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### 01 - Welcome to WisCon 46 in 2023

The WisCon Convention Committee and all of the other committees that make up SF3, WisCon's parent nonprofit, welcome you to WisCon 46. This is our second in-person WisCon since the pandemic began, and we're grateful for the opportunity to come together as a community and support each other during these trash-fire times.

WisCon 46 is going to be unlike previous WisCons in many ways, but similar to WisCon 45. Shout-outs to our Online Con department, who have been working hard to make the con accessible to virtual attendees; and to our COVID-19 Team, 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 made WisCon 45 and now 46 possible: thank you to our donors, our volunteers, and everyone who has helped spread the word.

At the same time, we need you to know that, just like last year, things are just not going to run as smoothly as they did before COVID-19: we're rebuilding institutional memory, running the con with a shortage of volunteer leadership, putting on a combination online and in-person event, 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.

Part of being gentle with ourselves right now means that, as we announced in March, we won't be planning to run a WisCon as usual in 2024: our leadership bench is very thin, and with the ongoing pandemic and challenging political situation in the US, folks are getting worn out. We need some time to rest and figure out how we can continue WisCon in a sustainable way. There are three sessions this weekend we've put together with this break in mind: The "Share Your WisCon Stories" party on Friday evening, for celebrating how much WisCon has meant to us; "The Future of WisCon: Reimagine/Redefine/Rebuild" on Saturday at 4:00pm; and this year's Post-Mortem on Monday at 1:00pm, "What Happened and What Comes Next." If you want to be involved in what's next for WisCon, please subscribe to our newsletter at [wiscon.net/newsletter](http://wiscon.net/newsletter) -- as always, it's the most reliable way for us to keep you updated.

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 COVID-19 reporting form at [wiscon.net/covid-report](http://wiscon.net/covid-report) or by emailing [covid@wiscon.net](mailto:covid@wiscon.net).

Even though WisCon 46 may be a bit less polished than our pre-pandemic years, we hope that however you attend, it's a fun and valuable experience for you. As we take time to rest and consider what WisCon will become next, we want to hear from you! Your input is invaluable, so please visit [wiscon.net/survey](http://wiscon.net/survey) between the end of the convention and June 30 to share your vision of WisCon's future.

## 02 - 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, abilities, 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 46 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, cisgender men, but rather includes everyone.

## POLICIES

### 03 - 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/report](http://wiscon.net/report)), email ([safety@wiscon.net](mailto:safety@wiscon.net)), or call (608) 618-0063 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](mailto:chair@wiscon.net)  
 Anti-Abuse Team: [antiabuse@wiscon.net](mailto:antiabuse@wiscon.net)  
 Safety: [safety@wiscon.net](mailto:safety@wiscon.net)

Emergencies:  
**911**

WisCon Safety On Call:  
**(608) 618-0063**

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

Dane County Rape Crisis Center 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 (AAT):**

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 AAT 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 AAT 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 AAT 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.

## **04 - Misc. Specific 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 \$65. 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 non-working 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.

This year we again have pronoun stickers available for badges. These stickers are **totally optional**. If you choose, you can put one on your badge, as a way 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. **Our Guest of Honor Martha Wells is not available on Monday, so please attend her signing party Saturday evening if you would like her autograph.** 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) 618-0063. You can also use the online Safety reporting form: [wiscon.net/report](http://wiscon.net/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 e-mail address at [reg.wiscon.net](http://reg.wiscon.net) to register for WisCon, and this creates an account with the same email at [program.wiscon.net](http://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, 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.

## 05 - COVID-19 and WisCon 46

While we are excited to gather together in person again this year, 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> 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. **Up to date** means a person has received all recommended doses in their primary series of COVID-19 vaccine as well as one dose of the bivalent booster.

The CDC now recommends children as young as 6 months receive the bivalent booster for either Moderna or Pfizer (See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html#children> for details). WisCon is requiring up-to-date boosters for children as well as adults.

