

Questionnaire Instructions

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The questionnaire below includes some of the most asked questions for Worldcon/SMOFcons and bids. Please email the completed answers to info@smofcon38.ca by **Sunday, 22 November, 2020**. The completed questionnaires will be posted on the Smofcon 37 ¼ website (<https://sites.grenadine.co/sites/conzealand/en/smofcon-37-14>) by **Tuesday, 1 December, 2020**.

Please answer all the questions *in line* below. If a question doesn't apply to your bid, please state: N/A.

If the answer won't be known until some future date, please provide an estimate of when you will be able to provide an answer. For example, for the question about room rates you might answer "These are expected to be agreed by [date]. Current internet rates are X per night room only for a double or twin and Y for single occupancy."

QUESTIONNAIRE

General

Name of Bid

Orlando 2026

What dates are you bidding for?

We're looking at early to mid-August 2026. We will not be choosing the American Labor Day weekend of early September.

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?

Orlando, FL. We've not determined our site yet, so we cannot speak to transport options. However, Orlando does have passenger rail (SunRail) and high-speed rail (Brightline) currently being expanded, both of which will connect Orlando International Airport to various points in Orlando at or near possible convention sites well before 2026. Transport options are a factor in

our venue decision.

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

We're looking at six different locations and should have a better idea by the time of DisCon III (August 2021).

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

Adam Beaton has worked on over sixty conventions during his twenty years in fandom. Currently Adam is a division head for DisCon III, the 79th Worldcon. He has been an area head at Renovation (2011), LoneStarCon 3 (2013), Sasquan (2015), and was a deputy division head for Dublin 2019 – An Irish Worldcon. He is also currently the vice-chair and assistant head of Guest Relations for Zenkaikon (5500+ science-fiction & anime convention). He was the convention chair of Ohayocon (13,000+ convention) in Columbus, OH from 2002 - 2007, while serving on its Board of Directors, Division Head of Operations, and Department Head of Guest Relations across several other years. Adam was asked to serve as an advisor to start-up conventions such as San Japan in San Antonio and Tekko in Pittsburgh, both of which have been highly successful. He has worked in multiple convention roles from co-Division Head of Operations at A-kon in Dallas; running the Masquerade at Otakon in Baltimore; Department Head of Gaming at Kunicon Denver, working guest relations at Anime Festival Orlando, Katsucon in Washington D.C., and Nekocon in Virginia Beach, VA; and working programming and guest relations at Anime Central in Chicago.

We have an experienced group of local, national, and international conrunners with high-level Worldcon experience (division head and higher) offering advice and help, but we have not yet coalesced into a committee. We're still exploring the bid possibility. Once we've agreed on a great venue and are convinced we can put on a great Worldcon for the community, we will form a proper committee, ask those already helping for commitments, and make a formal announcement.

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

Unknown – if we choose to move forward with the bid, once the committee is formed then we will decide on the convention chair.

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

Yes, and yes.

Travel

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

From London: \$657

From Boston: \$170

From Los Angeles: \$157

From Tokyo: \$861

From Melbourne: \$1454

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?

Direct flights are available for all the above cities except Tokyo and Melbourne, which has one stop.

Domestic American carriers: Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Frontier Airlines, JetBlue, Silver Airways, Southwest Airlines, Spirit Airlines, Sun County Airlines, United Airlines, Virgin America

International carriers: Aer Lingus (Ireland), AeroMexico (Mexico), Air Canada (Canada), Air Transat (Canada), Avianca (Columbia), Azul-Linhas Airlines (Brazil), Bahamas Air (Bahamas), British Airways (UK), Caribbean Airlines (Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana), Copa Airlines (Panama), Edelweiss Air (Switzerland), Emirates Airlines (United Arab Emirates), GOL Linhas (Brazil), Icelandair (Iceland), Lan Peru (Peru), LATAM Airlines (Chile), Lufthansa (Germany), Norwegian Air Shuttle (Norway), Sunwing Airlines (Canada), Swoop (Canada), Virgin Atlantic Airways (UK), Volaris (Mexico), Westjet Airlines (Canada)

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?

