

## Questionnaire Instructions

The questionnaire below includes some of the most asked questions for Worldcon/SMOFcons and bids. Please email the completed answers to [info@smofcon38.ca](mailto:info@smofcon38.ca) by **Sunday, 22 November, 2020**. The completed questionnaires will be posted on the Smofcon 37 ¼ website (<https://sites.grenadine.co/sites/conzealand/en/smofcon-37-14>) by **Tuesday, 1 December, 2020**.

Please answer all the questions *in line* below. If a question doesn't apply to your bid, please state: N/A.

If the answer won't be known until some future date, please provide an estimate of when you will be able to provide an 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."

# QUESTIONNAIRE

## General

### **Name of Convention:**

Chicon 8: The 80<sup>th</sup> World Science Fiction Convention

### **What dates will your convention run?**

September 1-5, 2022

### **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?**

Chicago, Illinois, United States. Our site is in the city center.

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

We will be at the Hyatt Regency Chicago in downtown Chicago, the site of the four most recent Chicago Worldcons. The facility is an all-in-one with the hotel and convention center in the same buildings.

Should we require overflow hotels, the Hyatt is part of The Millennium Park Connection, which includes the Fairmont, Swissotel, and Radisson Blu hotels.

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

- The convention chair is Helen Montgomery. Helen has worked on multiple Worldcons in various roles, including Vice Chair (2012), Chair's Advisor (2011), Division Head (2008, 2014, 2019), and Convention Center Liaison (2013). She has been the Chair's Advisor for two NASFiCs (2014, 2017). She has also worked on her home convention, Capricon, since 2000 in a variety of roles, including Chair (2009, 2010), Board member, and Board President.
- Current Division Heads:
  - Chair's Advisors: Bobbi Armbruster, James Bacon, Colin Harris, Dave McCarty
  - Artistic Director: Emily Knowles-Grumble
  - Exhibits: Open
  - Events: Open (pending final confirmation of candidate)
  - Facilities: Joyce Lloyd, Ben Yalow (Deputy)
  - Finance: Alexia Hebel
  - Hospitality: Open
  - Members Services: Kathy Bond
  - Program: Kris 'Nchanter' Snyder, Ian Stockdale (Deputy)
  - Promotions: Open (pending final confirmation of candidate)
  - Publications: Sara Felix, James Bacon (Deputy)
  - Staff Services: Karin May, Bobbi Armbruster (Deputy)
  - WSFS: Jesi Lipp, Brian Nisbet (Deputy)
- The voting members of the parent corporation are: Helen Montgomery, Dave McCarty, Tom Veal, RJ Johnson, Ben Yalow, Kerry Kuhn, Barb vanTilburg, Brian Nisbet, Ann Marie Rudolph, Sandra Levy, Bill Thomasson, David Hirsch, Pam Burr, Gary Agin, Jason Spitzer, Leane Verhulst, Chris Rose, James Bacon, Gadi Evron, Doug Killings, David Abzug, and Siobhan Murphy.

- The Corporate Board of Directors are: Helen Montgomery, Dave McCarty, Sandra Levy, Leane Verhulst, Gary Agin, Bill Thomasson, and Siobhan Murphy.
  - President of the Board: Dave McCarty
  - Board Secretary: Jason Spitzer
  - Corporate Treasurer: Shirley McKinzey

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

We will participate in Pass-Along Funds. The Board of Directors for the corporation will consider the increase.

## Travel

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

Based on Expedia searches done in August 2018 for June 2019:

- Auckland: \$1380-\$1900 (1-2 stops)
- Boston: \$190-\$300 (nonstop available)
- Chicago: FREE!!!
- Dallas: \$350-\$430 (nonstop available)
- Dublin: \$480-\$1000+ (nonstop available)
- Helsinki: \$660-\$860 (nonstop available)
- London: \$375-\$670 (nonstop available)
- Los Angeles: \$355-\$370 (nonstop available)
- Melbourne: \$1260-\$2000 (1-2 stops)

We also looked in June 2020 for April 2021 on Expedia (as far forward as we could choose), and the prices generally are a bit lower. Hard to say how they will be affected long-term by the pandemic travel restrictions.

**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?**

Most major carriers, both domestic and international, can be found at O'Hare, with the exception of Southwest, which has their hub at Midway. O'Hare is a hub for both American Airlines and United Airlines.

