



## Convention Guidebook

1 Welcome to WisCon 45 in 2022	3
2 Statement of principles	7
<b>Policies</b>	<b>11</b>
3 Code of Conduct	11
4 General Policies	20
5 COVID-19 and WisCon 45	27
6 Access	34
<b>General Info</b>	<b>39</b>
7 Affordability	39
8 Bathrooms	41
9 Eating at WisCon	42
10 Keep in Touch with WisCon	44

	2
11 New to WisCon? _____	45
12 Parking _____	46
13 Registration and Info Desk _____	48
14 Shipping Items Home _____	49
15 Swimming _____	50
16 Taxi Vouchers _____	51
17 Tipping in the US _____	52
18 Volunteering and Donating _____	54
<b>Spaces</b> _____	<b>57</b>
19 Art Show _____	57
20 Con Suite _____	58
21 Dealers' Room _____	60
22 Green Room _____	61
23 Safer Spaces _____	62
24 Quiet Room _____	64

	3
25 Childcare/Kids' Programming _____	65
26 Teen Room _____	67
27 Dessert Salon _____	67
28 Gaming _____	69
29 Online Programming _____	71
30 Otherwise Auction _____	72
31 Spontaneous Programming _____	74
<b>WisCon and SF3 Committees _____</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Hours (Summary) _____</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Maps _____</b>	<b>83</b>

## 1 Welcome to WisCon 45 in 2022

Well, y'all, here we are: We are having a WisCon during an ongoing pandemic. The WisCon Convention Committee and all of the other committees that make up SF3, WisCon's parent nonprofit, welcome you to WisCon 45.

WisCon 45 is going to be unlike previous WisCons in many ways. (Did we mention the ongoing pandemic?) Shout-outs to our Online Con department, who have been working hard to make the con accessible to virtual attendees; and to our new COVID-19 Safety department, who have been helping us make the physical con safer for our in-person members.

Like every WisCon, we've done our best to include a wide range of ideas for you to explore and discuss. Like every WisCon, we want to offer a place where we can come together in community to share our anger, our fears, our faves of all kinds, and our hopes for the future. We remind you that there is power both in speaking and in listening, and that learning happens by listening.

We're grateful to the huge outpouring of support from the WisCon community that has made WisCon 45 possible at all: thank you to our donors, our volunteers, and everyone who has helped spread the word. Thanks to you, we are saving WisCon!

At the same time, we need you to know that things are just not going to run as smoothly this year as they did at our last in-person con: we're rebuilding institutional memory, running the con with a shortage of volunteer leadership, putting on a combination online and in-person event for the very first time, and those of us who have volunteered are just as tired as you are. **Whether you're attending online or in person, please be gentle with yourself, other WisCon members, WisCon volunteers, and the hotel staff.**

Moreover, WisCon does not tolerate harassment in any form. We are dedicated to providing a welcoming, enjoyable, harassment-free convention experience for all individuals, regardless of gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, race, ethnicity, physical appearance, body size, age, origin, or religion. **We do not tolerate racism in any form.** Convention participants violating these rules may be sanctioned or expelled from the convention without a refund at the discretion of the convention organizers.

A few additional reminders for our members:

- If a panel is not to your liking, exit via the blue aisles or close the Zoom room or stream.
- When a program has ended, please leave the (physical or virtual) room to continue the conversation elsewhere, as there's usually another panel ready to use the room.
- For folks attending in person:
  - Take a seat or stand against the back wall. Don't sit in the blue aisles by the doorway. These aisles enable all to move freely.
  - If you must share that idea or joke with your neighbor, write it down or use sign language. Side conversations make it impossible for some of us to hear the presenters.
  - Masks should be worn always while talking, and may be removed only briefly in between sips and bites. For meals, please try to do most of your eating outside, in your hotel room, or in designated spaces on the 6th floor (for members not staying at the Concourse).

- If you test positive for COVID-19 or you start exhibiting symptoms, please let us know using our reporting form ([wiscon.net/covid-report](https://wiscon.net/covid-report)) or by emailing [covid@wiscon.net](mailto:covid@wiscon.net).

Even though WisCon 45 may be a bit less polished than previous cons, we hope that however you attend, it's a fun and valuable experience for you. We invite you to share your thoughts with us: What did you love? What did you hate? Your input is invaluable, so please visit [wiscon.net/survey/](https://wiscon.net/survey/) between the end of the convention and June 30 to tell us what you think.

*Ira Alexandre, Kit Stubbs, and Aileen Wall*

*WisCon 45 Co-chairs*

## **2 Statement of principles**

This statement of Wiscon's mission and principles reflects our goals and ideals, and is intended to help guide our actions, even while recognizing that we will inevitably make mistakes and not always live up to those ideals.

WisCon has been a feminist science fiction convention since its founding in 1977. The focus of the convention has been the intersection between feminism and science fiction. This focus distinguishes WisCon from many other science fiction conventions, and has been a major reason why WisCon has grown, developed, and flourished for so long, while some other conventions have had trouble staying vibrant.

Our focus includes science fiction, fantasy, and speculative literature of all sorts. Science fiction itself has been critiqued as a colonialist and imperialist genre, and in many ways this is true. But many of those influenced by it are dedicated to changing the genre to more accurately reflect the field's vital role in our society: envisioning positive futures for all people. WisCon's focus on science fiction has played an important role in the exploration of feminist futures: futures where people of all colors, and backgrounds flourish, where women's rights and women's contributions are valued, where gender is not



limited to one of two options, where no one is erased out of convenience, hidden discrimination, or outright bigotry.

Feminism, at its root, is the belief that women and men are equal, and the rejection of sexist beliefs and practices. We, as feminists, have come to realize that all forms of oppression are interrelated. Our practice of feminism is based on a belief in the social, political, and economic equality of all. Feminism is part of a larger constellation of movements seeking social, political, and economic equality for all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, class, sex, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, creed, ability, status, or belief.

Feminism is vital to WisCon's identity. Feminism itself has grown and changed over the decades, and WisCon has worked to reflect those changes. Since its inception, WisCon has worked to create a space for feminism and its consideration within the science fiction community.

At base, we recognize that a commitment to feminism means a commitment to social justice of all sorts — we might not be able to focus equally on every issue, but still we cannot pick and choose

which people deserve justice and which issues we are more comfortable with. We are called to be true to our principles, even (and especially) when they are unpopular.

WisCon's commitment to feminism is also reflected in our processes. Meetings, decision-making processes, program development, and guest of honor choice all reflect a commitment to feminist ideals of equality, respect for everyone's right to be heard, and the obligation to hold each other accountable for what we say. WisCon's commitment to feminist process means that we reject hierarchies of oppression, recognizing that "the need...to nurture each other is not pathological but redemptive." (paraphrased from Audre Lorde's essay, "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House," which can be found in her collection *Sister/Outsider*.)

For 45 years, WisCon has aimed high. By our long existence and commitment to our goals, we have changed the face of science fiction and we will continue to do so. When we make mistakes, we keep working to improve. WisCon's commitment to feminist science fiction

and feminist process is a commitment to ensuring that our future is not just for white, well-off, able-bodied, straight men, but rather includes everyone.

## Policies

### 3 Code of Conduct

WisCon is dedicated to working towards a harassment-free convention experience for all members, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, age, origin, religion, or class. We do not tolerate harassment, whether of WisCon members or of hotel staff and others in our community, in any form.

Educating ourselves and one another is our best hope of ensuring a harassment-free convention for everyone. We encourage WisCon members to hold one another accountable to the Code of Conduct and Statement of Principles, and to take the perspectives of others seriously when a disagreement arises. We expect participants to follow

convention rules at all venues, including those online, and convention-related social events.

