



# MINICON47

**April 6-8, 2012**

Progress Report 2



**Minicon 47**  
**PO Box 8297**  
**Lake Street Station**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55408**

Registration form included inside,  
or register online at [mnsf.org/minicon47](http://mnsf.org/minicon47)  
Preregistration and discount hotel room deadline is March 15th.

# Hotel

Minicon 47 will happen at the same hotel as last year. The current, proper name for this hotel is "Double-Tree by Hilton Hotel Bloomington - Minneapolis South." This hotel was previously known as the Sheraton Bloomington, and more previously known as the Radisson South.

This hotel is now affectionately known as the RadiSh Tree. The RadiSh Tree is located at 7800 Normandale Boulevard, Bloomington, Minnesota, 55439. This is near the northwest intersection of Highways 100 and 494, approximately nine miles due east of the MSP International Airport. From the intersection of Highways 494 and 100, the hotel is the tallest building in the immediate area, and can be easily reached via a frontage road that runs North/South, on the west side of Highway 100. Best of all, our crack negotiator has secured cabana rates that are the same as a regular room!

## Room Rates:

- ◇ Traditional Room \$89
- ◇ Cabana Rooms \$89
- ◇ Poolside Suites \$139

Be sure to book your rooms before March 15, 2012; on that date, all room rates will go up by \$10 per night. To book your room, please visit [www.mnstf.org/minicon47/hotel](http://www.mnstf.org/minicon47/hotel), or call the DoubleTree reservation line at 952-835-7800. If you would prefer a cabana room, or wish to host a room party, contact [parties@minicon47.mnstf.org](mailto:parties@minicon47.mnstf.org).

## Driving directions:

**From Duluth and the North** Take Interstate 35 to 35W South to Highway 62 West. Take Highway 100 South to Industrial Boulevard. The hotel will be on your right.

**From Des Moines and the South** Take Interstate 35 to 35W North to Interstate 494 West, and then to Highway 100 North. Take the first exit at Industrial Boulevard, go west to Normandale Boulevard and turn South. The hotel will be on your right.

**From Eau Claire and the East** Take 94 West to I-494 West and exit at Highway 100 North. Take the first exit at Industrial Boulevard, go west to Normandale Boulevard, turn South. The hotel will be on your right.

**From St. Cloud and the West** Take 94 East to I-494 South, to Highway 100 North. Take the first exit at Industrial Boulevard, go west to Normandale Boulevard, turn South. The hotel will be on your right.

**From the MSP Airport** Take Highway 494 west and merge onto Highway 100 north. Take the first exit, which will be Industrial Boulevard. From there, turn left onto Normandale Boulevard. The hotel will be on the right.

# Register for Minicon 47!

## 6-8 April 2012

### Author GoH Ted Chiang

### Fanzine GoH Christopher J Garcia

### Artist GoH Frank Wu

Postmarked by 31 July 2011: adult \$40, **student (13-20) \$25**  
Postmarked by 15 March 2012: adult \$45, **student (13-20) \$30**  
kids (6-12): \$20  
children (0-5): Free  
supporting: \$15

Make checks payable to: **Minicon 47**  
PO Box 8297, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408

You can also register online at [mnstf.org/minicon47](http://mnstf.org/minicon47)

#### Membership Type:

Adult  Student (13-20)  Kid  Child  Supporting  
Kid/child's age: \_\_\_\_ sex: \_\_\_\_ (optional, used for programming)

#### Please contact me about:

Volunteering  Kids' Programming

Want to participate on a Programming Panel?  
Contact Programming at [programming@minicon47.mnstf.org](mailto:programming@minicon47.mnstf.org)

Do not list me as a member on the Minicon website

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Middle

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last

\_\_\_\_\_  
Badge Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address Line 1

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address Line 2

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State / Province

\_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP / Postal Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Country (if not USA)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

# Registration

Preregistration is open through March 15th with these rates:

- ◇ \$45 Adult (21+)
- ◇ \$30 Student (13-20)
- ◇ \$20 Kid (6-12)
- ◇ \$0 Child (0-5)
- ◇ \$15 Supporting (upgradeable at the door to a full membership for an additional \$40)

Children up to five years old are free and do not need badges, but if you want to give your little prog a shiny badge you may register them.

Are you already registered? If so, the label on the back cover of this mailing will have the (R) symbol and your badge name.

You can register by sending us a check along with the registration form in this mailing, or register online using Paypal at [mnstf.org/minicon47/register](http://mnstf.org/minicon47/register).

After March 15th, you will have to register at the door, and the price goes up to \$60 for adults and \$32 for students; kid and child rates stay the same. We'd like you to register as early as possible to help us plan our events and food!

