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Press Release #86

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **First Convention Grant Recipients Announced**

**August 2021**—The Speculative Literature Foundation is pleased to announce the first four convention grant winners.

The SLF will award \$10,000 over the course of 2021-2022 on a rolling basis to science fiction and fantasy conventions. Grant amounts range from \$500 – \$1000 each. The application and additional criteria can be found [here](#). \$3,860 has been awarded so far to four different conventions. Read on for more information about how each convention will use the funding.

[Astronomicon](#) (October 29-31, 2021). Run by the Rochester Fantasy Fans non-profit, Astronomicon is looking to make a return after 8 years of not holding the con. They will use the funds to get more rooms for their breakout sessions at the con, as well as purchase extra sanitizing supplies like wipes and masks. They received \$1000.

[FIYAHCON](#) (September 16-19, 2021). FIYAHCON is a virtual con dedicated to the members of the BIPOC community who've contributed to speculative fiction. Their first con was last year, with 1200 participants and a Hugo nomination for Best Related Work. They will use the funds to expand their programming, including a "Dealers Row" element for art exhibitors, vendors, and sponsors. They received \$1000.

[Loscon](#) (Nov 26-28, 2021). This con is being run by The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society (LASFS), "the world's oldest continuously active science fiction and fantasy club (founded Oct. 27, 1934)"! They're expecting around 1000 participants, so the funding will help ensure they have enough sanitizing supplies, as well as temporal thermometers, tape to mark off social distanced lines, and signage to use for the con. Loscon is looking to put on a family-friendly programming with "panels, discussions, activities, a film festival, an art show, and shopping with a focus on the science and people involved with the genre." They received \$860.

[Estcon](#): (July 16-18, 2021). Estcon will be taking place in Estonia, and it will be put on by the Estonian Science Fiction Association, which has been active since 1995. "It's about literature, comic books, LARP, films, animations and having a good time during a weekend in July with friends and barbecue." They received \$1000.

Founded in January 2004 to promote literary quality in speculative fiction, the all-volunteer Speculative Literature Foundation is led by Mary Anne Mohanraj and 30 other committed volunteers. The Foundation maintains a comprehensive website offering information for readers, writers, editors and publishers of speculative fiction, develops book lists and outreach materials for schools and libraries, and raises funds for redistribution to other organizations in the field, as well as five awards made annually to writers, including the A.C. Bose Grant. For more information, visit [speculativeliterature.org](http://speculativeliterature.org).

The SLF is a 501(c)3 non-profit, entirely supported by community donations. If you'd like to be involved with our efforts, please consider joining us as a member for \$2/month, at [speculativeliterature.org/membership](http://speculativeliterature.org/membership).

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