

## **What is Worldcon?**

Founded in 1939, the World Science Fiction Convention is one of the largest international gatherings of authors, artists, editors, publishers, and fans of science fiction and fantasy. The Hugo Awards, a leading award for excellence in the fields of science fiction and fantasy, are voted on by the Worldcon membership and presented during the convention.

## **What is Worldcon 75?**

The 75th World Science Fiction Convention, Worldcon 75 will take place in Helsinki, Finland, 9-13 August 2017. For more information about the convention, including current membership rates, visit <http://worldcon.fi>. All media releases are available at <http://worldcon.fi/press>.

The Guests of Honor for Worldcon 75 are John-Henri Holmberg, Nalo Hopkinson, Johanna Sinisalo, Claire Wendling, and Walter Jon Williams.

World Science Fiction Conventions are annual gatherings of fans including writers, artists, editors, and academics. They are organized by not-for-profit groups who raise the money to run them with ticket and advertising sales, sometimes supplemented with governmental arts funding. The event moves to a different location each year, although some cities have hosted a Worldcon more than once. The Hugo Awards are the highlight of the convention, recognizing notable works from the past year. However, other awards are often presented at Worldcons, which also include many panel discussions, presentations, and workshops related to literature, history, science, and the arts, as well as film showings, an art show, a masquerade, and concerts. The site of the Worldcon two years in the future is also announced, after voting concludes.

This will be the northernmost Worldcon in history, the first in Finland, and one of only five held in a non-anglophone location. With members from over 55 countries, it will be a very international event. More than 5,000 members are expected to attend, although the number of participants may still rise, as memberships are still being sold.

Finnish fandom as an organized entity emerged in 1976, and has grown since then to support multiple conventions welcoming attendees from around the world. The largest is Finncon, a semi-annual national event which regularly sees 4000 visitors. Emboldened by these successes, a very international organizing committee led by Finns bid, twice, to hold the first ever Worldcon in Finland. The second bid succeeded, and Worldcon 75 in Helsinki became a reality. For a detailed history of Finnish fandom, and many interesting facts about Finland, you are encouraged to consult Worldcon 75's Progress Reports, accessible here: <http://www.worldcon.fi/publications/>