### **Harassment:**

WisCon's definition of harassment may not necessarily align with legal definitions of harassment. Harassment includes: Verbal comments or displayed images that harmfully reinforce structures of oppression (related to gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age, religion, geographic origin, or class); deliberate intimidation; stalking; body policing (including gender policing in all bathrooms); unwelcome photography or recording; sustained disruption of talks or other events; inappropriate physical contact; and unwelcome sexual attention. Participants asked to stop any harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately. Exhibitors in the Dealer's Room, volunteers, and ConCom members are also subject to the anti-harassment policy.

Harassment does not include: respectful disagreement or critique in good faith. WisCon continues to welcome and appreciate the reading or performance of risky, transgressive material and the discussion of controversial ideas.

WisCon recognizes that codes of conduct can themselves be used to perpetrate abuse. In particular, they often function to accuse people of color—especially Black women—of “threatening” and/or “intimidating” behavior in public spaces. WisCon’s effort to value the contributions and participation of all our members means that **the weaponization of this code to deride, silence, and police others will be considered a violation of this policy.**

### **Incidents at WisCon:**

If a participant engages in harassing behavior at the convention, the Con Chairs and pre-selected ConCom members (with or without consultation with Safety and/or the Anti-Abuse Team) may take any action they deem appropriate, including warning the offender or expulsion from the convention (with no refund). If you are being

harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please contact Safety on duty and/or a member of the ConCom immediately. At the convention, ConCom members can be identified by badges, lanyards, stickers, or buttons (this may vary from convention to convention), while Safety team members wear neon vests. You can also use Safety's online reporting form ([wiscon.net/safety-report](https://wiscon.net/safety-report)), email ([safety@wiscon.net](mailto:safety@wiscon.net)), or call (608) 957-7234 to file harassment reports at any time, including after the convention has ended. General concerns about the climate at WisCon may also be directed to the Anti-Abuse Team ([antiabuse@wiscon.net](mailto:antiabuse@wiscon.net)). ConCom members will be happy to help participants contact hotel/venue security or local law enforcement, provide escorts, or otherwise assist those experiencing harassment to feel safe for the duration of the convention. Your participation makes WisCon what it is, and we'll do everything we can to honor it.

## Important Contact Information:

**WisCon Chairs:** chair@wiscon.net

**Anti-Abuse Team:** antiabuse@wiscon.net

**Safety:** [safety@wiscon.net](mailto:safety@wiscon.net)

Emergencies: 911

WisCon Safety On Call: (608) 957-7234

Madison Police (non-emergency): (608) 255-2345

Dane County Rape Crisis Line: (608) 251-7273

Mental Health Center of Dane County 24-hour Hotline: (608) 280-2600

**Union Cab:** (608) 242-2000

## Incidents outside of WisCon:

At times, concerns may be raised about members (or potential members) based on conduct that has occurred outside of WisCon that

may include gross violations of our policy and/or put members at risk, including:

1. Individuals who have not attended WisCon, but have a history of abusive behavior and/or known incidents that took place outside WisCon that may cause risks to a member's (or members') safety, or which may contribute to a hostile or non-inclusive climate at the convention.
2. WisCon members who have been reported to Safety for outside incidents, including (but not limited to) conduct at other conventions, threatening or abusive behavior online, or assault.

These may be individuals who may or may not have expressed interest in attending the convention, and for whom reports may or may not have been filed, but who have come to the attention of the ConCom's Anti-Abuse Team.

WisCon considers online behavior to be just as important as offline behavior. Doxing or outing, online harassment or stalking, or deliberately connecting a pseudonym with a wallet name are all



considered violations of our Code of Conduct and will be treated accordingly. These actions need not occur in WisCon-affiliated spaces (e.g., our blog) in order to be considered.

We understand that at times, our members will have disagreements or interpersonal conflicts that do not necessarily escalate to the point of harassment or abuse. *WisCon will not arbitrate feuds*; we ask that you please leave these conflicts at the door to the extent that you are able. If, however, conflicts escalate to the point that they 1) threaten member safety, or 2) violate our Code of Conduct or policies at the convention, the Anti-Abuse Team may become involved.

### **The Anti-Abuse Team:**

The AAT is a permanent ConCom department with the long-term goal of making WisCon safer and harassment-free for all members. The team should represent our diverse membership (e.g., including representation from Safety, Access, members of color, LGBTQ members), and may appoint ad-hoc members as needed (e.g., to replace a member with a conflict of interest, or in the events the team

lacks the background or perspectives relevant to address a particular case). The team also includes a Chair and a Secretary/Archivist to ensure continuity and transparency. The AAT may also appoint member-specific advocates on a case-by-case basis for reporters or reported members if requested.

Situations involving harassment are not always clear-cut. One of AAT's roles is to help WisCon members navigate the complexities when they ask for our assistance in doing so. We respond to all complaints on a case by case basis and take as much contextual information into account as we are able to do. If you disagree with or have questions about AAT's decisions or policies, you can write to us at [antiabuse@wiscon.net](mailto:antiabuse@wiscon.net). We will discuss your issue at our next meeting and respond as soon as we can.

### **Once a violation has been reported:**

Following the convention, the Anti-Abuse Team will review all reports in a timely manner, following the procedures outlined in our Code of Conduct. The AAT will also review all reports made throughout the

year, including general concerns about convention policies or climate brought to our attention (the AAT will document all concerns or informal reports about specific individuals with a formal report to Safety). All reports will be entered into a secure database with access limited to Safety chairs and relevant members of the AAT as deemed appropriate.

If the Anti-Abuse Team decides to take action (including but not limited to a preemptive ban, programming restrictions, volunteering restrictions, etc.), they will communicate all decisions to Safety, the co-Chairs, Registration, Programming, Volunteering, and any other relevant departments, and may notify the ConCom as a whole. On a case-by-case basis, the AAT may seek a vote or a review by the ConCom before finalizing a decision. The Anti-Abuse Team may also notify local law enforcement if necessary, and will work with Safety and other departments to be on alert during conventions.

Once the AAT's decision has been communicated to the relevant parties, all have the opportunity to appeal this decision with an email to SF3 ([board@sf3.org](mailto:board@sf3.org)), WisCon's parent organization.

## 4 General Policies

WisCon's Code of Conduct outlines our general expectations for all convention members. In addition, we'd like to highlight the following specific rules. Disregard for these rules, or for local law, will result in sanctions, potentially including expulsion from the convention and involvement of law enforcement.

**Animals:** The only animals allowed in the Concourse are service animals.

**Badges:** Wear your badge at all times to access convention events or spaces. The replacement cost of a badge is the cost of a full membership. Please turn in any found badges to the Registration desk, and check there if you lose yours.

**Children:** Parents and adult guardians are responsible for children 17 and younger in their care, and for the child's behavior. All children 12 and under must be accompanied by a designated responsible adult at all times.

**Weapons:** Weapons of any nature, including believable nonworking replicas, are strictly prohibited.

**Photographs and recordings:** Always ask before taking any photographs or recordings, and obtain explicit permission of everyone appearing in any photo or recording prior to sharing anywhere online. You are responsible for clearing any and all rights and permissions for any use you make of any photographs or recordings.

**Posting Signs:** Signs are not allowed on windows, doors, elevators, any painted surfaces, or on any walls on the first floor. Signs found in these spaces will be removed and discarded. Please use only blue painters' tape to post signs; tape is available from the Registration desk. If you'd like to post a sign on the first floor, please use the bulletin boards provided for the purpose.

**Sleeping:** Sleeping in the public areas of the hotel is prohibited. If you need a space to rest between events, please make use of the Quiet Space on the Second Floor or ask our Safety team for assistance. If you find yourself at WisCon with nowhere safe to sleep at night, please contact the Safety team, who will work with the Chairs to help you.

**Floor Access:** Only Concourse Hotel guests with room keys are able to access floors 3-5 and 7-10 by elevator or the main stairs. There is no room key restriction to reach the first, second, or sixth floors; all WisCon members can access all WisCon programs, spaces, and events without a key.

