

STAR CHART

THE CHICON 8 NEWSLETTER



Day 0-1 Aug. 31/Sept. 1, 2022 Adapted from [Online Blog](#)

Incoming transmissions!

Chicon's Online Newsletter

Come back soon for event reports, convention updates, and so much more! Star Chart will be the first Worldcon newsletter to be published entirely online, beginning August 31st.

Do you have suggestions for the Chicon 8 newsletter team? We are accepting articles, event updates, local recommendations, party news, photos, and other Chicon-related content. Please email your ideas to us at: newsletter@chicon.org!

Newsletter content will be published during the convention (August 31st – September 5th). All submissions are subject to editorial review and approval. Content must abide by Chicon 8 policies and codes of conduct.

- Rex Allen Hughes, *Newsletter Editor*

Welcome to the World of Tomorrow!

Chicon 8 Approaches

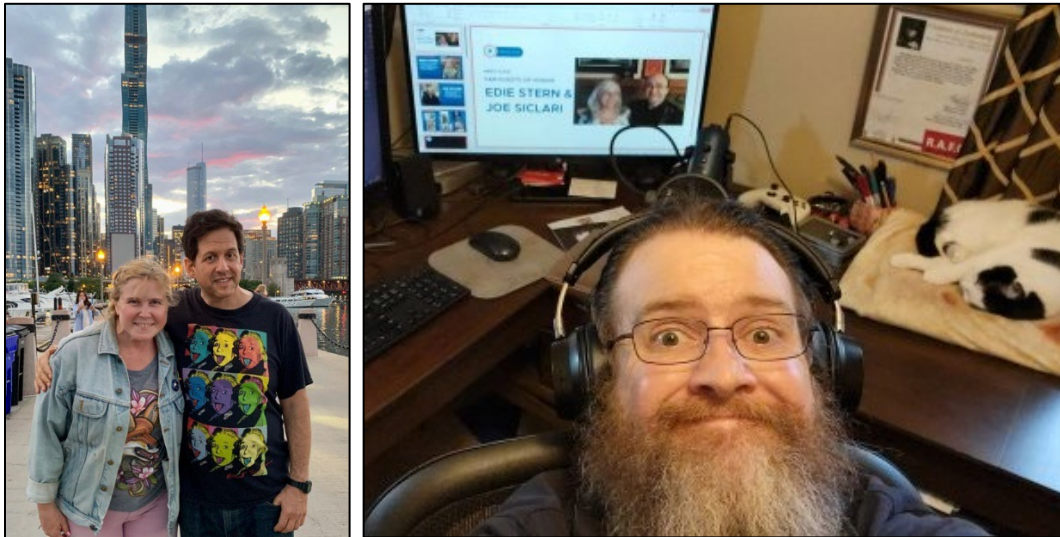
We may still be a day away from the convention proper, but like the formation of a galaxy in our little corner of the cosmos, we can already see the elements being pulled together. Travelers are arriving, spaces are coming to life, schedules are being reviewed, and fans from around the world are feeling that good old collective energy.

Sometimes, it's nice to step back and appreciate all of the great stuff happening around us. A good convention opens up our world, bringing us together as we share stories and exciting programming. None of it would be possible without the fantastic people of our community: the planners, the performers, the merrymakers, the creators, and, of course, the fans. You are Chicon 8, and we are so grateful for all of you. Meanwhile, the world of tomorrow is full of potential. A galaxy is taking shape. As Chicon 8 approaches, let's see what our fellow fans have been up to!

Note for Readers: Star Chart was published entirely online from August 31 to September 5, 2022. It was the first Worldcon newsletter to be published using a blog format, and the newsletter posts were originally integrated into the Chicon 8 website. The PDF copies preserve all published content for specific days of the conference.



“Pictures from working on program operations on Monday in a boardroom!” (Kris “Nchanter” Snyder)



“I am here in Chicago with my husband Maury, who will be volunteering at the con ... We are having an excellent time!” (Ranee Dawn)

Richard Fife on the Guest of Honor/Special Guest Displays team rendering videos up to the last minute, kept company by his cat, Eowyn (Photo taken off-site)

On Behalf of Charles de Lint

As many of you are aware, our former Guest of Honor, Charles de Lint, had to step down from Chicon 8 due to the illness of his wife, MaryAnn. There are now two fundraising campaigns to raise money for additional therapy for MaryAnn as she continues her long recovery from Powassan: a new Patreon for Charles, a Go Fund Me, and an online auction to be held later in the fall.

