

PRESS RELEASE #8 - MIDAMERICON II ANNOUNCES 2016 and 1941 HUGO AWARD BASE DESIGNERS

MidAmeriCon II, the 74th World Science Fiction Convention
Kansas City, MO
August 17-21, 2016

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kansas City, Missouri, USA - MidAmeriCon II is pleased to reveal the identities of the artists chosen to create the trophy bases for the 2016 Hugo Awards and 1941 Retro Hugo Awards.

The Hugo Award trophy itself has long taken the form of a silver rocket, with the original concept by Jack McKnight and Ben Jason being inspired by the gleaming finned rocket ships of Willy Ley. The exact design has become standardized in recent years and the rockets are currently produced by British fan Peter Weston. The base on which the rocket is mounted is, however, the responsibility of each Worldcon committee, and the design changes each year, usually inspired by the location of the convention.

The 2016 Hugo Award trophy base will be designed by artist Sara Felix of Austin, TX (sillysarasue.deviantart.com). Sara works in a variety of media, including resin, clay and shrink plastic. Sara is the current president of ASFA, the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists (www.asfa-art.org), and also works regularly on science fiction conventions. She chaired ArmadilloCon (Austin's local literary science fiction convention) in 2012; was Head of Advertising for LoneStarCon 3 (the 2013 Worldcon), and Head of Art Programming for LonCon 3 (the 2014 Worldcon). She is currently Deputy Division Head for Marketing at MidAmeriCon 2. Sara also edited and designed the Artist Showcase publication for the 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2015 Worldcons.

The 1941 Retro Hugo Award trophy base will be designed by Brent Simmons, an architectural designer and lifelong reader of speculative fiction who was born and lives in Kansas City. Brent currently works for PGAV Architects (www.pgavarchitects.com), where he has contributed to over \$100m of projects over the last four years. These include the Blue Valley Hilltop Campus for the Blue Valley School District; the Tuxedo Grill for the Kansas City Zoo, and the Lenexa Civic Center for the City of Lenexa.

In keeping with tradition, the 2016 and 1941 designs will only be revealed at the convention, as part of the Opening Ceremonies on Wednesday, August 17.

The Hugo Awards are the premier award in the science fiction genre, honoring science fiction and fantasy literature, media, artists, and fans. The Hugo Awards were first presented at the 1953 World Science Fiction Convention in Philadelphia, PA (Philcon II), and they have continued to honor science fiction and fantasy notables annually for 60 years.

More information about the Hugo Awards is available at www.thehugoawards.org. A full photographic archive of the past Hugo Award designs can be found at www.thehugoawards.org/hugo-trophies.

ENDS

MidAmeriCon II is the 2016 World Science Fiction Convention ("Worldcon"). The first Worldcon occurred in New York City in 1939 and Worldcons have been held annually since then except for 1942-45 when there was no event due to World War II. MidAmeriCon II's Guests of Honor are Kinuko Y. Craft, Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Tamora Pierce, and Michael Swanwick. MidAmeriCon II's Toastmaster is Pat Cadigan.

For more details about the convention or to purchase memberships, visit www.midamericon2.org. Send press questions, or requests to be removed from the MidAmeriCon II press release mailing list, to press@midamericon2.org. Send general queries to info@midamericon2.org. "World Science Fiction Society,"

"WSFS," "World Science Fiction Convention," "Worldcon," "NASFiC," "Hugo Award," the Hugo Award Logo, and the distinctive design of the Hugo Award Trophy Rocket are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society. MidAmeriCon II is sponsored by MASFFC, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization.