

Seattle 2025

General

- Contact for questions from fandom (*including email address*):
A: Kathy Bond, katharinebond@gmail.com
- What dates are you bidding for?
A: Generally, mid-August 2025. I currently am in talks with the WA State Convention Center and anticipate having a contract with a right of first refusal sometime in the first quarter of 2018.
- 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: The proposed host city is Seattle, WA. Downtown Seattle is approximately 30 miles away from SeaTac International Airport, and there are several fantastic options for transportation into the city. There is link light rail—a 50 minute train/subway ride from the airport directly to downtown Seattle. Both Car2Go and ReachNow have dedicated space in a nearby airport garage (with a shuttle from the terminal) for people who might want to drive up to the city.

There is also, well-marked, stations for picking up taxis, Lyfts, or Ubers from the airport to the city. These rides will cost approximately \$40-60.

Not all downtown hotels have a shuttle service to the airport, and many have been cutting back on this service in recent years.

The WA State Convention Center is in the heart of downtown Seattle.

- Who is your bid chair? Who is on your committee? What experience do they have in general? In running Worldcons?
A: The bid chair is currently Kathy Bond. A formalized committee has not been sorted yet although I have local people interested in helping the bid as well as contacts in the Midwest.

Generally, my experience with Worldcon is still at the beginning stages. I worked as the legal advisor for Sasquan and am currently the Operations Division Head for San Jose. I have also signed up to work as the Staff Den Coordinator for Dublin.

Outside of Worldcon, I have primarily worked with Norwescon. I started as the legal advisor, a track lead in the programming department, and spent two years as Treasurer and a member of the Exec Team. Then, I spent 3 years as Chair. Currently, I'm the Hotel Liaison and also working on some behind the scenes admin type stuff. Additionally, I spent my first year with Norwescon working to get the organization 501c3 status.

I have also spent the past 3 years as member of SWOC and Treasurer for that organization.

- If known, who will be the chair of the convention? What experience do they have?
A: Kathy Bond, see above
- Have you agreed to participate in Pass-Along Funds? Would you be willing to increase the percentage from 50% to 70% of surplus?
A: Not applicable as of yet; however, it would be my intention to participate in pass-along funds as I think they are very important for the longevity of the institution of Worldcon.

Travel

- What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Melbourne?
A: I do not believe this is a useful question at this point in time given how far out in time the potential convention is. Currently though, Southwest has flights from Boston for as low as \$175 and as high as \$650. From Chicago and Los Angeles, fares can get as low as \$100 one-way.
- 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: SeaTac International Airport is the local airport and has numerous airlines, local and international, that fly in. There are direct flights from the above cities.
- How far is your convention site from the nearest airport/train station and what is the realistic cost of getting to the hotels by both public transport and taxi from that airport/train station?
A: As mentioned above, SeaTac International Airport is about 30 miles from Seattle. If using link light rail, the cost is \$3.25 one way. If using a taxi, Lyft, or Uber, the cost is \$40 to \$60.

Facilities

- What venues do you plan to use for the convention?
A: The WA State Convention Center. Possibly also the Conference Center across the way. There is a new facility that is coming on-line before 2025 that might be in contention as well.

We will also likely use space at the Sheraton hotel, which is next door to the convention center.

I am also currently contemplating the idea of using some theatre facilities for the Masquerade that are nearby—this will, however, be price dependent. Additionally, I have some thoughts about possibly setting up some events at MoPop and the Sci-Fi Hall of Fame.

- What are your main hotels? How far are they *by foot* from your main venue? List the number of rooms you expect to have in each hotel in which you expect to have more than 75 rooms. Will there be a party hotel?
A: This is still being worked out. Our main hotel will most likely be the Sheraton, which is next door to the convention center.

I'm also committed to the idea of providing information about low-cost accommodations. At the edge of downtown for example, there is a Holiday Inn and a Best Western. They are a healthy walk for a young, fit person from the Convention Center. There is also a hostel in by Pike Place Market, which is a 7 block walk from the Convention Center.