In order to improve, in order to go home, MaryAnn needs much more therapy – of all kinds, and much more frequently – than the Canadian healthcare system can or will provide. In addition, the past 11 months have been incredibly difficult for Charles, personally and professionally, as you can imagine. In short, they need our help and Chicon 8 is confident that our community will answer the call. Please help however you can.

Sunrise Edition: Day One

As I'm sitting outside the Market café, enjoying my morning brew and watching the convention come to life, there's a sense of promise in the air.

For many, it's the promise of engaging with the stories we love, whether it be through a panel discussion, a masterwork of art, or simply connecting with a fellow fan. For others, it may be the anticipation of meeting their favorite creators and learning about how a beloved tale came to be. For myself, as a longtime convention fan and first-time Worldcon attendee, the promise of new stories is strong, and I'm looking forward to this experience with the wonderful cast of characters around me. (As you can probably tell, I have been reading and watching a lot of the *Sandman* series lately... What a story about stories, eh?)

I hope you have a thrilling schedule planned for the first full day of programming. I know that I'm excited to learn more about "Cyberpunk Traditions Outside the United States" in about an hour, and the upcoming Art Show tours will be something to behold. Be on the lookout for our art show report later today, as we share highlights from the Korshak and Fan Guest exhibits. And, of course, we have the Opening Ceremonies at 8 pm, where we will hear from our toastmasters, Charlie Jane Anders and Annalee Newitz, our chair, and other committee members as they provide an overview of the convention.

As many of you are probably aware, you can also find news about these events and other vital convention information through our website's home page and various publications. The Pocket Program is especially helpful, and it has been formatted for easy viewing on smartphones, tablets, and other devices (hint: if you download it to your smartphone, it will literally fit inside your pocket!).

In a way, we are now experiencing the first chapter of Chicon 8 this morning, and all of us are taking part in telling the story of Worldcon over the next few days. While there may be moments when the plot changes tone and things do not go according to plan, there will also be unforgettable moments, friendships forged, and memories that we will cherish long after the convention comes to a close.

At the end of the day, stories are about people, even if they take place in a fantastic land or somewhere between the stars. Let's tell a great story – together.



- Rex Allen Hughes, *Newsletter Editor*



Stroll with the Stars

One of the traditional activities during Worldcons is the daily Stroll with the Stars. It's an opportunity to see the world outside the convention, get a little exercise with a leisurely stroll through the local area in the company of some of your favorite creators, and learn a little about Chicago. Today's Stroll starts at 7:00 pm, meeting in the East Tower Hotel Lobby. There will be morning and evening Strolls

on Friday and Saturday and morning Strolls on Sunday and Monday. Please see the Program Guide for details. (Michael Nelson, *Star Chart Newsletter Reporter*)



Virtual Access Apology

We apologize for the impact that accessibility issues within Airmeet, our platform for Virtual Chicon 8, have had on our members. Thank you to people who have reached out to us about these issues as we launched this week.

The short version of our reply is that you are correct. There are definitely accessibility issues within Airmeet. Some issues we knew about and planned for, some issues are things we recently discovered, and some are things we simply didn't think through all the way.

We knew that whatever platform we chose would have problems. We chose a platform that several of our staff have used before. We had a broad team working on Virtual C8, representing multiple divisions and areas, including our Accessibility Services team. Nonetheless, despite our best efforts, we still missed some pieces. We are continuing to work on various workarounds for known issues. You can see our updated Accessibility Guide here (under the Virtual C8 menu tab) which is everything we know about Accessibility at this moment. We will continue to update it as we learn more.

If you need help, we have our live text chat service located at the bottom of the Virtual C8 page. You can also email us at virtual@chicon.org for assistance.

Helen Montgomery, *Chair*



Party News for Thursday

Social gatherings are on the horizon! The following party list is available for all members. Some parties include times that are to be determined (TBD). You can also find information for big parties in your pocket program. We hope you'll enjoy the Thursday Night Open Filks at 8:30 pm and Dance! with DJ Siobhan Krzywicki 10:00 pm!

Please see the Parties Page for information about attending and hosting parties.

(continued on next page)

Parties for Thursday, September 1, 2022

31st Floor

Boskone Fan Party / Boston Fandom Party

Skyline Suite, Room 3176 – Thursday Evening (Time TBA)

SPD: The Society for the Preservation of Data

The Society for the Preservation of Data party is in the Rocinante's Wardroom and discussing The Challenge of Orbital Debris Debrief in Hyatt East 3161 from 9-10 PM Thursday!