## Guidelines

**Pronouns:** WisCon expects all our members to show respect for others by using the correct pronouns to refer to them—and by not making assumptions about what pronoun to use based on their appearance. If you do not know what pronoun to use, it is better to ask than to use the wrong pronoun.

We have pronoun stickers available for badges. These stickers are **totally optional**. If you choose, you can put one on your badge to let people know what pronoun to use when referring to you. If a sticker with your pronoun is not available, you can email [registration@wiscon.net](mailto:registration@wiscon.net) to request one be printed.

**Book Signing:** Please plan to ask authors to sign books only at the end of their scheduled readings or at the SignOut, a Monday morning event designed specifically for this. We want to give as many people as possible the chance to have their books signed, so if many people are waiting in line for a particular author, we may limit the number of books that you may ask an author to sign at one time.

**Cell Phones:** All program items are cell-phone silent zones.

**Lost & Found:** Turn in or check for items at the hotel front desk and at the Registration Desk in the second floor lobby. Lost & found items are donated or discarded at the end of the convention.

## Emergencies and Safety

WisCon's Safety Team is available to assist members with all matters of safety as well as possible Code of Conduct violations. You can spot members of the Safety Team by their yellow or orange high-visibility vests. If no Safety Team member is nearby, please call the Safety phone number on the back of your badge, or ask the Registration Desk, the hotel desk, or anyone wearing an "Ask Me" button to call Safety on your behalf.

Safety can be reached at all times during the convention at (608) 957-7234. You can also use the online Safety reporting form:

[wiscon.net/safety-report](http://wiscon.net/safety-report)

**911:** In the US this is the number to call for emergency services, including ambulance, fire, and police. You can dial 911 from any hotel phone.

**Fire:** If no one has yet sounded an alarm, that means you should. Then, use the stairs to evacuate—do not use the elevators! If you are unable to use the stairs, wait against the wall outside the nearest



stairwell for first responders to assist you. If you are a person who might need assistance during an emergency, you can leave your name and room number at the hotel's front desk. They will keep a list of rooms for first responders to check during any emergencies.

**Valuables:** If you are concerned about the security of your valuables, contact the hotel staff about storing them in the hotel safe.

## Privacy Policy

WisCon and its parent organization, SF3, are strongly committed to protecting your privacy and the security of your personal information.

You will need to supply an email address at *reg.wiscon.net* to register for WisCon, and this creates an account with the same email at *program.wiscon.net*. Depending on your needs and interests we may also require a name, badge name, and/or mailing address.

WisCon uses third party credit card processing companies to process payment transactions. When using such a third party processing company, WisCon will not have access to your credit card data;

however, the payment may include personal information such as name, email address, telephone number, and billing address.

We will not share your personal information with anyone outside the organization. If you opt-in, we may use your email address or mailing address to send you information about WisCon or SF3.

## **Sustainability**

WisCon is committed to the environment and dedicated to sustainability. As an event that draws attendees from all over the world, WisCon's carbon footprint is significant. To help offset that footprint, we implement energy-efficiency and waste-reduction measures, and we encourage our members to purchase carbon offsets if they are able.

## **Ask Me! Buttons**

If you have questions during the convention, you can look for people wearing the "**Ask me!**" buttons. These people are members of the

convention planning committee and should be able to answer your question, help you directly, or direct you to someone who can.

## 5 COVID-19 and WisCon 45

While we are excited to gather together in person once again, we also recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing. We hope to have as safe an in-person convention as possible, and so have a number of health and safety policies intended to reduce the risk of transmission in convention spaces.

Visit <http://wiscon.net/covid-19-and-wiscon-2022/> for more information on the policies described here.

### Vaccination

Everyone attending the convention—including members, vendors, and any contractors—must be up to date on their COVID vaccines two weeks before the con starts. **Up to date** means a person has received all recommended doses in their primary series of COVID-19 vaccine; and for individuals 12 and older, one booster dose if their primary

series was completed more than six months before the con. We are not requiring boosters for kids ages 5-11.

Because vaccines are not available for children under 5, we are not allowing children under 5 to attend WisCon this year.

## **Mask Policy**

Everyone attending WisCon must wear a well-fitting mask that covers their mouth, nose, and chin at all times while in public areas of the hotel and in convention spaces, with limited exceptions for eating or drinking (described below).

Cloth or surgical masks meet this requirement, but we strongly encourage members to wear N95 masks, or masks with similar fit and filtration quality (KN95, etc.). If your mask does not fit properly, you will be asked to adjust it; those who refuse to do so, or refuse to wear a mask entirely, will be asked to leave the convention and may be subject to a ban.

We recognize that masks present an accessibility barrier: they are difficult to wear for some, and make lip reading impossible. If you cannot tolerate wearing a mask, we encourage you to attend online. In-person panelists will be required to keep masks on during their panels. If you anticipate that the mask requirement will increase your need for CART captioning, you can request captioning and/or ASL using our Google Form. You can also contact our Access department directly ([access@wiscon.net](mailto:access@wiscon.net)).

## **Eating and Drinking**

With limited exceptions, eating and drinking is not allowed in convention spaces. The hotel bar and restaurant will be open, however; for those unfamiliar with the Concourse hotel, the hotel restaurant is open to the lobby of the hotel, and the entrance to the hotel bar is proximate to the elevator bank.

We recognize that some of our members may need to eat and drink while participating in programming, to manage health needs. For this reason, members may remove masks for long enough to take a bite of

food or sip of a beverage, but masks must be replaced between bites or sips, and absolutely nobody should talk without a mask on.

We will not be policing people's health requirements with respect to this policy. However, we ask all members to be considerate of others when considering whether this exception applies to you, and refrain from eating or drinking in public indoor spaces if you can do so comfortably.

Please consider eating outside; or, if you're staying at the Concourse, we ask that you take food back to your room to eat. **Rooms 627 and 629 are available as spaces to eat** for any members for whom that's not possible (except when those rooms are used for parties in the late evening).

## Testing

We do not require members to test for COVID-19 either before or during the convention this year. However, we encourage members to test prior to WisCon if you are able to do so, and to also bring a supply of rapid tests with you if you have access to them.

Information about testing sites in Madison can be found on the Public Health Madison & Dane County website:

<https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/testing/testing-sites>.

We also have a limited number of rapid tests available to distribute to WisCon members; if you believe you have been exposed and need access to a test, send an email to [covidsafety@wiscon.net](mailto:covidsafety@wiscon.net); tests can be delivered within the hotel, or picked up at the hotel entrance.

**If you test positive for COVID-19 during WisCon** (or prior to the convention without enough time to fully recover) **you are expected to self-isolate** whether or not you exhibit symptoms, and you may not enter convention spaces or congregate with other convention members. We also expect members to refrain from entering convention spaces if they have symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19 and do not have another cause (e.g. pre-existing seasonal allergies). Our COVID-19 Safety Committee will coordinate with anyone who reports a positive case, to ensure members have the support they need to self-isolate.

Gathering during a pandemic requires mutual trust. Anyone who knowingly participates in the in-person convention despite a positive test or COVID-19 symptoms violates that trust.

If you test positive for COVID-19 during WisCon or within 14 days afterwards, please fill out our case report form: [wiscon.net/covid-report](https://wiscon.net/covid-report). We will share information about any positive cases with all in-person members (anonymized, unless a member asks us to share their identity publicly).

If you are not able to participate in WisCon this year due to COVID-19 (or for any other reason) your membership can be refunded or deferred to next year.

### **How these plans may change**

The WisCon ConCom and the SF3 Board continue to monitor the ongoing COVID-19 situation, both in general and specifically in Madison. If there is a public health order in Dane County (where Madison is located) that prohibits events of WisCon's size from taking place indoors or in-person, or if we determine during the convention



that it is no longer safe to gather in person, we will pivot to fully online programming, events, and spaces. In this event, we plan to maintain our full schedule of panels, readings, and other programming, to the extent that panelists are able to participate virtually.

