

August 15, 2022 - For Immediate Release

## Chengdu Worldcon 2023 Redirects Passalong Funds to Support Chicon 8

Chicon 8, the 2022 World Science Fiction Convention, and <u>Chengdu Worldcon 2023</u>, the 2023 World Science Fiction Convention, are delighted to announce that Chengdu has redirected over \$57,000 of its Passalong entitlement to support Chicon 8 as Worldcon continues to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chicon 8 has already received over \$113,000 of Passalong from its three predecessors (<u>Dublin in 2019</u>, <u>CoNZealand 2020</u>, and <u>Discon III</u> [2021]), as well as \$15,000 of CoNZealand Passalong that Discon III redirected to Chicon. In addition, Chicon 8 has received grants of \$5,000 each from the previous Worldcons of 2012 (Chicon 7) and 2018 (Worldcon 76).

In total Chicon 8 is therefore being supported by the Worldcon community with over \$195,000 of funding (nearly 20% of its total budget of \$1.1m).

According to Helen Montgomery, Chair of Chicon 8, "we are enormously grateful for the support we have received from past and future Worldcons, and in particular for this unique gesture by Chengdu Worldcon 2023. As with so many events, Worldcon attendance has been significantly impacted by Covid-19, and this has inevitably made budgeting that much more challenging.

While our expected on-site attendance of over 4,000 people shows a strong recovery, it is still some 1,000 less than we would normally expect for a Chicago Worldcon."

Montgomery continued, "it is only through this exceptional level of community support that we are able to deliver the full Worldcon experience that our members have missed over the last three years. We have over 600 program items featuring over <u>700 program participants</u>, along with 50 Dealers in our <u>Dealers' Room</u> and 70 Artists in our <u>Art Show</u>. And we know how much our attendees are looking forward to seeing friends who they have missed over the last three years".

Speaking on behalf of Chengdu Worldcon 2023, Co-Chair Ben Yalow said "while this may be the first Worldcon in China, Chengdu Worldcon 2023 very much sees itself as part of the Worldcon family. The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted every country around the world, and we are delighted to do our part to ensure that the Worldcon institution recovers and thrives as it approaches its 85th year."

## **About the Passalong Program**

Under Passalong, Worldcons commit to pass a minimum of 50% of any surplus forward to their three immediate successors, subject to those conventions also joining the program. Given that every Worldcon is a financially separate entity, Passalong plays an important role in reducing the financial risk for each event and enables committees to plan with confidence.

## **ENDS**

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The 80th World Science Fiction Convention, Chicon 8, will take place in Chicago, Illinois, USA from 1-5 September 2022. For more information about the convention, including current membership rates, visit <a href="http://chicon.org">http://chicon.org</a>. All media releases are available at <a href="http://chicon.org/home/about-worldcon/press-and-media/">http://chicon.org/home/about-worldcon/press-and-media/</a>. Follow us on Twitter at @chicagoworldcon.

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