32nd Floor

Dublin 2019 and Glasgow 2024

Astor Suite 3276 & 3283 – Thursday Evening (9 pm)

Zombies Need Brains

River View Suite, Room 3270 – Starting at 8pm

Starbase Indy

River View Suite, Room 3271 – Thursday Evening (10 pm)

Forthcoming and Other Party News

Michael Haynes At the Intersection of Love and Death Release Party

Room 3181 – Friday Evening (9 to 11 pm). Michael Haynes will be celebrating the release of his debut short-fiction collection, *At the Intersection of Love and Death*, with a party in Room 3181 from 9 to 11 PM. His collection includes over two dozen stories spanning the speculative fiction genres, dealing with love, death, and the places where those experiences intersect. There will be whiskey (since characters in several of his stories drink whiskey), other beverages, and light munchies (none of which show up in his stories which calls into question his rationale for the whiskey).

Join us at the Tune in Tomorrow book release party! Rande Dawn's debut "funny as hell" novel from Rebellion/Solaris (Available now)

Millennium Suite (Party Floor) – Saturday, Sept. 3 from 7pm – Whenever we run out of cake. There will be snacks, drinks, raffles and ... did we mention CAKE?

33rd Floor

Down Under Fan Fund/FANAC

River View Suite, Room 3370 – Thursday Evening (Time TBA). Down Under Fan Fund is celebrating its 50th year of exchanging fans between North America and Australasia. Cohost Lesleigh Luttrell was the very first to take the trip to Australia in 1972. We're sharing the party with the website FANAC.org, which preserves fan history with a crowdsourced archive of fanzines; YouTube records of conventions and interviews; and entries in the Fancyclopedia.

Seattle 2025

3352/54 Millennium Suite – Thursday Evening (Time TBA)

Rochester Fantasy Fans / Buffalo in 2024 NASFIC

River View Suite, Room 3370 – Starting at 9pm

34th Floor

The Royal Manticoran Navy

3470 Park Suite – 8pm – 1am

Joel's Weekly Whiskey Zoom Party

3471 Park Suite – Thursday Evening (Time TBA)



Frugal Finds, Good Eats, and Bookstores Galore

Tired of Lembas Bread and... more Lembas Bread?

Are you looking for a good place to eat or grab a snack between panels and activities? You may want to try out one of the establishments below, recommended by fellow Chicon 8 attendees!

“Most of the eating establishments in the lower level are closed after 4 and on Sundays. A great place to eat almost anytime is Bockwinkel’s at 222 North Columbus Drive. They are open every day until 11 pm. Deli salads start at \$4.99 a pound and sandwiches at \$6.99. In addition, there are vegan items and microwaveable entries. Just go out the Stetson exit, turn right, and you will see it across the street. Watch out for pigeons!” (Suzan Spitzberg)

“In a sea of Dunkin’ shops (nearly as many as Boston), Chicago local chain Stan’s Donuts stands out as a wicked spot for fresh breakfast sandwiches, coffee, and amazing donuts. The shop on Michigan Avenue (181 Michigan Ave) is a five-minute stroll (0.3 miles, or 0.5 km) from the Hyatt.” (Michael Nelson)

“Near Millennium Park, there is an excellent upscale Greek restaurant: Avli’s on the Park, 180 N. Field Blvd. They serve lunch & dinner daily. Expensive, but highly recommended.” (Laurie Mann)

“The website Big Travel 7 has ranked Cindy’s Rooftop, located only half a mile from the Hyatt Regency Chicago, as the best rooftop bar in the U.S.” (Steven H Silver)

Bookstores around Chicago

So, you’ve just finished lunch and you’re waiting for the next program to start. What to do, what to do? Well, we all love a good bookstore, don’t we?

Be sure to check out the Positron Chicago Bookish Tourist Chicon Guide, created by Casella Brookins, for local bookstore recommendations!

From the guide: “Whenever I travel, I like to play tourist mostly by checking out the bookstores and cafes. Since loads of speculative-fiction types are coming for this year’s Worldcon, I thought a book-focused tour guide of Chicago might be in order. This is an extremely partial and subjective list, there’s loads of bookstores and other writerly/readerly attractions I left off here for brevity’s sake! But, if you’re looking for an excuse to check out a neighborhood or two while you’re in town, I hope this gives you some ideas.” (Originally posted by Casella Brookins at **PositronChicago.com**)

Geographically Challenged? Take a Convention Tour!

