



DUBLIN 2019 BACKGROUND

The World Science Fiction Convention

The World Science Fiction Convention (Worldcon) takes place in a different city every year. The 77th Worldcon is based in the Convention Centre Dublin and the Point Village, from 15 - 19 August, 2019. This is the first time a city in Ireland has hosted the convention. Dublin 2019 is the sixteenth Worldcon to be held outside North America, and the eleventh in Europe.

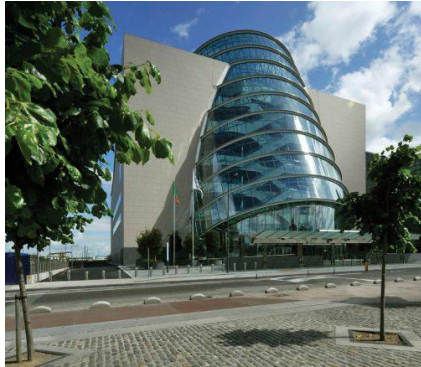
The first Worldcon took place in 1939 in New York as a fringe meeting linked to the World's Fair of that year, and attracted about 200 people. Worldcon has run every year since, except for a four-year break during World War II. It the first and only speculative literature convention to stake a claim of planetary coverage. Over time, Worldcon has expanded from the original exchange of texts and ideas about the future to include film, television, comics, podcasts and other media, as well as social and cultural programming related to science fiction.

Each Worldcon is run by its own committee and staff of volunteers, under the oversight of the World Science Fiction Society. Next year's Worldcon will take place in Wellington, New Zealand, and there are unopposed bids for Washington, DC in 2021 and Chicago in 2022. Currently there are bids for Nice, New Orleans, and Chengdu, China competing to host the 2023 Worldcon.

Dublin 2019 - An Irish Worldcon

Dublin 2019 is the largest science fiction convention ever to happen in Ireland. With more than 5,800 attending members arriving from 60 countries, the convention represents a significant boost to the local and Irish economy. More than 450 attending members are from the island of Ireland, the highest ever for a Worldcon, and 889 members are attending their first Worldcon. In addition more than 500 day passes were sold.

There are 7,360 members in total including supporting members, who do not attend but were able to vote for the Hugo Awards, and for site selection for the 2021 Worldcon. The winner of the site selection will be formally announced at the closing ceremonies on Monday, 19 August, hosted by Irish author Eoin Colfer.



Dublin 2019 has been in preparation for eight years with the support and sponsorship of Fáilte Ireland, Dublin City Council, and UNESCO City of Literature, as well as many Irish businesses, libraries and local organizations including the Irish Science Fiction Society; the Dublin Science Fiction Society co-founded by Dublin 2019 Chair James Bacon; and

Octocon, the Irish national science fiction convention which takes place each October.

During the bid period, Dublin 2019 volunteers handed out green badge ribbons at other conventions and sold supporting memberships, as well as running a blog and hosting pub meetups. Dublin 2019 was unopposed in the site selection process at Worldcon 75 in Helsinki. The final team bringing the con to reality included more than 30 committee members, 300 staff, and hundreds more on-site volunteers.

The Grenadine event guide for Dublin 2019 lists more than 1400 events and more than 900 programme participants, including author readings and signings, lectures, panel discussions, small group meetups and workshops. Other highlights include the Hugo Awards Ceremony, the art show, an international trade hall, theatrical productions, the Worldcon Philharmonic Concert, and the Masquerade costuming show, plus academic, science and children's tracks in a packed programme that also includes the wider city, such as the Irish Film Institute, Fishamble Theatre, the Science Gallery and even Fairview Park.

The Hugo Awards

The Hugo Awards are the leading awards for excellence in the field of science fiction and fantasy, and have been presented at Worldcons since 1953. They are nominated and voted on by members of each year's Worldcon. Finalists are generally announced the spring before the convention. The John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer is part of the Hugo Awards.



Hugo winners in recent years include N.K. Jemisin, Nnedi Okorafor, Cixin Liu, Neil Gaiman, Neal Stephenson, J.K. Rowling, Jo Walton, Connie Willis, the late Ursula K. Le Guin, and the films *Arrival* and *Wonder Woman*, as well as episodes of *Doctor Who* and George R.R. Martin's *Game of Thrones*.



The 2019 Hugo Awards ceremony, science fiction's equivalent of the Oscars, will take place at 7:30 pm on Sunday, 18 August in the CCD. The ceremony will be hosted by Afua Richardson, a Featured Artist at Dublin 2019, and Irish author Michael Scott. The physical Hugo Awards are trophies in the shape of a rocket ship mounted on a base that is redesigned each year. This year's base was designed by Featured Artist Jim Fitzpatrick and created by Northern Ireland-based sculptor Eleanor Wheeler. Hugo Award trophies from past years are displayed at each Worldcon and can be seen at Point Square.

In addition to ongoing Hugo categories such as Best Novel, Best Fanzine, Best Related Work (for nonfiction), this year's Hugos include a one-off award for Best Art Book. Also at this year's awards, the Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book will be presented for the first time under that name.

Members of Dublin 2019 were able to vote on both the Hugos and the Retro Hugo Awards, honoring works published in 1943. The Retro Hugos will be announced at the Opening Ceremony on Thursday, 15 August, hosted by Irish author Dave Rudden and San Francisco-based author Ellen Klages.

ENDS

"World Science Fiction Society," "WSFS," "World Science Fiction Convention," "Worldcon," "NASFiC," "Hugo Award," the Hugo Award Logo, and the distinctive design of the Hugo Award Trophy Rocket are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.