All sites we are currently exploring will be reachable via public transport (SunRail, Brightline, Lynx Bus). The average cost of public transit is \$2.00 per ride, with \$4.50 for an all-day pass. Uber and Lyft are very prevalent, given the number of annual tourists, and Orlando has the most car rental agencies in the world.

Facilities

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

We're currently looking at multiple different locations. Some are hotels that have enough hotel rooms and function space for Worldcon. Others would require multiple locations next to one another.

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?

Unknown – we will have a better idea at DisCon III in August.

What does parking cost at your main hotels?

Unknown – we will have a better idea at DisCon III in August, although all the sites we are looking at will have a parking cost.

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?

Unknown – some sites we are looking at are hotels that have enough rooms and function space to be fully contained, while other sites would require multiple hotels that are near one another.

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

Unknown. Some sites would have us use a large ballroom, while a few others have a theater/auditorium with fixed seating and staging.

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

Orlando is foodie heaven because so many tourists come here every year. A small sampling:

We have James Beard-chef winners:

Chef José Andrés, Jaleo; Chef Rick Bayless, Frontera Cocina; Chef Melissa Kelly, Primo; Chef Masaharu Morimoto, Morimoto Asia; Chef Wolfgang Puck, Wolfgang Puck's Bar & Grill; Chef Art Smith, Chef Art Smith's Homecomin'.

If you love American Southern cuisine:

Winter Park's Ravenous Pig is the place for craft cocktails and everything from ham 'n biscuits to a hearty pork porterhouse; or try 4 Rivers Smokehouse, named "One of the South's Best BBQ Joints" by Southern Living; or for an upscale vibe like chicken and lobster dumplings, head

to Soco in Thornton Park; or for quick and casual, Orlando Meats is a whole-animal butcher shop serving light breakfast and lunch, with a menu based on available cuts and local produce.

If you love upscale dining:

For a great steak in a gorgeous setting, the Bull & Bear at the Waldorf Astoria serves Prime grade certified Angus beef. At Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, Victoria & Albert's is the only AAA Five-Diamond restaurant in Central Florida, while award-winning chef José Andrés serves flavors of Spain at Jaleo in Disney Springs.

Winter Park's Luma on Park features New American cuisine with a Florida accent and the H Cuisine offers casual fine dining with a Mediterranean twist at Dr. Phillips.

If you Instagram your food:

Foxtail's Farmhouse serves Coffee Cone Lattes, a latte in a chocolate-coated, sprinkle-dipped waffle cone. Ice and Bites Café has a Taiyaki Ice Cream Cone, a fish-shaped vanilla waffle piled with ice cream, pocky fruit, and more. Uncle Julio's Mexican from Scratch serves a Chocolate Pinata, one of the most camera-worthy desserts coming to the table on a short hook and served with a small wooden hammer which you use to open the pinata full of assorted fruit and churros. Toothsome Chocolate Emporium & Savory Feast Kitchen features the coveted Red Velvet Milkshake, a mason jar rimmed with rainbow sprinkles, filled with creamy vanilla ice cream blended with raspberry sauce and a whole red velvet cake on top then topped with another red velvet cupcake with whipped cream and a cherry. The Edison serves up its famous Clothesline Candied Bacon, consisting of four-pieces of maple-syrup-crusteD bacon sprinkled with black pepper, hanging from a mini clothesline.

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

We will have hotel suites for parties similar to other American-based Worldcons. Nothing on corkage yet since we haven't chosen a location but it is part of our negotiations.

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

Florida law prohibits smoking in all restaurants, including attached bars. Smoking is permitted in freestanding bars that earn less than 10% of their income from food. All the venues we are considering are 100% smoke-free.

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?

Given the fluidity of the pandemic and vaccines, and the timeframe between now and Worldcon 2026, it's too far out to say what social distancing measures would need to be in place.