- <https://www.flychicago.com/ohare/home/pages/default.aspx>
- <https://www.flychicago.com/midway/home/pages/default.aspx>

**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?**

There are multiple transportation options.

The Hyatt has transportation options on their site: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/illinois/hyatt-regency-chicago/chirc/maps-parking-transportation>

Union Station (Amtrak train) and Greyhound (Bus) are both downtown. Union Station is 1.5 miles from the Hyatt. The Greyhound Station is 2 miles from the Hyatt. There are public transportation options to the Hyatt from both stations. Example linked below.

- <https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Chicago+Greyhound+Bus+Station,+Chicago,+IL/Hyatt+Regency+Chicago,+151+E+Wacker+Dr,+Chicago,+IL+60601/@41.8812331,-87.6405572,15z/data=!4m15!4m14!1m5!1m1!1s0x880e2d0d223a31d7:0xb466e26055d710f5!2m2!1d-87.6430135!2d41.8746262!1m5!1m1!1s0x880e2ca924587447:0x880c1ae8574967ef!2m2!1d-87.6219805!2d41.8874896!3e3!5i3?hl=en&authuser=0>

Both airports have extensive public transportation options to downtown Chicago.

- The Blue Line elevated train comes in from O'Hare Airport. There is also access to the Metra commuter rail and PACE buses.  
<https://www.flychicago.com/ohare/tofrom/publictransit/Pages/default.aspx>
- The Orange Line elevated train comes in from Midway Airport. There is also access to CTA and PACE buses.  
<https://www.flychicago.com/midway/tofrom/publictransit/pages/default.aspx>

Information on the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) fares can be found here: <https://www.transitchicago.com/fares/>

# Facilities

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

We will be held in the Hyatt Regency Chicago. The hotel has 2,032 sleeping rooms which includes 123 suites of various sizes. The standard guest rooms are primarily a mix of king beds, double/doubles, deluxe queen/queen, with a few additional layouts.

There are 98 ADA Accessible rooms, with both King and Queen/Queen beds available.

## **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?**

- The firm sleeping rooms rate is \$165/night for single/double/triple/quad.
  - NOTE: We originally presented this as \$160/night. However, further negotiations with the hotel have led to a small increase to \$165/night in exchange for other concessions to the convention.
- Breakfast is not a standard amenity in the United States and is not a part of the rate.
- Internet access is complimentary in the guest rooms.
- There are no additional fees.
- The current standard tax rate is 17.39% for hotels downtown.
- Rollaway beds can be furnished for some rooms for a one-time charge of \$25.

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

We will have a 50% discount off 2022 prevailing parking rates. Currently the valet rate is \$73/day including in/out privileges.

There are lots available within 2 blocks of the hotel with cheaper rates, such as one currently that has 5 day parking available for \$90/total. Currently, many parking apps are available in Chicago to allow people to find the best possible deals.

## **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?**

The hotel and convention center are one site.

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

We anticipate that they will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hyatt. The Grand Ballroom is over 24,000 sq. ft and can seat approximately 2400 people theatre style. During Chicon 7 in 2012, we also had overflow seating to watch the livestream in one of the other large ballrooms and would anticipate doing the same this time.

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

Chicago is a world-class city for restaurants. Choose Chicago has a decent website to explore your options. <https://www.choosechicago.com/things-to-do/find-restaurants/> Using that website alone, there are over 100 restaurants in the Loop and Magnificent Mile neighborhoods closest to the hotel.

Within the Hyatt itself, there are five places for dining/drinks: Stetson's Modern Steak & Sushi, American Craft Kitchen and Bar (in the lobby), The Living Room (lounge), BIG Bar, and Market Chicago (grab and go, 24 hours a day).

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/illinois/hyatt-regency-chicago/chirc/dining>

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

Evening socializing will happen on designated floors in one tower of the hotel, primarily making use of suites. The convention has arranged a corkage and forrage waiver for most of the suites – the exception is the largest of the suites, and we are continuing to negotiate with the hotel on these suites.

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

The Hyatt Regency Chicago is a non-smoking facility. There are designated smoking areas outside of the hotel. Chicago's Clean Indoor Air Ordinance prohibits smoking, including e-cigarettes, in virtually all indoor spaces. For more details:

[https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/bacp/supp\\_info/cleanindoorairordiance.html](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/bacp/supp_info/cleanindoorairordiance.html)

**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 are still looking at the impact of the pandemic on our plans. We will follow the science and the rules set out by the state of Illinois and city of Chicago.

