

**SMOFCON 2016
FANNISH INQUISITION QUESTIONNAIRE**

Worldcon 76 (San Jose)

What are the dates for your convention?

Thursday, August 16, 2018 - Monday, August 20, 2018

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?

San Jose in 2018 has a letter of intent with the San Jose McEnery Convention Center in downtown San Jose. Some people may consider San Jose a “suburb” but if it is, it’s a suburb that’s a larger city than the surrounding “big cities.”

For the latest updates, please check out [our FAQ for SMOFCon 32 on Google Docs](#)

Getting to the Bay Area

- What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Melbourne?
- Do international flights as well as domestic fly into your local airport?
 - If not, where is the closest international airport?
 - Which airlines?
 - Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?

Our closest airport is San Jose Mineta International Airport (SJC) at 6 miles away from downtown, but San Francisco International (SFO) and Oakland International (OAK) are also available, each about 40 miles away. There is non-stop service from LAX, BOS and Chicago airports into SJC. London airports have non-stop service into SFO. There is currently no non-stop service from Melbourne into SF Bay Area airports.

At least one of these airports has flights with your preferred airline (within reason, there are no RyanAir flights). Low price averages for August 2015 flights are currently:

- ❖ Boston: \$350-450
- ❖ Chicago: \$270-350
- ❖ Dublin: \$1050-1300
- ❖ Helsinki: \$1100
- ❖ Kansas City: \$400-475
- ❖ London: \$1400
- ❖ Los Angeles: \$155
- ❖ Melbourne: \$1200
- ❖ Montreal: \$420-570
- ❖ New Orleans: \$380-440
- ❖ New Zealand (Christchurch and Auckland): \$1400-1800
- ❖ Spokane: \$320
- ❖ Tokyo: \$1400
- ❖ Washington DC: \$330-430

We also have train service from select cities. The Coast Starlight provides service from San Diego to Seattle, with a stop in San Jose. That means you can take the California Zephyr from Chicago to Emeryville or the Sunset Limited from New Orleans to Los Angeles, and catch a connection to San Jose. It's a leisurely ride, to be sure, but if you've got the time it's a nice way to get here.

Getting from the airports (and train stations) to San Jose

- 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?

Car services and taxis are, of course, available, but not terribly cheap. Door-to-door shuttle services are available too.

SJC has a free bus connector to VTA light rail. Both the Santa Teresa and Winchester light rail trains stop directly in front of the convention center.

SFO is served by a BART connector to Milbrae Caltrain station. From there, the Caltrain will take you to San Jose Diridon Train Station, where you can catch a Mountain View light rail train to the convention center.

By 2018, BART service from Oakland to downtown San Jose should be complete and open for business, with a station 2 blocks from the convention center.

Using these different services may sound confusing, but they're all participants in the "Clipper" contactless payment scheme. If you're familiar with London's "Oyster" cards, Dublin's "Leap" cards or the Paris "Carte Orange," it's an easy system.

Convention Facilities in Downtown San Jose

- What hotel(s) are being used for the convention?
 - How many rooms?
 - How many Singles/Doubles/Kings?
 - What other types of rooms are available?
 - How many are handicap accessible?
- Are there any accessibility issues?

San Jose in 2018 currently has contracts with the San Jose Marriott, our headquarters hotel, and the San Jose Hilton.

The San Jose Marriott is a brand new facility, it was a gaping hole in the ground during ConJosé in 2002. There are a total of 478 rooms including 28 suites, 248 king rooms, and 201 double rooms. Our peak room commitment is 350 rooms for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. [Accessibility is excellent.](#)

The Hilton San Jose has 353 rooms, including 15 suites, 117 king rooms and 294 double queen rooms. All king rooms are ADA compliant, and the hotel does have rooms with additional accommodations for hearing and mobility needs, including roll-in showers. Our peak room commitment is 250 rooms for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

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

Our contracted rate for the Marriott is \$139/night. It does not include breakfast, but does include complimentary internet.

Our contracted rate for the Hilton is \$149/night single/double, \$169/night triple, \$189/night quad.

