

SMOFCON 2016
FANNISH INQUISITION QUESTIONNAIRE – SMOFCON 2019 BIDS

Name of Bid: Albuquerque SMOFCon 37 (2019)

What are the proposed dates for which you are bidding? December 6-8, 2019

Does your proposed Smofcon have a theme? “No Left Turns: Making the right plans”

What is your proposed convention host city? Albuquerque, NM

- Is your convention site in a city center location or a suburb?
 - Preferred location is adjacent to Old Town – a tourist area around the original Spanish settlement (shops, restaurants, museums). 2.4 Miles from Downtown
 - Alternate location is in Uptown – a commercial area near shopping malls and restaurants. 7.2 Miles from Downtown.
 - Note that Albuquerque can be accurately described as a large suburb in search of its city, so its downtown is still mostly business with shopping and tourism spread out.
- If a suburb, what are the transport options into the city center? How far is the site from the city center?

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

Prices check via Kayak and Southwest (US Domestic only) on November 18, 2016 for December 1-5, 2016 (So, with advance planning, fares should be lower)

AKL to ABQ, one route shown at \$1,501 USD

BOS to ABQ, multiple routes shown from \$490 on Southwest, \$308 on Delta and Jet Blue

ORD/MDW to ABQ, multiple routes shown from \$460 on Southwest, \$358 United and Jet Blue

DFW/DAL to ABQ, multiple routes shown from \$350 on Southwest, and \$350 on American

DUB to ABQ, multiple routes shown from \$1,048

HEL to ABQ, multiple routes shown from \$1,056

LON to ABQ, multiple routes shown from \$1,191

LAX to ABQ, multiple routes shown from \$300 on Southwest, and other airlines.

MEL to ABQ, multiple routes shown from \$1,130 (USD)

- Is your closest airport a hub for a major carrier?
 - The Albuquerque International Sunport is a focus city for Southwest
- Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport?
 - No current international flights are regularly scheduled into the Sunport
- If not, where is the closest international airport?
 - We are located roughly equidistant between Phoenix, Denver and Dallas, and are connected to these, as well as LAX, O’Hare, and Salt Lake City.
- Which airlines service your airport?

- Southwest is the largest carrier
- United, American, Alaska, and Delta all have daily flights.
- Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?
 - There are direct flights from all US locations
 - Some international locations require a second connection.

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?

Our first choice hotel is located 8.6 miles from the Albuquerque International Sunport and 2.4 miles from the Alvarado Transit Center (Amtrak station). Our second choice hotel is located 7.0 miles from the Albuquerque International Sunport and 7.2 miles Alvarado Transit Center (Amtrak Station). While Albuquerque Ride has bus routes to both hotels, a taxi would be recommended. Once we start talking to hotels in the next year or so, we may have better transportation information.

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

First choice: The Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town

- How many rooms?
 - 188 rooms including 20 junior suites
- How many Singles/Doubles/Kings?
 - Unknown at this time
- What other types of rooms are available?
 - 20 junior suites
 - Other premium suites, including a presidential suite
- How many are handicap accessible?
 - Unknown at this time
- Are there any accessibility issues?
 - Unknown at this time. Hotel was built in the 1970s as a Sheraton property, but remodeled in the last 15 years (or more recently) by the current owners, so should be at least officially ADA compliant.

Note that the owners are building a brand new hotel adjacent which may be used for additional rooms.

Second choice: Albuquerque Marriott

- How many rooms?
 - 405 rooms, 6 suites
- How many Singles/Doubles/Kings?
 - Unknown at this time
- What other types of rooms are available?
 - Unknown at this time
- How many are handicap accessible?
 - Unknown at this time
- Are there any accessibility issues?
 - Unknown at this time. Hotel is the current home of Bubonicon, so these issues can be easily learned about well before the convention

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

The Hotel Albuquerque has a 3,796 square foot ballroom, and 3 1,80 square foot break out rooms, or a larger ballroom (14,000 Square foot total) half of which can be configured to provide similar rooms. All of the function space is on the ground floor, with level floors – some uneven tile

The Albuquerque Marriott has an 8,236 square foot ballroom and some other nearby rooms which can probably be configured to work. As this is the current home of Bubonicon, the local con-running community has experience in placing panels and other functions in this space and can assist with making it work. All of the function space is on the ground floor and has no access issues.

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

The Hotel Albuquerque is located adjacent to Historic Old Town Plaza, which has numerous restaurants and shops, many in walking distance. Closest restaurants include Garduno's of Mexico (on site), Little Anita's (New Mexican), and Blake's Lota Burger (fast food) – all local New Mexico chains.

The Albuquerque Marriott is located in the heart of the Uptown shopping district, across the street from The Winrock Town Center and very near Albuquerque Uptown and Coronado Center, all ripe with (mostly national chain) restaurants. Closest restaurants include Jason's Deli, Buca di Bepo, BJ's Brewhouse, and Romano's Macaroni Grill.

What are the policies/laws regarding smoking at your:

- Hotel(s): Both hotels are fully non-smoking
- Convention Center: n/a
- City: Restaurants and bars do not allow smoking inside. No smoking within 15 feet of building entrances.

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

Weather is likely to be cool but sunny, however wind, rain and even snow are a real possibility in early December. However, if snow occurs it is likely to be less than 2 inches and will be gone shortly (but may well shut the city down until it is gone). Average high for December is 46°F (8°C) with an average low of 27°F (-3°C).

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

- Old Town Plaza
- New Mexico Natural History Museum
- Albuquerque Museum
- Anderson-Abruzzo Balloon Museum
- National Museum of Nuclear Science & History
- Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway
- Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
- Maxwell Museum of Anthropology
- National Hispanic Cultural Center

Who is on your committee?

We are just getting started. At this point the committee is Ron Oakes, Tara Oakes. We're looking for help both locally and elsewhere. However, when the bid was announced at

the November Albuquerque Science Fiction Association meeting, the idea was well received.

- If known, who will be the chair of the convention?
 - Ron Oakes is the expected chair.
- What experience do they have?
 - Chair of 2 DuckKons in the Chicago area (2000 and 2001), 2 Conjectures in the San Diego area (2011 and 2013), and Westercon 68 / Conjecture 13 in San Diego.

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

- Do you have a corkage waiver and a forklage waiver?
 - We will start formal negotiations with hotels in late 2017 or 2018.

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

Not yet, but we intend to have one modeled on ones currently in place for other similar events.

- If so, what is it?
- If not, do you intend to have one?

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

We will discuss discounts for various groups, as well as continuing the recent SMOFCon trend of the non-programming membership for spouses and other family members who are traveling with a member, but not attending main programming.