

# SMOFcon Schedule – Online Accessible

(Note – all times are UTC. See the schedule grid for timezone conversion.)

## Friday

**Fri 15:30**, Online/Arts 2 (streamed)

### **Workshop: Discussing Communication, Management, and Leadership for Convention Runners**

Join Deb Geisler, Professor of Communication at Suffolk University and Chair of the 2004 Boston Worldcon for a session on communication and leadership. We'll explore creating "buzz," managing public relations and staying on brand. **Limited to 20 people, [advance signup required](#).**

*Deb Geisler*

**Fri 18:00**, Online/Arts 2 (streamed)

### **Workshop: Division Head Skills for the Modern Worldcon**

As Worldcons have become more complex, the management skills needed to perform the role are not ones all fans have picked up in their day jobs. What are the most necessary skills needed to perform well and what are some resources to use to get up to speed? Join Randy Shepard and Patty Wells who have been division heads as well as Worldcon chairs and seen places where we can improve our skills. Be prepared for exercising your management skills during the workshop. **Limited to 20 people, [advance signup required](#).**

*Randall Shepherd & Patty Wells*

**Fri 20:30**, Online/Arts 2 (streamed)

### **Fan Funds for Marginalized Groups**

The Detroit NASFiC and Dublin and San Jose Worldcons all created fan funds to bringing new voices to cons. How have they worked and how can they be improved upon? How do we administer them to the people who need them? Do people self-select themselves out of participating, and if so, how do we address this? Our panel will discuss models that have been seen in the past as well as those planned for upcoming events.

*Tammy Coxen (m), Kris "Nchanter" Snyder, Kevin Roche*

# Saturday

**Sat 10:00**, Online/Arts 2 (streamed)

## **Eastercon Updates & Bids**

Get all your Eastercon information! Representatives of currently seated Eastercons talk about what they're up to, while those hoping to host future ones tell you what they want to bring you!

*Caroline Jane Mullan, Farah Mendlesohn, Phil Dyson, Pat McMurray, Vanessa May, Steve Cooper (m)*

**Sat 11:30**, Online/Arts 2 (streamed)

## **We've Always Done it This Way**

How can on-the-job development, training and mentoring improve? How can we help volunteers who want to take on more responsibility do so? How can we get past the same people always doing the same jobs because "they know how it's always been done"? How can we get the things people know out of their brains and into the hands of the people who need it in the future?

*Farah Mendlesohn, Maciej Matuszewski, Alona Silina, Kat Tanaka Okopnik, Chris Hwang (m)*

**Sat 13:00**, online

## **A language across the sea: the case of Portuguese/Brazilian fandom**

Having Portuguese as a common language both brings together and sets apart the Portuguese and Brazilian fans. A discussion covering from shared initiatives to the need to "translate" between different language modes.

*Carlos Silva, Rogerio Ribeiro, others TBD*

**Sat 13:00**, Online/Arts 2 (streamed)

## **What's working in Covid-era in-person conventions?**

With vaccination widespread, we're starting to see the return of in-person conventions. But we're not out of the woods yet. The panel will look at the policies and practices of conventions as we come out of the epidemic or live with Covid.

*Terry Fong, Brian Nisbet (m), Ben Yalow, Níamh Kearney, Perianne Lurie*

**Sat 14:30**, Online

## **The Role of Publications**

At what stage do we wave farewell to paper documents at conventions or is pleasure or holding pages and shelving the programme book important to fans. Also, how do different types of publications support accessibility and other concerns?

*Sara Felix (m), Kees van Toorn, John Coxon, Marcin 'Alqua' Kłak*

**Sat 14:30**, Online/Arts 2 (streamed)

### **Worldcon Q&A: 2023 Bids**

Representatives of the 2023 Worldcon bids for Chengdu and Winnipeg present and answer questions.

*Terry Fong, Tony Xia, Tammy Coxen (m)*

**Sat 16:00**, Online

### **Anti-Racist Convention Running**

Many conventions are paying more attention to efforts like inviting diverse guests and ensuring that program participants represent diverse viewpoints. Our panelists discuss ways to go beyond these bare minimums and what convention runners can do to make their conventions actively anti-racist.

*Kathy Bond, Kris "Nchanter" Snyder (m), Evan Reeves, Kat Tanaka Okopnik*

**Sat 16:00**, Online/Arts 2 (streamed)

### **Worldcon Q&A: 2021, 2022 & 2024**

Representatives of the 2021 Worldcon in Washington DC, 2022 Worldcon in Chicago and bidders for the 2024 Worldcon bids present and answer questions.

*Mary Robinette Kowal, Helen Montgomery, Esther MacCallum-Stewart, Tammy Coxen (m)*

**Sat 17:30**, Online

### **The Social Media Mirror on the Wall, Dreadfully Unfairest of Them All**

Fan engagement on social media can often highlight issues, areas of improvement, a misstep or share sentiment a con running team may be isolated from. How can con leaders resist defensiveness and channel the positives from such vital feedback?

