

Hello Everyone!

Welcome to Archon 41. First off, we are revising the name of The Artist Alley to The Creator's Alley. We feel this will be much more inclusive to all the creative speculative fiction fans out there...Artists, Crafters, Makers, the whole lot of you.

We will once again be in the hallway between Registration and the Old Lobby. You will find included in this zip file attachment, aside from this letter, a 2017 Creators Alley Registration Form, the 2017 Archon Creator's Alley contract (which is effective upon return of the Registration Form and payment, and may still be listed as Artist Alley, depending on how soon the changes take place on the website.), the Creator's Alley Table Map, and the delightful IL Sales Tax Form that will be needed filled out and sent in to the address on it. (NOTE: The forms are normally included in our packet, but the State of Illinois is always late getting them to us, so they will be posted on the website as soon as we receive them. Be sure to watch for them. I will post notices to participants when I have information.)

Updated Table Maps will be sent periodically and updated on the Archon website. I will be arriving at the convention by noon on Friday. The Gateway Center should (hopefully) have the tables set out and covered with a cloth and skirting by then. You can come in and set up on your assigned table whenever you like. There will be table maps at the Con HQ by Registration if needed. If you want/need to change tables or switch around, just let me know and I'll see about getting it worked out.

Electricity: The Gateway Center is requiring \$75 for electricity. Even if you bring your own extension cord and plug into one of the existing outlets in the hall. I have more information about this in the 'Electricity' section of the contract form, so please read that.

It is my understanding that the Gateway Center will have wi-fi available and that we will be able to tap into the wi-fi signal and make use of it. So if you have laptops and want to use your paypal accounts or other internet services, please do so. I will try and find out more about this, but for now, go for it. Be aware that any official information on this will come from me only, not some intermediary. That way we will avoid confusion.

In the past we have had fans, authors, etc try and set up on our assigned tables. Fan Tables, Bookseller Tables, etc. have their own setups. If you see something like this happening, politely show them your table map before they get too far along in their setup and let them know they need to find the right area. Find me, or have them find me and I will take it from there. (NO lightsabres or blasters, please!) Please remember that you have an open space to do with as you want. You set your own hours, and you are your own security. I strongly suggest bringing a cover for your table that you can tie/clamp down. We do try to watch out for you, but you are in the hallway with all the pluses and minuses that suggests. Some participants will break down their table at the end of the day and pack it away. Others will just cover it. I am pleased to say that all the artists in the past years have watched out for and helped each other. In the years that we have been doing the Alley, there has been only one reported theft...and the artist wasn't sure if the item was taken or if they misplaced it.

I have been asked in the past if items can be stored in the Art Show room before they lock up for the night, until they open in the morning. Some years the Art Show has allowed it when they had the spare room, and other years they haven't had the space and said no. I will check, but don't plan on it.

If you need/want/question anything...let me know. I will have my cell phone on me at all times during the con and you can contact me at 217-801-7724 via voice or text at that number. I will check into the volunteer situation and see if I can't get someone to go on drink/snack runs and cover bathroom breaks. But foremost, work with your fellow artists and watch out for each other!

I look forward to seeing you all at the con!

John Sies
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