For guests who reside outside the USA, WisCon considers someone to be up-to-date on vaccinations if they've received any vaccine recognized by the WHO. This supersedes the requirements for US citizens. Please consult your nation's health department's guidance to determine which vaccines are recommended and available in your area.

## 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 at [wiscon.net/cart-form](https://www.wiscon.net/cart-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.

Members staying in the hotel will be asked to take Con Suite items back to their rooms. Rooms 638 and 629 on the 6th floor are where members who are not staying at the hotel can take off masks to eat and drink.

### 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.

We also have 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.

Needless to say, 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 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 at [wiscon.net/covid-report](https://www.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.

### 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.

If you would like to stay up to date on the status of COVID-19 cases and vaccination in Madison and Dane County, you may be interested in <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).



## 06 - Online Programming

We're excited to once again bring you a 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 Parties and Workshops. Online programming will be accessible via Zoom, 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.

While it is not possible for us to stream all of our in-person events to online members this year, we hope to stream a few panels each day depending on volunteer availability. (Interested and attending in person? To volunteer to stream a panel, log in at [program.wiscon.net](http://program.wiscon.net), select the "Volunteering" tab, and click "Add shift" on the right. In the Filter box, choose "Hybrid Production Assistant." This will bring up a list of all available shifts, organized by time.)

For more information about accessing Zoom and Discord, visit [wiscon.net/onlineinfo](http://wiscon.net/onlineinfo). Links to online programming, including how to join the 2023 WisCon Discord server, will also be sent by email to all members before the start of the GOH readings on Thursday May 25 (6PM Central time). If you have any questions about online programming that aren't answered in one of the above sources, feel free to reach out to [onlinecon@wiscon.net](mailto:onlinecon@wiscon.net).

## 07 - 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.

### **Lactation and Lactation Pumps**

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

The most comfortable space between 9am and 5pm for using a pump is Childcare space on the sixth floor in Room 634, which is quiet, includes other adults to talk with who reliably don't blink at pumps or lactation, has comfy chairs, and houses a kitchen sink for washing pump parts as

well as a refrigerator that you may be able to use for temporary storage of milk, at the discretion of Childcare staff. 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**

### **08 - 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.

In the past, WisCon has worked with Friends of Dennis—a grassroots fan project dedicated to fostering discussions of class and classism from within a speculative literature framework—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 for grab-n-go food at no additional charge or pick up meal vouchers for free restaurant meals. Looking for a room-share or a ride-share? Check out the Message Board in the 2nd floor lobby.

### **WisCon 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*, 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).

## 09 - Bathrooms

**WisCon wishes to be very clear that we support each person's 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; and on the 6th floor between rooms 627 and 629.

## 10 - 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 is still 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.

And 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 and lunch. **The Bar** also offers food until 11pm daily. 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.

## 11 - Keep in Touch with WisCon

This WisCon may end on Memorial Day, but we're already gearing up for a year of resting and planning the next phase of WisCon's existence. Want to get involved? Here's how you can get WisCon news and updates:

- Sign up for our email newsletter (preferred): <https://wiscon.net/newsletter/>
- Read announcements and updates on our blog: <http://wiscon.net/news/blog/>
- Follow us on Twitter and Instagram: @wisconsf3
- Follow us on Mastodon: <https://wandering.shop/@WisConSF3>
- Friend us on Facebook: <https://facebook.com/WisCon>

## 12 - 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 Saturday at 10:00 am, 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!

## 13 - Registration & 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 at noon.

For those attending WisCon in person, **we are requiring one dose of an updated (bivalent/omicron) booster** as per CDC recommendations

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>) . See "Updated Boosters" under the "COVID-19 Boosters" section. This applies to people ages 5 and older and to children aged 6 months-4 years who completed either the Pfizer or the Moderna vaccine primary series. Please make sure to get your updated booster, and remember to bring your proof of vaccination to Registration. For those coming to WisCon from other countries: we will accept proof that you have received any vaccine recognized by the WHO. More information on WHO recognition of COVID vaccines can be found on their website (<https://extranet.who.int/pqweb/vaccines/covid-19-vaccines>).

