

Smofcon 38 - Cirque des Smofs

- Who is your point of contact at this convention? Jannie Shea
- Do you have an email address (and/or other social media or messaging inboxes) to receive questions? What response time can people expect? smofcon38@cansmof.ca
We try to respond within 48 hours.
- What City/Country are you bidding/hosting in? Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- What dates are you bidding? Dec 4-6. 2020

About Us

- Who is leading your committee? Jannie Shea
- Tell us about your committee's prior convention experience. Multiple Worldcons, multiple Costumecons, one of the currently seated World Fantasy conventions and local conventions, ranging from Draconis (gaming convention) to Otakuthon (22k+ anime convention)
- We will operate under the auspices of Cansmof, the umbrella organisation that put on Anticipation (Worldcon 2009), Smofcon 32, and Costume Con 32 and will be putting on Costume Con 38 and World Fantasy 2021.
- Since 2010, Cansmof has also given out 2-3 annual Smofcon scholarships.

Our Mission

- In one short paragraph, please explain what your team is attempting to bring to this convention.
Like a cirque that tells stories, we want to explore the different ways our conventions tell their stories to and with their membership. We will focus on creative solutions to issues we juggle, balance, manipulate and jump over so we can create the magical spaces we call a convention.
- How are you fostering member safety?
 - Is your code of conduct and implementation process published?
 - If not, what are your member safety plans?

Our code of conduct guidelines:

Violence, "horseplay", harassing or disruptive behaviour will not be tolerated and may result in the loss of convention membership, removal from convention space and if the problem is serious, further involvement of law enforcement.

Drugs, theft, and vandalism are illegal and will be dealt with accordingly.

A parent or guardian must accompany children 13 and under at all times. Parents and guardians are responsible for the well-being and behavior of all children in their care.

The legal drinking age in Quebec is 18. No alcohol may be consumed in convention space except that sold by the venue or provided in the Hospitality suite.

We reserve the right to refuse admission to function rooms to those under 18 during videos and panels with adult content. Government issued ID is required for admission to 18+ events, if there should be any.

Smoking tobacco or cannabis, or vaping with or without nicotine are not allowed.

Panhandling (begging for money, with or without performing music or other entertainment) is against local bylaws and will not be allowed in convention space.

Selling by individuals in any area controlled by the convention is strictly prohibited without the express permission of the convention

Laser pointers are not harmless toys; they are capable of inflicting serious eye damage. Irresponsible use of a laser pointer will result in loss of membership and expulsion from the convention.

- How are you fostering diversity?
 - What is your diversity plan for volunteer recruiting?
Reach out across our networks, domestic and international.
 - What is your diversity plan for programming?
Actively recruit participants, especially voices typically not heard.
 - Do you have a diversity plan for Guests of Honour? Yes.
 - Have you looked into your police department's record with minority and marginalized communities? Yes. While not the best, they are being improved upon.
- How are you fostering accessibility?
 - Does your access team include people who need access services? Yes.
 - Does your committee include people who need access services? Yes.
We are all getting greyer and the access needs are increasing.
- How are you engaging your local community? N/A
 - What is your plan for recruiting local volunteers?
Traditional approaches that have proven successful.
 - What is your plan to reach out to local fans and program participants?
Personal meetings.
 - What local arts, educational and/or charity organizations do you plan to reach out to? N/A
- What are you doing to engage young fans and families with children?
 - What age-related policies and restrictions have you put in place (or are required to put in place) that apply to young fans?

Because of our expected small size, parents and guardians are responsible for all children under 13 at all times.

- What are your plans to handle childcare needs? Lots of sugar in the consuite.
- Are you planning any membership discounts/rates? Yes, we plan to have a Con Widow/er membership for spouses. Stuffies Memberships (up to two) are free. We will consider an Internet membership if we believe we can have the infrastructure at the right costs for it
- What attendance level are you expecting for your convention? Around 150. How are you calculating this estimate? It's based on Smofcon historic attendance record.