### **Air filtration**

To improve the safety of convention spaces, WisCon has acquired air filtration units for most rooms in use. While these may be turned off during panels or readings (depending on noise levels), they will be run during all programming breaks to help ensure "turnover" of filtered air in each space.

### **A note on the hotel and Madison**

WisCon members are not the only people who move through the hotel over the Memorial Day long weekend, and this will be especially true with a smaller in-person convention. WisCon cannot enforce mask wearing by non-members. The hotel does not require vaccination of guests or employees. These policies are not within WisCon's power to change.

To stay up to date on the status of COVID-19 cases and vaccination in Madison and Dane County, visit Public Health Madison and Dane County: <https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/>.

If you have questions or need support, you can contact our COVID-19 safety team at [covidsafety@wiscon.net](mailto:covidsafety@wiscon.net).

## **6 Access**

The Access Services offered by WisCon are informed by universal design and disability rights activism. Universal design benefits people of all ages and abilities, by making schedules, communications, and the physical environment usable by as many people as possible. We strive to create an event that works for members in all our physical and mental variety. We must balance that goal against limited fiscal resources, the paradox that sometimes one member's accommodation is another member's barrier, and an entirely volunteer work force. We always welcome discussion exploring how we can better accommodate our members.

Information on WisCon's ongoing commitment to disability access and potential remaining barriers is provided on the Accessibility Policies page of the WisCon website, at [wiscon.net/policies/accessibility/](http://wiscon.net/policies/accessibility/)

Given the reality that sometimes one member's accommodation may be another member's barrier, as well as other limitations, we may not be able to accommodate every accessibility request. However, if you communicate a particular concern or request to [access@wiscon.net](mailto:access@wiscon.net) prior to the convention, we will do our best to find solutions and will let you know as soon as possible whether we will be able to accommodate your request. We may be less able to accommodate a request that is made in the last few weeks before the convention, or at the convention itself.

## **Allergy Alerts**

WisCon is unable to make the convention completely allergen-free. Those who are allergic to peanuts and tree nuts may want to avoid the Con Suite and the Dessert Salon – we do our best to provide allergen lists for food in the Con Suite and the Dessert Salon, but despite our

best efforts we may miss something and we want you to be safe. This year both the Con Suite and Dessert Salon involve only packaged take-away food items.

## **Guest of Honor Speeches Accommodations**

WisCon makes seats available for members who need to sit near the front. CART services (Communication Access Realtime Translation, also known as live captioning) will be provided. This is intended to provide greater access to members who are hard of hearing, d/Deaf, or otherwise can benefit from captioning services.

## **Blue Tape Zones**

Blue masking tape is the Access Team's signature. Blue squares on the floor mark wheelchair parking in program rooms. If you move an extra chair into one of these spaces when no one in a wheelchair is using it, please remove it when you leave. Zigzag blue tape marks fire aisles so all may move freely if needed; don't linger there. The blue-bedecked chairs at the front of rooms are for people who need to be close in order to hear or see. Use them if your body needs them.

## **Medical Conditions**

WisCon recommends writing any pertinent medical information on the back of your badge.

## **Stress-free Areas**

The Quiet Space is a second-floor haven between Conference Rooms 2 and 3. Up to six members can share the comfy chairs and footstools, catch their breath, listen to their heartbeat, and meditate. If there's someone waiting for a space, please yield yours after 30 minutes.

The calmest programming is usually the Readings track, where you can sit back and listen to writers share their works.

The Art Show on the first floor is a good place to stare off into the middle distance, contemplate fascinating art in many media, and talk only if you want to. It is less crowded during programming blocks.

The Dessert Salon and SignOut both have definite start times. Some people enjoy chatting in long lines before such events, but these lines are entirely optional. We do invite anyone who needs extra time to

accommodate mobility needs to come to the front of the line at either event.

## **Breastfeeding and Breastmilk Pumps**

WisCon welcomes breastfeeding anywhere in the convention. If you use a breastmilk pump, there are several options open to you within the hotel and convenient to programming spaces.

If you are looking for a space closer to your next panel, any room not currently in use for programming is available, though those may lack a sink. Just check the schedule outside the door, and be aware that hotel staff may enter to reset the room or replenish water. The Concourse also has a dedicated Lactation Room on the third floor, though you may find that is too distant from the rest of the convention. If none of these options are suitable for you, please stop by the Registration desk on the second floor or ask any Safety person on duty, and they will guide you to somewhere you will be comfortable and that suits your needs.

# General Info

## 7 Affordability

WisCon aims to encourage a conversation that includes a diversity of voices from a wide variety of backgrounds. Class background and socio-economic status are two factors that impact the ways in which we see both our own world and the speculative fiction universes we've come to WisCon to discuss.

Over the last few years, we have worked to weave together a variety of policies and practices designed to help lower economic barriers to attending and participating in WisCon, with the goals both of getting more people and voices to the convention, as well as making the convention more affordable to all members.

WisCon works to find ways to make attending WisCon more affordable, and to help communicate the options available to help you meet your budget. We welcome your ideas about how we might

achieve this goal. Got a good one? Email [affordability@wiscon.net](mailto:affordability@wiscon.net) and let us know!

While at the con, be sure to visit the Con Suite Grab and Go Room if you need an easy, affordable snack or to pick up a meal voucher.

Looking for a room-share or a ride-share? Check out the Message Board in the 2nd floor lobby.

Learn more about Friends of Dennis at [FriendsofDennis.org](http://FriendsofDennis.org). While there, peruse discussions about class and classism from prior cons, and more.

## **WisCon's Member Assistance Fund**

Every year, WisCon has a certain amount of funds available to assist our members, based on the level of donations during the previous year.

We announce the Member Assistance Fund application period on [wiscon.net](http://wiscon.net), in our email newsletter, and on social media. If financial assistance to attend WisCon would make the difference for you or



someone you know, we invite you to nominate yourself or others during the next Member Assistance Fund application period.

Please send any questions or comments to [fund@wiscon.net](mailto:fund@wiscon.net).

## 8 Bathrooms

WisCon wishes to be very clear that we support all peoples' right to use the restroom they consider appropriate.

We are working with the hotel to expand the availability of all-gender bathrooms during the convention. In the meantime, WisCon members are expected to be mindful that restroom decisions are both personal and not up for debate. Any inappropriate behavior in restrooms should be reported to Safety; harassment of individuals will not be tolerated. Please see the Code of Conduct for further guidance.

Single-occupancy all-gender bathrooms are in the following locations: in Conference 1 on the 2nd floor (panels may be taking place here but you are welcome to enter to use the restroom); and on the 6th floor between rooms 627 and 629.

## 9 Eating at WisCon

The cheapest way to eat at WisCon is to use the Con Suite on the sixth floor. Due to the pandemic the Con Suite will be limited to Grab & Go food items this year, but we've created a voucher program so that WisCon can provide free hot meals to our members who are attending on a budget. More information about both Grab & Go and vouchers appears in the Con Suite section of this Guidebook.

If you'd like to venture outside of the convention's spaces, there are many possibilities! The closest restaurant is **CIRC**, the Concourse's in-house restaurant, which currently serves breakfast (7am-10:30am) and lunch (11am-2pm). **The Bar** also offers food from 4pm-10pm daily. Both CIRC and The Bar accept WisCon meal vouchers. If you're in need of a caffeine fix or a quick pastry product, there's a **Starbucks** attached to the hotel lobby.

The Concourse sells a **discount card** good for use for the entire weekend for \$10 at the hotel front desk; the card qualifies you for

20% off at CIRC, The Bar, and for any room service fees. The discount card does not apply to Starbucks purchases.