## Registration Hours

Registration will be open Thursday night in the consuite (room 215) for pre-registered members only. The normal registration hours for both pre-registered members and those who need to buy a membership at the door are:

- ◇ Friday 10am–10pm
- ◇ Saturday 9:30am–4pm
- ◇ Sunday 9:30am–4pm

The registration desk can be found in the hall outside the Grand Ballroom near the top of the escalator. Memberships for Minicon 48 can be purchased any time the registration desk is open as well as at the Dead Dog party Sunday evening in the bar (room 218).

## Registration Survey

We have embarked on a project to reconstruct older historical registration data. Our database is fairly complete back to Minicon 40 or so, but gets rapidly spottier as we go back further. Can you help us by filling out a survey? [mnstf.org/minicon47/regsurvey.php](http://mnstf.org/minicon47/regsurvey.php)

## Day Rates

We will have day rates for at-the-door purchase only (no pre-registration):

- ◇ Friday (Fri 10am–Sat 10am): \$30
- ◇ Saturday (Sat 10am–Sun 10am): \$40
- ◇ Sunday (Sun 10am–closing): \$25

Note that the Saturday rate is nearly as much as pre-registering. This is on purpose to encourage you to pre-register and stay the whole weekend! Nevertheless, we know that some people have other obligations which prevent this, so you can save a few bucks if you know you can only make one day.



# April 6-8, 2012

## Author Guest of Honor: Ted Chiang

Chiang's short stories have won many Nebula, Hugo and Campbell awards. He lovingly constructs his stories around fascinating ideas, such as life as an engineer on the Tower of Babel, or an alternate Industrial Revolution powered by golems, or the prospects for human science after machine intelligence surpasses us. His world-building is masterful and thorough and he writes with a great love of language.

## Fanzine Guest of Honor: Christopher J Garcia

Garcia is a writer, film producer, historian and fanzine editor from Sunnyvale, CA. Chris has worked at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, CA, for the last ten years. His fanzine *The Drink Tank* has been nominated four times for the Hugo Award and won in 2011. He also edits *Claims Department* and co-edits *Science Fiction San Francisco* with Jean Martin, *Journey Planet* with Claire Brialey and James Bacon, and the up-coming *Exhibition Hall* with Derek McCaw and James Bacon.

## Artist Guest of Honor: Frank Wu

### Special Guest Brianna Spacekat Wu

Frank's artwork appears throughout this progress report. Learn more about both guests and their work in the Art Show section.

Learn more about the convention and all our guests at  
<http://www.mnstf.org/minicon47/>

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# Volunteering

Minicon is totally volunteer run. We're a convention of equals: Even the hardest working members of the concom (convention committee) pay for their memberships just like you. In fact, we're so non-hierarchical, we don't even have an official definition of what it means to be on the concom. You're on it if you think you are. So we need your help! Your volunteer commitment can be as little as carrying a chair from one end of the convention to the other or as much as staffing a department for a day.

## Before the con:

Contact our volunteers head, Matthew Strait, at [volunteers@minicon47.mnssf.org](mailto:volunteers@minicon47.mnssf.org). If you have big goals, let him know, or if you'd just like to register your intent to help out however you can at the con, it'd be great to know who you are.

Attend a concom (convention committee) meeting. Our meetings are open and informal; we'd love to see you there, even if you just want to watch and see how we do things. They are announced in the Minn-stf newsletter, the Einblatt, at [mnssf.org/einblatt](http://mnssf.org/einblatt), on the Minicon Facebook page, and on the Minicon LiveJournal.

For an even less formal opportunity to meet concom members, come to one of the Minn-stf parties, which are also announced in the Einblatt (again: [mnssf.org/einblatt](http://mnssf.org/einblatt)) and on the Minn-stf homepage, [mnssf.org](http://mnssf.org). The next one is the annual Pool Party and is Sat Feb 18 starting at 2pm and going into the night at the DoubleTree where Minicon is held (find us near the pool). By happy coincidence, our next Minicon concom meeting will be at the Pool Party. It will also start at 2pm, but will end much sooner than the party.

## At the con:

Arrive Thursday afternoon/evening if you can. The consuite will be open for volunteers, where 'volunteers' means anyone willing to help with setup (no need to sign up ahead of time). We'll be setting up the artshow, making signs, assembling the consuite and bar, collating registration material and doing anything else that needs to get done.

When you arrive at the con, look for a sign-up sheet on the registration table. There you can sign up for shifts in the video room, art show, badging the consuite/bar, and helping with load-out on Monday morning.

Offer to help as you see a need. Most volunteering is informal - no need to sign up ahead of time. Remember that we have no paid staff, we're all in this together!



