

Worldcon 75 Fannish Inquisition

Name of bid/convention

Worldcon 76 in San Jose

For what dates are you bidding?

August 16-20, 2018

What is your proposed convention host city? Is your convention site in a central 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?

McEnery Convention Center, San Jose, CA. In downtown city center

Who are the main people on your committee?

Kevin Roche (Chair), Cindy Scott (Finance), Jill Eastlake (Exhibits), Sharon Sbarsky & Sheril Harper (Events), Sean McCoy (Facilities), Chuck Serface (Member Services)... and a cast of hundreds

Travel

What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as Helsinki, London, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Melbourne?

These are current quotes for mid-June, roundtrip tickets for 1 adult

ARN - QSF \$502

LON - QSF \$757

BOS - QSF \$772

CHI - QSF \$250-500

QLA - QSF \$120

MEL - QSF \$850-950

Do international flights 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?

Yes -- all 3 airports: San Jose (SJC), Oakland (OAK), and San Francisco (SFO)

How far is your convention site from the nearest airport and train station and what is the likely cost of getting to the hotels by both public transport and taxi from those stations?

5 miles from SJC international.

Please describe public transport options in your city.

Taxi, Bus, Light Rail, Local Commuter rail, ride-sharing

Facilities

Please describe your main convention facilities.

What hotel(s) are being used for the convention? How many rooms of what types do you have in your room blocks?

Attached San Jose Hilton and San Jose Marriott, Fairmont San Jose (800 m away), Hyatt Place, St Claire (across the street), AC Hotel by Marriott (4 blocks away)

What are your hotel room rates like?

\$139-\$199 for regular rooms, depending on property. Deluxe rooms and suites are more expensive

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?

The Hilton and Marriott are attached to the convention center

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

A quick search for restaurants and cafes gives over 60 eating establishments within a 4 block radius. The downtown food and beverage scene in San Jose has expanded dramatically in the last decade with lots of small artisanal restaurants. heading a block or so further east (towards the SJSU campus) serves up some very low-cost fast food options and taquerias, etc., aimed at the student market.

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

Parties will be in the Fairmont hotel, which has more suites and larger rooms. There is no corkage for entertaining in guest rooms at the Fairmont.

Miscellaneous

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

San Jose has a “mediterranean” climate. We’re warm and dry in the summer. You can expect highs in the low 80’s (high 20’s C) and lows in the high 50’s (mid teens C). Most times, around sunset the “marine layer,” a mass of colder air, comes in over the mountains from the coast and results in a 20-30 degree temperature drop.

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

Near McEnery Convention Center

The Tech Museum of Innovation, Children’s Discovery Museum and the San Jose Museum of Art are all right downtown. The Museum of Quilts and Textiles and a number of galleries are a block or so away in the SoFA district. A few blocks from the convention center is TechShop San Jose, a premier shared “maker space.”

Slightly Further Away

The Winchester Mystery House is a bit of wild and wacky San Jose history. The Computer History Museum in Mountain View is a geek mecca (as are the WeirdStuff Warehouse and HSC tech surplus shops). We’re also home to great wine and beer. You don’t have to leave town for J. Lohr Winery, Trevisio Winery or Rabbit’s Foot Meadery.

San Francisco, Santa Cruz and further afield

It’s an easy Caltrain run from downtown San Jose up to the City (San Francisco), and trust me, it’s worth taking the train, you don’t want to park in San Francisco.

If you have a car, it’s a nice drive to Santa Cruz for some of the best (if a bit cold) surf California has to offer. Monterey and the Monterey Bay Aquarium is only a bit further.

And, of course, there’s the wine. There are city wineries up in SF and Napa’s legendary wineries, but there are lesser-known regions that are easier to get to, produce great wine, and sell at better prices. The Tri-Valley (Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin), Santa Clara County, Santa Cruz County, San Mateo County, San Benito County, Monterey County, Marin County, Sonoma County... you’ll not run out of options.

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

Yes, we have reduced rates for children, young adults, active duty military and first responders

Should you win, do you plan to charge an additional fee for receiving paper publications?

no

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