*Elizabeth McCarty (m), Marah Searle-Kovacevic, Olav Rokne, Janet O'Sullivan, Matt Calvert*

**Sat 17:30**, Online/Arts 2 (streamed)

### **Q&A: Worldcons 2025 and beyond and SMOFcon Bids**

Representatives of sites bidding for a Worldcon in 2025 or years after present and answer questions, as well as SMOFcon bidders for years after 2022.

*Kathy Bond, Joyce Lloyd, Bobbi Armbruster, Ben Yalow, Tammy Coxen (m), Marguerite Smith, Brian Nisbet*

**Sat 19:00**, Online

### **Being the Leader**

Our panel of experienced leaders set out clearly what their expectations are from leaders of conventions and what behaviours, traits, skills and characteristics are needed at the most senior level.

*Vincent Docherty (m), Janet O'Sullivan, Evan Reeves, Ann Gry, Pat McMurray, Dave McCarty*

**Sat 19:00**, Online

### **Open Source Convention Registration with ConReg**

James Shields provides a demo and Q&A on ConReg, an open source registration system built using Drupal CMS.

*James Shields*

**Sat 20:30**, Online

### **Paying the Piper**

Fan-run SFF conventions mostly don't pay participants for their time. Does this limit diversity as more professionals expect payment and competing festivals pay?

*Kathy Bond (m), Evan Reeves, Olav Rokne, Anne Gray*

**Sat 21:30**, Online/Arts 2 (streamed)

### **Getting the Basics Right**

What are the first principles of good con running? What do fans need to be able to do as a base standard to manage a convention endeavour? What's the framework to get it going?

*Ben Yalow, Vanessa May, Helen Montgomery (m), Perrienne Lurie, Kevin Roche*

## **Sunday**

**Sun 10:00**, Online/Arts 2 (streamed)

### **Eastercon and Hotel Challenges**

There are several Eastercons actively looking for venues at the moment, and the pickings are slim. Our panel discusses the challenges.

*Alice Lawson (m), Phil Dyson, Pat McMurray, Vanessa May, John Dodd*

**Sun 11:30**, Online/Arts 2 (streamed)

### **Outside the Con Box**

Lots of conventions have started looking beyond the convention facility. We've seen walks, exciting visits to Planateriums, talks at Science Galleries and more. What are the positives and negatives of having activities outside the main facility? How can it showcase your city and help you address facility limitations?

*Alona Silina, Dave McCarty (m), Vanessa May, Ann Gry, Mikolaj*

**Sun 13:00**, Online/Arts 2 (streamed)

### **Supporting Volunteers**

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any fan-run convention, but different communities have different ways to handle volunteers. Some volunteers have free memberships, some get food, some get vouchers. How can we handle the different expectations and what works well?

*Sharon Sbarsky, Pat McMurray, Evan Reeves, Níamh Kearney, Shana Worthen (m)*

**Sun 14:30**, Online/Arts 2 (streamed)

### **Cons as Content Creators**

Some cons and bids have begun creating content as part of their promotion. For instance, Glasgow in 2024 has done interviews, launched art, held contests in order to create excitement. How is it working? Does it bring in new memberships? Has it created an audience that normally wouldn't be there? Is this something we see continuing in the future when there is a return to in person conventions?

*Meg MacDonald, Sara Felix (m), Matt Calvert*

**Sun 16:00**, Online

### **Workshop: Dynamic Leadership and Crucial Communication**

Effective leaders use purposeful communication to determine the best way to convey messages and lead teams. While an easy concept in theory it is much harder to implement, especially when conversations turn crucial and team dynamics start to fracture. We will break down the components needed to live dynamic leadership and build your confidence for when you encounter crucial conversations. **Limited to 20 people, [advance signup required](#).**

*Lisa Feichter*

**Sun 16:00**, Online/Arts 2 (streamed)

### **Hybrid Conventions**

We all got dragged kicking and screaming into the online convention running world. Virtual conventions offer a lot of advantages (as well as requiring a lot of work). What are the opportunities and challenges for hybrid conventions moving forward?

*Mary Robinette Kowal, Alison Scott, Joro Penchev, Terry Fong, Petrea Mitchell, Tammy Coxen (m)*

**Sun 17:30**, Online/Arts 2 (streamed)

### **Bid to Seated Worldcon**

Bobbi Armbruster has developed a standard 4-phase plan for Worldcon bid activities over recent years. This has now been expanded with more content around the transition from Bid to Seated Worldcon. A surprising number of activities have to occur to make this transition smooth and successful! In this item we will introduce the plan then talk in more detail about the transition process and the resources which have been developed to assist bidders.

*Colin Harris, Bobbi Armbruster*