

Questionnaire

General

Name of Convention? Buffalo Nasfic 2024

What dates will your convention run? July 18-21, 2023

What is your proposed convention host city? Buffalo, New York

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?

The convention will be held in Buffalo, New York. It will be an eight-minute walk (0.4 miles) or three-minute bus ride from Buffalo City Hall at Niagara Square, which is the hub for many of the region's bus routes. The intercity Greyhound Bus Terminal is half a mile (ten-minute walk) south of the convention site. The Amtrak train station is a block from the bus terminal.

Buffalo Airport (BUF) is ten miles east of downtown. The #24 Genesee NFTA ("Metro") bus runs every 25-30 minutes, takes 40 minutes to get downtown, and stops four minutes walk from the hotel. The bus fare is \$2. There are also shared-shuttle options for \$21, and taxis available.

What are your main facilities? How far are your hotels from your main venue?

Most of our program spaces are in the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. We are also using the Buffalo Convention Center for exhibits (art show, dealers, etc.) and main stage events. These buildings are connected by a short indoor corridor

Who is your convention chair?

Wayne Brown

Who is on your committee?

Chair: Wayne Brown from Rochester, founder and chair of Astronomicon for thirty years, has been attending Worldcons for forty years. He has been active in upstate New York and Ontario fandom for many years and is now working to bring a WSFS convention to western New York.

Treasurer: William Vernon. He has been in charge of registration for the World Fantasy Convention in new Orleans.

Secretary and Hotel Liaison: David Ennis has lived in the Buffalo area for decades. He has served many roles for conventions in the Toronto and Buffalo area over the past thirty years, including chair, programming, hotel liaison, registrar, and other functions. His first Worldcon was Chicon 8.

Debi Chowdhury: Guest Liaison.

Nate Hoffelder is our webmaster. He has worked on Worldcon Bid sites and NASFiC sites.

Amy Kauderer and A. Scot Gawrys are our hospitality people. They've run con suites for Eeriecon, Contradition, and Astronomicon.

Alexia Heibel: Pre-con resgistration head

Lisa Hertel: Exhibits Head

Mark Miller: Dealers Room Coordinator

Chuck Rothman: Programming Head

Andrea Senchy: Art Show Director

Liana Olear: Technical Director

James Hinsey: Masquerade Director

What experience do they have in general?

Our people have decades of experience working conventions all the way from small regional cons up to Worldcon sized events.

If applicable, have you agreed to participate in Pass-Along-Funds? Would you be willing to increase the percentage from 50% to 70%?

Possibly. We intend to budget carefully and we are happy to pass along half of any surplus to future Worldcons and/or NASFiCs, after volunteer and program participant membership reimbursements.

What is the sponsoring organization?

The Upstate New York Science Fiction and Fantasy Alliance

Is the sponsoring organization a 501(c)(3) or otherwise a non-profit? If not a 501(c)(3) but a non-profit, please explain.

We're working on it

Is the sponsoring organization tax-exempt for local taxes, especially sales tax?

We are incorporated in NYS as a not-for profit organization

What is your website and/or Facebook group?

Buffalo Nasfic 2024

Who should people contact for additional information or questions (email preferred)?

Contact: info@buffalonasfic2024.org

Travel

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

When last checked: Chicago \$172; Washington \$204; Boston \$199; Los Angeles \$269; Detroit \$250; Seattle \$287; Montreal \$374; Salt Lake City \$268
All return flights in US\$

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

Yes

Which airlines? If not, where is the closest international airport?

Buffalo Airport is served by most major US airlines, including United, Delta, American, Southwest, Frontier, JetBlue, and vacation charters.

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

Buffalo gets many flights a day from New York, Chicago, and Washington, as well as Atlanta, Dallas, Los Angeles, Denver, Dallas, Boston, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, several cities in Florida, other cities, and Cancun.

With a direct bus service from Toronto Airport to the Buffalo Greyhound Terminal, a few minutes walk from the hotel, Toronto is also a good airport for Canadian or international travelers to get to the convention site. Toronto is served by all Canadian and most global airlines from national capitals and other major cities.

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, shared ride service (Lyft/Uber/etc.), and taxi from that airport/train station?

