

QUESTIONNAIRE

General

- Name of Bid: Seattle 2025

We are currently in the process of setting up our website and will have a general email (info@) set up soon. We had anticipated having things set-up at the end of the first quarter of 2020 but the pandemic has thrown some wrenches into our plans. 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.

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 as soon as possible.

- What dates are you bidding for? We are aiming for early to mid-August 2025
- 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 centre? How far is the site from the city centre?

Our location will be in downtown Seattle. We are currently looking at the Washington State Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The Hyatt Regency opened in early 2019 and is a new facility with 5 floors of function space plus ballrooms. It is a 3 block walk from the Convention Center, which is also slated to have a new expanded space on-line by 2023.

- What are your main facilities? How far are your hotels from your main venue?

Sleeping rooms are likely to be contracted with the Seattle Sheraton, the Hyatt Regency, and 3 other Hyatt properties within a 3 block walk of the convention center. There are also numerous other hotels within walking distance of the convention center.

- Who is your bid chair? Who is on your committee? What experience do they have in general? In running Worldcons?

Our bid chair is Kathy Bond. Currently, 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, and have professional AV Tech experience. We have also been volunteering at the Worldcon level for the past several years.

Other members of our committee are local to Orycon and Norwescon as their home conventions.

- If known, who will be the chair of the convention? What experience do they have?

This is still TBD.

- Have you agreed to participate in Pass-Along Funds? Would you be willing to increase the percentage from 50% to 70% of surplus?

This is still TBD but seems very likely.

Travel

- What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston,

Los Angeles, Tokyo, Melbourne etc ?

Given the state of the world at the moment, the answer to this question is likely not helpful.

- 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?

SeaTac International Airport is 15 miles from downtown Seattle and is a hub for Alaska Airlines and has non-stop service from several international and domestic cities. All major US carriers have some sort of flight into and out of SeaTac as do most international carriers.

In addition to SeaTac, regional travelers may also benefit from the newly opened Paine Field in Everett, Washington.

- 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?

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 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 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. ORCA cards 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

Facilities

- What hotel(s) are being used for the convention? How many rooms, what type, do they accommodate accessibility needs, etc.?

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.

- What are your hotel room rates? Do these rates include breakfast? Do they include internet access in the room? How firm are these rates? What additional taxes and fees are there?

The tax rate for all downtown Seattle hotels is 15.6%. Most hotels in downtown include WiFi. Exact room rates have not yet been determined.

- 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?

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.

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.

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

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.

- Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

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.

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

- Please describe the policies / laws regarding smoking in your hotel(s), convention centre, and city. No smoking is allowed inside buildings or within 25 feet.

- Given the current pandemic, have you considered any arrangements have been made for social distancing and the health and safety of members? If you have, can you describe what your current plans are?

We will be closely following this but hope that 2025 finds us with a vaccine.

Miscellaneous

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

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).

- 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.

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. 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.

For people looking to tack on vacation on either end of Worldcon, there is Olympic National Park on the Peninsula, Mt. Rainier National Park, and Mt. St. Helens National Monument. In addition to stunning rainforest, there is the Olympic Hot Springs Resort. Or, a wine trail, several cideries, and again, amazing natural views.

- Are you planning to have any membership discounts for certain demographic groups, such as young adults, military, or seniors?

No decisions have been made on this point yet but it seems likely.

- Do you have a code of conduct? If so, is it available online and if so, where?

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.)

- What changes or challenges do you expect the current pandemic to present?
- Have you planned for a virtual component to your convention?
- What is a notable aspect of your local fan culture and how do you plan to incorporate it into your Worldcon?