

QUESTIONNAIRE

General

Name of Convention:

PharaohCon (replacing JeddiCon)

What dates will your convention run?

1st to 5th of September 2026.

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 center? How far is the site from the city center?

City: Cairo, Egypt.

Location: AUC Campus, at AUC Avenue Rd, New Cairo. Its in a city center.

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

The Campus is surrounded by plenty of cafes, restaurants, hotels, malls, banks, and hospitals all closer than 10 kilometers distance.

Most Hotels are from 4 to 16 kilometers away.

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

Yasser Bahjatt is our bid chair and Bassem El Kheshen will be the convention chair, Ahmad Murad, Dina Heikal & Shereen Rashed.

Yasser Bahjatt: Publisher, Author & Translator, serial entrepreneur, managed several TEDx events across Saudi Arabia.

Bassem El Kheshen: Author and translator, Head of the largest Arabic Literary agency in the middle east Bears Factor.

Shereen Rashed: created and headed IRead initiative which celebrate reading culture and new upcoming author. Organized 2 events IRead Prize in Cairo Opera house in 2021 and IRead her summit which celebrated women in literature and in publishing.

Ahmed Murad: Most iconic Arabic writer for young adults, all his works has been turned to movies and tv shows that gained huge success.

Nevin El Tohamy: Co-Founder of KAYAN publishing house and one of the most influential individuals in the Egyptian publishing industry.

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

We want to but looking into legal requirements of Egypt.

Travel

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

Ranging from 600 \$ to 1500 \$

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?

Cairo International Airport is the closest airport.

Yes, flights from and to the above cities are available.

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?

24 Kilometers from Cairo International Airport.

Facilities

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

Dusit Thani Lakeview Cairo, Triumph Luxury Hotel, Helnan Landmark Hotel, Tolip El Narges Hotel & SP, NewCity Aparthotel - Suites & Apartments. They do accommodate accessibility.

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?

80 to 250 USD, still very preliminary

What does parking cost at your main hotels?

Free

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?

Around 200 meters. Local Taxis, Uber, Local Buses & we will be providing shuttle service during the event.

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

AUC campus main hall that has a capacity of around 5000.

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

There are many international and local cuisines restaurants around the area.

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

We will arrange with the hotels to provide party rooms; corkage waver is not available in Egypt.

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

Smoking is allowed in most open areas.

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?

Not yet

Miscellaneous

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

Sunny and Warm.

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

Pyramids of Giza, The Egyptian Museum, Islamic Museums, Citadel, etc.

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

Student discount

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

The ME generally and Egypt specifically is the cradle of civilization. Our vision is to hold a truly diverse international Worldcon with emphasis on **World**. We will make sure that we have a well-balanced representation of all cultures east and west in all aspects of the con from guests of honor to programing and art.

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

The Egyptian geek culture is very prominent in young adults and teens, we had a huge success with gaming cons and comic cons with huge attendance count. The fan community in Egypt is very open and friendly and eager to welcome their international brethren, we expect high level of engagement and volunteering.

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

Not yet

What do diversity and inclusion mean to you?

It means to include all global cultures and make sure that **World** in Worldcon means something.

How are you working towards your goals in these areas?

What would concrete achievements look like in these areas?

We are reaching out to authors and fan communities all over the world to see how we can get them involved and become part of our event. Having the program participants be well balanced from all over the world and allowing fans from all over the world to enjoy the Worldcon in their own language.

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

We do not expect the current pandemic to still be around in 2026, however if it still does or if some other obstacles exist we will make sure to plan accordingly.

Have you planned for a virtual component to your convention?

Yes, we are hoping to at least be able to live stream the audio and live translation audio of all our programming items.

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 will keep open spots in our programming to insure that we can incorporate most of the finalists into our program.