Because of the requirement to present proof of vaccination, you will not be allowed to pick up someone else's badge.

## 14 - 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. We're happy to share that 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.

## 15 - 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 Thursday between the hours of 5pm–4:30am (to allow members to travel to the Guest of Honor readings); and 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](http://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.

## 16 - 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.

## 17 - Volunteering and Donating to #RebuildWisCon

Thank you to everyone who has donated time and money to help #RebuildWisCon! Keeping WisCon sustainable isn't an event, it's an ongoing process. We need volunteers during WisCon 46 in 2023 to make the convention a success, and your donations will help WisCon continue to 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!

You can find volunteer shifts through the programming system! **To sign up for shifts, log in at [program.wiscon.net](http://program.wiscon.net), select the**

**"Volunteering" tab, and click "Add shift" on the right.** This will bring up a list of all Volunteer shifts, organized by time.

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 \$8,500 this year to help #RebuildWisCon. We'll continue to rely on your donations to keep WisCon affordable and sustainable as we plan the future of WisCon in 2024. 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 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 is the project of the Society for the Furtherance and Study of Fantasy & Science Fiction, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, and your contributions are tax-deductible.

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

### 18 - Art Show

#### *Senate AB*

The WisCon Art Show features work from artists in the WisCon community, particularly artists of marginalized genders and local/Midwestern artists, often exploring themes related to SFF, feminism, and social justice.

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.) You may vote for your favorites on Friday and Saturday—vote winners receive certificates Sunday morning.

Visit [wiscon.net/events/art-show/virtual-gallery/](https://wiscon.net/events/art-show/virtual-gallery/) to view a selection of works by this year's artists online.

All materials in the Art Show must follow our Code of Conduct. However, materials are not screened in advance. WisCon continues to welcome and appreciate risky, transgressive material and the discussion of controversial ideas. That said, any materials that are not in line with our Code of Conduct are subject to removal for the duration of WisCon. If you have any concerns, please contact WisCon Safety ([safety@wiscon.net](mailto:safety@wiscon.net)) or the Anti-Abuse Team ([antiabuse@wiscon.sf3.org](mailto:antiabuse@wiscon.sf3.org)).

***Please pick up purchased art by 11am Monday.***

### 19 - Con Suite

*Room 627 (Grab & Go), Rooms 638 (Dining) & 629 (Dining/Parties)*

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 627, as well as coffee, tea, and soda. If you have a hotel room, we ask that you take food back to your room to

eat, but Rooms 638 and 629 are available as spaces to eat for any members for whom that's not possible. Room 638 should generally be available; Room 629 will be closed at 6pm on Friday and Saturday for parties.

For members who depend on the Con Suite to help make WisCon affordable, we have continued last year's voucher program. Restaurants listed on the voucher are accepting these as if they were cash: 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.

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.

## 20 - 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 autograph event.

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

All materials in the Dealers' Room must follow our Code of Conduct. However, materials are not

screened in advance. WisCon continues to welcome and appreciate risky, transgressive material and the discussion of controversial ideas. That said, any materials that are not in line with our Code of Conduct are subject to removal for the duration of WisCon. If you have any concerns, please contact WisCon Safety ([safety@wiscon.net](mailto:safety@wiscon.net)) or the Anti-Abuse Team ([antiabuse@wiscon.sf3.org](mailto:antiabuse@wiscon.sf3.org)).

## 21 - 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.

## 22 - Safer Spaces

### *Online (Discord) only*

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, trans & genderqueer people, and plural folk 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.

Like last 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 and non-binary people, as well as people who are questioning their gender. If you feel like you need this space, it is for you.

