

QUESTIONNAIRE

General

- Name of Bid:
Pandacon 2023

- What dates are you bidding for?

Not set yet, but should be in August or September, 2023

- 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?

Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China.

The convention site will be in the south region of the metropolitan Chengdu city, 20 minutes' drive or metro ride to the downtown core commercial area.

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

Main facility would be **InterContinental Century City Chengdu**, which is located in the dynamic Century City CEC Complex. The hotel is within walking distance to all the convention rooms, the Metro Station, as well as excellent shopping street, and it is only ten minutes' drive to the city center. Shuangliu International Airport is a convenient 20-minute drive away.

CEC, short Chengdu Century City New International Convention and Exhibition Center, is located in the city's south region, part of the urban area. It has 17 large and small exhibition halls covering 120,000 square meters, boasts the largest construction scale, the most complete supporting functions and the most advanced facilities in western China. There is a lake surrounded by its buildings, and its architecture design is rather impressive.

Some pictures to get a feel of it here : <http://expo.machineryinfo.net/Template/hallPic/415>

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

Mr.Tony Xia (Co-Chair)

Panelist/moderator:

- Worldcon 76
- Chengdu International SF Conference 2017, 2019
- China International SF Conference 2018
- Global Chinese SF Nebula Award 2010 - 2019
- SmofCon37

Participating and being program host/moderator/curator at various national conventions in China.

Ms. Rafaela Yilun Fan (Secretary)

Panelist/moderator:

- Loscon42
- Worldcon 76
- Smofcon37
- SFRA annual conference 2016
- Chengdu International SF Conference 2017, 2019
- Global Chinese SF Nebula Award 2014,2018,2019

Co-planner:

- SF Festival of Chinese University of Hong Kong (Shenzhen) 2019

Member:

- Gaslight Gathering 5
- ConVolution2015

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

Not decided yet for the chair position but we have moved more closer to this goal recently by establishing a comprehensive working committee.

Chengdu Science Fiction Association represents our bid for Worldcon and will be responsible for all the organizational activities. Formerly named “Galaxy Science Fiction Alliance”, we are a non-profit organization based in Chengdu consisting of several local SF related organizations and institutions, uniting fans and professionals across the whole spectrum of SF culture in China at large.

Among the major institutions are the well-known magazine *Science Fiction World* and the fan-based start-up company Eight Light-Minutes Culture (8LM). Since it will be the first time that China hosts a Worldcon in one of its major cities, other well-established institutions in the vibrant Chinese new SF cultural scene will join together to support our effort, such as Storycom in Tianjin, Future Affairs Administration (FAA) in Beijing, and The Science and Fantasy Growth Foundation (SGF) in Shenzhen, just to name a few. Among the supporting groups are the Imagination Research Institute at the Shenzhen Southern Polytechnological University and the newly established Chinese Science Fiction Research Center at Sichuan University, which is also based in Chengdu. Of course we will have the whole body of Chinese fans all over the country backing us, since this Worldcon is for them to witness, join, and carry-on the legacy of world science fiction culture and celebrate imagination at a time of both promising and challenging.

Since we have just established officially the committee to better prepare us for the bid, the new leader(s) of **Chengdu Science Fiction Association** will be selected and announced soon. It will be a coalition of all the above-mentioned entities, and we will be selecting convention chairs after CoNZealand. They will be the most experienced and most passionate for the convention.

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

Not yet. But very likely we will participate in it. We will decide this after CoNZealand.