Is this your first Worldcon, or are you feeling a bit lost between the East and West Towers? If so, take a Convention Tour. Our convention tour leaders will introduce you to the convention, show you where everything is, and make some suggestions of things you shouldn’t miss (highly recommended for anyone who hasn’t attended a Worldcon before). Meet the tour leader(s) in the Skybridge, the walkway between the Hyatt East and West Tower on the second floor.

The first tour that took place today had over 100 participants! We were split into two groups to make things more manageable. Besides seeing the usual spaces (meeting rooms, con suites, and so on), we also found secret escalators, a nook with vending machines, and elevator options.

Upcoming tours are scheduled for Thursday (1 pm, 4 pm, and 7 pm) and Friday (8:30 am, 10 am, 1 pm, and 4 pm). Tours will also be hosted on Saturday and Sunday. Search for “Convention Tour” on the Chicon 8 Program Guide (guide.chicon.org) for more details. (Suzan Spitzberg and Michael Nelson, *Newsletter Reporters*)



Astounding Award Finalists: An Apology

We apologize for errors that have appeared in the official Chicon 8 Souvenir Book on page 98, in the listing of previous Astounding Award winners.

When constructing the list of previous winners, the team mistakenly took the first name (ordered alphabetically) from this year’s Astounding Award ballot and listed it for the 2022 Astounding Award. We will correct this in the electronic version of the Souvenir Book. The team working on the Souvenir Book does not have visibility into the results of this year’s voting, and this error does not reflect anything other than the alphabetical ordering of the ballot.

We also apologize for the misspelling of Emily Tesh’s name as the 2021 Astounding Award winner, and the misspelling of Jeannette Ng’s name as the 2019 Astounding Award winner. These will also be corrected in the electronic version of the Souvenir Book. We are very sorry for these mistakes.

Kat Jones, *Hugo Administrator*



Chicon Signals: Day 1 Updates and News

Call for On-Site Virtual Hosts!

We are in desperate need of On-Site Virtual Hosts. The host sits in the room where the panel is happening at the Hyatt, helps start the streaming, and acts as the “voice” for any questions that come in on the virtual channel. Super easy, and training will be provided! If you are attending any of our on-site panels that are being streamed to Airmeet, please help us out! You can sign up for panels / shifts at the volunteer’s desk by Convention Registration (East Tower, Gold Level).

Information Desk

Have questions? The Info Desk has answers! They are located next to Registration on the Ballroom (Gold) Level of the East Tower. Here are a few answers to their frequently asked questions (FAQ):

Parking vouchers with the reduced con rate can be found at the Info Desk.

Fan Fund Donations can be made in the Fanzine Lounge in the Exhibit (Purple) Level of the East Tower.

Need a place to take a break from the noise? The Tranquility Safer Space is in Gallery 1 on the Skyway (Blue) Level of the West Tower.

Gender Neutral Bathrooms

Looking for the gender-neutral bathrooms? They are a bit hidden, but here's how to find them. Go to the Concourse (Bronze) Level of the East Tower. Go through the door to the Monroe 1 meeting room, and they are at the end of the hall on your right!

Gaming at Chicon!

Looking for a place to play some games? Visit the Gaming Area, located on the 3rd floor of the West Tower. We have lots of games you can borrow, space for pick-up games, and a number of scheduled games throughout the weekend. More details are available in the online program at guide.chicon.org.

Recently added Gaming Event! Wicked Apples: Friday at 1pm in Ogden. Join Brenda Noiseux, creator of Wicked Apples, for a demo of this award-winning card game. Players use bluffing, memory, and a little luck as they try to devour 20+ unique apples and avoid the Wicked ones. Read your opponents, take calculated risks, and hope you choose correctly for your final bite. Be the last player not to eat a Wicked Apple to win! *Tabletop RPG: Ages 12+. Up to 5 players. Sign up is not required.*



Fan Fund Tables and Silent Auction (Saturday and Sunday)

Important information from Fan Fund Group to all Chicon 8 members! Fan fund tables are being set up in between Fanzine lounge and FANAC Exhibit. We are hosting a yard sale as well as a silent auction, and we're also doing a LIVE auction this Saturday at 8.30 PM in Grand Hall M-N. The auction items include art, t-shirts, books, comics, "tuckerizations" from authors (name a character), and lots of other fun things. Silent Auction runs until 5 pm on Sunday, which means we'll accept bids up until 5 pm sharp. Close out is 5 – 6 pm Sunday and Monday 11 am – 1 pm. If you have any questions regarding fan funds, please feel free to contact us at fanfunds@chicon.org. You can also stop by at the fan fund tables and talk to us.

