

**SMOFCON 2016  
FANNISH INQUISITION QUESTIONNAIRE**

Name of Bid?

- Boston In 2021 aka Noreascon Five
- At this time MCFI (Massachusetts Convention Fandom, Inc.) has authorized forming a committee to investigate hosting a Worldcon in Boston in 2021. I.E. We are not actually bidding yet.

What are the proposed dates for which you are bidding?

- Sometime in August 2021

What is your proposed convention host city?

- Boston, MA

Is your convention site in a city center location or a suburb?

- City Center
- There are two convention centers: the Hynes Convention Center (where Noreascons 2, 3, and 4 were held) and the newer Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (BCEC). They both have advantages and disadvantages. We will be looking at both for availability, rates, rates at surrounding hotels, and which would provide for the best Worldcon in Boston

What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as the following? (checking round-trip airfares to Boston Logan Airport (BOS) for August 2016 including all taxes using [www.itasoftare.com](http://www.itasoftare.com))

- Auckland: \$1625-\$1929
- Boston: NA
- Chicago: \$81-\$301
- Dallas: \$81-\$301 (strangely same as Chicago; not a typo)
- Dublin: \$977-\$1080
- Helsinki: \$834-\$1075
- London: \$808-\$1098
- Los Angeles: \$399-\$428
- Melbourne: \$1977-\$2073

Is your closest airport a hub for a major carrier?

- Yes, it is a hub for JetBlue. While not a hub for other airlines, Boston Logan Airport has extensive service from American, Delta, Southwest, and United as well 35 other airlines including many international airlines.

Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport?

- Yes, there are non-stop flights from over 50 international destinations to Boston Logan Airport.

Which airlines service your airport?

- Pretty much all domestic carriers and all major international carriers serve Boston Logan Airport. Please see above.

Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?

- All cities above except Auckland, Melbourne, and Helsinki have non-stop flights to Boston Logan Airport. Auckland, Melbourne, and Helsinki can be reached via one change of planes.

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?

- South Station (Amtrak) is 1.8 miles away from the Hynes and 0.7 miles away from the BCEC.
- Back Bay Station (Amtrak) is connected via indoor walkways to the Hynes, but some people may find South Station more convenient, especially when leaving Boston.
- Public transit via the Silver Line is currently free for all from Boston Logan Airport and \$2.60 in other directions.
- Using [www.taxifarefinder.com](http://www.taxifarefinder.com), taxi fares are estimated at
- \$17 South Station to Hynes, \$14 South Station to BCEC
- \$33 Logan to Hynes, \$28 Logan to BCEC
- Of course there are other options like Lyft, Uber, Logan Express Bus to the Hynes, and limos. None of the hotels we would be using have airport shuttles.

What hotel(s) are being used for the convention?

- There are a variety of major hotels with more than enough rooms including Hilton, Marriott, Sheraton, and Westin. Which hotels we use will depend in part on which convention center we use and which hotels give us the best rates and contracts. More details will be forthcoming. Therefore, we are skipping the following questions at this early date.

What is the distance from the main hotel(s) to the closest entrance of the convention site?

- It is about 200 feet indoors from the elevator lobby of the Sheraton to the main entrance of the Hynes.
- It is less than 100 feet indoors from the elevator lobby of the Westin to one entrance of the BCEC.

What are the transportation options for those who prefer not to walk or who have mobility difficulties?

- The connections mentioned above are indoors and fully accessible. We will of course be facilitating scooter rental.

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

- They are both major convention centers with a variety of function rooms. Both convention centers are fully handicapped accessible.

Where will your large events (for example the Hugo Ceremony and Masquerade) be held?

- In whichever convention center we pick.

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

- The restaurant scene in Boston including near the two convention centers is great. There are a large number of restaurants of all types within walking distance of both convention centers.
- There are about 150 restaurants ranging from family-friendly to award-winning mentioned in the 2015 Arisia / Boskone Restaurant Guide (both are held at the Westin Boston Waterfront, which is attached to the BCEC):  
[http://www.arisia.org/sites/default/files/A15\\_RestGuide\\_FinalSpreads01.pdf](http://www.arisia.org/sites/default/files/A15_RestGuide_FinalSpreads01.pdf). An even larger number of restaurants can be found near the Hynes.

What are the policies/laws regarding smoking at your:

- Hotel(s): non-smoking
- Convention Center: non-smoking
- City: restaurants and bars are non-smoking but smoking is allowed outside of almost all buildings at this time but smokers do not tend to congregate at the entrances

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

- Average high temperatures are in the 70s and 80s. Average low temperatures are in the 60s. Humidity ranges from 50-90% on average. Average chance of rain is 40%.

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

- The Freedom Trail, Museum of Fine Arts, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Museum of Science, Boston Public Garden, Old North Church, Fenway Park, New England Aquarium, Children's Museum, Boston Duck tours, etc. For those interested in baseball, the Boston Red Sox play at historic Fenway Park. There are always concerts, plays, and clubs for groups looking to round-out their trip to Boston.
- Fodor's says "There's history and culture around every bend in Boston—skyscrapers nestle next to historic hotels while modern marketplaces line the antique cobblestone streets. But to Bostonians, living in a city that blends yesterday and today is just another day in beloved Beantown."

Who is your bid chair?

- TBD - Rick Kovalcik is currently MCFI President and is putting the committee together.

Who is on your committee?

- TBD - Rick Kovalcik is putting the committee together.
- The committee is being backed by MCFI. We expect most MCFI members and hope others including people from Boston area conventions including Arisia, Boskone, and Readercon to be involved in the bid and in the convention if we win.

What experience do they have in general?

In running a bid like this in particular?

- MCFI members have worked on many conventions, including Boskone, Arisia, Readercon, Anime Boston, Albacon, Lunacon, Philcon, Balticon, Disclave, Confluence, OryCon, Minicon, Wiscon, Tropicon, Westercons, NASFiCs, World Fantasy Cons, and of course, many Worldcons. As a group, many MCFI members managed the Iguanacon (1978) Masquerade, ConStellation (1983) sales to members, LoneStarCon 1 (Austin 1985) Art Show, MagiCon (1992) Exhibits Division, and ran the L.A.con III (1996) Art Show. There are three past Worldcon Chairs and a number of past Worldcon Division Heads who are MCFI members. Arisia is currently a 4000+ person convention while Boskone and Readercon are about 1000 person conventions. While running a yearly local convention is not as complex as a Worldcon, all experience helps.

If known, who will be the chair of the convention?

- NA at this time.

What experience do they have?

- NA at this time.

What arrangements will be made for evening socializing and party space?

- TBD, but we plan to have space for evening socializing and events in the evening

Do you have a corkage waiver and a forrage waiver?

- TBD, but presumably yes. Arisia, Boskone, and Readercon all have corkage and forrage waivers.

Do you currently have a code of conduct in place for your bid/convention?

- MCFI does not have a code of conduct at this time, having not run a convention in a number of years. We are currently developing a code and are taking the best from conventions like Arisia, Boskone, Readercon, and other conventions. We plan to have our code of conduct in place in the next year well before the site selection vote.

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

- TBD, but presumably yes.

Other information?

- We would take part in pass-along funds.