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 current pandemic situation and international travel restrictions, the current airfare could not be any value of reference. We have a record from a December 2019 research for airfare in summer 2020 as follows:

Let us say if we have an Aug 1-10 round trip in 2020, here are the minimum cost from major international cities, price searched as of Dec 1st, 2019—

Exchange rate: 100 yuan =14.23 USD (searched as of Dec 1st, 2019)

=12.79 EURO (searched as of Dec 5th, 2019)

New York:	RMB 7641 yuan	UDS 1084	EURO 977
Los Angeles:	RMB 5978 yuan	UDS 848	EURO 764
San Francisco:	RMB 4836 yuan	UDS 686	EURO 618
Vancouver, BC:	RMB 4980 yuan	UDS 760	EURO 637
Chicago:	RMB 4480 yuan	UDS 636	EURO 573
Toronto:	RMB 7375 yuan	UDS 1046	EURO 943
Philadelphia:	RMB 8432 yuan	UDS 1196	EURO 1079
Boston:	RMB 8527 yuan	UDS 1,209	EURO 1090
Dallas:	RMB 12212 yuan	UDS 1732	EURO 1562
London:	RMB 6649 yuan	UDS 943	EURO 850
Paris:	RMB 6138 yuan	UDS 871	EURO 785
Frankfurt:	RMB 4819 yuan	UDS 683	EURO 616
Rome:	RMB 3333 yuan	UDS 472	EURO 426
Helsinki:	RMB 8721 yuan	UDS 1237	EURO 1115
Dublin:	RMB 8986 yuan	UDS 1275	EURO 1149
Auckland:	RMB 3733 yuan	UDS 530	EURO 477
Melbourne:	RMB 2873 yuan	UDS 407	EURO 367

Some international cities, like Boston, has no direct flight to Chengdu, but one or two stops transfer will be enough. As a second airport begins to function in 2023, making Chengdu one of three major cities after Beijing and Shanghai that has double international airports system, we are sure the

travel to Chengdu will be more convenient and cost-effective.

- 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?

Yes, depending on where you fly from/to, there are many direct international flights connecting Chengdu to the world.

Chengdu is the busiest hub in south-western China. Major international airlines all fly to Chengdu. With the second airport to be functioning soon, more flights can be expected.

- 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?

Airport to convention site: 30 minutes' drive. Taxi = US \$10.0; Public transit (metro) = US\$ 1.0

Train Station to convention site: 20 minutes' drive. Cost close to the above.

Chengdu has very fast and convenient public transportation system, combined with private services such as rental cars and the app-based rideshare/taxi platform Didi (China's equivalent of Uber).

Facilities

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

InterContinental (Chengdu Century City), as mentioned above, is an exciting landmark in the capital of Sichuan province, offering 555 guest rooms and suites. You will also find an array of outstanding restaurants and lounge areas, a stylish Spa and first-class event and business facilities. All of this can be enjoyed in luxurious comfort with a taste of true Sichuan hospitality.

InterContinental specializes in pairing ideal meeting venues with impeccable service. There are 24 multi-purpose meeting rooms of varying sizes, each utilizing the latest presentation technology. This includes audiovisual systems, simultaneous interpretation equipment, portable staging, high-speed Internet access and LCD projectors. The Crystal ballroom, with its 2,800 square meters area, is the largest pillar-less ballroom in western China.

Another hotel choice is **Holiday Inn (Chengdu Century City)**, which offers 970 guest rooms equipped with business-friendly facilities and an attractive variety of dining and entertainment choices, 970 modern, quiet quest rooms. Nonsmoking floors and Executive Club floors available. Rooms for the physical challenged. Business friendly. features including date ports, high speed Internet access, satellite TV channels.

Personalized service and exclusive benefits for Executive Club guests.

- 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?

From \$85 to \$200. Taxes and fees included. Breakfast and free internet access included.

- What does parking cost at your main hotels?

The hotel guest parking is free of charge.

Non-guest parking is charged about \$0.8 for the first two hours and \$0.2 per hour for extra time.

- 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?

The hotels and the convention site are in the same CEC complex. All in walking distance. For easy access for mobility difficulties, we will make detail plan to try best to accommodate.

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

The Crystal ballroom. With its 2,800 square meters area, is the largest pillar-less ballroom in western China. It can easily accommodate 3000 people.

- Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

In 2011, Chengdu was recognized by UNESCO as a city of gastronomy. It is a paradise for foodies, and you will definitely enjoy the food scene, including our late-night restaurants and street vendors!