- Please include a map of your site showing the locations of your facilities. Include every hotel in which you expect to have more than 75 rooms and every venue where program or exhibits will be held. *Include a distance scale!* (Feel free to just mark up a map with a pen – it needn't be pretty; it *does* need to be informative.)
- **A:** I do not have this information yet.
- How compact is your main facility? How much walking is required between the farthest rooms in your space allocation?

A: The Convention Center is more compact than the Spokane Convention Center in that it is vertical more than horizontal. However, it is still a convention center so you will be easily able to get your steps in.

- What are your expected hotel room rates? Do these rates include breakfast? How firm are these rates? What additional taxes and fees are there?

A: I do not yet have hotel room rates and likely will not for another 2 or 3 years. Seattle does have a current hotel tax rate of 15.6%

- Is there free internet in all the hotel rooms? In the program and exhibit venue?

A: There will be free internet in the convention center. I am unsure about the hotels.

- What does parking cost at your main hotels?

A: At the Sheraton, parking is \$30 per night. It is incredibly likely that we will be able to negotiate a lower rate for our members.

- 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 distance from the Sheraton to the convention center is less than a block. The sidewalks are really well-suited in this part of downtown for scooters.

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

A: This is still being thought about. The Convention Center and the Sheraton both have the space available to create a basic stage with theater lights and sounds but with non-tiered seating for large groups.

I do have some thoughts about looking into 2 local theaters—ACT theater and the Paramount for these events. Price will likely be the deciding factor here.

- Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

A: Varied and awesome. You can get any cuisine you want in downtown Seattle. In the Convention center, there is a crepe place, a Subway, and a general café. Across the street is an Indian place. A block down is a Cheesecake Factory and steak place. 2 blocks down, there is Pacific Place, which has a food court. 4 blocks down, there is Westlake Mall, which has another food court. And, during the weekdays, Westlake Place also has a food truck extravaganza. Pike Place Market, with several food options, is a 7 block walk from the Convention Center.

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

A: We will be able to have parties in sleeping rooms. However, if groups wish to serve alcohol in an open-party environment, WA state law requires that they have a special occasion license. These licenses are \$60/per event and can only be obtained by a 501c3. The license also requires that you sell your drinks at cost. Since the license gives you access to purchase alcohol at wholesale prices from special stores, you can sell drinks for .50 cents.

If you do wish to have an invitation only event, you can use just a \$10 banquet permit as an individual. However, if a Liquor and Cannabis Control Board Agent comes to the event, you must be able to provide an invitation list.

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

A: Smoking is not allowed inside any buildings or within 25 feet of any building entrance. This

includes nicotine and cannabis.

Miscellaneous

- What type of weather can we expect during your convention? What is the usual temperature and chance of rain during that time of year? Do not provide the historic high or low that makes your site appear attractive. (Stephen and Deb can use google too)
A: During August, Seattle is usually very sunny with temperatures in the 70s or 80s. There is very little chance of rain during this month. Seattle is, in fact, gorgeous this time of year.
- What are some of the main tourist attractions of your city?
A: By no means is this a definitive list. There is Pike Place Market, the Underground Tour in Pioneer Square, Ride the Ducks, the Space Needle, the Seattle Art Museum, the Museum of Pop Culture (MoPoP), which has the Science Fiction Hall of Fame, and the Pacific Science Center. There is also the Olympic Sculpture Park, tons of parks, and Elliott Bay Bookstore.
- Are you planning to have any membership discounts for certain groups, such as young adults, military, or seniors?
A: I am planning to have membership discounts for young adults.
- Do you have a published code of conduct?
A: There are no published codes yet. There will be a membership guide and code of conduct, but these are not likely to be published for another 2-3 years.
- Will there be a installment payment option?
A: Yes