Location Information

- Is your venue in a city center or a suburban location? Montreal city centre.
- Travel to your host city
 - What Airport (or airports) serve your host city? Pierre Trudeau International Airport (YUL)
 - Please provide rough estimates of flight costs into your airports. (Via Google Flights)
 - \$208 USD NYC, US
 - \$340 USD Chicago, US
 - \$598 USD Dallas,US
 - \$326 USD LA,US
 - \$519 USD London,UK
 - \$265 USD Paris, FR
 - \$538 USD Tel Aviv, IS
 - \$1,097 USD Chengdu, CHN
 - \$1,181USD Sydney, AUS
 - \$880 USD Taipei, TWN
 - \$1364 USD Wellington,NZ
 - What other transport options serve your city? Trains? Bus service? Both trains and buses, domestic and international. Amtrak has one of its few non-US services to Montreal, 2 blocks from the proposed hotel.
- International attendees
 - Do your airports offer nonstop international flights? Yes
 - Does your country (at the time of publishing) participate in any visa waiver programs? Yes.
 - Where can international attendees find customs, immigration and/or visa information about coming to your country?
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp> will walk you through a simple process

to see if you need a visa. If you do, it will give you the information on how to apply for one.

- Travel in your host city

- How do attendees get from your airports, train stations and/or bus stops to the convention area?

There's app "YULi" which will help travellers navigate around the Montreal Airport

From the airport, you can take the 747 bus into downtown Montreal and there is a stop ½ block from Le Centre Sheraton (our hotel). The cost is \$10CAD and includes an all day public transit pass. It runs 24/7 .

You can take a taxi from the airport, the cost is capped at \$40CAD

The train station is an easy 10 minute walk to our hotel. The main bus station is a little longer.

- What mass-transit options are available in your city? Are there weekly pass options to make transit easier for attendees?

Montreal is served by an integrated public transit system which incorporates both buses and subway trains, referred to as the Metro.

General information about the system can be found here:

<http://www.stm.info/en>

Unlimited evening (6pm-5am) transit passes are \$5.50 CAD /evening

Unlimited weekend passes (4pm Friday - 5 am Monday) are \$14 CAD

Unlimited weekly passes (Monday to 11:59pm Sunday) are \$26.75 CAD

More pricing is available here:

<http://www.stm.info/sites/default/files/pdf/en/tarifs.pdf>

Alternatively, you can use:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.thetransitapp.droid>

which will show you mass transit as well as bike rentals and Uber options.

- What apps are available for taxi and/or ride-sharing services in your city?
Uber and Lyft, of course,

Taxi-coop app <https://www.taxi-coop.com/en>

Téo Taxi (Electric car taxi)

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.taxelco.teotaxi>

Taxi Champlain (citywide taxi service)

<https://taxichamplain.com/index-en>

Taxi Diamond (citywide taxi service)

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.taxidiamond.mobile>

- For people who have or rent cars, what is your city's parking and traffic situation? Pay by zone and by app. Metered parking system that allows you to pay by app, credit cards or cash. Street signs will inform you of parking limits. Also pay lots are available as well as parking garage nearby. Our hotel has a parkade.
- What accessible transit options exist? Most Metro buses kneel. Wheelchair accessible cabs upon request.
- Weather in your host city
 - What average high and low temperatures can attendees expect (C and F both, please)? +4 to -4C, 39.2F to 24.8F
 - What average humidity and precipitation chances can attendees expect in your city? There is often no snow.
 - Is there anything about your weather that would surprise many attendees? No, not really.
- Eating and drinking in your host city
 - What is the restaurant scene, particularly surrounding your facilities? Numerous and varied.
 - How do restaurants in your area accommodate allergies and dietary restrictions? We are in downtown Montreal, which is accustomed to an international business clientele. Typically, one discusses with with one's waiter about dietary limitations. Each restaurant has its own code. There are too many to generalize.
 - What is the nightlife scene, particularly surrounding your facilities? Bars are open until 3am. Many bars and pubs close by, Our best cocktail bar is in Chinatown under a taqueria.
- Tourist attractions in or near your host city.

Montreal offers a wonderful mix of North American and European approaches to the winter holidays : Christmas markets, the interactive outdoor art of Luminothérapie, live music at Christmas in the park and more seasonal activities. Indoors, don't miss illuminating art and museum exhibitions, new dance and theatre, film festival image+nation, hockey games and more. Indulge in incredible food at restaurants citywide. And the Montréal Bach Festival!