Dragon v. Spinosaurus by Frank Wu

## After the con:

Attend our post-mortem meeting (time and location of this meeting will be announced at Minicon) to give feedback on how things went and to find out how to get involved for next year's Minicon. We're always looking for people to be apprentice department heads!

# Gaming

Hi, and welcome to Gaming @ Minicon! It is hard to believe, but this year is going to be even BETTER than last year. For board gaming, we are doing a theme of Sci-Fi board games including such legends as: Battlestar Galactica, and Twilight Imperium. For electronic gamers, I am bringing my X-Box 360 console and a special guest - Level Up Games. The guys at Level Up Games came up with a cool event we are running that weekend - Win the Classic Console Event. We are going to have four different consoles with a different event around each. Whomever wins that event will walk away with the very console they won the event with! They are also fans of Magic the Gathering and Yu-Gi-Oh! They are offering to also be our sponsor for Magic the Gathering events. Yup, that's right. . . MORE MAGIC. I heard what you said last year, and will be packing more cool events in this year. Well, that's it for now. Make sure to stop down between panels and hanging out at the party rooms to relax in the gaming area.

Gaming events scheduled so far at Minicon 47 run Friday 5-11pm, Saturday 10am-11pm and Sunday 10am-2pm. To add your game to the schedule, mail [gaming@minicon47.mnssf.org](mailto:gaming@minicon47.mnssf.org). The gaming area is available at all times during the convention for unscheduled gaming (it has no doors, so we couldn't close it even if we wanted to, which we don't).

-Matt "Cyber Urza" McMillan, Gaming Head

# Cinema Obscura

In 2012, Cinema Obscura plans on going Indie and Viral! We are planning on showing documentaries such as *Charles Beaumont: The Short Life of Twilight Zone's Magic Man* and *Finding the Future: A Science Fiction Conversation*; independent narratives such as *Sita Sings the Blues*, *Ink* and *Lunopolis*; international short films like *Paths of Hate* (from Poland), *Payload* (from Australia), *Status* (from Australia), and *The Anachronism* (from Canada); and even webseries, such as *Lumina*, *GOLD* and *Aidan 5*.

# Children's Programming

There will be children's programming, new and varied. A schedule is forthcoming. Here are a few of the events we have planned.

The TOWER OF BROKEN DREAMS once again will rise! Broken toys of all kinds accepted, but please remove batteries. Old phones also welcome!

Marian will do her "IT Hour (Infant Toddler Hour)" with a pop-up tent full of balls, boombox music, potted plant for atmosphere, and various things to chase around the big room. Parents and volunteers welcome.

# Parties

One of the best things about conventions are the people you meet. Minicon has a long tradition of excellent parties sponsored by a few of the groups that make fandom such a rich and diverse experience. What better way to add to your con than to spend some time getting to know some of our favorite folks!

## Groups and parties confirmed so far for Minicon 47:

- ◇ **KCin2016 Worldcon Bid** ([www.KCin2016.org](http://www.KCin2016.org)) – A Heroic Bid For a Super City! Come see why KC is a great place for a Worldcon.
- ◇ **Brit Con MN** ([www.britconmn.org](http://www.britconmn.org)) – A New British SF and Folklore Con coming late summer, 2012. Intrigued? We are!
- ◇ **Geek Partnership Society** ([www.geekpartnership.org](http://www.geekpartnership.org)) – All that which is Geeky! Fun, games and Mini-cupcakes...
- ◇ **Terry Pratchett's Seamstresses** – What can we say? We're honored to have them back again!
- ◇ **Sarah Richard & Co.** – Of Goddess party fame. Great fun and fantastic people!

Want a room in the "heart" of the Con? Minicon 47 still has a few pool area cabana rooms available at the same rate as regular rooms. Contact [parties@minicon47.mnsthf.org](mailto:parties@minicon47.mnsthf.org) to get a good spot and to get your party advertised by the convention.

# Consuite

Any respectable convention needs food. While it's great to get a few friends/ family members together and go stimulate the economy at a nearby restaurant, sometimes you need a little something more convenient. Come to Consuite! Minicon makes feeding you a priority. Free pop (soda), chips, candy, coffee and even veggies. Protein events happen at random times. Fresh coffee comes out around 8 or 9 AM. We never close for snackies or for just hanging out space. Right next door to the bar, but separate with good lighting, less noise & lots of comfy seating. Want to get in good with the people who have the food? Volunteer in Consuite! We have quick jobs, or a capable member could run the show for an hour or two. It will open at 4pm on Friday and will stay open continuously until Sunday at 4pm, at which point it collapses into the bar (room 218) for the Dead Dog Party.