If you have **SNAP benefits** (called **FoodShare** in Wisconsin—cards from all fifty states work here) you can also use your card at the farmer's market on the Capitol Square on Saturday morning. Go to the Information Booth (on the State Street corner, open 7am to 1pm) to buy their scrip, which you can use at any farmer's market booth; some vendors even offer deals for SNAP shoppers. If you have scrip left over, you can turn it back in for credit to your card.

We encourage everyone who plans to go to local restaurants to eat outside if at all possible, to reduce the chances of COVID-19 transmission.

The following restaurants are near the Concourse. They offer outdoor seating and gluten-free options:

- Ian's Pizza: located on State Street, vegan options (WisCon meal vouchers accepted)
- Cooper's Tavern: located on the Capitol Square, few vegan options

- Canteen: located on the Capitol Square, vegan options
- BelAir Cantina: located on the Capitol Square, few vegan options
- DLUX: located on the Capitol Square, few vegan options
- Great Dane Pub & Brewing Co: located just off the Capitol Square
- Parthenon Gyros: located on State Street
- Short Stack Eatery: located on State Street, vegan options
- Milio's Sandwiches: located just off the Capitol Square has gluten free options but no designated outdoor seating; Capitol Square itself is a public park that you could eat at.

## 10 Keep in Touch with WisCon

This WisCon may end on Memorial Day, but crafting next year's WisCon begins the day before. How can you keep a firm handle on this time paradox? If you follow WisCon online there's a good chance we can hold onto this shared reality together. And also you'll always be the first to know WisCon news!

- Read our blog and email newsletter for all announcements and the most up-to-date information: [wiscon.net/news/](http://wiscon.net/news/)
- Follow us on Twitter and Instagram: @wisconsf3
- Friend us on Facebook: [facebook.com/WisCon](https://facebook.com/WisCon)

And don't forget to update your mailing address in your account at [program.wiscon.net](http://program.wiscon.net) if you'd like to receive our occasional paper mailings!

## 11 New to WisCon?

If you're new to WisCon: welcome! We know that attending a convention for the first time can be overwhelming, so we have a few resources tailored to help make it easier to get your bearings:

- On Discord, the channel #first-time-at-wiscon is for everyone who's new to ask questions and meet other new attendees.
- At the Gathering, there will be a table where new folks can make plans to go out for dinner together (there will be a list of a few restaurants with outdoor seating).

- Check out the panel "**Welcome to WisCon, Especially if It's Your First**" on Friday at 7:30 pm, and bring all your questions!
- Read through this Con Guidebook! A lot of information about the convention is buried in these pages.

And if you have questions, don't hesitate to ask any member of WisCon staff, in person or on Discord!

## 12 Parking

The Concourse Hotel uses an automated parking system. The cost is \$15/night for hotel guests, which can either be paid in cash or with your hotel bill. Non-guests may not be allowed into the Concourse's garage, depending on how full the hotel is! You can also unload in the garage, then park in the city ramp kitty-corner to the Concourse. Note: clearance in the Concourse ramp varies between 6.3" and just 5'6"! If you own a full-size van or a similarly tall vehicle, you can call the hotel and order a meter bag as an alternative. It's \$18/day, and will reserve a meter for the vehicle. These are first come, first serve. The "bagged

meters” will be on the 200-block of Wisconsin Avenue, which is kitty-corner to the Concourse. The Concourse recommends ordering this several weeks in advance, because it takes a while to process the request with the city. Additional parking for vans and other vehicles is available in the public parking ramp a half-block down Dayton St. at Carroll St.

The City Ramp across from the Concourse is is \$1.20 per hour (\$1.80 metered), to a max of \$8 a day on nights and weekends (after 6pm Monday-Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday). Clearances in the city ramp are 6’8”, and there are 21 disabled placard/plate parking spots in the ramp as well.

Disabled placard/plate parking is available on-street across the street from the Concourse, at the city ramp, or under the Concourse, before the gate. In Wisconsin, cars with placards/plates also park at metered spots (on the street or at the city ramp) for free.

**Note:** There are several spots reserved for WisCon in the Concourse garage. These are so that our Con Suite folks can unload food without having to pay for parking and lug heavy food a long way to elevators. Please be kind and only use these spots if you are given permission by Con Chairs to do so.

## 13 Registration and Info Desk

### *Second Floor Lobby & Conference 1*

Visit Registration to ask directions, report a problem, or solicit advice. We'll be happy to find the answers or point you in the correct direction, and we are always happy to connect you with our Safety team.

Visit the big bulletin board near the Registration Desk, with plenty of pushpins and index cards nearby, in order to find a ride-share, connect with friends, or publicize Spontaneous Programs. There is also a craft table where you can decorate your badge (but not the holder, please—we re-use them)!



Badge pick-up starts Thursday evening. Membership purchases—including one-day badges—are available starting Friday morning.

This year you must show proof of vaccination prior to picking up a badge or purchasing a membership. For this reason, you cannot pick up someone else's badge.

## 14 Shipping Items Home

*2nd Floor*

**Note: as of press time, we cannot confirm that packing and shipping services will be available.**

Packing and shipping services will be available on **Monday** to ship your art show and dealers' room purchases home safely. Labeling and billing materials will be available for self-checkout earlier in the day, and a shipping clerk will be available from **Noon-3pm** to assist you.

The UPS Store are professional packers who choose the best carrier for your shipment based on its weight, dimensions, and its destination

zip code. You do not need to provide a box for your materials. They will package all items at their retail store, and will not bring packing materials to the convention.

It is more economical to ship to a business rather than to a residential address. To qualify for commercial rates, the business must be in a commercial building. All private carriers include tracking and \$100 of insurance. We highly recommend going with that type of carrier. For more information about The UPS Store, call (608) 833-7447.

## **15 Swimming**

### *Third Floor*

Because the pool is necessarily a mask-free space, we encourage members to think carefully about using it this year. If you do make use of the pool, be especially mindful of COVID-19 safety precautions, and consider going when it is less busy. Partly because of the risk of COVID-19 transmission, we do not have a WisCon-sponsored lifeguard during set hours this year.

The pool is open until 11PM. The Concourse uses a bromine sanitation system, which is more effective, has fewer byproducts, a less pungent smell, and is less irritating to skin than chlorine. Be sure to take your Concourse room key with you to access the third floor's pool area and fitness center.

## 16 Taxi Vouchers

So that convention members not staying at the Concourse are able to leave safely and affordably after the buses stop running, WisCon makes taxi vouchers available at the Concourse front desk or from members of our Safety team. We will pay the cost of your cab from the Concourse, but please remember to tip your driver!

If the Concourse front desk is out of vouchers, please contact the Safety team, who will always have them available.

Union Cab vouchers are good for travel Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights between the hours of 10:30pm–4:30am for a ride from the Concourse Hotel to any destination within the Madison city limits. To

redeem a voucher, call 608-242-2000 or book through their website at unioncab.com. Please let the operator know you have a voucher when you call.

**Note:** Due to a decrease in their weekend fleet size, you may have a very long wait. We have also learned that Union Cab does not require masking by drivers or passengers.

## 17 Tipping in the US

WisCon relies on volunteers, wait staff, cleaning services, bell people...we could go on. Please be kind and respectful of all of the hours of paid and unpaid labor that goes into making your WisCon experience exceptional.

Tip your **bartender, barista, wait staff, shuttle driver**, and your **room service delivery person**. The Concourse is Madison's only unionized hotel, but that does not mean that any of the people working hard to make sure our convention is clean, convenient, and safe are

paid well. Please help contribute to a culture of mutual respect and tip as well as your finances allow.

**Bell staff** are generally tipped \$1-\$2 per bag, and up to \$5 for heavy bags.

The **cleaning person** who cleans up your room should be tipped.

These workers' wages are low in part because their employers assume their income will be supplemented with tips. A good guideline for the Midwest is to leave \$3 on the desk with a note stating it is "for the housekeeper" each morning. If you throw a party in your room, your room is unusually messy, or you've received exceptional service, it would be appropriate to leave more. It's also a good idea to add another dollar or two per sleeping bag.