Here's an example of what's going on this time of year:

<https://www.mtl.org/en/experience/things-to-do-montreal-november-29-december-5-2019>

Le Centre Sheraton is close to the Bell Centre, home to the Montreal Canadiens. There are 48 museums, including the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Biodome / Insectarium, and the Montreal Botanical Gardens. Notre Dame Basilica and Old Montreal are nearby. Montreal is home to Cirque du Soleil, Cirque Eloize, the National Circus School and other circus training facilities. The list is lengthy. We are home to Grenadine.

Convention facilities

- Convention facilities
 - What facilities are you planning to use for convention exhibits, programme and events? N/A
 - Has your organization used this space before? No.
 - What other conventions similar to your convention in content and/or capacity does your facility host? International Business meetings on a regular basis. It's a large revenue stream for the Sheraton.
Have you attended any of them? No.
 - What spaces are you planning to use for major events (Hugo Award Ceremony, Masquerade)? What is the size, layout and seating capacity?
The Fannish Inquisition is in Salon ABC that seats approximately 250 banquet style.
 - What spaces are you planning to use for exhibits (Dealers, Art Show, Fixed Exhibits)? What is the size and layout of the spaces? N/A
 - How many rooms do you plan to allocate to programming? What are their capacity ranges? 3 rooms, about 50 each, plus Salon ABC which can be divided into three rooms of about 70.
 - Does your facility provide internet access? Yes
Have you reviewed the convention facility's internet services under load?
Le Centre Sheraton hosted a Wikimania conference in 2017 with over 1200 attendees.
 - Does your facility provide gender-neutral toilets (restrooms)?
We don't care as long as you wash your hands.

- Housing facilities
 - We have Le Centre Sheraton / Sheraton under contract.
It will house the entirety of our convention.

 - Please provide a breakdown of room block sizes and composition in your contracted hotel.

Date	Day	Traditional 1 King	Traditional 2 Doubles	Staff Room	Executive Suite	Total Rooms
12/02/20	Wed	1	1	2	1	5
12/03/20	Thurs	4	33	2	1	40
12/04/20	Fri	9	68	2	1	80

12/05/20	Sat	9	68	2	1	80
12/06/20	Sun	4	33	2	1	40
12/07/20	Mon	1	1	2	1	5

- What are your hotel rates? Traditional \$159 CAD (\$120 USD) , Deluxe \$199 CAD (\$150 USD), \$249 CAD (\$187 USD)
Does this include all taxes? No. (3.5% lodging, 5% Federal and 9.975% Provincial)
We have 3 days of shoulder nights both before and after the convention.
- Does your contracted hotel include internet access for guests? Yes
- Does your contracted hotels include breakfast? No.
- Have you contracted all the sleeping rooms and function space in any of your hotels? No. We have the capacity to expand if needed.
- Are you required to make a minimum room block, or is your housing “courtesy blocks?” We need to meet a minimum room block.
Will people booking outside your blocks harm the convention’s financial stability?
Yes.
- Party facilities
 - What space are you planning to make available for parties? We have contracted for the use of two connecting Hospitality suites,
 - Will party hosts have to use caterers authorized by the space? No.
Will party hosts be able to bring in their own food and/or drink? Yes.
 - Are party hosts allowed to serve alcohol? Yes.
- Accessibility
 - Has your access team reviewed your facilities for mobility device access? Yes.
the Sheraton is equipped with elevators and ramps.
For access services for the blind? Elevators have Braille signage. Bellhops are available to escort.
For access services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing? Special rooms are equipped with flashing lights needs.
 - Hotel rooms have height adjustable tables.
 - Does your facility provide ramps for event and program stages? Yes.
 - Do your facilities host any access-focused events, and, if so, can you tell us about these events and how the space works with them? Unknown at time of writing.

- How do your hotels accommodate allergies?
Our hotel is very responsive to guest needs, please alert them to any allergies you may have upon making your reservation. If you feel you need further assistance, please contact us. All hotels in Montreal are non-smoking.