

One month ago, Chicon 8 came to a close.

It's hard to believe it's already been a month - it really feels like it just happened! So many years of work, an amazing five days, and a month of recovery time.

In my Message from the Chair in the Souvenir Book, I talked about my vision for Chicon 8.

Along the way, I was asked "what is the vision for your Worldcon?" and after this weekend is over, I think, I hope, that I'll be able to look back and say "yep – vision accomplished!"

For the volunteers, the staff, the team, here's the vision:

I want everyone volunteering to enjoy themselves and at the end say "Damn, that was *awesome* and I'm proud to have been a part of it!"

I want everyone volunteering at the convention to get to attend at least one of your "must see!" items per day of the convention.

For you, the attendees, this piece of the vision.

I want our theme of "Take to the Stars" to be about exploration – seeking out new (to us) things; meeting new people, creating new friendships, expanding the community; learning new ideas and expanding our culture. I would love it if everyone who attends Chicon 8 walked out having learned one new thing and made one new friend.

The final piece of the vision? I want everyone to look forward to the 9th Chicago Worldcon, whenever that may be.

Did we achieve our vision? Did you volunteer and enjoy yourselves? Did you get to see a "must see" item each day? Did you learn something new? Did you make a new friend? I really hope the answer is "yes" - and would love to hear from you! If you want to share your Chicon 8 experience, please email feedback@chicon.org or post in our [Facebook group](#)!

So here we are, one month later.

This is the first of a few email updates we will be sending you, our fabulous members, over the next few months as we wrap everything up.

Today's email includes several small updates, and then we dive into a bunch of data, because we're nerds and like data!

Later this month we will be sending you some thoughts on the feedback we've received from you thus far, including ideas we'll be sending to future Worldcons and some apologies for things

we got wrong. We know that this is important, and as such, we are taking our time to review the feedback, discuss it, consider lessons learned, and formulate our responses. We appreciate your patience with the process.

If you have feedback for us, please send it to feedback@chicon.org so we can address it and / or pass it on to future Worldcons and NASFiCs.

Helen Montgomery
Chair, Chicon 8

Updates!

- Souvenir Book Mailing

We are pulling together the details for sending out Souvenir Books to our virtual and supporting members who requested them. We should be getting the books and the list to our fulfillment partners in late October, and anticipate that they will be mailed out in early November.

Please take a moment to verify your mailing address in our registration system, and also please review your publications preference for the souvenir book - if you don't want a paper copy, please make sure your status is either "email only" or "no paper pubs". **Please do this by Friday, October 21.**

The PDF of the Souvenir Book (and all other publications) is available on our website:
<https://chicon.org/home/for-members/publications/>

- Chicon 8 Newsletter Archive

In case you missed it, our Convention Newsletter, StarChart, can still be found on the website. It's a great trip down Memory Lane!

<https://chicon.org/star-chart/>

- Merch!

It's been a wild ride trying to get you cool Chicon 8 merchandise. We opened our Redbubble store, featuring the (fully licenced) artwork of Ray vanTilburg and Emily Knowles-Grumble. Then people started stealing the artwork. Then Redbubble shut down our store during the convention, which meant that our order of stuff to sell to you at-con wasn't completed. As a result, we ended up not having as much merchandise as we'd hoped at the convention.

The good news is that our Redbubble store is back open! Please only buy from Chicon 8 - anyone else stole our artwork. (We're working on getting those taken down, but it takes time.)

<https://www.redbubble.com/people/Chicon-8/explore?page=1&sortOrder=recent>

We are working to find a print-on-demand partner so we can also get you the t-shirts we had at the convention featuring artwork from our Special Guests Eric Wilkerson and Gene Ha. We will get you that information as soon as possible.

Odds & Ends

- We are not planning to distribute a DVD of the masquerade for purchase. A copy will be sent to the International Costumers Guild Archive.
- We still have items from our Fire Sale available. We will send out an updated list later in October.
- Artist payments have been sent! If you haven't received your payment, please contact treasurer@chicon.org
- Our Airmeet Event for Virtual Chicon 8 is now closed. We are going through and will be curating a selection of videos that we hope to make permanently public, and will keep you posted.
- Our YouTube channel (Chicon 8 Events) currently features the Hugo Awards Ceremony (including the ASL stream) and Closing Ceremony. We are also going to re-upload Opening Ceremony very soon. You can watch the videos here:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwe1s0QtQYnOZWla29TI7PQ/featured>

Chicon 8 By The Numbers:

- Registration numbers

Our finance and reg folks have put in a lot of hours reconciling all the registration data, and these are very close to final numbers. We'll be putting in a more complete breakdown into the Long List of Worldcons, but here's the summary:

Attending (including child, teen, YA, Kid-in-tow): 3096

Attending (First Worldcon): 1083

Virtual: 543

Day Admissions: 302

Supporting: 1506

Total: 6530

- Program Participants

We had 759 Program Participants this year. 364 were onsite only, 163 were virtual only, and 232 were "hybrid participants" (onsite but also participating in virtual sessions).

- Onsite Program and Events

Our program and events teams put together a LOT of things for Chicon 8 members to enjoy!

