

Statement Regarding Updated ‘Bid_Convention Clearinghouse’ Document

The undersigned Worldcons and bids for Worldcon include this joint statement with our responses to the ‘Bid_Convention Clearinghouse’ prepared for SMOFCon 37 in preparation for the “Fannish Inquisition/Question Time” event.

1. The number of questions included in the questionnaire increased from twenty-one (21) in prior years to seventy-one (71) questions in the current version, significantly increasing the workload to respond.
2. The notice of the new questionnaire was published by SMOFCon 37 on November 18, thirteen (13) days before the deadline to respond of December 1, 2019. The initial notice was sent to the list of the members of SMOFCon, and to the general SMOFs list. It was announced at that time that efforts to contact seated Worldcons and bids would take place afterwards, i.e., those who did not see the original announcement would have even less than 13 days to respond.
3. During this time, this was further problematised as over half of the standing chairs and bid chairs were attending an event in Chengdu (hosted by the Chengdu bid team) or taking part in extensive international travel during most of this time. Immediately following this was a national holiday in the USA.
4. In the spirit of fairness, we object to the fact that the format of the questionnaire was released in a manner that is completely inaccessible to one of the declared bids. Google Docs are not able to be accessed in China.
5. The attached submission represents the best effort that each Worldcon or Worldcon bid was able to coordinate in such a short time and with the understanding that all of us are volunteers.

Signed:

Norman Cates and Kelly Buehler, Co-Chairs, CoNZealand
Bill Lawhorn and Colette H. Fozard, Co-Chairs, DisCon III
Helen Montgomery and Dave McCarty, Co-Chairs, Chicago in 2022 Bid for Worldcon
Cliff Dunn and Kate Secor, Co-Chairs, Memphis in 2023 Bid for Worldcon
Chengdu in 2023 Bid for Worldcon
Esther MacCallum-Stewart, Chair, Glasgow in 2024 Bid for Worldcon
Katharine Bond, Chair, Seattle in 2025 Bid for Worldcon

General

- Name of Bid:
A: Chicago in 2022 Worldcon Bid
- Person(s) Dublin should contact about this questionnaire and about the Fannish Inquisition at (*including email address*):
A: Helen Montgomery and Dave McCarty. info@chicagoworldconbid.org
- What dates are you bidding for?
A: September 1-5, 2022 (Labor Day USA weekend).
- 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: Chicago, Illinois, USA. We are looking at downtown Chicago.

- What are your main facilities? How far are your hotels from your main venue?
- A: We will likely be at the Hyatt Regency Chicago in downtown Chicago, the site of four prior Chicago Worldcons. The facility is an “all-in-one” with the hotel and convention center in the same buildings.
- Who is your bid chair? Who is on your committee? What experience do they have in general? In running Worldcons?
 - A: The bid co-chairs are Helen Montgomery and Dave McCarty.
 - Helen has worked on multiple Worldcons in various roles, including Vice Chair (2012), Chair’s Advisor (2011), Division Head (2008, 2014, 2019), 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) and also Board President.
 - Dave has also worked on multiple Worldcons, including Chair (2012), Division Head (2007), and Hugo Administrator (2013, 2016, 2018). He has also worked on his home convention, Capricon, since 1999 in a variety of roles, including Chair (1999, 2000, 2004) and as a member of the Board of Directors.
 - The current Bid Committee members (i.e. voting members of the corporation, having paid bid dues) 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, Barbara vanTilburg, Gary Agin, Bill Thomasson, and Siobhan Murphy.
 - President of the Board: Dave McCarty
 - Board Secretary: Jason Spitzer
 - Treasurer: Sydnie Krause-Steele / Helen Montgomery (Sydnie will be stepping down by end of 2019; Helen will be interim until a new treasurer is in place.)
- If known, who will be the chair of the convention? What experience do they have?
 - A: Helen Montgomery will be the chair of the convention. Please see above for experience.

Travel

- What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Melbourne?
 - A: 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)
- 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: 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.

- 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?

A: There are multiple transportation options. Union Station (Amtrak train) and Greyhound (Bus) are both downtown.

- The Blue Line elevated train comes in from O’Hare Airport, and the Orange Line from Midway.
-

Mode	Cost: O’Hare to downtown	Travel time: O’Hare to downtown	Cost: Midway to downtown	Travel time: Midway to downtown
CTA trains	\$5 or less*	45 min	\$2.25 or less*	25 min
Taxi	around \$40	25-90 min	around \$25	15-40 min
Shuttle Van Services	over \$25	25-90 min	over \$15	15-40 min

-

Facilities

- What hotel(s) are being used for the convention? How many rooms, what type, accessibility issues, etc.?
- What are your hotel room rates? Do these rates include breakfast? Do they include internet in the room? How firm are these rates? What additional taxes and fees are there?
- What does parking cost at your main hotels?
- 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?
- Where will your large events (i.e. Hugo Ceremony and Masquerade) be held?
- What arrangements will be made for evening socializing and party space? Do you have a corkage waiver?

A: The Bid has decided to sign with the Hyatt Regency Chicago. The contract is still a work in progress. We plan to have the contract ready by the Site Selection filing deadline in January 2020.

- Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

A: Chicago is a world-class city for restaurants.

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

A:

- Hotel(s): Some hotels have smoking rooms
- Convention Center: No smoking or vaping allowed in convention facilities
- City: No smoking or vaping in enclosed public spaces
https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph/supp_info/inspections---permitting/smoke_free_illinoisact.html

Miscellaneous

- What type of weather can we expect during your convention? What is the average temperature

during that time of year?

A: Average temperatures in August are 63-82F / 17-28C.

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

A:

- Museums – The Art Institute of Chicago, The Museum of Science and Industry, The Adler Planetarium, Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum of Natural History, and Museum of Contemporary Art, 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.
- 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 World Series Champion 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 groups, such as young adults, military, or seniors?

A: TBD

- Do you have a code of conduct?

A: We are currently developing our Bid's Code of Conduct, which will be in place until the start of the convention. There will be a modified version to cover the convention itself.