

QUESTIONNAIRE

General

Name of Convention: Worldcon Seattle 2025

The business structure for our bid and our convention is a nonprofit corporation formed in the state of Washington under the name Seattle Genre Alliance. We are licensed in Washington, and are waiting for IRS approval of our application for federally recognized tax exempt status as a 501(c)(3) organization. Incorporation paperwork is available for viewing upon request.

What dates will your convention run? August 13-17, 2025

We currently have a right-of-first-refusal offer from Visit Seattle for the Summit Expansion of the Washington State Convention Center August 10–18, with convention dates of Wednesday, August 13, through Sunday, August 17, 2025.

What is your proposed convention host city? Seattle, Washington

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 site is in the heart of downtown Seattle.

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.

There is not a significant amount of street parking available in the downtown core, but parking garages are plentiful. If you are willing to park a little further out, you can find cheaper street parking down by the waterfront. We will provide information on our website about pricing options which can vary from \$10 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 currently have a right-of-first-refusal offer from Visit Seattle for the Summit Expansion of the Washington State Convention Center August 10–18, with convention dates of Wednesday, August 13, through Sunday, August 17, 2025.

The 12 hotels currently in negotiation range from across the street to five blocks away. Additionally, there are lower cost options farther out, and on transit.

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

We have not selected our chair. Our bid team is made up of seasoned Worldcon members and experienced local talent. Included are:

Co-chairs 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 CoNZealand, and was one of the Hugo Administrators for DisCon III.

SunnyJim has been involved with various Worldcon programming teams, is the Exhibits DDH for Chicon8, has been the chair and vice-chair of Norwescon, the director of 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 experience, and legal expertise. The team is growing, with new members joining every day.

Finally, we have formed 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, Liz Vann-Clark, Loree Parker and Elsa Sjunneson.

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

We will participate in pass-along funds. We are not at a stage to make further decisions

yet.

Travel

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

As airfare rates are in a state of continual change, it is hard to give answers to this that are meaningful. Most major US carriers fly in and out of SeaTac (Seattle).

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?

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.

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.

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?

SeaTac International is 15 miles from downtown Seattle. There are many fantastic options for transportation into Seattle from the airport. Link light rail is 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. Town cars are also 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.?

We are currently in negotiations with 12 nearby hotels, through Visit Seattle, which arranges hotel contracts for events booked at the convention center. Generally speaking, most Seattle hotels include internet in the room. All of the hotels we are talking to are within 5 blocks of the convention center. Outside of the convention block, there are several independent hotels within a ten to 12 block radius. Additionally, a short ride on the Sounder (light rail) to the University District or Northgate area will provide a large number of hotels at significantly lower price points than downtown.

We have already secured initial room rate quotes with shoulder rates that extend from August 7-20, 2025, and plan to negotiate for the lowest possible rate at signing. Current quoted rates with our primary hotels range from \$228/night to \$279/night, with a median rate of \$257. These hotels are within 5 blocks from the Convention Center. These rates are well within the usual averages for hotels in downtown Seattle during the summer as that is the height of tourist season. Seattle, in addition to being a destination of its own, has very busy cruise ship terminals, which drive the cost of hotel rooms in summer. We will provide information about lower cost accommodations for our members and are not structuring our facility agreements to require a room block. Low-cost options at the edge of downtown include a Holiday Inn and a Best Western, approximately a 25-minute

walk from the convention center. (The Best Western is where the Locus Awards are held, for members who attend those.) There is a hostel by Pike Place Market, seven blocks from the convention center. Link Light Rail recently expanded to Northgate, providing an eight-minute ride to a North Seattle neighborhood with many more lodging options. We will provide information about public transit options for people who choose to use AirBnB units. The tax rate for all downtown Seattle hotels is 15.6%.

We are assessing the availability of accessible rooms, as this is a priority for our group.

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?

Rates are still under negotiation, but are listed above, and will likely be in the \$225-\$280 range, plus 15.6% tax. We have a variety of lower cost options available slightly further out from the convention center.

What does parking cost at your main hotels?

Washington State Convention Center parking is currently \$26 for 10-12 hours. Parking at hotels can cost up to \$50 per day, but there are many parking garages within a block or two of any hotel with lower rates. Expect to pay \$15-30 per day if you are willing to shop around.

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?

All the hotels we are negotiating with are within five blocks of the convention center. Some are as close as across the street. Seattle sidewalks are generally scooter friendly and the areas closest to the convention center are flat. For people who venture further afield, we will have special maps that show you the secret elevators to get up the hills. Public transportation is wheelchair friendly.