We also want to give a huge THANK YOU to Dublin and Glasgow 2024 for kindly selling donated books and comics at their parties. All proceeds go to the Fan Fund Group, as well as ALL TIPS in the bar. Make sure to be there in Astor Suite 3276/3283, 9 pm. All the best from Fia Karlsson, Geri Sullivan, Erin Underwood, and Alison Scott

ConZealand 2020 (Friday)

Feel like you missed the in-person experience of ConZealand? Join us in Grand Ballroom A and B on Friday afternoon from 1 – 9 pm for some fun! We'll have activities, panels, and some of our displays available for you to enjoy and engage in. Visit the ConZealand page on our website for more information!

Play Garden

Are you attending Chicon 8 with kids? Check out the Play Garden in Maggie Daley Park, about a seven-minute walk (0.3 miles or 0.5 km) from the Hyatt. Take Stetson Avenue to Randolph Street, then walk through Millennium Park to the BP Pedestrian Bridge across Columbus Drive. You will then reach the 3-acre Play Garden with custom-designed play structures and sculptures for kids up to 12 years old.

Special thanks to Helen Montgomery, Vivian Abraham, Jenna Kantor, Fia Karlsson, Colin Harris, and Michael Nelson for contributing to this edition of Chicon Signals!

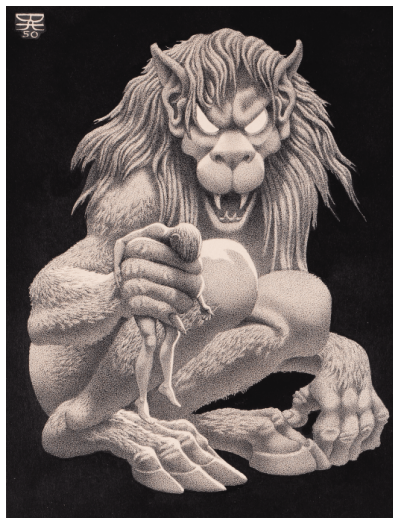


Night (and Day) Gallery: Highlights from Korshak Collection & Fan Guest Exhibits

Find more information about the Art Show on the following Chicon page, including special guests, a current list of artists, and contact info. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy these highlights from the exhibits on display!

Highlight from the Korshak Collection: “Pickman’s Model”

This iconic mixed media artwork was created by famed science fiction illustrator Hannes Bok (1914-1964) for H. P. Lovecraft’s story “Pickman’s Model” (1926). Created in 1950 and published in the December 1951 issue of Famous Fantastic Mysteries, the artwork depicts the canine-like monster painted by Pickman and encountered by the story’s narrator in the final room of Pickman’s art gallery.



The world premiere of “Pickman’s Model” is presented by the Korshak Collection: Illustrations of Imaginative Literature. The collection is on display in the San Francisco Room, just around the corner from the art show, and includes more than 60 illustrations of famous fantasy and science fiction stories.

Highlight from the Fan Guest Exhibit: “Guru” contemplating “Dreams”

See Thomas Kuebler’s “Guru” contemplating “Dreams” by Ukrainian artist Serget Poyarkov along with 39 other pieces in “Sharing Our Sense of Wonder: Art from the Collection of Joe Siclari and Edie Stern.” It’s all on display in the Art Show from Thursday–Sunday in Regency A-B-C (West Tower/Gold Level).



Brief, personal notes about each piece accompany each piece. Here’s what our Fan Guests of Honor say about Guru.

Edie: “This 3D piece radiates calm and serenity. It’s very curious – people either respond with wild dislike or wild appreciation. I’ve never seen anyone with a lukewarm response. When I practice yoga at home, I practice it not far from the Guru.”

Joe: “We put the Guru in an Exhibit at Boskone a few years ago. The response was immediate and extremely diverse. Some people thought he was just creepy. My son turns him to the wall. Others sought to commune with him. A Boskone attendee brought a chair up to the table and several different people sat with Guru for hours.”



Learn more about all of the art during docent tours of their exhibit with Chicon 8's Fan Guests of Honor on Friday at 10 am and Saturday at 1 pm.