If you **cannot afford to tip**, you can request that hotel staff not clean up your room. Do this by keeping the Do Not Disturb sign up, or by speaking with the staff at the hotel's front desk. You can also limit the work that the cleaning staff need to do by picking everything up off the floor, piling dirty towels on the counter so they have less

bending/stooping to do, and neatening your room yourself before you leave it for the day.

## 18 Volunteering and Donating

Thank you to everyone who has donated time and money to help #SaveWisCon! We were thrilled to meet our goals in this campaign, but keeping WisCon sustainable isn't an event, it's an ongoing process. We need volunteers during WisCon 45 to make the convention a success, and your donations will help WisCon rebuild our finances after this con.

### **Volunteer: We need your help!**

WisCon can't happen without volunteers, both before and during the convention. If you possibly can, we ask that you give back to the WisCon community by volunteering a little of your time. Even a 1 or 2 hour shift makes a difference in sharing the load!

Visit [program.wiscon.net](http://program.wiscon.net) to sign up for volunteer shifts directly, or visit the Registration / Info Desk on the 2nd floor of the hotel to talk to

someone about which departments are looking for volunteers most urgently.

Everyone who volunteers, regardless of the amount of time they give, gets a special WisCon gift. You can claim the gift from the Registration desk—or if you're attending online, it will be mailed to you. Most importantly, you will be doing something to give back to a convention that provides so much to all of us.

## **Donate**

Thanks to the WisCon community, we raised over \$62,000 to help #SaveWisCon. Having fewer in-person attendees, while necessary due to COVID-19, has been a huge financial hit for us. Fortunately, thanks to your generous donations, we're able to start planning for WisCon 46 in 2023. That said: Our cash reserves have taken a big hit, and we will continue to rely on your donations to keep WisCon affordable and sustainable while maintaining the volume of programming, excellent accessible venue, and other aspects of the convention that we find valuable. We need your support to do so, particularly when it comes

to affordability, accessibility, and anti-racism initiatives. If you are able to donate to WisCon, we can make every penny count!

**General donations** are always welcome and are put toward everything we do to keep things going, from stamps to venue fees. General donations are also how we fund all of our accessibility initiatives, including captioning, blue tape, signs, and, of course, microphones; all of our affordability initiatives, including low-cost childcare, taxi vouchers, sixth floor room discounts, Con Suite snacks; and all of our anti-racism initiatives, including the work of our (new!) People of Color Outreach Committee.

**The WisCon Member Assistance Fund** is used to assist folks who wish to attend WisCon but are financially unable to do so. Recipients are nominated by the end of February each year, and funds are awarded at the beginning of every April. The WMAF is a restricted fund: all gifts to the WMAF can only be used for member assistance.



WisCon gratefully accepts donations online at [paypal.me/WisCon](https://paypal.me/WisCon), via our Registration system at [reg.wiscon.net](https://reg.wiscon.net), and by mail at WisCon, PO Box 1624, Madison, WI 53701.

## Spaces

### 19 Art Show

#### *Senate AB*

The WisCon Art Show focuses on art exploring themes related to SFF, feminism, and social justice, work by artists of marginalized genders, and work by Midwestern artists.

Friday evening, come meet the artists at the Art Show Preview from 6-7:30pm. You can buy artwork by bringing the tag or the item to the Art Show desk, where volunteers will ring up your purchase. (Take the tag to leave your purchased piece on display for others to view; you can bring the tag back to pick it up.) We also ask that you vote for your favorites on Friday and until 6pm Saturday—the Art Show honors are awarded Sunday morning.

Visit [wiscon.net/virtual-artshow](http://wiscon.net/virtual-artshow) for a gallery of featured art by WisCon artists. Please pick up purchased art by 11am Monday.

## 20 Con Suite

### *Room 638*

The Con Suite offers food and drink to all members as long as they're wearing a WisCon badge. We are committed to making sure your convention experience is fun, easy, and affordable.

Due to COVID-19, we are not serving full meals in the Con Suite this year. There will be Grab & Go items available in Room 638, as well as coffee, tea, and soda. Please consider eating outside; or, if you're staying at the concourse, we ask that you take food back to your room to eat. **Rooms 627 and 629 are available as spaces to eat** for any members for whom that's not possible (except when those rooms are used for parties in the late evening).

For members who depend on the Con Suite to help make WisCon affordable, we have created a new **voucher program** this year.

Restaurants listed on the voucher are accepting these as if they were case: hand one to the cashier when paying, and the restaurant will bill WisCon at the end of the weekend—note that the cashier may ask to see your WisCon badge.

Please don't hesitate to use the vouchers if they would make your con experience less stressful and more affordable! You can order whatever food or non-alcoholic drink you want; we don't want anyone struggling with affordability to feel less-than. If you're here with family members or you're out at a participating restaurant and someone else could use the assistance, multiple people can order on the same voucher.

If the cost of food isn't a big deal for you, but you're inviting a group of people to get together, consider going to one of the restaurants listed! That makes it easier for everyone to enjoy a meal together regardless of financial need.

Meal vouchers will be usable until we hit our total budget of \$5,000 for the voucher program.

Participating restaurants for this year are:

- Ian's Pizza (State Street location only): vegan and gluten-free options available. Vouchers may be used on dine-in and take-out only (no delivery).
- CIRC (the Concourse restaurant) and The Bar (also in the Concourse). Vouchers may be used on dine-in only (not room service).

Vouchers will be available near the Registration and Info Desk and in the Con Suite Grab & Go room. Safety volunteers will also be carrying these vouchers.

## 21 Dealers' Room

### *Madison Ballroom*

Our Dealers' Room is a marketplace of books, toys, posters, artwork, magazines, cards, jewelry, and all sorts of other science fiction and fantasy-related merchandise, as well as items relevant to explorations of feminism, gender, race, class, and disability. Books by WisCon

authors and Guests of Honor are always available, so that members can purchase them during the convention to take to our SignOut event.

Visit [wiscon.net/virtual-dealers](http://wiscon.net/virtual-dealers) for a gallery of WisCon vendors with online storefronts, including some online-only vendors.

## 22 Green Room

### *University A*

The Green Room, where participants meet before panels, is located on the 2nd floor and is easily accessible during program breaks. It's a low-key place for quiet discussions and planning which becomes more populated in the 10 minutes prior to panels.

The Green Room is also a place you can get supplies for your in-person panel, workshop, or other program! Supplies available include whiteboards, pads of easel paper, dry erase markers, sharpies, computer speakers, power strips, and adapters.

If you have a logistical problem, need to contact a member of the ConCom for assistance, need to tell someone about a program change, or need to know about one, stop by the Green Room desk.

Panel moderators and workshop leaders for in-person programming: please make sure you drop by the Green Room before your panel begins to pick up your participants' name tents! If the Green Room is closed during your program, we will place the name tents in your scheduled room.

Panelists and moderators for online programming: if you have questions or need help, ask on the #green-room channel on Discord. If you need a quiet place to talk before your panel, there is also an unstaffed Zoom room available.

## 23 Safer Spaces

*Online: Discord*

As part of our commitment to our guiding principles and our recognition of intersectionality, WisCon has designated spaces for

people of color, people with disabilities, and trans & genderqueer people to dialogue freely and openly, to support each other, and to relax. We ask that all members respect these spaces and that they enter only if that space applies to them.

This year, due to logistical constraints arising from COVID-19, the WisCon safer spaces are online only. You can find information about accessing them by visiting the #safer-spaces-access channel on the WisCon Discord server.

WisCon's ConCom welcomes any suggestions or ideas that result from the networking and strategizing that takes place in these spaces.

Please submit these ideas to the volunteers in the Green Room, who will pass them on to the WisCon Concom, or email [chair@wiscon.net](mailto:chair@wiscon.net).

