

Fannish Inquisition Survey: San Diego Smofcon Bid

Smofcon Bid: San Diego

What are the proposed dates for which you are bidding? Dec 2-4, 2016 or Dec 1-3, 2017

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?

Our preferred site would be in Downtown, in or near the Gaslamp Quarter

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

- Chicago-San Diego for Nov 30-Dec 2, 2012 pulled November 16, 2012: \$295-352
- London-San Diego for Nov 29-Dec 4, 2012 pulled November 16, 2012: \$925-\$2,000
- Melbourne-San Diego for Nov 29-Dec 4, 2012 pulled November 16, 2012: \$1,870-\$3,134

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?

San Diego is currently served by British Airways and some flights from Mexico on US Carriers. Los Angeles International Airport is about 125 miles north. There are regular commuter flights between the two.

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?

The area we are focusing on is located less than 5 miles from San Diego International Airport. The Santa Fe Depot, served by Amtrak, is located very near the areas we are focusing on. , We are too far out to be seriously considering any specific hotels yet, so we cannot discuss rates.

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

We are too far out to be seriously considering any specific hotels yet. There are several in the area that could easily hold a Smofcon sized event.

What are your hotel room rates? Do these rates include breakfast? Do they include internet in the room? How firm are these rates?

Too soon for specifics.

What is the distance from the 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 convention will be located within the same hotel

Please describe your convention site facilities. For example, the quantity and sizes of rooms, tech options, accessibility issues, etc.

We are too far out to be seriously considering any specific hotels yet.

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

The Gaslamp quarter is the core of San Diego's night-life. Depending on the exact hotel we end up with, expect there to be multiple restaurants just steps outside of the hotel's door. The Trolley line wraps clear around downtown, and has a stop near each end of The Gaslamp Quarter, providing access to restaurants and activities from the Mexican border at San Ysidro, through downtown, Little Italy, Mission Valley and into the East County suburbs.

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

California has a strict indoor smoking ban. Few if any hotel rooms permit smoking, and there is no smoking inside any publicly accessible buildings.

What type of weather can we expect at the time of year your convention is to be held?

Weather in early December is cool (by San Diego standards), with an average low of 48 degrees(F), and a high of 65 degrees(F). Light rain is possible, and heavier rain might not be out of the question should La Nina conditions be in place.

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

- The World Famous San Diego Zoo, and its Safari Park
- Sea World
- Lego Land
- Balboa Park - It is very likely that the Balboa Park December Nights will be going on the same weekend.

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

Ron Oakes is the bid chair. The chair and committee have backed off temporarily to focus on the San Diego in 2015 Westercon Bid, but are still intending to bid for Smofcon.

Other members of the committee at present include Adam Tilghman, Barney and Kate Evans, Ron and Val Ontell, and other San Diego area convention runners. As we get closer to selection we will recruit others to the committee both from outside of San Diego and from within the ranks of other San Diego convention runners

If known, who will be the chair of the convention? What experience do they have?

Ron Oakes is designated to be the chair

Ron has chaired 4 local conventions and is slated to chair Westercon 68 should San Diego be selected. Other members of the committee have chaired conventions, including a very successful World Fantasy Convention. Ron is as regular an attendee of Smofcon as his budget has allowed

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

We are too far out to be seriously considering any specific hotels yet, so the evening social space beyond the con suite is not yet known

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

At this point, these plans have not been discussed. We may offer discounts for convention runners from outside of core/traditional SF Fandom who are attending their first Smofcon.