*A note about the Plural Safer Space:* This is a space for all plural folk and all system types. If you identify as needing 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 [pocsaferspace@wiscon.net](mailto:pocsaferspace@wiscon.net), [disabilitysaferspace@wiscon.net](mailto:disabilitysaferspace@wiscon.net), [tgqsaferspace@wiscon.net](mailto:tgqsaferspace@wiscon.net), or [pluralsaferspace@wiscon.net](mailto:pluralsaferspace@wiscon.net) with questions or suggestions.

## 23 - 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.

## 24 - Childcare/Kids' Programming

*Room 634*

Because we didn't have any volunteers to organize Kids' Programming this year, Childcare and Kids' Programming have been combined. 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 6 months and over who are up-to-date on their COVID vaccinations (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.

Unstructured babysitting is available during the following hours:

Friday	No childcare
Saturday	9:30am-11:45am, 12:45pm-5:30pm
Sunday	9:30am-11:45am, 12:45pm-5:30pm
Monday	9:30am-11:45am

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 [chair@wiscon.net](mailto:chair@wiscon.net).



## 25 - Teen Room

*Room 633*

A space 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.*

## 26 - Gaming

*Conference 3, Room 632 and and Room 637*

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

### In Person Gaming

There are multiple gaming events on the schedule, most with limited seating. The Registration Desk will have a binder with schedules and sign-up sheets available if you are interested in participating.

Additional in-person gaming 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 at [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 contacting us on the WisCon Discord.

### Online Gaming

There are no scheduled online games, but you're welcome to run pick-up games by making arrangements for same in the #gaming-logistics channel on the WisCon Discord.

### Open Gaming

Open gaming will be in Conference 3 at the times posted in the schedule. We will have an assortment of games available for 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.

### Some Board Games Available At-Con

- 7-in-1 Game Set: Chess, Checkers, Dominoes, Cribbage, Poker Dice, Backgammon, and Playing Cards

- Standard Size Jumbo Face Playing Cards (4 decks)

- 7 Wonders • Azul • Calico • Cartographers • Codenames • Fox in the Forest • Galaxy Trucker • Gloom • One Night Ultimate Werewolf • Pandemic (braille text added) • Photosynthesis • Potion Explosion • Qwirkle • Royal Visit • Sagrada • Settlers of Catan, Portable Edition • Splendor • Telestrations 12-Player Party Pack • Ticket To Ride • Tsuru • Wingspan • Villainous

## 27 - Dessert Salon

*Wisconsin & Capital Ballrooms (+ online stream)*

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.

Like last year, this year, due to COVID-19 precautions, desserts will be available after the speeches for take-away only.

Beginning at 6:30pm Sunday, dessert salon ticket holders can stop by the second floor Info desk to get a number which will correspond to a place in line for themselves or their group. At 7:30pm 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, the complete list is available at [wiscon.net/allergens](http://wiscon.net/allergens); OR you can check the list available at the 2nd floor Info desk or 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 - Otherwise Auction

*Capitol Ballroom (+ online stream)*

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 just before the Gathering. On Friday between 10am and 1pm, bring your donations to the Capitol 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 some of our auction items. These may include handmade garments, weird collectibles, Otherwise Award cookbooks, Space Babe tattoos, the Space Babe Coloring Book, the Imagine New Worlds Inspiration Book, and Freddie-Baer-designed t-shirts. But we'll also likely save some surprises for the show!

**Saturday evening at 7:30pm in the Capitol Ballroom (and streamed online!),** the show begins—a combination of live auction and stand-up comedy with audience participation. You're welcome to bid or just to sit back and enjoy the show, and to pay or donate using cash, check, or credit card. For most of 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).

## 29 - Spontaneous Programming

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 D is available for spontaneous programming starting at 1:00pm on Friday and running for the rest of the con. University B and C are also available whenever they aren't otherwise scheduled. You can sign up for a spontaneous programming slot using the **spontaneous programming grid** 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.

