Hello, Potential Program Participant:

This year's WisCon, our 21st, is going to be held over the Memorial Day weekend, May 23–26 1997. It'll start late in the afternoon on Friday and, if the skies are clear, will end with an afternoon outdoor dead dog party on Monday. The great word of mouth generated by the success of WisCon 20 will draw many of last year's participants to return. We're featuring Melissa Scott and Susanna Sturgis as our guests of honor. You're getting this flier because we're hoping you're interested in participating in the programming process. We want to give you some idea of what we're up to, and we'd like your ideas and feedback.

We have some very specific goals this year. We hope to have a high percentage of panels which are generated by the panelists' interest, rather than the programming committee's guesses. To that end, we're offering you the opportunity to "champion" a panel: you will choose the topic, gather a group of panelists, discuss the subject matter with them before the convention, and even write the program book blurb. If you would rather not champion a panel, we still hope you will suggest panel ideas and express your priorities for placement on the panels that are finally chosen. But most of all, we want participants to be enthusiastic about the program, not bored with it, which will help make attendees enthusiastic about the program. And we want to build upon the incredible breadth of the programs devised by WisCon 20's programming committee.

This year we will be responding to people's pleas for more generous time allotments for panel discussions and a little more breathing time. Programs will generally last 75 minutes with a 15 minute break between programs. There will be two meal breaks on Saturday and Sunday, during which no programming will be scheduled. You'll be able to go out to lunch without fearing that you will miss an important panel!

At WisCon 19 and 20, we experimented successfully with single-person events, two- or three-person conversations, academic papers, and mixed-format presentations. We wanted people to be able to share their passions, so we ran everything from slide shows to lectures to demonstrations to book discussions alongside the traditional panels. They all worked out great. We'll do that again this year. Please feel free to make suggestions.

We're trying to open up a lot of room within which you can find something comfortable to do as part of the WisCon program. If you're obsessed with something interesting these days, let us know, and we'll make room for you to talk about it. If you've got a friend (or friendly foe) or two with whom you're having a fun and interesting ongoing discussion, we want make it possible for WisCon attendees to hear it. If you'd like to do a reading, present a paper, lead a book discussion, or help stage some other kind of special event, let us know about that, too.

Of course, we're also interested in your panel ideas. We're looking for ideas that are both practically and theoretically interesting. Some of the areas we're specially interested in are:

▼ Feminism & SF

▼ Science Fiction & Fantasy

▼ Melissa Scott's Writings

▼ The Tiptree Award

▼ Aging, Crones & Sages

▼ Modern & Postmodern SF Criticism

▼ Political Themes in SF

▼ Social & Economic Themes in SF

▼ Men & Women's Spirituality

▼ Hard & Soft Science

▼ Horror Fiction

▼ Media and Comics

▼ Gender, Sexuality & Relationships

▼ Fan Programming

▼ The Pro/Business side of SF

▼ SF in the Classroom

Of course, if you have other ideas they're also welcome.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the form on the back of this flier, and mail it to us at the SF3 PO Box. If you'd like to send this info via email, that's fine too. Thanks for your time; we're looking forward to seeing you at the con.

—Jeanne Gomoll & Debbie Notkin
Programming Chairs

P.S. We will limit our final membership to 850 attendees, so get your form in to us soon!

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Preferred Phone _____

▌ The con starts at 4 pm Friday.
When will you be here and
ready to be on a panel? _____

▌ The last programming event is at 3 pm on
Monday. When will you no longer
be available for programming? _____

▌ Are you interested in championing a panel?
☐ yes ☐ no

＊ What's your idea? _____

_____

_____

▌ Would you be willing to moderate a panel?
☐ yes ☐ no

▌ Would you be willing to facilitate a book discussion?
☐ yes ☐ no

▌ Do you want to do a reading?

☐ For 75 minutes? ☐ For 35 minutes?

▌ Do you want to give a paper?

＊ What's your topic? _____

_____

_____

☐ For 75 minutes? ☐ For 35 minutes?

▌ Do you want to give a solo
presentation/demonstration?
☐ yes ☐ no

＊ What's your topic? _____

_____

☐ For 75 minutes? ☐ For 35 minutes?

▌ What friend(s) or friendly foe(s) would you like to
stage a conversation or discussion with...

_____

_____

＊ On what topic? _____

_____

▌ How many panels would
you like to be on in one day? _____

＊ Over the course of the convention? _____

＊ How many panels
in a row are "too many"? _____

＊ How late would you be
willing to participate? _____

▌ With whom would you especially like
to be on panels?

_____

_____

_____

▌ Who would you like to avoid sitting with?
[confidential]

_____

_____

_____

▌ What did you see at your last WisCon that drove
you crazy and you'd like to see addressed this
year? _____

_____

_____

▌ Please list panel suggestions (and don't
forget to volunteer friends or enemies
for some of these panels).

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

*Please attach an extra sheet of paper, if you've
got more ideas than fit in this space.*

*Please return this form by
January 11, 1997*

WisCon 21
c/o SF³
PO Box 1624
Madison, WI 53704-1624

Address Correction Requested

Att: Programming

Did you remember to . . .

—**purchase a WisCon Membership?** We are sorry but WisCon is unable to give free memberships to SF professionals. However, all programming participants are eligible for a $20 refund after WisCon.

Please Help Us!

If you do not plan on attending WisCon 21, or if you would rather not participate on programming this year, please check off the box below and return this form to us (or email us), so that we can remove your name from the programming mailing list. Your message will save us postage. Thanks!

☐

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