

Seattle 2025 Questionnaire



Name of Bid

Seattle 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 be obtaining federally recognized tax exempt status as a 501(c)(3) organization. The name of our hosting organization is Seattle Genre Alliance. Incorporation paperwork is available to view upon request and will be filed with the State of Washington by the end of 2020.

What dates are you bidding for?

We are looking at dates in 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 proposed host city is Seattle, Washington.

Seattle is a vibrant city center that has experienced 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.

In-Town Travel:

King County Metro provides buses, light rail, and street-car options for travel. You can pay directly with cash on the bus, but 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 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.

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. We will provide information on our website about pricing options which can vary from \$10/day to \$50/day.

For accessibility information for getting around Seattle, we highly recommend AccessMap Seattle. For more information, this article describes 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

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

We are in negotiations with Visit Seattle, the entity that manages convention space in Downtown Seattle, about a list of potential spaces: the Washington State Convention Center, the Washington State Conference Center (connected to the Convention Center), the Hyatt Regency Hotel, and the Sheraton Hotel.

The Convention Center is more vertical than horizontal. However, it is quite 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 Washington State Conference Center hosts GeekGirlCon.

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 rentable foyer and mezzanine space.

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

Of note, the Convention Center is a union facility with regards to the Teamsters Union. One of our bid chairs (Kathy) is a Union Chapter President at work, and her husband is a member of IATSE, and they derive a significant amount of our income from union work. We are very pro-union. We have contacts with IATSE and 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.

While our eventual hotel blocks will be negotiated through Visit Seattle, there are a huge number of hotel rooms incredibly close to the Convention Center.

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

This bid is being co-chaired by Kathy Bond and SunnyJim Morgan. Kathy and SunnyJim have extensive experience with their home convention of Norwescon and other conventions.. Kathy has been chair of Norwescon three times, Treasurer twice, and is currently Business Director. For Worldcon, Kathy was a legal advisor for Sasquan, Operations Division Head for Worldcon 76, and Deputy Division Head of Member and Staff Services for Dublin 2019. She is the current Member Services Division Head for Chicon 8. Kathy has coordinated the Hugo Voter's Packet for Worldcon 76, Dublin 2019, and CoNZeland, and is part of the Hugo Voter's Packet team for DisCon III.

SunnyJim has been involved with various Worldcon programming teams, has been the Vice-Chair of Norwescon, headed programming for Norwescon eight times, and worked in a variety of other departments at a variety of local conventions. She worked professionally in the event industry in Seattle for several years.

Our committee leadership currently also comprises Kevin Black, Alan Bond, Don Glover, and Shawn Marier, all of whom have extensive experience with Norwescon in leadership and staff positions, and with other local conventions. Don has worked in various capacities on several Worldcons including as Co Head of the Events division at Renovation in 2011. Our team also has professional event/catering experience, AV tech experience, website and technical development, and legal expertise.

Finally, we are currently forming an advisory committee to provide advice on lived experiences not our own. While we are still actively recruiting for positions on this committee, the current accepted members are Nisi Shawl and Elsa Sjunneson-Henry.

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

We have not decided on the chair of the convention yet.

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

We are not at a stage to make this decision yet, but it is incredibly likely that we will participate.

Travel

What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Melbourne, etc.? 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? 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?

Travel:

The nearest international airport is SeaTac International, which is a hub for Alaska Airlines and has non-stop service from several international cities and cities throughout the United States, including direct flights from Dublin, Tokyo, London, New York, Washington D.C., Chicago, Los Angeles, and Boston among others. All major U.S. carriers and most international carriers have some sort of flight into and out of SeaTac. 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 six 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 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 for approximately \$30/person.

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

Finally, Amtrak and Greyhound have stations in downtown Seattle. Seattle is served by Amtrak's Empire Builder route, which goes across the United States, and the Coast Starlight route, which travels along the West Coast of the United States.

Facilities

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

We are currently in negotiations with Visit Seattle, which arranges hotel contracts for events booked at the Convention Center. Generally speaking, most Seattle hotels include internet in the room. A number of hotels are incredibly close to the Convention Center. We will likely have blocks at the Seattle Sheraton, Grand Hyatt, and Hyatt Regency. Outside of the convention block, there are several independent hotels within a ten to 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. Additionally, while folks with manual wheelchairs do live here and are able to get around town, they mostly do so while using public transportation.

We are committed to the idea of providing information about low cost accommodations. At the edge of downtown 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 a hostel by Pike Place Market, which is a seven block walk from the Convention Center. We will provide information about public transit options for people who choose to use AirBnB units outside of downtown Seattle.

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

As previously noted, we are still in the early stages of looking at space. One option for large events is a nearby historic theater, The Paramount, which is two blocks from the Convention Center. If the Paramount is not available or too expensive, we would build a stage area in the Convention Center as is frequently done for PAX, or possibly look at Benaroya Hall, the home of the Seattle Symphony, which is about four blocks away.

In terms of accessibility for these stages, we will ensure that the stage and audience is accessible.

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

The cuisine available in downtown Seattle is varied and awesome. The Convention Center has a crepe place, Subway, Taco Del Mar, a Mediterranean place, two coffee shops, Juicy Cafe, and a general café. Across the street is an Indian place. A block away is a Cheesecake Factory and a steak place. Two blocks away is Pacific Place with a food court. Four blocks away is Westlake Mall, which has another food court, and during the weekdays, Westlake Center also has a food truck extravaganza. Pike Place Market, with several food options, is a seven block walk from the Convention Center. Many more restaurants are within a five block radius of the Convention Center.

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

Nightlife ends at 2 a.m. in Seattle 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 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?