Besides local Chinese restaurants, other choices would be American, French, German, Italian, Mexican, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, Indian restaurants. Vegetarian, Halal, and even Kosher restaurants are also available.

As mentioned above, there are many vegetarian and Halal restaurants in Chengdu, and a few Kosher restaurants. It is recommended that you let the restaurant know of anything you need done for your meals, especially if you wish to reduce the spice content. For allergies, such as gluten intolerance, specific accommodation could be arranged, but advance request should be made.

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

Of course, we will hold many parties in different places around the city. And in Chengdu, we do not charge corkage.

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

There is general ban on smoking in the urban indoor area, however, designated smoking rooms are available at some indoor areas, public places, and transportation stations. The current law imposes a warning and a fine of between 7\$ and 28\$. There will be smoking areas in the hotels.

- 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?

No plan yet. We will see how it develops in 2023, with the best hope that it will be gone by then. But we are studying all the methods and approaches adopted by other similar conventions and will watch closely.

Miscellaneous

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

Usually August is the hottest month in Chengdu. The 24-hour daily mean temperature in July and August is around 25 °C (77 °F), with afternoon highs sometimes reaching 33 °C (91 °F). Average between 72°F and 86°F. Sustained heat as found in much of eastern China is rare, also super sunny days are rare. September is a bit cooler.

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

Chengdu is a major tourist destination nationally and internationally.

Even though the city has long been well-known for its panda breeding/research center, Chengdu has more than 2000 years of history and has such a unique culture that it is among the major tourist destinations nationally and internationally. The cultural and natural sceneries here are so beautiful and the lifestyle so laid-back that it is dubbed as a city that “Once you come, you’d never want to leave”. Its tourist attractions are many and amazing, including multiple world class museums, ancient temples, historic streets, and more. For general information, you can start with the Wikipedia entry at: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chengdu>

The city’s Facebook page might also help:

<https://www.facebook.com/places/si-chuan-sheng-cheng-dou-shi-huo-dong-gong-e/106487912721749/>

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

Yes, of course, and we can assure you that we will have the cheapest Worldcon membership rates possible (under Worldcon regulations) for all members. With the city’s support and major corporate sponsorship, we can make the best discounts for our members.

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

Not yet. But we are working on it. We are studying closely the previous conventions and will follow the rules that have been. We will work with fans internationally to develop a forward-thinking and well-written code of conduct. While it is not traditional for Chinese conventions, we will learn for the Worldcon.

- What changes or challenges do you expect the current pandemic to present?

With the best hope that the pandemic will be gone and also the vaccine be in place, we do expect some challenges, especially those area affected by international relations, although in Chengdu, life has returned to normal from early summer.

- Have you planned for a virtual component to your convention?

Yes. We see the trend and benefit of it and will definitely adopt some of the technologies available to bring the virtual component o our convention.

- What is a notable aspect of your local fan culture and how do you plan to incorporate it into your Worldcon?

As mentioned above, Chengdu is ranked #1 in Chinese City for science fiction culture and fandom. Science Fiction World magazine (SFW) has been here for forty years and is solely responsible for preserving and promoting SF culture in China and has nurtured several generations of authors and readers. With the recent boom in the genre, there are huge demand in the market and new fan-based cultural organizations began to emerge, Eight Light Minutes is one of them. 8LM is working closely with foreign companies to bring international science fiction to China, among them are

BBC's *Doctor Who* and *Galaxy's Edge* (Edited by the late Mike Resnick). At the Mars Camp for the 3rd Lenghu Award organized by 8LM, the official bid committee was established last week and there launched a campaign to support Chengdu's bid. 8LM has emerged as a yet another force in promoting SF culture in China.

There are also local fan-based SF merchandise development startups and genre bookstores. The film industry has major animation/game/SFX studios in Chengdu, all contribute to the vibrant SF culture at large. This is unique not only in China, and quite possibly so among the world. Fans are all excited about our bid.