# Costuming

Minicon will hold a costume contest in an informal setting, with prizes for adults and children, including participation awards for all. Skits are okay, but not required. Our theme is, "The minions are coming, the minions are coming!" You're encouraged to dress as your favorite minion.

# Music

Minicon will be full of music once again. There will be shows with familiar faces, some out of town special guests, and another Minicon Jam Band. And as always...Late Night Music Circles!

# Programming

Here in the Programming Department, we're so excited, we could just explode! Here's some of the new things we'll be trying this year.

We're planning on having some programming events that tie in to this year's Cinema Obscura selections. There will be one movie followed by a round table discussion, and another followed by a panel on the movie topic.

On Saturday afternoon, we'll be one of very few conventions broadcasting the Hugo ballot nominees.

Art Show will again include popular art-specific programming, including a chance to meet the artists, and a chance to get feedback during a group sketch event.

Programming hours will be:

- ◇ Friday: 4-11 pm
- ◇ Saturday: 10am-11 pm
- ◇ Sunday: 10am-5pm

Our current guests of honor have encouraged a broad and impressive set of panel ideas, about twice as many as at this time last year. Interested in being on programming panels? Visit [mnsthf.org/index.php?title=M47\\_Programming\\_Brainstorm](http://mnsthf.org/index.php?title=M47_Programming_Brainstorm). There you can read descriptions for all available panels. You can then sign up by e-mailing [programming@minicon47.mnsthf.org](mailto:programming@minicon47.mnsthf.org).

If you would like to give a reading at Minicon, please contact Kelly Strait, our Author Readings Coordinator, at [kellystrait@minicon47.mnsthf.org](mailto:kellystrait@minicon47.mnsthf.org).



Dragon v. Spinosaurus by Frank Wu

# Medallion Hunt

The Minicon Medallion Hunt will be back for its seventh year! A collection of clues ranging from charmingly simple to deeply devious will lead to an array of shiny 1973 pennies redeemable for pride and prizes. This year's theme will be multiple levels of encryption. The clues, as always, will be listed in the Bozo Bus Tribune, the Official Organ of Minicon 47.

# Bozo Bus Tribune

The BBT is Minicon's at-con newsletter, which provides news updates to Minicon members, who are encouraged to submit their own...or just drop in to play Hangman and keep the editor company.

# Art Show

Good news this year! We have an Artist Guest of Honor, Frank Wu! But wait there's more! His wife, Brianna Spacekat Wu, will be contributing her own art and programming as well. Frank Wu won the Hugo Award for Best Fan Artist in 2004, 2006, 2007 and 2009; he was previously nominated in 2002 and 2003. He also won the Grand Prize (the Gold Award) in the Illustrators of the Future contest in 2000. He works in many media, including acrylic and digital painting. Frank is also a filmmaker, having released in 2006 the animated short, 'The Tragical Historie of Guidolon the Giant Space Chicken.' A Director's Cut of this short was released in 2007, and a full-length version is now in production. In addition to these activities, Dr Wu holds a Ph.D. in bacterial genetics from University of Wisconsin Madison, though his day job is in patent law for a pharmaceutical conglomerate.

Brianna Spacekat Wu attended the University of Mississippi and majored in journalism, with a minor in political science. She is currently working laboriously on a videogame called "Revolution 60," that will be released for the iPad. She's never taken an art class of any kind, yet found it was her skills with Adobe that repeatedly kept her employed.

We will continue our successful use of art show space with art related programming, like live art demonstrations, meet and greet events and art discussion panels. In front and behind the art display, you can't miss these great events!

The art show itself will feature science fiction and fantasy themed 2- and 3-dimensional art. Most art is for sale, although some may be just for show. Art can be bid upon or, if the artists chooses, be immediately purchased at a set price. Make it exciting and bid against all comers or dive right in and take that one-of-a-kind piece home!

Minicon T-shirts, new and vintage, will be for sale in the Art Show space as well, get 'em in your size early before we run out! Art show hours will be Friday, 3pm-7pm (artists can arrive earlier for setup), Saturday, 10am-6pm and Sunday 11am-4pm.

## Calling all sci-fi/fantasy artists! Art Show needs you!

The Minicon 47 art show is a non-juried show open to all artists who'd like to submit art work in a science fiction and/or fantasy theme. Regardless of what media you work in—traditional, digital, fiber, sculpture, etc.—you are welcome. Registering and hanging your work will be easy and painless. If you need to mail in your art, please see the instructions at [mnsf.org/minicon47/artshow](http://mnsf.org/minicon47/artshow)



Paradise Passed  
by Frank Wu

Black and white hints at the very colorful art by Frank Wu

Below: SMS Konig v. Sea Dragon



Above: Echo and Narcissus

On the cover: Chairman Mao Goes to Mars

Below: When the Earth was Red