Parties will be allowed in sleeping rooms. However, if groups wish to serve alcohol in an open-party environment, WA State law presently requires a special occasion license. These licenses are \$60/per event and can only be obtained by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. This 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 presently interprets the special occasion license to only grant one license per location per group. The workaround for this for open parties that serve alcohol will require coordination among the party groups. This is an area in which we will have a dedicated person for the convention. Meanwhile, several groups within fandom and without are working to change this interpretation, which we expect to be changed by 2025.

An individual may have a private, invitation only event that serves alcohol for the cost of a \$10 banquet permit. However, if a Liquor and Cannabis Control Board Agent comes to the event, you must be able to provide an invitation list which cannot be the entirety of the convention's membership.

The bid committee will consider the costs of corkage waivers for function space in the hotel we decide to use for 24-hour function space, which will be either the Sheraton or Hyatt Regency.

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

Smoking is not allowed inside buildings anywhere in the city of Seattle. This prohibition also extends to within 25 feet of doorways and includes both tobacco and marijuana products.

Accessibility and Other Facilities Issues.

Accessibility:

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

Restroom Facilities:

There is a Seattle city ordinance requiring 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.

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?

Our proposed dates are five years in the future. We will keep abreast of public health matters as necessary and develop contingencies as needed.

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-80s Fahrenheit and sunny.

Recent summers have also shown fire season to be a concern for residents throughout the West Coast of the United States. While Seattle has not typically experienced significant fires in modern times due to its geography, air quality can be affected (although not the same extent as in Eastern Washington, California, or other regions closer to fire zones). By the time August rolls around, we will have had plenty of notice about the fire season and be able to source masks for

people for whom the air quality might be an issue and provide notice so people can bring their own masks.

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

This is by no means a definitive list. 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 includes 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 bit farther afield in Seattle, there is the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI), the Museum of Flight, and the Burke Natural History Museum.

For people with a few extra days, Olympic National Park, Mount Rainier National Park, and Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument are all in day-trip range from downtown. There is stunning rainforest, the Olympic Hot Springs Resort, a wine trail, several cideries, and again, plenty of opportunities for amazing natural views.

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

We spend a lot of time thinking about the affordability of Worldcon and have several ideas for reducing costs to increase affordability. We will have discounts for families, young adults, and fans in need. We have thoughts about offering tiered membership options similar to the system used by local YMCA camps which offer three prices for a week of camp, and members choose which price point they can afford to pay. Several other non-profit events in the area also use similar pricing plans.

What is your vision for your Worldcon? How do you plan to make it happen?

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 make Diversity, Inclusion, Access, and Affordability separate, yet intertwined, poles of all our planning. This will come from the top down and include ongoing work to reach out to under-represented groups to join our bid and to be advisors in areas where we lack lived experience, as noted above in forming an advisory committee.

We are engaging our local community with fan tables, panels, and eventually room parties at our local conventions. We plan to recruit local fans to work alongside Worldcon regulars on 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.

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

Seattle has a long-history of fandom and fans. From hosting Seacon in 1961 to this bid, the Pacific Northwest has a shared history of coming together to throw events, learn together, and participate in creating new things. While we do not have an overarching society that joins us all together, our region has numerous conventions that put together many different types of events like Norwescon, GeekGirlCon, OrcaCon, PAX, Rustycon, Orycon, Sakura-con, Conflikt, Radcon, Emerald City Comic-Con, Crypticon, Foolscape, and so many others. Additionally, the Seattle region is well-known for its Maker culture and tech entrepreneurs. Our conventions tend to have a significant number of hands-on workshops and ways for people to come together, create together, and learn together. We are a community of participants who support a diverse and abundant series of fannish events.

Our vision statement starts by talking about how we plan to incorporate this dynamic culture into our convention because we want to invite Worldcon fandom to build and engage with us and let our community of learners, readers, doers, makers, and creators build and engage with you. More concretely, we will be inviting groups from each community to participate with their own flair at a Seattle Worldcon. As mentioned above, we will be actively doing outreach to local community organizations and companies to bring Seattle into our Worldcon.

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

We are currently drafting a code of conduct and plan to have it available online on our website by the end of 2020.

What do diversity and inclusion mean to you? How are you working towards your goals in these areas? What would concrete achievements look like in these areas?

As stated in our vision, we will be making Diversity, Inclusion, Access, and Affordability separate, yet intertwined, poles of all of our plans and planning. This will come from the top down and includes ongoing work to reach out to underrepresented groups to join our bid and to be advisors in areas where we lack lived experience, such as in forming an advisory committee.

It also includes highlighting creators who are members of traditionally marginalized communities in programming, outreach, and other events. We plan to partner with cultural programs that support marginalized communities in our area

A non-exhaustive list of organizations that we will reach out to include Wa Na Wari, Langston, Wing Luke Museum, El Centro De La Raza, Duwamish Longhouse, 3 Dollar Bill Cinema, and the Hugo House.

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

The changes wrought by the current pandemic have mostly been beneficial for our bid as it has greatly reduced the financial cost and enabled us to be present at more places than we had planned for this early in the bid process.

Have you planned for a virtual component to your convention?

We are still in the brainstorming stages for this.

Your members vote for Hugo Finalists who are then excited and wish to play a full part in the convention programme. How do you plan to facilitate the Finalists input as recognised by your community?

We intend to facilitate as large a role for Hugo Finalists as we can possibly make happen in the timeframe available. Our team has experience, on a smaller scale, doing this for Philip K. Dick Award Nominees with respect to Norwescon programming. We are paying attention and listening to the critiques that have emerged over the past few years from Hugo Finalists.