

Worldcon 76 in San Jose

FANNISH INQUISITION QUESTIONNAIRE

Who will represent your convention at Worldcon 76 and how can they be contacted?

Kathy Bond
Seattle 2025 Bid Chair
katharinebond@gmail.com

What are the dates for your convention?

Given that we are 7 years out, dates have not been set yet. We are aiming for early to mid August 20205.

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?

I am looking at 2 potential sites both in downtown Seattle. One is the WA State Convention Center, and one is a currently being built hotel next to the convention center.

What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as Auckland, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Dublin, Helsinki, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne?

- Is your closest airport a hub for a major carrier?
- Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport?
- If not, where is the closest international airport?
- Which airlines service your airport?
- Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?

SeaTac International airport is a major hub for several airlines. There are direct flights from Dublin from Aer Lingus. Several different carriers with direct flights from London, and all major US carriers have some sort of flight into and out of SeaTac. The biggest carrier is Alaska Airlines with Southwest as a close second.

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?

SeaTac International is about 15 to 20 miles from downtown Seattle. There are many fantastic options for transportation into Seattle from the airport. There is link light rail—a 50 minutes train/subway ride from the airport directly to downtown Seattle. From the Westlake Station stop, you will be approximately 6 blocks from the convention center. Cost for a one-way ride on link light rail is \$2.25, and tickets can be purchased on the platform.

There is also a well-marked area for picking up taxis, Lyfts, or Ubers from the airport to the city. These rides will cost approximately \$40-\$60. There are also town cars available for a flat \$50 fee, and a service called Shuttle Express that picks up in the same area with advance reservations. Shuttle Express will take you anywhere and is approximately \$30/person.

Not all downtown hotels have shuttle service to the airport anymore but some do.

What hotel(s) are being used for the convention?

- How many rooms?
- How many Singles/Doubles/Kings?
- What other types of rooms are available? How many are handicap accessible?
- Are there any accessibility issues?

- What are your hotel room rates?
- Do these rates include breakfast?
- Do they include internet in the room?

- What is the distance from the 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?

As mentioned up top, we're still 7 years out. This information has not been nailed down yet. Generally speaking, most Seattle hotels include internet in the room, and they will be incredibly close to the convention center.

Seattle sidewalks are generally scooter friendly in the areas closest to the Convention Center. That area is flat. For people who may want to venture further afield, we will have special maps that show you the secret elevators to get up the hills.

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 describe your convention site facilities. For example, the quantity and sizes of function rooms, tech options, accessibility issues, etc.

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. It is a fully accessible building.

Where will your large events (for example the Hugo Ceremony and Masquerade) be held?

This is still under consideration. There is a theater (the ACT theater) attached to the WA State Convention Center that is a possibility. More details would need to be worked out regarding price. Otherwise, the Convention Center has several spaces that can have a stage added with stadium seating.

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

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 are the policies/laws regarding smoking at your:

- Hotel(s):
- Convention Center:
- City:

State Law prohibits smoking indoors and within 25 feet of a building entrance.

What type of weather can we expect at the time of year your convention is to be held?

Weather that will make you suspect Seattle residents lie about the rainy weather. It will be in the 70s to 80s and sunny.

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

This is by no means a definitive list, and we will definitely have a longer list on our bid website. Additionally, I plan to offer several tours during the convention.

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, the Pacific Science Center, the Olympic Sculpture Park, Smith Tower, and the Klondike Museum.

What arrangements will be made for evening socializing and party space?

- Do you have a corkage waiver and a forklage waiver?

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 the licensee. The licensee 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.

Additionally, the WA State Liquor and Cannabis Control Board has recently re-interpreted the special occasion license and will only grant one license per location per group. There is a work around for this, but open, alcohol parties will require coordination among the party groups. This is an area that I will have a dedicated person on for the convention. And, frankly, I expect that this interpretation will no longer be in place by 2025 as several groups within fandom and without are working to change it right now.

If you do wish to have a private, 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.

Do you currently have a code of conduct in place for your bid/convention?

- If so, what is it?
- If not, do you intend to have one?

Yes, I do intend to have one. I do not yet.

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

Yes, I do. I have been spending a lot of time thinking about the cost accessibility of Worldcon and have several ideas for hopefully reducing costs in order to be able to reduce membership costs. Specifically, there will be discounts for families, young adults, and fans in need. I also have some thoughts about offering tiered membership options a'la the YMCA camps out here. (There are 3 prices for a week of camp, and you choose which price point you can afford to pay. This way people who can afford more can pay more and those who can't, don't have to.)