

## Statement Regarding Updated Bid Convention Clearinghouse Document

The undersigned Worldcons and bids for Worldcon include this joint statement with our response to this document prepared for Smofcon 37 in preparation for the Fannish Inquisition/Question 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 increased the workload to respond.
2. The notice of the new questionnaire was published by SMOFCon 37 on November 18, 2019, 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. The timing of this announcement was also problematic 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:

Katharine Bond, Chair, Seattle in 2025 Bid for Worldcon



## Seattle 2025 Worldcon Bid

This bid is being chaired by Kathy Bond ([katharinebond@gmail.com](mailto:katharinebond@gmail.com)) and comprises members of the greater Seattle fandom community. We are currently in the process of setting up our website and will have a general email (info@) set up in the first quarter of 2020. We currently have a Facebook page (Seattle 2025: A Worldcon Bid) and a Twitter account (@seattle2025). People can currently expect a response time of approximately 72 hours.

Seattle 2025 is bidding to host Worldcon 83 in Seattle, WA, and we are looking at dates in mid-August 2025.

The business structure for our bid and for our convention will be a Non-Profit Corporation formed in the State of Washington. We will also be obtaining federally recognized tax exempt status as a 501(c)(3) organization. The name of our hosting organizing is Seattle Genre Alliance—incorporation paperwork is available to view upon request and will be filed with the State of Washington in the first quarter of 2020.

Our committee is being led by Kathy Bond, SunnyJim Morgan, Alan Bond, and Kevin Black. Our convention running experience has primarily been with Norwescon although we also have experience helping with other fan events, have professional event/catering experience, have professional AV Tech experience, and legal expertise.

# Information About Seattle

Seattle is a vibrant city center that has been experiencing significant growth over the past decade. In addition to a bustling downtown core, Seattle also boasts magnificent views of Puget Sound, the Olympic Mountains, and the Cascade mountain range.

## ***Travel:***

The nearest international airport is SeaTac International, which is a hub for Alaska Airlines and has non-stop service from several international cities as well as cities throughout the United States. Specifically, there are direct flights from Dublin, Tokyo, London, New York, Washington DC, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Boston among others. All major US carriers have some sort of flight into and out of SeaTac as do most international carriers. Because our bid is so far in the future, any cost estimates regarding flights are likely unhelpful at this juncture.

In addition to SeaTac, regional travelers may also benefit from the newly opened Paine Field in Everett, Washington. Wait-times can be shorter there although Everett is further from downtown Seattle.

SeaTac International is 15 miles from downtown Seattle. There are many fantastic options for transportation into Seattle from the airport. There is link light rail—a 50 minute 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 to \$3.25, 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.

Most downtown hotels no longer have shuttle service to the airport.

Finally, Amtrak and Greyhound also have stations in downtown Seattle. Seattle is served by the Empire Builder route, which goes across the United States, as well as the Coast Starlite route, which travels along the west coast of the United States.

## ***In-Town Travel:***

King County Metro provides buses, light rail, and street-car options for travel around time. You can pay directly with cash on the bus, but all the other options require an ORCA card or ticket purchased prior to entry. ORCA cards can be used on all transit and can be purchased at all light-rail stops. The card costs \$5 and can be reloaded at any time. You can load cash value onto the cards or purchase a monthly pass.

Additionally, Seattle is served by several bike-share companies such as Jump and Limeshare, and there is a certain amount of conversation about scooters in the future.

The ShareNow program and Limeshare program for floating cars also exist in Seattle and are easy to sign-up for if you think you might want to drive around.

As for parking, there is not a significant amount of street parking available in the downtown core. If you are willing to park a little further out, you can find cheaper, street parking down by the Waterfront. Parking garages are fairly plentiful, and we will provide information on our website about pricing options as they can vary from \$10/day to \$50/day.

For accessibility information in getting around Seattle, we highly recommend AccessMap Seattle. For more information and a description, this article explains the service fairly well: <https://seattle.curbed.com/2017/2/14/14601070/tcat-access-map-seattle-pedestrians>

You can access the map at: [accessmap.io](http://accessmap.io)

### ***Weather:***

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

Recent summers have also shown that fire season is more of a concern for residents on the West Coast of the United States. While Seattle has not typically experienced significant fires due to geography, air quality can be affected (although not the extent that it is for people who live in Eastern Washington, California, or other regions closer to the fires).

### ***Eating and Drinking:***

The cuisine available in downtown Seattle is varied and awesome. 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. There are many more restaurants within a 5 block radius of the Convention Center.

In addition to the above, Seattle is a fairly allergen and dietary friendly town. There are vegetarian, vegan, and paleo options for dining.

Nightlife ends at 2AM in Seattle as that is when the bars close. However, there are a lot of bars. There is also a club scene that is within walking distance of the Convention Center for people who might want to see live music or go dancing.