If you or your group would like to meet with WisCon Concom members, please give that request to the Green Room volunteers and we will work to find a mutually satisfactory time to meet.

*A note about the POC Safer Space:* This space is specifically for people of color; it is not intended for members who identify as white or transracial.

*A note about the PWD Safer Space:* We welcome those with both visible and invisible disabilities to join us, including mobility, sensory, mental, and neural, permanent and temporary. If you identify as needing this space, it is for you.

*A note about the TGQ Safer Space:* This is a space for all transgender people, including nonbinary, as well as people who are questioning their gender. if you feel like you need this space it is for you.

These are constantly evolving spaces, so we want to hear your ideas about how to make them work for you. Please email [pocsafterspace@wiscon.net](mailto:pocsafterspace@wiscon.net), [pwdsafterspace@wiscon.net](mailto:pwdsafterspace@wiscon.net), or [tgqsafterspace@wiscon.net](mailto:tgqsafterspace@wiscon.net) with questions or suggestions.

## **24 Quiet Room**

*Second Floor Between Conference 2 & 3*



The Quiet Room is a low sensory input space designed to offer a restful break from the hectic pace of the con. It accommodates three people with comfortable chairs and soft, incandescent lighting. We have done our best to make it accessible given the dimensions of the room.

The room is open from 8am to midnight. If a line forms, we ask that you respect a 30-minute time limit.

## **25 Childcare/Kids' Programming**

### *Room 634*

Because kids under 5 are not allowed at WisCon this year, Childcare and Kids' Programming have been combined. Childcare & Kids' Programming are open to all pre-registered children 5-12 who are vaccinated. Either a Childcare membership or a Youth membership is required for a child to receive babysitting.

Childcare and Kids' Programming will be open to all kids ages 5 and over who are vaccinated (and may be accompanied by their

parents/guardians). In compliance with our COVID-19 policy, all children, parents/guardians, and caregivers must remain masked in the Childcare space.

The first time you drop off your child, please leave yourself a little extra time to fill out our contact sheet. Parents/guardians must sign their children in and out.

Kids' Programming will offer several structured activities throughout the weekend which will take place in the Childcare space. Teens are also welcome to attend during those times!

In addition to 1–5:15 pm on Saturday and Sunday, and 10–11:15 on Monday, when specific Kids' Programming activities appear in the program, unstructured babysitting is available during the following hours:

- Saturday (5/28) 9:45–11:45 am
- Sunday (5/29) 9:45–11:45 am

You **MUST** pick up your child by closing time and prior to the lunch break (there is no childcare available between 11:45am and 12:45pm).

You will be charged a late fee of \$10 per child for each 15 minutes you are late.

If you have any questions, please write [kidsprograms@wiscon.net](mailto:kidsprograms@wiscon.net) .

## 26 Teen Room

*Room 633*

A space run by and for teenagers. This room is available for activities coordinated by any teens attending WisCon. Teen activities may include video games, puzzles, art, discussions, and tabletop games—it's up to you!

Remember, this room is only for teens.

## 27 Dessert Salon

*Wisconsin & Capital Ballrooms (+ Online)*

The Dessert Salon has historically been a chance to snack and socialize before the Guest of Honor speeches and the Otherwise Award Ceremony, with ticket sales serving as a fundraiser for WisCon.

This year, due to COVID-19 precautions, desserts will be available after the speeches for take-away only. Dessert Salon ticket holders will still get early access to the ballroom, beginning at 8:00pm. Doors open free of charge to all members at 8:30pm when the speeches and award ceremony begin.

If you require assistance or cannot stand in line, there are seats available for you at the front of the line and we can help you find a seat inside.

Beginning at 6:30pm Sunday, ticket holders can stop by the second floor Registration desk to get a number which will correspond to a place in line for themselves or their group. At 8:00pm we will start to show folks into the Salon in number order. The lowest numbers will be reserved for people who need the help of assistive devices or staff to get seated. There will be chairs available near the door as in past years for people who need to sit until their number is called. If you miss your number, simply let the door person know and they will include you in the next group.

A list of all desserts, with major dietary restrictions noted, is on the back of each dessert ticket. Your ticket entitles you to two desserts. We strive to accommodate as many dietary issues as we can; if you have specific questions about allergens, please visit [wiscon.net/events/dessert-salon](http://wiscon.net/events/dessert-salon), check the list available at the Registration desk, or check the back of the card that identifies each displayed dessert on the buffet table. You may also contact the Dessert Salon team at [dessert@wiscon.net](mailto:dessert@wiscon.net) with concerns or questions. We can always try to set aside desserts that meet your specific needs.

## 28 Gaming

Conference 3, Room 626 and and Room 637

WisCon offers role-playing, storytelling, and board gaming to registered con-goers.

**In Person Gaming:** Gaming in person will be spontaneously organized. If you know before WisCon starts that you would like to

offer a game, contact Gaming by emailing [gaming@wiscon.net](mailto:gaming@wiscon.net) or fill out our online form: [wiscon.net/gaming-form](http://wiscon.net/gaming-form)

At WisCon you can offer to run games or sign up for games by finding us at the Gathering or stopping by Conference 3. Conference 3 will have a binder with schedules and sign up sheets available.

**Online Gaming:** online gaming sign up sheets are available on the WisCon Discord Gaming channel. You can coordinate logistics using [#gaming-logistics](#).

**Open Gaming:** Board games are hosted each evening from 9:30 am to midnight in Conference 3. We teach and play a variety of games open to casual drop-in players, many suitable in theme and content for players of a variety of ages, from children on up. Please stop by to see if new games are starting up soon, or start one yourself; drop-ins and new players are always welcome.

## 29 Online Programming

After our first entirely online WisCon in 2020, this year we're excited to bring you the first hybrid WisCon, with both online and in-person programming.

This year we have two tracks of 100% online panels, and another track of other online programming, including Readings, Academic, Parties, and Workshops. All online programming will be accessible via Zoom and YouTube, with links shared only with registered members. All our major events—the Opening Ceremonies, Otherwise Auction, and GOH Speeches—will also be streamed to online members. Members attending in-person will also have access to all online programming.

We will also once again have a WisCon Discord server, which will be available to all members, both in-person and online.

Unfortunately, it is not possible for us to stream all of our in-person events to online members this year. We hope we're able to do that in future years, but in the meantime we have tried as much as possible to schedule the most popular panels for the online tracks.

If we are able to stream in-person panels, we will begin with the panels taking place in Assembly.

Links to online programming will be available to registered members from the online programming system, and more information on accessing Zoom, YouTube, and Discord content will be sent by email to all members before the start of the convention on Friday May 27. If you have any questions about online programming this year, feel free to reach out to [onlinecon@wiscon.net](mailto:onlinecon@wiscon.net).

## 30 Otherwise Auction

Capital Ballroom (+ Online)

The Otherwise Award Auction isn't your everyday fundraiser. For over twenty years, this auction has offered items that are rare, beautiful, and just plain weird—including books annotated by Alice Sheldon, chapbooks handmade by Ursula K. Le Guin, and a kangaroo scrotum. Who knows what they'll auction this year!



Donations for the auction will be accepted in University A on Thursday from 4 to 6pm. On Friday between 10am and 1pm, bring your donations to either University A or to the Capital Ballroom, where Otherwise folks will be setting up the Auction Preview table for the Gathering. Donations made after that time will be held for next year.

At The Gathering on Friday afternoon, you can preview and bid on auction items. If you want to see an item on stage, be sure to bid on it; items without bids may go to direct sale. After The Gathering, all items that won't be auctioned on stage will move to the WisCon Art Show for direct sale. This includes Otherwise Award cookbooks, Space Babe tattoos, the Space Babe Coloring Book, the Imagine New Worlds Inspiration Book, and the ever popular Freddie-Baer-designed t-shirts.