Downtown Buffalo is 9.9 miles from Buffalo Airport. The Hyatt Regency Buffalo is 0.5 miles from the Amtrak station. It's a 40-minute bus ride from the airport and a three-minute bus ride from the train station. Bus fare is \$2. Shared shuttle from the airport is \$21 one way, while a taxi is about \$35. A taxi from the train station to the hotel might be \$6-\$7 including tip.

What is the visa situation for citizens of foreign countries to attend your convention?

Same as any other city in the United States.

What countries are eligible for ESTAs (Electronic Travel Authorizations which are generally a formality)? What countries would require visas? How long does it normally take to get a visa, and what does it cost?

N/A

Facilities

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

The Buffalo Hyatt Regency Hotel

How many rooms, what type, accessibility issues, etc.?

The Hyatt Regency Buffalo has 396 non-smoking guest rooms, including 9 accessible rooms. Our room block is 950 room nights from Wednesday to Monday, with a peak of 240 on each of Friday and Saturday.

What are your hotel room rates?

\$169, \$15 additional per person for triple/quad

Do these rates include breakfast?

No

Do they include internet access in the room?

Yes

How firm are these rates?

These are the rates confirmed for us for 2024.

What additional taxes and fees are there?

Room tax is 13.75%, with no additional fees.

What does parking cost at your main hotel and/or convention center?

\$25 per night.

Do you have a signed (contingent) contract or letter of intent specifying the above?

Yes

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

The nearest door to the convention center is in the hotel.

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

The hotel is connected to the convention center.

Where will your large events be held?

In the Hyatt Regency

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

There are dozens of restaurants within a ten-minute walk, and hundreds within a 15-minute drive. Buffalo has unique food choices not found in other cities, with a focus on family-owned restaurants serving generational comfort foods.

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

Yes we have a corkage waiver. We also have a Party Czar who will help with parties during the con

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

The Convention Center and the Hyatt are smoke-free facilities. New York State's Clean Indoor Air Act prohibits the smoking of tobacco products and the use of vapor products in nearly all indoor and certain outdoor public areas and workplaces. It was amended in 2021 to prohibit cannabis smoking and vaping in all locations in which smoking and vaping tobacco products are currently prohibited.

Miscellaneous

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

The breeze from Lake Erie that brings notoriously bad winter weather often brings a gentle, cooling breeze in the summer. Average highs are in the upper seventies, with nighttime lows in the mid sixties, but the United States can be a warm country in the summer so this is variable.

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

Among other attractions, Buffalo is a short drive from Niagara Falls, one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

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

Yes

How do you plan to recruit staff? Will there be a discount membership rate for staff? Do you plan crash space for staff? Etc.

We have recruiting tables at conventions in the area to recruit people to help out with the convention.

What is your vision for your convention?

I want the convention to be fun for all attending. We've turned most science fiction conventions into conglomerations of old people. We will be trying to bring in a younger demographic, a more diverse demographic.

How do you plan to make it happen?

By recruiting younger people. Trying to provide events for younger people.

What is a notable aspect of your local fan culture and how do you plan to incorporate it into your convention?

The local aspect of fandom in Buffalo has to do with either Comic-cons, anime cons, or local gaming conventions.

Buffalo happens to have more than one country within walking distance as well as racially and culturally distinct neighborhoods with different traditions and perspectives. Buffalo fandom is in a transitional situation, where some have decades of experience in traditional fandom where others know only visual media and comic books. We look forward to reinventing our dynamic to bring groups together to learn from each other.

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

We have agreed on a code of conduct and it should be available on our website.

What do diversity and inclusion mean to you?

That BIPOC are welcome and wanted at the convention

How are you working towards your goals in these areas?

You can't get people if you don't invite them.

What would concrete achievements look like in these areas?

Having more than 15 POC at the convention.

What are your plans, if any, regarding handling the COVID-19 pandemic?

We will follow whatever guidelines New York State has at the time.

Have you planned for a virtual component to your convention?

We hope to offer content and, if possible, participation to non-local members. This will depend on the availability of affordable technologies and, especially, motivated volunteers to do the work required to make this happen.

If applicable, are you prepared to run a site selection process should it be required?

Sure

If applicable, how do you plan to facilitate the Hugo Finalists input to your convention?

N/A

Is there anything else you wish to add?