

Winnipeg in 2023 NASFiC FAQ

General

Name of Convention:

Winnipeg in 2023 NASFiC bid

What dates will your convention run?

July 20-23, 2023

What is your proposed convention host city? Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Is your convention site in a city center location or a suburb? If a suburb, what are the transport options into the city center? How far is the site from the city center?

Our convention site is in the city center.

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

Delta Hotels Winnipeg and the RBC Convention Centre (formerly known as the Winnipeg Convention Centre). Our facilities are connected by a short skywalk.

Who is your convention chair?

Our co-chairs are Robbie Bourget and Linda Ross-Mansfield

Who is on your committee?

Co-chairs: Robbie Bourget and Linda Ross-Mansfield

Committee members: Dawn Baker, Sherri Benoun, Phoenix Caskey, Martin Demers, Rebecca Downey, Bruce Farr, Terry Fong, Cenk Gökçe, John Harold, Eugene Heller, Melissa Kocias, Diane Lacey, Carolina Gomez Lagerlöf, Laurie Mair. John Mansfield, Dawn McKechnie, Randy Northcutt, Dawn Overfield, Scott Péron, Mariah Searle-Kovacevic Andrea Senchy, Jannie Shea, Laurie Smith, Albert Souza, Kevin Standlee, Rene Walling, Scott Zrubek

Check our website (<https://main.winnipeg2023.ca/about/>) for our most current list.

What experience do they have in general?

Our experience ranges from large (multi-thousands) to as small as 50 member conventions.

In running NASFiCs?

Our committee has a vast amount of experience in running international events of all sizes, including ones that historically have a dynamic audience size ranging from 2000-200.

Travel

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

Quoted prices (USD) are pulled during a worldwide pandemic (Dates used were Sept 8-11, 2022, pulled from Google flights on July 24, 2022)

- \$160 Calgary, CA
- \$329 Montreal, CA
- \$205 Toronto, CA
- \$257 Vancouver, CA
- \$361 Boston, US
- \$556 Chicago, US
- \$622 Dallas, US
- \$511 Los Angeles, US
- \$510 New York, US
- \$626 Orlando, US
- \$609 London, UK

- \$517 Paris, FR
- \$1284 Dubai, UAE
- \$933 Tel Aviv, IS
- \$3261 Chengdu, CHN
- \$913 Singapore
- \$2067 Tokyo, JPN
- \$1486 Taipei, TWN
- \$1759 Melbourne, AUS
- \$1448 Sydney, AUS
- \$1694 Wellington, NZ

Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport?

Yes, James Richardson International, which just underwent a brand new renovation.

Which airlines? If not, where is the closest international airport?

All the major airlines fly into Winnipeg.

Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?

80 flights a day into Winnipeg.

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?

Downtown Winnipeg is an easy 10-15 minutes from James Richardson International. You can get there by taxi, ride share, city bus or limo, chartered bus or car rental. Most inexpensive way is by city bus, with a pre-purchased ticket of \$2.60 (CAD). Taxi fare is typically about \$25 (CAD).

Facilities

What hotel(s) are being used for the convention? Our proposed main hotel is the Delta adjacent to the RBC Convention Centre.

How many rooms, what type, accessibility issues, etc.?

We have commitment for 275 rooms with first options on more for the days of our convention, for a combination of King and Queen/Queen bedrooms. All rooms have fridges, heated bathroom floors and walk out balconies.

The Delta has accessible rooms and they will be booked through our Access desk.

We have access to hotel rooms in the Downtown core with the possibility for expansion. There are 3 nearby hotels with Skywalk access.

What are your hotel room rates?

\$144 (CAD) King, \$164 (CAD) Queen/Queen

Do these rates include breakfast?

No

Do they include internet access in the room?

Yes

How firm are these rates?

Very, these rates are our starting points.

What additional taxes and fees are there?

5% city accommodation tax plus, 5% GST, 8% PST

What does parking cost at your main hotel? \$20 (CAD)

What is the distance from the nearest door of your main hotel(s) to the closest entrance of the convention site?

Our hotel is our main convention site, with function rooms in the RBC as a supplement.

What are the transportation options for those who prefer not to walk or who have mobility difficulties?

We expect to have mobility scooter rentals available. We are open to investigating shuttle buses, should the need arise but given the short distances, do not consider them warranted at the moment.

Where will your large events be held?

RBC Convention Centre

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

A wide variety, from \$100 (CAD) /plate down to food trucks and chain fast food. Our facilities have offered custom in-house concessions and additional pop-ups.

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

We are currently negotiating with the hotel and plan to have one. Keycon, the local convention, has a long history of social suites and we look to scale that up. The Delta has poolside suites that are perfect for parties.

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

No smoking. Hotels may have smoking rooms but overall, smoking is banned in enclosed public spaces and it's limited in outdoor public spaces as well.

<https://winnipeg.ca/cms/BLES/PNS/smoking.stm>

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 follow the guidance of Health Canada and other health authorities, erring on the side of caution. Fandom is our family and we will do our utmost within our powers to ensure everyone's health and safety. For this reason, we have committed to more space than necessary for a 1,000 member NASFiC so that should social distancing be required, we have the necessary space to do so.

Miscellaneous

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

Winnipeg in July is typically sunny with average temperatures in the low 80s/high 70s F (28-23C) during the day and low 60s/high 50sF (18-16C) at night. Humidity levels peak during occasional thunderstorms but it's temporary. Generally speaking, our humidity levels are low without causing discomfort, and being on the flat prairies, there are usually breezes which keep people feeling comfortable. The elevated walkway between the Delta hotel and the RBC Convention Centre is enclosed and air-conditioned, in the case of rain or temporary higher humidity.

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

Canadian Museum of Human Rights, Quamajuk, Assinibone Park Zoo, Symington Yard, so many places! Go to our YouTube channel, (formerly for our Worldcon bid) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KgJ20NTA_Nc and watch our first Twitch episode for a 19 minute overview of things to do in our city. In addition, since the Twitch episode was recorded, the new Aviation Museum has opened, a movie star has joined the Zoo and summer activities have opened up in 2022.

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

Yes, it's under discussion for a variety of groups.

What is your vision for your NASFiC?

Celebrating our beloved genre of sf/f.

How do you plan to make it happen?

By normalising diversity and inclusiveness as much as possible.

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

Worldwide fandoms, hometown community feel. Midwest fandom has a wonderful intangible community quality that we hope will pervade our NASFiC.

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

It is tremendously important to create a safe space for our community. We are working towards a robust and simple to understand Code of Conduct, all within the traditions and boundaries of local, provincial and Canadian laws and strictures. We have a placeholder policy until our full Code of Conduct is finalised.

What do diversity and inclusion mean to you?

Normalising and appreciating all the ways that our vast differences enrich all of us.

How are you working towards your goals in these areas?

We are actively talking to potential stakeholder groups about how to achieve this.

What would concrete achievements look like in these areas?

A NASFiC that reflects the multicultural mosaic of Winnipeg.

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

As we see with Omicron, notably current BA 4 and 5 variants, we expect our required levels of preplanning to be at least double that of pre-pandemic years.

Have you planned for a virtual component to your convention?

Yes, in fact the RBC Centre has three programme rooms already set up for hybrid programme items and a fourth is expected to come online soon. We have ideas of how to further incorporate virtual members.

Are you prepared to run a NASFiC site selection process if the Glasgow 2024 Worldcon bid is successful?

Yes, we are.