

SMOFCON 2016
FANNISH INQUISITION QUESTIONNAIRE – SMOFCON 2017 BIDS

- Name of Bid

Smofcon 35

- What are the proposed dates for which you are bidding?

November 30, 2017-December 3, 2017

- Does your proposed Smofcon have a theme?

Not at the current time, but we expect to have one.

- What is your proposed convention host city?

Boston, Massachusetts (downtown / Back Bay)

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

Our site would be the Back Bay Hilton, which is in the Back Bay of Boston, adjacent to the Sheraton Boston and Hynes Convention Center. This is in the heart of Boston.

- If a suburb, what are the transport options into the city center? How far is the site from the city center?

NA

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

All airfare estimates are based on Thursday flight to Boston and a Monday return in the fall as reported by Skyscanner.net, all prices in USD.

Auckland, NZ - Boston, MA \$1766
Chicago, IL, USA - Boston, MA \$210
Dallas, TX, USA - Boston, MA \$272
Dublin, IRE - Boston, MA \$507
Helsinki, FIN - Boston, MA \$615
London, UK - Boston, MA \$440
Los Angeles, CA, USA - Boston, MA \$337
Melbourne, VIC, AUS - Boston, MA \$1196

- 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. Green Airport in Providence, RI is a train ride away and may be a cheaper airport from some destinations.

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

Yes.

- If not, where is the closest international airport?

NA

- Which airlines service your airport?

Many airlines including Aer Lingus, Aeromexico, Air Berlin, Air Canada, Air Europa, Air France, Alaska Airlines, Alitalia, American Airlines, Azores Airlines, British Airways, Cape Air, Cathay Pacific, Copa Airlines, Delta, El Al, Emirates, Eurowings, Hainan Airlines, Iberia, Icelandair, Japan Airlines, JetBlue, Lufthansa, Norwegian, PenAir, Porter, Qatar Airways, Scandinavian Airlines, Southwest, Spirit, Sun Country Airlines, Swiss, TAP Portugal, Thomas Cook Airlines, Turkish Airlines, United, Virgin America, Virgin Atlantic, WestJet, and WOW Air.

- 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?

It's a T subway ride away from Logan Airport (Airport Blue Line to Green Line or Airport Silver Line to Red Line to Green Line). The Silver Line is current free from the Airport. Returning to the airport or taking the Blue line is \$2.75 (or \$2.25 if you have a CharlieCard). The T subway stop is about 2 blocks from the hotel. http://www.mbta.com/riding_the_t/logan/

The taxi fare to / from Logan Airport is about \$30 by taxi.

Back Bay Station (Amtrak) is about 0.6 miles away; the walk can be done mostly indoors through connected malls.

South Station (Amtrak) is about 2 miles away; the taxi fare would be about \$20; the T fare would be \$2.75 (or \$2.25 if you have a CharlieCard).

Super Shuttle does not seem to run in Boston.

There is also both Uber and Lyft.

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

The Boston Back Bay Hilton.

- How many rooms?

11/30: 35

12/1: 90

12/2: 90

12/3: 35

- How many Singles/Doubles/Kings?

We will have a mix of Kings and Double-Doubles.

- What other types of rooms are available? How many are handicap accessible?

There is one suite in the hotel which we have reserved. There are three fully-accessible rooms.

- Are there any accessibility issues?

No, it's a newer hotel.

- What are your hotel room rates?

\$149 Single/Double, \$169 Triple, \$189 Quad.

- Do these rates include breakfast?

No. There are cheap eats locally,

- Do they include internet in the room?

Yes.

- How firm are these rates?

Firm - we are prepared to sign a contract we've already negotiated if Boston wins the Smofcon 2017 bid.

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

The entire convention (except Consuite) will take place on the 2nd floor of the Hilton. We have all of the second floor space (except Mariner and Copley). We have space from Friday morning through Sunday afternoon.

Floor Plan



Second Floor

Room Name	Total Sq. Ft.	Dimensions	Classroom	Theater	Banquet 10	Reception	Conference	U-Shape	H-Square
Belvidere Ballroom	2,800	40.00' x 70.00'	200	320	250	400	-	-	-
Belvidere & Westminster	3,800	n/a	250	400	310	550	-	-	-
Board Room	400	n/a	-	-	12	-	12	-	-
Copley	500	18.00' x 28.00'	24	50	40	45	20	24	27
Mariner	500	18.00' x 28.00'	24	50	40	45	20	24	27
Maverick A & B	1,872	18.00' x 78.00'	75	175	140	200	0	50	60
Maverick A & B-Maverick A	912	18.00' x 38.00'	40	80	60	75	35	30	36
Maverick A & B-Maverick B	960	18.00' x 40.00'	40	80	60	75	35	30	36
Pre-Assembly	1,080	32.00' x 34.00'	-	-	-	120	-	-	-
Pre-Function	n/a	n/a	-	-	40	70	-	-	-
Salon A	1,720	40.00' x 43.00'	100	200	110	200	-	50	70
Salon B	1,080	27.00' x 40.00'	60	100	80	125	-	45	50
Westminster	1,000	28.00' x 36.00'	75	100	90	125	-	36	50

Our function space will be compact and everything will be easy to find.

- Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

The Boston restaurant scene is outstanding. Back Bay in particular has restaurants at all price levels. We're even on the same block as Summer Shack if you want a lobster in a casual atmosphere.

Just across the street from the Back Bay Hilton is the Prudential Center. The food court is in the process of being replaced by Eataly Boston (<https://www.eataly.com/>) and will be open in late 2016. In addition to the Eataly, a number of other restaurants are in the Prudential Center: http://www.prudentialcenter.com/dine_category.html

There are probably 100 restaurants within a mile of the Boston Back Bay. There is also a Trader Joe's and a 24-hour Star Supermarket nearby for those who prefer to do their own shopping.

Zagat's has rated dozens of restaurants just in the Back Bay: <https://www.zagat.com/c/boston-ma/back-bay-restaurants>

- What are the policies/laws regarding smoking at your
- Hotel(s):

The Back Bay Hilton is non-smoking.

- Convention Center:

NA

- City:

No smoking in indoor public areas, restaurants, bars or convention centers.

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

Variable - it tends to be cool, and we could have rain or snow. But it can also be in the 60s (F)/20s(C).

- 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.

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 on your committee?

Various members of MCFI and others TBD.

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

Laurie Mann (chair), Kris "Nchanter" Snyder (hotel).

- What experience do they have?

Laurie co-chaired Smofcon 30 in Philadelphia; Nchanter has chaired Arisia and has been Hotel Liaison for Arisia.

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

We will have a suite for Consuite with a corkage and forkage waiver. Consuite will have food and drink. We plan to have Consuite from Thursday evening through Sunday evening and

perhaps Monday morning. (I.E. We have Consuite for all four nights.) In order to fulfill our F&B minimums with the hotel we will probably have some snacks and drinks (using drink tickets) in Function Space in the evenings on Friday and Saturday.

- 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?

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 shortly.

- Are you planning to have any membership discounts for specific groups, such as young adults, military, seniors or families?
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We expect to have a special rate for non-fan family members, so they may go to the Consuite.