356 onsite panels
30 onsite presentations
33 onsite meetups
39 onsite workshops
63 onsite readings
125 autographing sessions (onsite)
200 onsite table talks (formerly known as Kaffeeklatsches/literary beers)
26 concerts
2 theatrical performances

Plus the Main Stage events - Opening Ceremony, Masquerade, Hugo Awards Ceremony, and Closing Ceremony.

- Virtual C8 Program Items:

136 virtual panels
10 virtual presentations
10 virtual meetups
9 virtual workshops
75 virtual readings
68 virtual table talks

There were 189 virtual members who attended 20 hours or more of programming, 44 virtual members who attended more than 40 hours of programming, and 6 members who attended more than 60 hours. These numbers are before counting our replays, i.e. just the people who watched programming live. Our average member attended 9 total sessions.

And just for fun: our members used a total of 30,789 emojis to react.

- COVID cases

We greatly appreciate everyone who attended in person for following the masking protocols. Despite our best efforts, we did have some COVID cases (not really a surprise).

Total Cases: 60

Total Attendance: 3574

Illinois Weekly Case Rates: 164 per 100k

While our numbers appear higher than the state levels at first glance, we believe that it is due to the ease of reporting to us, and our request that people report.

- Chicago Worldcon Community Fund

The Chicago Worldcon Community Fund (CWCF) was established with the goal of helping defray the expenses of attending Chicon 8 for the following groups of people: non-white fans, LGBTQIA+ fans, and local Chicago fans with limited means.

The generosity of our members was overwhelming. We received over \$23,000 from various sources, which allowed us to help over 100 people attend Chicon 8.

Full details can be found here:

<https://chicon.org/home/for-members/chicago-worldcon-community-fund/>

Thank You, Volunteers!

Chicon 8, like all Worldcons, is a labor of love run entirely by volunteers. We think our volunteers are the BEST Worldcon volunteers EVER!!! All 560 of you!

- At-con volunteers

We had 115 attendees walk up to volunteer at the convention. They worked a total of 800 reported hours.

Of those volunteers, 48 of them worked an additional 345 reported hours during Move-In / Move-Out.

- Staff

People considered "staff" were those who worked on pre-convention planning, or who were recruited / assigned to specific roles at the convention.

There were 435 staff members.

- We would like to recognize our Volunteer of the Con - David Kushner, who worked over 50 hours during the convention!
- We would also like to recognize our Staff Member of the Con - Marinda Darnell. Marinda worked in Staff Services (Volunteers, Google Support, and took over as Onsite IT Area Head when the original Area Head became ill), Finance, and Program. If you volunteered with the convention, odds were good you interacted with Marinda at some point. Thank you, Marinda!

It's Awards Season!

It's so much fun to give out awards to people!

- Art Show Awards

Thank you to all the artists who shared their work with us at Chicon 8! As is tradition, we voted for our favorites.

- Best in Show: Vincent DiFate “The Outer Reach”
- Best 2D: Eric Wilkerson “Alien Lives Matter”
- Best 3D : John Douglass “Green Auto Tanker”
- Directors Choice AKA Best subversion of art show rules: Lucy Synk “Strange New Worlds”

How were the art show rules subverted, you ask? One of the judges, Dr. Bob Passavoy, and the Art Show Director, Elizabeth Klein-Lebbink, were walking through the art show and ran across Lucy Synk’s piece, which was kind of 2.5 dimensional, fun, irreverent, and really really good. Bob promptly dubbed it great for subverting the 2D vs 3D paradigm and we ran with it. Lucy was there as well telling us how much fun she had making it. Humor aside, it was an excellent piece of work and very deserving, and yes it’s a homage to the newest Star Trek series “Strange New Worlds”

- Party Awards

We love our parties in Chicago! Huge thanks to all the individuals and groups who showed up and spent their evenings making our evenings more fun. As is tradition in Chicago, we asked our attendees to vote in the Party Awards, and the results were announced at Closing Ceremony. Each winning party received four blue pint glasses with the Chicon 8 logo etched on them.

- Best Food: Discon 3
- Best Drink: Glasgow 2024 (The Glasgow Gimlet)
- Best Overall: The Royal Manticoran Navy
- Hospitality / Community Choice: Seattle 2025

- Masquerade Awards

Our Masquerade was held on Saturday evening, hosted by William Dezoma and featuring a “halftime” performance by Raks Geek.

The winning entries and photos can be found on our website here:
<https://chicon.org/2022/09/04/masquerade-astounding-faces-on-parade/>

- Hugo Awards

There were Hugo Awards! We had a great ceremony this year with our Toastmasters, Charlie Jane Anders and Annalee Newitz, with a beautiful base designed by Brian Keith Ellison of BKE Designs. Also thanks to Dell Magazines for sponsoring the Astounding Award, Spring Schoenhuth of Springtime Creations for the Astounding Finalist Pins, and Sara Felix for designing and making the Lodestar Award.

The full list of winners and detailed statistics (data!) can be found here:
<https://chicon.org/home/whats-happening/hugo-awards/>