

QUESTIONNAIRE

General

Name of Bid

DisCon III, the 79th World Science Fiction Convention

What dates are you bidding for?

We will be taking place August 25-29, 2021

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?

We will take place in Washington, DC, in the northwest quadrant of the city. We are three (3) stops on the DC Metro system to downtown.

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

Our main facilities are the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel and Omni Shoreham Hotel. We have contracted for all the function space and sleeping rooms at both hotels. Further information about the status of our facilities is in the Facilities section of this questionnaire.

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

The co-chairs of DisCon III are Bill Lawhorn and Colette H Fozard.

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

DisCon III has already participated in pass-along funds (by receiving some) and will keep the percentage at 50%.

Travel

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

We are not going to try to estimate prices in this current market.

City	Number of stops (airport)
Auckland	1 stop
Beijing	nonstop (IAD)
Boston	nonstop (All)
Chicago	nonstop (All)
Dallas	nonstop (DCA. IAD)
Dublin	nonstop (IAD)
Helsinki	1 stop
London	nonstop (IAD, BWI)
Los Angeles	nonstop (All)
Melbourne	1 stop
New Orleans	nonstop (All)
Nice	1 stop
San Jose	Nonstop (BWI)
Seattle	nonstop (All)

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?

See Above.

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?

DCA (Reagan National Airport) is the closest airport to DC, but Dulles is the closest International Airport. There is also Baltimore-Washington Airport (BWI)

Distance from DC to Dulles (IAD): 26.7 mi

Distance from DC to Baltimore (BWI): 31.3 mi

	Distance From	Public Transit	Taxi/App-based Car Svcs
Reagan National (DCA)	7.5 mi.	\$3.35	\$20.00
Dulles Int'l (IAD)	28.9 mi.	\$11.00	\$50.00
Balt-Wash (BWI)	34.7 mi.	\$11.40	\$80.00
Union Station (Amtrak)	3.7 mi.	\$2.40	\$20.00

Facilities

November 22 update: The Marriott Wardman Park remains closed and does not have a reopening date at this time. There have been two rounds of litigation filed in September and October, with the first round being settled and one of the ownership partners being released from ownership, and the current lawsuit is Marriott Corporation suing both partners for not investing the necessary funds to maintain the building during the extended closure of the hotel.

On June 22, 2020, the Marriott Wardman Park notified its unions and other agencies of a potential closure of the hotel. On June 24, 2020, it released the following statement: "Marriott International has provided advance notice to employees, government officials, and union officials about a potential closure of the Washington Marriott Wardman Park... No decision has been made about the hotel's future... as discussions are ongoing." The (potential) closure date in the notices is August 21, 2020. As of the completion of this questionnaire on July 21, we have no further information about this situation. This questionnaire is answered planning for the Marriott Wardman Park to be open for us.

The Omni Shoreham Hotel is scheduled to reopen on January 11, 2021.

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

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? See below.

- How many rooms?
 - Marriott Wardman Park – 1,100 rooms blocked in hotel on peak nights
 - Omni Shoreham – 600 rooms on peak nights
- How many Singles/Doubles/Kings?
 - Marriott Wardman Park – 380 standard/625 Double/ 80 suites
 - Omni Shoreham – 200 rooms rooms on peak nights

- What other types of rooms are available? How many are handicap accessible?
 - Both the Marriott and the Omni are fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and access hotel booking will be available before general booking to ensure access needs and rooms matched appropriately.
- Are there any accessibility issues?
 - Both hotels are fully ADA compliant, and there is elevator access to a short crosswalk between the two venues
- What are your hotel room rates?
 - Marriott Wardman Park: \$165/night single-quad occupancy
 - Omni Shoreham: \$169/night single-quad occupancy
- Do these rates include breakfast?
 - No
- What is the lodging tax rate for your hotels? Are taxes included in the prices you have quoted?
 - Current taxes are 14.95% and are not included in the above rates.
- Do the rates include internet in the room?
 - If you are a member of either Marriott Rewards or Omni Select Guest, you get free internet in your room. Both programs are free to join.