# Miscellaneous

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

Average temperatures are generally between 63-82F / 17-28C. It might rain occasionally but it's usually pretty nice over Labor Day Weekend.

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

Chicago was once again named Best Big City in the U.S. by *Condé Nast Traveler* readers for the \*fourth year in a row\*! This prestigious recognition was voted on by more than 715,000 travel lovers from around the country, who recognize that Chicago is truly a city unlike any other. We can't wait to show it off to you in 2022!

- Museums – The Art Institute of Chicago, The Adler Planetarium, Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum of Natural History, Museum of Contemporary Art, and The Museum of Science and Industry to name a few.
- Parks – Millennium Park and Grant Park (home to Buckingham Fountain) are both downtown. Both have several free music festivals and other events during the summer. The Chicago Jazz Festival is held in Millennium Park over Labor Day Weekend.
- Arts – There are several Broadway-quality theaters in downtown, and dozens throughout the city as a whole. Orchestra Hall, home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, is downtown, as is the Lyric Opera.
- Sports – during the summer, there are opportunities to see the Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox (baseball) and the Chicago Fire and Chicago Red Stars (soccer).
- And more! Too much to name here.

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

We have worked to keep our rates as low as possible for as long as possible. We have specific rates for children, teenagers, and young adults. We also have a First Attending Worldcon rate, which is for anyone who has not attended a Worldcon in person (i.e. if their only attending Worldcon was ConZealand, they can take still take advantage of this rate).

We are not currently planning on other discounts, but we are working on creating a scholarship fund for attendees. This is in early stages of planning and no details are available yet.

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

From the Chair, in no particular order:

- I want everyone volunteering to be / still be friends when this is done.
- I want everyone volunteering to enjoy ourselves and at the end say "Damn, that was AWESOME and I'm proud to have been a part of it!"
- I want everyone volunteering at the convention (especially Division Heads, Area Heads, and Staff) to get to attend at least one of our "must see!" items per day of the convention.
- I want our Guests of Honor and Featured Guests to feel honored and to have had a great time.
- I want our theme of "Take to the Stars" to be about exploration - seeking out new (to us) things; meeting new people, creating new friendships, expanding the community; learning new ideas and expanding our culture. I would love it if everyone who attends Chicon 8 walked out having learned one new thing and made one new friend.
- I want to be a Big Tent - I want representation from all the fandoms in Chicago and the Midwest. SF/Fantasy, Doctor Who, Comics, Gaming, Furrries.
- I want local conventions/fandoms to be able to get a boost from our presence.
- I want attendees to get to experience Chicago.
- I want the Dealers and Artists and Authors to be successful.
- I want local schools and kids to be involved.
- I want to use our platform to lift up the voices of those in our community who have been marginalized or underrepresented.
- I want to have just enough of a surplus so we can provide Passalong Funds to the next three Worldcons and give money to local fannish groups to help keep them going.
- I want attendees to look forward to the 9th Chicago Worldcon.

Our volunteer staff is passionate about bringing our fans an excellent Worldcon. The committee makeup of varied backgrounds and levels of experience encourages us to bring fresh ideas to the table to build on the practices brought forward from previous conventions. The organization structure, from the Chair down, was created to facilitate moving those ideas into reality. The Division Heads fully understand the vision and are going through a thorough planning process now to bring that vision to life. We are open to suggestions from anyone on what we can do to create our ideal Worldcon.



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

Chicago has a huge fannish culture. In addition to the two large literary-based conventions (Capricon and Windycon), there are two large comic-cons, Midwest Furfest, Anime Central, and many online groups to promote fannish activity (one of the longer running ones, Chicago Nerd Social Club, has nearly 5000 members).

Our hope is to incorporate aspects from all of Chicago's fannish areas. Additionally, we look forward to incorporating traditions and ideas from other Midwest fannish groups.

Also, the party scene at Chicago conventions is amazing. That will definitely be a thing at a Chicago Worldcon.

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

Our Code of Conduct is available here: <https://chicon.org/home/for-members/code-of-conduct/>

This general Code of Conduct will cover all activities until the convention itself, and there will be an additional section that will cover the actual convention. It will be available on our website once finalized.

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

Diversity and Inclusion as a practice means not only accepting, but welcoming and actively making space and creating opportunities for people from traditionally underrepresented communities.