### ***Tourist Attractions:***

This is by no means a definitive list, and we will definitely have a longer list on our bid website.

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, harbor tours, and the Klondike Museum. There is also Elliott Bay Bookstore in Capitol Hill, which is a quarter mile walk from the convention center.

A little bit farther afield in Seattle, there is the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI), the living computer museum, the Museum of Flight, and the Burke Natural History Museum. The Boeing Everett Factory also has a public tour.

For people looking to tack on vacation on either end of Worldcon, there is Olympic National Park on the Peninsula. In addition to stunning rainforest, there is the Olympic Hot Springs Resort. Or, a wine trail, several cideries, and again, amazing natural views. Alternatively, take a ferry to the San Juan Islands. Or, drive further south and see Mt. Rainier or Mt. St. Helens.

# Convention facilities

The Seattle 2025 team is still very much in the brainstorming and planning stages for many of these questions. We do not have contracts yet and in many cases have just started reaching out to facilities for tours and further information.

We are currently looking at the Washington State Convention Center, the Washington State Conference Center, and the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The Hyatt Regency Hotel opened in early 2019. It's a new facility with 5 floors of function space plus ballrooms.

For the convention center, it is a more vertical space than horizontal. However, it is still large. It hosts PAX, Emerald City Comic-Con, and SakuraCon every year so there is plenty of space for programming, exhibits, and most events. It is a fully accessible building.

The Hyatt Regency is a brand-new facility. It has 103,000 square feet of meeting space with 52 meeting rooms and 4 ballrooms. It also has foyer and mezzanine space that can be rented.

Location for the Hugo Awards and Masquerade is still under consideration including looking at a nearby historic theater, The Paramount. The Paramount is 2 blocks from the Convention Center.

Of note, the Convention Center is a union facility. (And, as a personal note from the bid chair, I am a Union Chapter President for my own Union at work, and my husband is a member of IATSE, and we derive a significant amount of our income from union work. We are both very pro-union.) We have contacts with IATSE as well as other non-profit events in the area that will enable us to effectively utilize union labor in a way that is beneficial for us AND for the union laborers.

## **Hotels:**

Generally speaking, most Seattle hotels include internet in the room, and they will be incredibly close to the convention center. We are looking at blocks likely in the Seattle Sheraton, Grand Hyatt, and Hyatt Regency. Outside of the convention block, there are several independent hotels within a 10-12 block radius. There is a DoubleTree by Hilton (the Arctic Club) within 14 blocks of the convention center. Marriott properties are generally outside of the downtown core although there is one on the waterfront.

The tax rate for all downtown Seattle hotels is 15.6%.

Seattle sidewalks are generally scooter friendly in the areas closest to the Convention Center as 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.

We're 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 approximately a 25 minute walk for an able-bodied person from the Convention Center. There is also a hostel by Pike Place Market, which is a 7 block walk from the Convention Center. Additionally, if people chose to utilize AirBnB units outside of downtown Seattle, we will have information about public transit options into downtown Seattle.

***Parties:***

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.

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 we will have a dedicated person on for the convention. And, frankly, we 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, and your list cannot be the entirety of the convention's membership.

***Restroom Facilities:***

There is a Seattle city ordinance that requires all single-use restrooms to be gender neutral facilities and to be signed as such. While this law has recently gone into effect, we expect that all single-use restrooms will be signed as gender neutral facilities by 2025.

***Accessibility:***

This area is very much a work in progress for us. It is important to the Seattle 2025 bid that we be as accessible as possible, and we will definitely be building into our costs making all services associated with the event accessible from the beginning, including CART and interpreters as needed. As linked above, we will also be providing as much information as possible to members about getting around the city and any other information that is needed for people to make informed choices about our venue, our city, and our events.

# Our Mission

Seattle 2025 wants to invite the Worldcon community to our city to experience Pacific Northwest fan culture and to continue to build upon and engage with our fandom community of learners, readers, doers, makers, and creators. We want to bring the Worldcon community back to experience Seattle, and to give our local community who cannot travel, the opportunity to learn from and create with our Worldcon community.

To accomplish the above, we will be making Diversity, Inclusion, Access, and Affordability separate, yet intertwined, poles of all of our plans and planning. This will be from the top down and includes current work to reach out to under-represented groups to join our bid and to be advisors in areas that we lack lived experience.

As already noted, many of these plans are still aspirational, and we do not have written processes, procedures, or policies yet.

We are engaging our local community with fan tables, panels, and eventually room parties at our local conventions. We also have a plan for recruiting local fans to our eventual con committee.

Outside of fandom groups, we also are in the process of developing a sponsorship plan to direct our relationships with local groups such as Clarion West, MoPop, Amazon, Microsoft, Wizards of the Coast, F5, Arena Net, Starbucks, Seattle Public Library, and many others.

We have also 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. We 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.)