ASFA Panels

ASFA, the “Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists,” has panels in the Art Show of members and other artists in the community. This year we are featuring artists:

- Mason Adams
- Dianita
- Sara Felix
- Ingrid Kallick
- Amelia Leonards
- Madolyn Locke
- Max Martelli
- John Picacio
- Christine Rhee
- Erica Lyn Schmidt
- Alissa Wales

Unfortunately, we will not be having the Chesleys at Chicon, which will be taking place online later this year.



Update from the Chair: Program Schedules

A couple of reminders for those of you on-site to keep track of all the awesome programming you want to see! ConClar (guide.chicon.org) is the most up to date program.

If you're having difficulty accessing it while in convention space, we recommend pulling it up on your phone in your room and taking a screenshot of your schedule, which you can then access easily even if signal is bad.

If you want a lower tech option, we have our daily schedule grids on paper at the Info Desk. Note that these had to go to the printer about two weeks ago, so they will not be fully up to date. We do have Change Sheets at the info desk as well, which are published daily. We also had someone point out that they looked at the schedule online in their room, and then used the “handy pad of paper and pen provided to me by the Hyatt” to jot down the items they wanted to see.

- Helen Montgomery, *Convention Chair*

Tammy's Tastings: Toast to Ukraine

Join us in showing your support for Ukrainian fans who are not able to join us at Worldcon this year. Enjoy a hand-crafted cocktail – your choice of the Blue Sky or the Golden Grain – and make a toast to our absent friends. We'll collect notes and pictures to share with them.

Hosted by Tammy's Tastings and Dublin 2019

Friday, September 2nd, from 1:30 pm to 4 pm – Room 3276



Ad Astra: To the Stars and Beyond!

For many of our members, Day One is coming to a close, logged into our memory banks as part of our collective story. But never fear – the adventure continues tomorrow! Be on the lookout for our full report of the Opening Ceremonies tomorrow morning, which will showcase the Hugo and Lodestar trophy designs. Let's look back on some of the memorable moments shared by our members!

Out of CONTEXT Quote: "Please don't lick the tablecloth."

Photos and Experiences

"We talked with Suzanne Palmer about her writing and upcoming stories. Suzanne has written and illustrated a flash fiction story especially for this convention. She has randomly left signed copies (there are 100) all over the hotel. Watch for a copy – a great con souvenir!

Also, the gaming library has an exhibit of Mahjong sets. Among them are sets from China and Japan, as well as a teenage set. Check them out!" (Suzan Spitzberg)



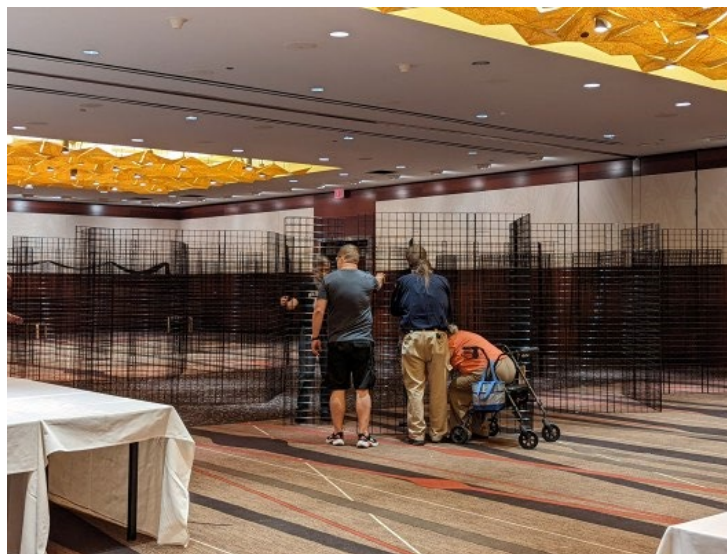
Photo of Guest of Honor Steve Barnes on the *Short and Sweet: Crafting an Elevator Pitch Panel*



Photo from *Going from Hobby to Career with Special Guest Eric Wilkerson*



Art Show Setup



The Chengdu Worldcon Booth



From Daisy the service dog: “Wow. MIMO was rough. I’m soooo tired. Logistics did an awesome job and gave me treats. Enjoy yourself! But don’t be like Daisy. Make sure to drink water and get enough sleep!!”



Special thanks to Helen Montgomery, Suzan Spitzberg, Benjamin Levy, Michael Nelson, and Maria Eskinazi for contributing to this edition of Ad Astra.

End of Day One Newsletter Posts