Diversity is about rejecting homogeneity across multiple axes, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and ability. Inclusion is about working actively to make room for groups and individuals who have historically had fewer opportunities and less access to "the room where it happens."

From there, we hope that whatever we do on Chicon 8 will be a step towards Integration, where people who have been underrepresented are not only included, but come to feel that they are an integral and important part of the fannish community, and their diversity is welcomed and deemed important to the community.

NOTE: We are aware that within the educational system, the terms integration and inclusion may be used differently. We are working from the following terms:

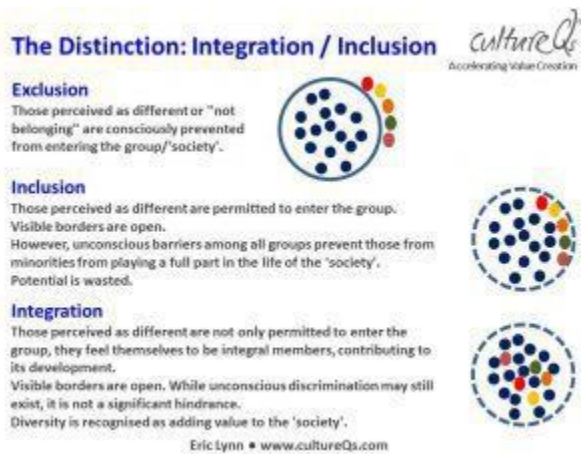


Image:

There are three diagrams to illustrate the definitions.

Text reads:

The Distinction: Integration / Inclusion

- Exclusion: Those perceived as different or "not belonging" are consciously prevented from entering the group/"society"
- Inclusion: Those perceived as different are permitted to enter the group. Visible borders are open. However, unconscious barriers among all groups prevent those from minorities from playing a full part in the life of the "society". Potential is wasted.
- Integration: Those perceived as different are not only permitted to enter the group, they feel themselves to be integral members, contributing to its development. Visible borders are open. While unconscious discrimination may still exist, it is not a significant hindrance. Diversity is recognized as adding value to the "society".

From Eric Lynn / [www.cultureQs.com](http://www.cultureQs.com)

**How are you working towards your goals in these areas?  
What would concrete achievements look like in these areas?**

Our Anti-Racism Statement is here: <https://chicon.org/home/for-members/anti-racism-statement/>

We have held focus groups with members of fannish communities who identify as BIPOC or LGBTQ+. The purpose of these was to discuss what people look for with regards to diversity and inclusion when choosing to attend a convention, what conventions can provide to make them feel comfortable and welcome, thoughts on how to form a Diversity and Inclusion Team as part of the committee, how to create a financial assistance / scholarship fund, and how to create safer spaces for members of marginalized groups.

We are working to set up a similar focus group for fans with disabilities to be held sometime in either December 2020 or early January 2021.

From there, we will be setting up a Diversity and Inclusion Team as part of the committee.

Some of our concrete goals in these areas include:

- Program model - participants will be choosing the panels they are interested in, which will allow for greater diversity.
- Aim to have no panels with a single gender of panelist represented (With a tolerance of 3%) This metric would apply to all panels that have 3 or more participants.
- The majority of panels of 3 or more participants at the convention would end up diverse along at least two axes (gender and race, race and ability, etc.)
- Setting up a Financial Assistance Fund to benefit attendees who identify as BIPOC/non-white and/or LGBTQI+
- Safer spaces for BIPOC, LGBTQ+, People with disabilities
- A low-sensory-input room
- A nursing mothers room
- Featured Guests – up and coming, aiming for traditionally marginalized / underrepresented groups
- Pronoun stickers for badges
- Sensitivity readers for all publications
- Scheduled meetups for underrepresented groups

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

We do not yet have a good idea of the state of the world in 2022. The challenge that presents right now is that we have to remain flexible in our planning to make sure that we are protecting the health and safety of our members as required by the state of the world we are faced with then.

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

We are considering virtual options for the convention, but as stated above, it's too early to say for sure what will happen. We do anticipate that there will be some virtual aspect to the convention, but how much and what it would look like are decisions for later in 2021.

### **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?**

The program will feature recent and current Hugo finalists and winners. Acknowledging the possibility of disconnects between teams, the Program and WSFS divisions will have processes in place to ensure that we do not inadvertently leave finalists off of the program. Program will solicit input from the finalists who are program participants as to what they want to do and make reasonable efforts to accommodate them.