**HOURS (SUMMARY)****Art Show (Senate A/B)**

Friday 6:00pm—7:30pm  
 Sat/Sun 9:30am—6:00pm  
 Monday 9:30am—11:00am

**Dealers' Room (Madison Ballroom)**

Friday: 2:00pm—6:00pm  
 Sat/Sun 10:00am—6:00pm  
 Monday 10:00am—2:00pm

**Green Room (Univ A)**

Friday 12:30pm—5:15pm,  
 7:00pm—9:00pm  
 Saturday 9:30am—5:15pm,  
 7:00pm—9:00pm  
 Sunday 9:30am—4:30pm  
 Monday 9:30am—1:00pm  
*(extended for SignOut)*

**Registration Desk (Conf 1)**

Thursday 8:00pm—10:00pm *Pickup only*  
 Friday 12:00pm—8:00pm  
 Saturday 9:00am—12:00pm,  
 4:00pm—8:00pm  
 Sunday 9:00am—4:00pm  
 Monday 9:00am—noon

**Childcare/Kids Programming (634)**

Friday No childcare  
 Sat/Sun 9:45am—11:45am,  
 12:45pm—5:30pm  
 Monday 9:45am—11:45am

**Teen Program Room (633)**

Friday 2:30pm—10:00pm  
 Sat/Sun 10:00am—10:00pm

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

Friday 12:00pm—1:00am  
 Sat/Sun 8:00am—1:00am  
 Monday 8:00am—5:00pm  
*\*629 will close at 6pm Fri and Sat to flip for parties.*

**Open Gaming (Conf 3)**

Friday 12:00pm—12:00am  
 Saturday 9:30am—12:00am  
 Sunday 9:30am—12:00am

**Open Writing (Private Dining Room)**

Sat/Sun 10:00am—10:15pm

**Spontaneous Programming (Univ D)**

Friday 1:00pm—10:15pm  
 Sat/Sun 10:00am—10:15pm  
 Monday 10:00am—11:15am

**WISCON AND SF3 COMMITTEES****Convention Committee (ConCom)***Pre-Con Chairs*

Sherry Holcomb, Kit Stubbs

*At-Con Chairs*

Ira Alexandre, Bronwyn Bjorkman, Sherry Holcomb

*Academic*

Laurie Fuller (lead)

*Access*

Kelsey Dodson (lead), Michael Brassell, Cicely

*Affordability*

Caz (lead), Ira Alexandre, Cicely, Jessica Finn

*AppDev*

BC Holmes (lead), Anjali Patel, Colleen Waldie

*Art Show*

Tahlia Day (lead), Heather Tatarek

*Con Suite*

Ira Alexandre

*COVID Safety*

Keely, Lyri Ahnam, Aaron Micheau, Meghan

*Dealers' Room*

Betsy Lundsten (lead), Eric

*Dessert Salon*

Lisa Martincik (lead)

*Gaming*

Maria Morabe (co-lead), Sam Press (co-lead)

*Gathering*

Nancy Bird (lead)

*GOH Liaison*

Alicia Pressley (for Rivers Solomon)

*Hotel*

Laura Zahnow, Nicholas "phi" Sheckman

*Online Con*

Anna Davidson (co-lead), Jessamyn (co-lead), Bronwyn Bjorkman

*Opening Ceremonies*

Kit Stubbs

*Otherwise Liaison*

Rebecca J. Holden

*Panel Programs*

*Cat Meier (co-lead)*, Jaye Viner (co-lead),  
Gretchen Jones, Susan Ramirez, Sam  
Steinbock-Pratt

*Parties*

Unlisted

*Registration*

Colleen Waldie (Pre-con lead), Lenore Jean  
Jones, Sarah Peters, Alyssa Pon-Franklin ,  
Brandon Laws

*Disability Safer Space*

Lisa Bradley, Kristy Anne Cox, Sigrid Ellis,  
Lenore Jean Jones

*POC Safer Space*

Cicely (lead)