What does parking cost at your main hotels? \$28/day self park at Marriott Wardman Park, \$55/day valet-only service at Omni Shoreham Hotel

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 activities will take place at the Marriott Wardman Park and Omni Shoreham, who are across a side street from each other.

Where will your large events (i.e. Hugo Ceremony and Masquerade) be held? Marriott Ballroom at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site. There is a vibrant restaurant scene in the neighborhood with a variety of meal options with various price points from McDonalds to fine dining. If members get on Metro, there are many additional restaurants within two stops (Cleveland Park and Van Ness north, Dupont Circle and Farragut North south). The Marriott has agreed to allow food trucks to come in during peak meal times.

What arrangements will be made for evening socialising and party space? Do you have a corkage waiver? We have contracted with the Marriott for 80 suites, which we will be allocating to various parties and gatherings over the convention. The suites will be blocked with buffers. We have a corkage/forkage agreement with the Marriott Wardman Park.

Please describe the policies / laws regarding smoking in your hotel(s), convention centre, and city. Hotel(s): Non-smoking; City: Smoking allowed at specified distances outside of facilities.

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? We will follow the guidance of the City of Washington, and the relevant federal agencies (such as the CDC).

Miscellaneous

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

The temperature averages at about 78 degrees F, with the range going from the low 90's to the upper 60's in the evening. It tends to be humid, but there is ample air conditioning in most public places.

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

Washington, DC boasts a large number of monuments around town: Washington Monument; Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials; WWII, Korean and Vietnam Memorials, to name a few. The Smithsonian Institution has 19 free museums, 17 in Washington, DC; and their National Zoological Park is 4 blocks from the hotel.

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

We currently have young adult, First Worldcon, and family memberships available on our website.

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

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

Washington, DC is a majority-minority city and we look forward to celebrating the local creator community at DisCon III.

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

Yes: <https://discon3.org/about/coc/>

What do diversity and inclusion mean to you?

Diversity and inclusion means that we expressly invite an inclusive group to sit at the table and not force them into preconceived boxes. Diversity is having a wide range of ages, experiences, national origin, ableness, gender, sexual identity, and ethnicity. Inclusion is creating opportunities for these individuals to participate and have a voice.

How are you working towards your goals in these areas?

Our programming and event participation is going through diversity review by persons of color and other traditionally underrepresented groups. We are prioritizing folks who don't have systemic advantages and not requiring BIPOC, queer, people with disabilities to be on items about those issues. You can offer them, but no one should be pigeonholed into those items. The Capitalize!: DisCon III Fan Fund is another way we are supporting increased participation for traditionally underrepresented groups.

What would concrete achievements look like in these areas?

Getting buy-in from staff, and getting members of those communities into senior roles. Our goal is to fund the membership of at least 50 underrepresented individuals, and providing travel stipends to at least 20 individuals. Creating an environment where underrepresented individuals join the Worldcon family as attendees and volunteers.

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

Lots. Even with the development of vaccines and the related announcements, there is still a great amount of uncertainty related to the distribution of those vaccines as well as the timeline as to when it will be safe to travel and host large events without excess risk to our members. There are noticeable effects on the number of memberships purchased.

Have you planned for a virtual component to your convention?

DisCon III had always planned to have additional virtual offerings outside of just streaming the Hugo Awards, we are undergoing an overall review of what we can offer in this area, with an announcement planned for January. We recently conducted a

survey of our members and other interested parties related to virtual versus an in-person event.

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?

DisCon III will have a Hugo Concierge Team that will serve as the central coordination point to ensure smooth communication is taking place between all Hugo Finalists and the various departments within DisCon III that need to communicate with them (ex: WSFS, Hugo Ceremony, Program, etc.). This Team will keep track of requests going out to finalists and whether or not they have responded and will keep notes on best contact methods for that particular finalist.