventions.

Angela Jones-Parker is the treasurer. Angela has run Dealers Rooms for several Worldcons.

\* The sponsoring organization of this bid is SWOC, originally the Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee. SWOC was the sponsoring entity of Sasquan, the 2015 Worldcon; Cascadia Con, the 2005 NASFiC; several Westercons; and the annual filk convention, Conflikt. SWOC includes a large network of conrunners experienced in Worldcons, regional, and local conventions. We are advised by Sally Woehrle, chair of the 2015 Worldcon and of two Westercons, and others who have served as division or department heads for Worldcons and regional conventions.

**If known, who will be the chair of the convention?  
What experience do they have?**

Marah Seale-Kovecevic will chair the convention. Experience noted above.

**Have you agreed to participate in Pass-Along Funds? Would you be willing to increase the percentage from 50% to 70% of surplus?**

n/a

## **Travel**

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

SeaTac is a major international hub airport with direct service to many cities around the world. We don't think current airfare pricing is meaningfully representative of future air travel rates; we expect competitive rates to be widely available.

**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?**

There are direct flights from all cities listed and from many other major centers coming into Seatac on many airlines. Seattle is one of the most important gateway air hubs for air travel to the United States.

**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?**

\* The LINK light rail service from Seatac Airport to downtown LINK stations is \$3.00.

\* Taxi flat rates from the airport to downtown hotels is \$50.00.

## **Facilities**

**What hotel(s) are being used for the convention? How many rooms, what type, do they accommodate accessibility needs, etc.?**

We have not yet chosen a specific venue. We will ensure that there are plenty of rooms for

this event, and we will choose a hotel with modern accessible room features.

**What are your hotel room rates? Do these rates include breakfast? Do they include internet access in the room? How firm are these rates? What additional taxes and fees are there?**

TBD

**What does parking cost at your main hotels?**

TBD

**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?**

All of our function space will be in the main hotel.

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

n/a

**Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.**

Seattle is a major city with a diverse range of food options from fast food to fine dining within walking distance. More details depending on the specific site TBD

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

We will have a con suite comparable to past Smofcons. Our chair has been a hospitality division head and deputy division head for more than one Worldcon and a NASFiC. More details TBD.

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

Smoking is not permitted indoors in public or commercial buildings (e.g. hotels and restaurants). Smoking is also not permitted within 25 feet of entrances, exits, windows, or ventilation intakes. Marijuana smoking is additionally not permitting in view of the public (on sidewalks, streets, or in parks).

**Given the current pandemic, have you considered any arrangements have been made for social distancing and the health and safety of members? If you have, can you describe what your current plans are?**

Assuming in-person gatherings are permitted by Washington state in late 2024, we will work with hotel management to comply with hotel, state, and local policies.

**Miscellaneous**

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

Typical Seattle temperatures in December are daytime highs in the upper 40s (Fahrenheit) to lows in the mid 30s at night. December is Seattle's rainiest month, with an average of 1 day of rain each December. Bring a waterproof jacket, and maybe an umbrella.

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

Seattle's tourist attractions are too numerous to summarize, but some highlights include Museum of Pop Culture, which houses the Science Fiction Hall of Fame; the historic Space Needle, which offers an excellent view of the city; Pike Place Market; Pioneer Square historic district and the (creepy and weird) Underground tour; the Chilhuly Garden and Glass Museum; the Pacific Science Center; the Great Wheel; the architecturally unique Seattle Central Library; the Museum of Flight; the Future of Flight Aviation Center and Boeing tour; the Pinball Museum; the Chinatown International District, and many more museums, theaters, parks, shopping attractions, and other points of interest.

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

SWOC traditionally offers scholarship memberships to regional fan organizations to encourage attendance at conrunning gatherings. Other policies at this time are TBD.

**What is your vision for your Worldcon? How do you plan to make it happen?**

n/a

**What is a notable aspect of your local fan culture and how do you plan to incorporate it into your Worldcon?**

Seattle has a vast and diverse fan community, from small literary and filk conventions to massive pop culture events. Since the early '90s, SWOC has played a role in keeping fan organizations connected and in dialog with each other. As we do each year at ConComCon, we will use Smofcon to strengthen and expand links between Seattle fan organizations, and also introduce them to national and international fan communities.

**Do you have a code of conduct? If so, is it available online and if so, where?**

SWOC's current code of conduct is on the Westercon 73 website. The board of directors is reviewing this policy.

**What do diversity and inclusion mean to you?**

Seattle fandom has a long and rich history of diversity, including Black, Asian, Latino, indigenous, and other backgrounds among our members, program participants, and volunteers. We have also been pioneers in building communities and connections with LGBTQI2A+ members and



interest groups. SWOC has for decades reached out to many groups through convention programming and membership scholarships to attract new voices to our organizations and events. We also have a strong commitment to accessibility priorities, rights, and cultural issues.

**How are you working towards your goals in these areas?**

See above.

**What would concrete achievements look like in these areas?**

We have had con chairs, committee members, guests of honor, and program participants from these communities active in our conventions for decades.

**What changes or challenges do you expect the current pandemic to present?**

At this point we don't know when we'll be able to hold in-person conventions again and what safety procedures will be necessary. We are committed to following the best practices to keep our members safe.

**Have you planned for a virtual component to your convention?**

We are currently planning other virtual events. We will be prepared to have a virtual presence should that still be recommended in December 2024.

**Your members vote for Hugo Finalists who are then excited and wish to play a full part in the convention programme. How do you plan to facilitate the Finalists input as recognised by your community?**

n/a