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

We will most likely use space within the Summit Convention Center for the Hugos, Masquerade, and other large events. An alternative option is a nearby historic theater, The Paramount, which across the street from the Summit Convention Center. Benaroya Hall, the home of the Seattle Symphony, 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 itself will have a variety of food outlets, to be determined closer to their opening date. The existing convention center (one block away) has a crepe shop, Subway, Taco Del Mar, a Mediterranean restaurant, two coffee shops, Juicy Cafe, and a general café.

Across the street is an Indian restaurant. A block farther is a Cheesecake Factory and a steak house. Two blocks away is Pacific Place with a food court. On weekdays, Westlake Center has a food truck extravaganza. Pike Place Market, with several food options, is a seven block walk from the convention center, and well worth it. Many more restaurants are within a five-block radius of the convention center, and are changing all the time.

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 a club scene 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 socializing and party space? Do you have a corkage waiver?

Parties will be allowed in sleeping rooms. We plan to designate a hotel for parties and are currently looking at suite options at the Sheraton and Hyatt properties. If groups plan 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 at the State level with lobbying.

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. We will consider the option to move parties into function space instead of Hotel suites.

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

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

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?

With our convention dates in August 2025, we will monitor best practices and follow all recommendations from the CDC and local health department regarding safe operating procedures. The Summit Convention Center will be GBAC Star Accredited for cleaning procedures and outbreak prevention.

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 glorious, in the 70-80s degree range Fahrenheit, and sunny.

Recent summers have 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). In August we will have had plenty of notice about the fire season, be able to source masks for people for whom air quality is an issue, and provide notice so people can bring their own masks.

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

There is no shortage of fun things to do in Seattle, whether your tastes run to the educational, natural, or quirky. Within walking distance of the convention center, check out Pike Place Market, one of the country's oldest continuously operating farmers' markets, for a variety of produce, food, art, and crafts. Also close at hand are the Seattle Art Museum, the Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP), which includes the Science Fiction Hall of Fame, the award-winning Seattle Public Library, and the Olympic Sculpture Park.

Just outside the downtown core, you'll find Elliott Bay Bookstore, the Pacific Science Center and much more. From the Seattle waterfront, you can take a variety of tours on the water, including boat rides through the Ballard Locks, tours of Elliot Bay, and day trips to Blake Island.

A bit farther afield but still in Seattle, you'll find the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI), the Woodland Park Zoo, the Museum of Flight, and the Burke Natural History Museum. Local neighborhoods add personality, fun shopping, and more great restaurants – check out Fremont, the University District, or Ballard.

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. The Hoh Rainforest is stunning, as is the Olympic Hot Springs Resort, a wine trail, several cideries, and again, plenty of opportunities for amazing natural views.

For a guide to the standard tourist attractions, check out Visit Seattle's list of Top 25 Things to Do. <https://visitseattle.org/things-to-do/sightseeing/top-25-attractions/> For a slightly more offbeat Seattle experience, take a look at Atlas Obscura's list of quirky attractions. <https://www.atlasobscura.com/things-to-do/seattle-washington/places>

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 are considering 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 engage with our fandom community of learners, readers, doers, makers, and creators. We want the Worldcon community to experience Seattle, and give our local community the opportunity to learn from and create with the 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, including through the formation of our advisory committee.

We are engaging our local community with fan tables, panels, and eventually room parties at our local conventions. We will recruit local convention runners to work in partnership with Worldcon regulars on our eventual convention committee.

Outside of fandom groups, we also are in the process of developing a sponsorship plan to foster 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. 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. 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, Foolscap, 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 plan to do active outreach to local organizations, tech companies, and cultural organizations representing Seattle's local Native American and LGBTQ communities, and more.

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

Yes. The code of conduct is available on our website.

What do diversity and inclusion mean to you?

As stated in our vision, we are making diversity, inclusion, access, and affordability separate, yet intertwined, poles of all of our plans and planning. This comes 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.

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.

How are you working towards your goals in these areas?

We have formed an advisory committee with diverse members, and are soliciting art from diverse artists from the Pacific Northwest.

What would concrete achievements look like in these areas?

We plan to have a convention that reflects the diversity of our region and our Worldcon community, and is rich in cultural expression. We aspire to recruit a convention committee that also reflects this diversity.

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. On the other hand, existential dread and the changing political climate have wrought a toll on our pool of volunteers.

Have you planned for a virtual component to your convention?

We are still in the brainstorming stages on virtual content. Our bid team has extensive virtual convention-running experience and connections.

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 facilitate as large a role for Hugo finalists as we can in the timeframe available. Our team has experience 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.