Miscellaneous

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

Orlando temperatures in August tend to have a high/low of 91° / 75°F (33° / 24°C), with 13 hours of sunlight per day and an average humidity of 77%.

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

Just hitting some highlights - the largest concentration of theme and amusements parks in the world are located here, including Walt Disney World's four theme parks (Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Disney's Hollywood Studios, and Disney's Animal Kingdom) and two water parks (Typhoon Lagoon and Blizzard Beach); Universal Orlando's two theme parks (Universal Studios Orlando and Universal's Islands of Adventure) with a third, Universal's Epic Universe, under construction and it's waterpark (Universal's Volcano Bay); SeaWorld Orlando and its waterpark (Aquatica); Legoland Florida; Gatorland; Fun Spot USA. Other activities to do in Central Florida includes the Kennedy Space Center, Wonderworks (interactive science museum), Orlando Science Center, Ripley's Believe it or Not Orlando Odditorium, I-FLY Orlando Indoor Skydiving, Medieval Times Dinner, and Tournament Show, Titanic – The Experience, Madame Tussauds, Cornell Fine Arts Museum, Cirque du Soleil, Blue Man Group, the Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens, Sea Life Orlando Aquarium, the Exotic Animal Experience, Orange County Regional History Center, Dinosaur World, Pirates' Dinner Adventure... there are so many tourist attractions in the Central Florida area, you might want to consider staying at least a week before and a week after Worldcon.

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

We are expecting to have discounts similar to previous and current Worldcons while also recognizing membership discounts need to be part of a broader diversity and inclusion initiative. We'll have more to say as we move forward with the process.

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

Florida is unique in that we straddle two different cultures, the American South and the Caribbean, and Orlando is right where both cultures merge. We would love to show the best of both cultures and how they relate to the worlds of speculative fiction.

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

Our local science fiction convention, OASIS, does a chili-cookoff competition at the con every year. We'd love to do a chili-cookoff and have people from around the world bring their recipes.

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

We will absolutely have a code of conduct but, as we are still in the exploring phase, we haven't created one yet.

What do diversity and inclusion mean to you?

Diversity and inclusion are two of the highest priorities all Worldcon bids and seated Worldcons should have.

Diversity is about empowering individuals by appreciating and respecting what makes them different, in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, education, and national origin. It allows for the exploration of these differences in a safe, positive, and nurturing environment.

Inclusion is a sense of belonging. Inclusive cultures make people feel respected and valued for who they are as an individual or group. It's an organizational effort and practices in which different groups or individuals having different backgrounds are socially accepted, welcomed, and equally treated. These differences could be self-evident, such as national origin, age, race and ethnicity, religion/belief, gender, marital status and socioeconomic status, or they could be more inherent, such as educational background, training, experience, organizational tenure, even personality such as introverts and extroverts.

How are you working towards your goals in these areas?

As we coalesce into a bidding committee, we will be reaching out to fans from marginalized communities to have as diverse and inclusive of a committee as we can, both for bidding and for Worldcon. We will also be open to listening and engaging with fans from those communities, welcoming their suggestions and concerns.

What would concrete achievements look like in these areas?

A committee where people from marginalized communities fill a majority of the higher-level Worldcon positions, even the highest level. Hard commitments on diversity and inclusion in programming, with the understanding that fans from marginalized communities should not merely be placed in "diversity" roles.

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

Given we're six years out, it's impossible to say what challenges we can expect from the current

pandemic. We can say, however, that because most everyone exploring an Orlando bid are working on conventions at a high level (Worldcon division head and higher, and convention chairs of other cons), we are all gaining valuable experience on convention running during a pandemic.

Have you planned for a virtual component to your convention?

We do think a virtual component should be something integrated into all Worldcons going forward, especially for fans with accessibility issues and as part of a wider diversity and inclusivity program.

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?

As with any community within our large fannish family, we would listen to their needs and concerns and work with them to create a program that includes them as part of the larger Worldcon program.