



August 31, 2022 - For Immediate Release

Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki

Granted Visa to Attend Chicon 8

Chicon 8, the 2022 World Science Fiction Convention, is delighted to announce that leading African SF author and 2022 Hugo Award Finalist Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki has been [granted a visa](#) and will be attending the convention in person. Details of Mr. Ekpeki's convention appearance can be found in the [Chicon 8 schedule](#).

Mr. Ekpeki is one of the rising global stars of science fiction and a leading figure in the rapidly expanding African SF field. His story "O2 Arena", first published in *Galaxy's Edge* magazine, has already won a [Nebula Award](#) and is now nominated in the Best Novelette category for the Hugo Awards. He has also been nominated in the Best Editor, Short Form category.

Mr. Ekpeki's application for a visa was initially rejected by the U.S. Embassy in Lagos despite widespread support for his appearance from across the field. In addition to Chicon 8's letter of invitation and other documentation, Mr. Ekpeki crowd-funded the full cost of his trip in a single day.

Mr. Ekpeki was granted a successful second interview by the Embassy after urgent appeals from Chicon 8 and many individuals. According to Chicon 8 Chairman Helen Montgomery, "we are delighted that Mr. Ekpeki was able to successfully re-apply for his

visa. Our thanks go to Senator [Tammy Duckworth](#) (D-IL), Senator [Chris Van Hollen](#) (D-MD) and everyone who expressed their support for Mr. Ekpeki privately and publicly throughout the process”.

About Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki

Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki is an African speculative fiction writer, editor and publisher from Nigeria. He has won the [Nebula](#), [Otherwise](#), [Nommo](#) and [British Fantasy awards](#). He has been a finalist in the Hugo, WFA, Nebula, Locus, BSFA, & Sturgeon awards. His short story [Destiny Delayed](#) appeared in the May/June 2022 issue of Asimov's, and his fiction and nonfiction have appeared and are forthcoming in Tordotcom, Strange Horizons, Galaxy's Edge, Apex, and more. He edited the [Bridging Worlds](#) non-fiction anthology as well as the Africa Risen anthology forthcoming on Tordotcom in Nov 2022. You can find him on Twitter at [@penprince](#) , and through his website at <https://odekpeki.com>.

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The 80th World Science Fiction Convention, Chicon 8, will take place in Chicago, Illinois, USA from 1-5 September 2022. For more information about the convention, including current membership rates, visit <http://chicon.org>. All media releases are available at <http://chicon.org/home/about-worldcon/press-and-media/>. Follow us on Twitter at [@chicagoworldcon](#).

Please send press and media queries to press@chicon.org.