*Trans and Genderqueer Safer Space*

Unlisted

*Plural Safer Space*

Mo

*Safety*

Unlisted

*Signage*

Unlisted

*SignOut*

Unlisted

*Green Room*

JoyWonder

*Readings*

Unlisted

*Workshops*

Cath Schaff-Stump (co-lead)

**Anti-Abuse Team**

S. Qiouyi Lu (Chair), Jessica Finn

**Communications Committee**

Ves (Chair), Lyri Ahnam, Margaret Treanor  
Frey, Andrea Gómez, Naomi Kritzer, Jaye Viner,  
Laura Zahnow, Catherine Zhao

**Personnel Committee**

Rita Briar, Claire (eruthros), Kate Nepveu,  
Sarah Peters, Rachel Stern, Catherine Streiffer

**POC Outreach Committee**

Unlisted

**Future of WisCon Committee**

Lyri Ahnam, Jeannette Juricic

**SF3 Board**

President: Jeannette Juricic

Vice President: Jaye Viner

Treasurer: Kit Stubbs

Secretary: Essay Manaktola

Directors-At-Large: Arley Sorg, Michi Trota

**SF3 Co-Archivist**

Keely

**And thanks also to our volunteers who  
chose not to be listed or joined us after  
the print deadline!**

**SPONSORS**

WisCon 2023 is supported in part by a grant  
from the **SFWA**.

We are also grateful to the **Madison Public  
Library** for hosting our Thursday night Guest of  
Honor readings at their Central branch.

We deeply appreciate their support and  
encourage everyone to learn more about these  
excellent organizations.



MAP



Hotel Meeting Space

Please note that masking will be enforced in WisCon areas (dotted lines), but there may be other guests of the hotel unmasked in public areas.

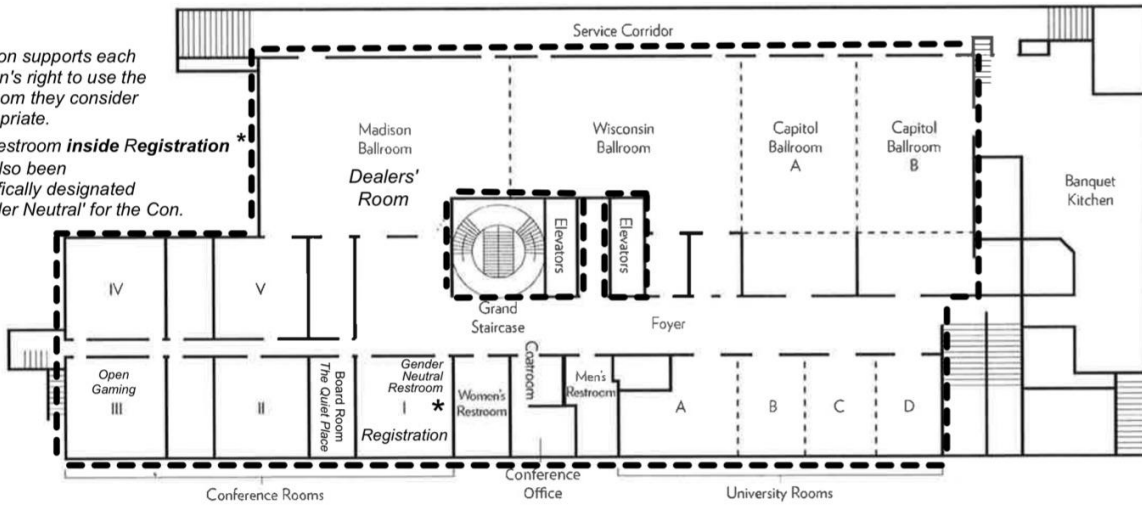
1st Floor



2nd Floor

WisCon supports each person's right to use the restroom they consider appropriate.

The restroom **inside Registration** \* has also been specifically designated 'Gender Neutral' for the Con.



6th Floor