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

The San Jose Marriott is our planned hospitality hotel. We have a corkage waiver in our contract with the Marriott, and additional terms spelling out what kinds of activities the hotel will expect from our attendees.

The San Jose Marriott has lots of experience hosting conventions and convention parties, having hosted Further Confusion (a 3,000 attendee furry convention) since 2012 and also having hosted the 2014 Nebula Awards Weekend.

- What are the policies/laws regarding smoking in your:
 - Hotel(s):
 - Convention Center:
 - City:

We're bidding in California. Very few indoor venues still allow smoking. The McEnery Convention Center, San Jose Marriott and San Jose Hilton are all non-smoking facilities. Smoking is permitted outdoors.

- What is the distance from the main hotel(s) to the closest entrance of the convention site? The Hilton and Marriott are connected to the San Jose McEnergy Convention Center.

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

The Hilton and Marriott are connected to the San Jose McEnergy Convention Center. We have not yet contracted with additional hotels, but the Sainte Claire and the Hyatt Place are across the street. The Fairmont is a block away. Additional hotels, if necessary, can be found on the light rail line, and all light rail trains and stations are accessible for wheelchairs and mobies.

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

The San Jose McEnergy Convention Center is the same facility that hosted ConJosé in 2002, but it's also not the same facility. This year a new (and beautiful) ballroom expansion was completed.

The convention center now has 550,000 square feet of combined convention space. In addition to it's 325,000 square feet of exhibit space, it has (depending on configuration) up to 43 meeting rooms with capacities from 50 to 3,900 in theater style seating.

As to accessibility, the convention center has hosted [the Bay Area Accessibility Expo](#) for several years now. I think that says more than anything I myself can say about the accessibility of the facility.

For a fabulous overview of the facility, check out [SanJoseMeetings.com](#).

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

For ConJosé, we used the San Jose Civic Auditorium for major events. This was, shall we say, a sub-optimal venue, for many reasons. We believe with the new ballroom expansion we will be able to host major events in the convention center itself.

All about our region

- Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

Downtown San Jose [is very proud of its restaurant scene](#), featuring a wide range of prices and cuisines. Our downtown restaurants cater to high-tech office tower workers, San José State University students, and everyone in between. Our taquerias are diverse and very authentic, but Mexican cuisine here isn't limited to taquerias.

Vietnamese options abound and not just pho and bánh mì. Japanese of every sort is available, both within walking distance and a few light rail stops away in San Jose's Japantown. The Britannia Arms provides traditional English pub fare. I could go on, but I don't need to.

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

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?

It really depends on how far you're willing to go. In San Jose and the immediate suburbs? The Tech Museum of Innovation, Children's Discovery Museum and the San Jose Museum of Art are all right downtown. The Winchester Mystery House is a bit of wild and wacky San Jose history. The Computer History Museum in Sunnyvale 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.

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.

Committee

- Who is your bid chair?

Andrew Trembley, chair@sjin2018.org

- Who is on your committee?

Andrew Trembley, Debbie Bretschneider, Cindy Scott, Lisa Deutsch Harrigan, Kathryn Duval, Linda Wenzelburger, David Gallaher, Chuck Serface, JC Arkham, Chris Ambler,

- What experience does your committee have in general?
- In running a bid for a convention like this in particular?

Our committee members have experience in local and regional conrunning, and in traveling convention bidding and operation, including Costume-Con, Westercon and Worldcon. We also have experience operating conventions for other organizations, including the SFWA Nebula Awards Weekend and World Fantasy Con.

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

Kevin Roche will chair the convention if we win. He chaired Westercon 66 and Costume-Con 26. He has also organized science conferences for IBM Research. He is active in costume fandom, fanzine fandom and all sorts of other fanac.

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

We have not yet created membership price schedules.

- Do you currently have a code of conduct in place for your bid/convention?
 - If so, what is it?
 - If not, do you intend to have one?

[SFSFC corporate policy requires that all SFSFC events publish and enforce code of conduct and anti-harassment policies.](#) We do not yet have a convention committee, so we have not yet developed those policies.