**Saturday evening at 7:30pm** in the Capital Ballroom (and streamed online!), the show begins—a combination of live auction and stand-up comedy with audience participation. For the past several years, auctioneer Sumana Harihareswara has delivered the perfect blend of

laughs, rare items, and feminism. We are delighted she's back this year.

All proceeds support the Otherwise Award, and purchases are tax-deductible for any payment over fair market value. Questions? Email [auction@otherwise.org](mailto:auction@otherwise.org).

## 31 Spontaneous Programming

University B & D

Have a great idea for a panel that didn't make it into the official program? Want to talk about something that only came out last week?

Have a great conversation that you'd like to continue with an audience? Miss the official programming deadline? In all of these cases, spontaneous programming might be for you.

University B & D available for spontaneous programming whenever they aren't otherwise scheduled. You can sign up for them using the spontaneous programming grids on the 2nd floor, near the Registration desk. Once you've signed up, you can announce your

panel by posting an announcement on the physical Message Board or on the WisCon Discord.

Spontaneous panels can also be organized entirely online; these can be announced on Discord, which is also where you'll find an editable schedule for online spontaneous panels.

## WisCon and SF3 Committees

### Convention Committee (concom)

*Chairs* Ira Alexandre, Aileen Wall, Kit Stubbs

### Departments

*Academic* E Ornelas (co-lead)

*Access* Megan Daly (co-lead), Kelsey Dodson (co-lead), Karen Vidao (co-lead), Brendan Detzner, Michael Brassell

*Affordability* Caz (lead), Jessica Finn

*Anti-Abuse* Nika Morley, Jessica Finn, Olivia Sitter

*AppDev* BC Holmes

*Art Show* Tahlia Day (co-lead), Sherry Holcomb (co-lead)

Jianing Lu

*Con Suite* Quen'n S.

*COVID Safety* Keely, Lyri Ahnam, Meghan

*Dealers' Room* Betsy Lundsten (lead), Lindsey

*Dessert Salon* Kate Carey (lead)

*Gaming* Tom Fendt (lead), Maria Morabe

<i>Gathering</i>	Maria Morabe, Evelyn Browne
<i>GOH Liaison</i>	Athena Foster (for Sheree Renée Thomas)
<i>Green Room</i>	Just-Lisa, JoyWonder
<i>Hotel</i>	Aileen Wall
<i>Kids' Programming</i>	Stephanie Sarac
<i>Online Con</i>	Bronwyn Bjorkman (co-lead) Cynthia Gonsalves (co-lead)
<i>Panels</i>	Cat Meier (co-lead), Jaye Viner (co-lead), Nika Morley, Sam Steinbock-Pratt, Kate, Susan Ramirez
<i>Parties</i>	
<i>Registration</i>	Bronwyn Bjorkman (co-lead), Colleen Waldie (co-lead) Alyssa Pon-Franklyn, Eric, Sarah Peters
<i>Readings</i>	Jackie M., Benjamin Rosenbaum
<i>Disability Safer Space</i>	Lenore Jean Jones
<i>POC Safer Space</i>	
<i>Trans and Genderqueer Safer Space</i>	

*Safety*

*SignOut*

Stephanie Sarac

*Workshops*

W. L. Bolm (lead), Lindsey

(Some staff request that their names not be listed online.)

## **Communications Committee**

*Chairs*

Ves (co-chair)

*Members*

Kari Dru, Andrés Gómez, Naomi Kritzer

## **Personnel Committee**

*Members*

Claire (eruthros), Rachel Stern, Kevin A. Barnes,

Sarah Peters

## **POC Outreach Committee**

**SF3 Board**

*President:* Jeannette Juricic

*Vice President:* Jaye Viner

*Treasurer:* Kit Stubbs

*Secretary:* Essay Manaktola

*Directors-At-Large:*

Charlie Jane Anders, Annalee Newitz, and Arley Sorg

## Hours (Summary)

### **Art Show (Senate AB)**

Friday: 6–7:30pm

Saturday: 9:30am–6pm

Sunday: 9:30am–6pm

Monday: 9:30–11am

### **Dealers' Room (Madison)**

Friday: 2–6pm

Saturday & Sunday: 10am–6pm

Monday 10am–2pm

### **Green Room (University A)**

Friday: 12:30–5:15pm & 7:00–10:30pm

Saturday: 9:30am–5:15pm & 7:00–10:30pm

Sunday: 9:30am–5:15pm

Monday: 9:30–1:00pm



**Registration Desk (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Lobby)**

Thursday: 7–10pm *Badge pickup only; no sales*

Friday: 8:30am–8pm

Saturday: 9:30am–8pm

Sunday: 9:30am–5:30pm

Monday: 9:30am–1:30pm

**Childcare/Kids Programming (634)**

Friday: 8:30–11:45am and 12:45–6pm

Saturday 9:30–11:45am and 12:45–6pm

Sunday 9:30–11:45am and 12:45–6pm

Monday 9:30–11:45am

**Teen Program Room (633)**

Friday: 2:30–10pm

Saturday: 10am–10pm

Sunday: 10am–10pm

**Con Suite Grab & Go (638, 627, 629\*)**

Friday: Noon–1am

Saturday: 8am–1am

Sunday: 8am–1am

Monday: 8am–5pm

*\*629 will close at 6pm Friday and Saturday for parties.*

**Open Gaming (Conf 3)**

Friday: 12 noon–12 midnight

Saturday: 9:30am–12 midnight

Sunday: 9:30am–12 midnight

**Open Writing (Univ C)****Spontaneous Programming (Univ B&D)**

Friday: 1–10:15pm

Sat/Sun: 10am–10:15pm

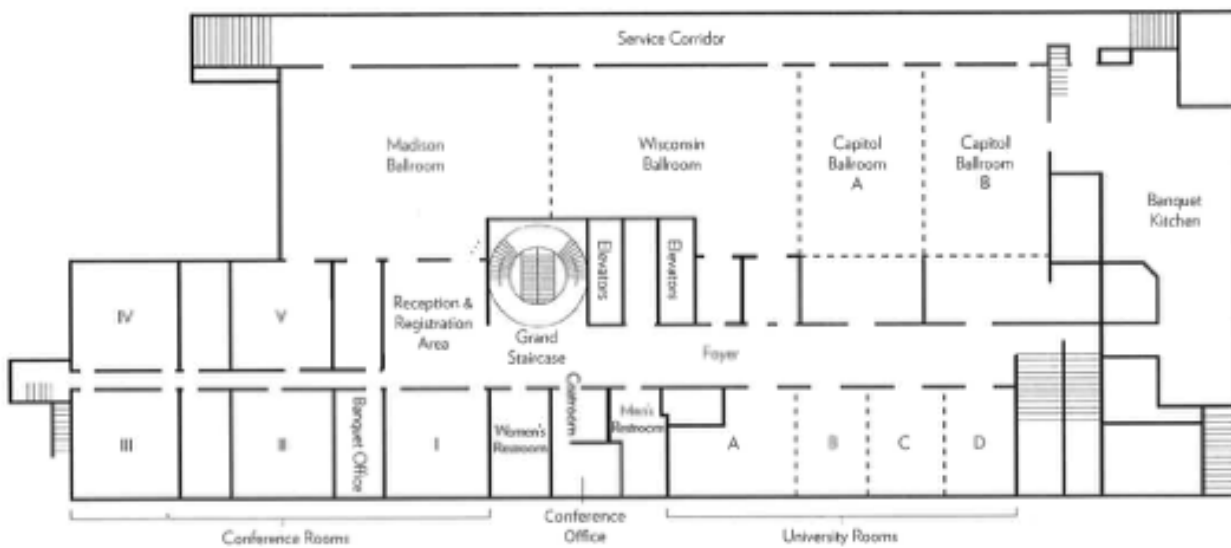
Monday: 10–11:15am

# Maps

1st Floor



2nd Floor



6th Floor

