

SHORT BIOS

Meet the San Juan in 2017 Bid Committee

Our bid committee is a diverse group of fans all over North America, including readers, writers, gamers, costumers, academics, and more. Our collective experience includes running sf conventions for as small as 100 members to NASFiCs and WorldCons with near half a century of experience! We have experience in Facilities, Programming, Exhibits, Operations, Publications, Access, Diversity, and so much more. We're quite happy to share all of our experiences to contribute towards making sure the 2017 North American Science Fiction Convention happens in San Juan, Puerto Rico!

Bid Committee Members

- **Chair** – Pablo Vazquez – Pablo was born of the Caribbean, with an extensive ethno-cultural makeup, growing up between Panama City, Panama and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Has been part of the staff of four WorldCons now, one NASFiC and having run AetherFest, an award-winning Texas Steampunk convention, for three years. Has written/edited fanzines, contributed to anthologies, and countless other fannish activities. 2016 Arisia Fan Guest of Honor.
- **Facilities** – Warren Buff – Long-time conrunner: 2013 Worldcon Exhibits Co-DH, 2010 NASFiC Chair. When time permits, fanzine fan and gamer.
- **Treasurer/Legal** – Randall Shepherd – Worldcon 2013 Chair, Worldcon 1997 Vice-Chair, Chair of several Octocons (the Irish national SF conventions), Running the Hugo award ceremony for MidAmericon2.
- **Registrar** – Alissa McKersie - Hugo Award-winning Fanzine Editor. Five years experience running Kids' Programming for WorldCon, BidCom for three international Conventions.
- **Convention Outreach/Volunteers** – Jaymee Goh – WisCon POC Safer Space Liaison, short fiction writer, speculative poet, PhD Candidate at University of California, Riverside, Science Fiction and Technoculture Studies
- **Website and Publications** – Anne K Gray – Long-time conrunner: has proofread a Hugo Award-winning fanzine, written for multiple Hugo Award-winning fanzines, and run a Hugo rocket ring-toss (with real Hugo Award rockets), as well as Guest Liaison for several Hugo Award-winning authors
- **Graphic Design** – Alice Lewis – Digital and Layout artist
- **Social Media** – Summer Plum - Summer Plum advocates for accessibility and accommodation. She also writes and visits medical professionals a few times a week. After a stint as a small business owner, she now helps out with things like Arisia's Accessibility Committee & San Juan 2017 Bid's social media while a cat sits on her.
- **Safety/Code of Conduct** – Andrea Hawkins-Kamper – Operations Head for CapriCon, Salon Lead for MuseCon, Community Outreach Liaison for Phandemonium.
- **Accessibility** – Sandy Olson – WisCon Access coordinator for 8 years, member of anti-abuse team. Online disability activist, freelance writer and blogger.
- **Author Outreach** - Deanna Sjolander - Deanna Sjolander is a writer and freelance editor who has somehow found herself hip deep in conventions and *gasp* volunteering. She has worked on Minicon 50 (programming), Conquest 47 (programming), and MidAmericonII (Retro Hugos/local liaison).

- **Newsletter/Academic Liaison** – Maria Velazquez, Ph.D. – *Femspec* book review editor and intern wrangler, book reviewer for *Cascadia Subduction Zone*, *Strange Horizons*, and *The Hathor Legacy*, academic, National Women's Studies Association member-at-large
- **Academic Liaison** – Victor Raymond – Long-time conrunner, WisCon Chair, Carl Brandon Society Board Member
- **Puerto Rican Outreach (Puerto Rico)** - Sophia Flores - Long time con-goer in the United States and in Puerto Rico. Shares news about Latinos in Science Fiction and fantasy via her SciFi Latino.com social media outlets. Lives in Puerto Rico.
- **Puerto Rican Outreach (USA)** - Pablo Defendini - Pablo Defendini is a Puerto Rican designer, now based in NYC. He used to run Tor.com, and now designs and helps run *Fireside Magazine*.
- **Bid Artist** – Brad Foster – Artist who creates artworks with pen and ink, or more recently, with digital dots, for both fannish and professional reasons. www.JabberwockyGraphix.com

Other Bid Committee Members

- **Christopher Hensley** – Long-time conrunner: 2010 NASFiC Vice Chair, illogiCon former Chair and founding board member
- **Darrah Chavey** – WisCon concom member
- **Marianne Kirby** – WisCon concom member, Specific novel 2016
- **Colette Fozard** - Long time conrunner, has served as con-chair and senior staff for various East coast conventions. She is the Director of Operations for the Sakura Matsuri Japanese Street Festival in Washington, DC each spring – the largest one-day celebration of Japanese Culture in the United States.

Chair's Advisors

- **Helen Montgomery** – Hugo Award-winning Fanzine editor, long-time conrunner with experience in NASFiCs and WorldCons. Chairing the 2016 SMOFcon.
- **Tammy Coxen** – 2014 NASFiC Chair widely respected for the excellent job her team did to create a diverse and inclusive convention.
- **Bruce Farr** - Has been working conventions since 1978 in countless positions, from locals to WorldCons. Founded two conventions. Chaired three World Fantasy Conventions (1985, 1991, 2001), one NASFiC (1987), one SMOFcon (1988), and one Westercon (1992).