

Long Range Planning Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 5, 2024, 1P-2P EST

Attendees:

Seba Ausili	Jonathon Siegel	
Bjorn Herrman	Tal Teitz	
Keiko Hirose	Catherine Weisz	
Emma Holmes	Ross Williamson	
Avril Geneve Holt		
Nicole Jiam		
Bonnie Lau		
Hideko Nakajima		

Apologies:

Janet Cyr		
Ksenia Gnedeva		
Larry Hoffman		

Unexcused:

Elika Fallah	Ed Rubel	
Elie Huez	Kirupa Suthakar	
Nathaniel Nowak	Haruna Suzuki-Kerr	

Minutes:

Site Visit Overview

The Executive Office provided an update on the recent site visit to Orlando, where they observed several upgrades and improvements made to the venue since 2023. The enhancements are promising and include a new coffee market area, which is expected to be beneficial for attendees. The hotel staff expressed enthusiasm and readiness to accommodate the large group expected for the upcoming event. Concerns were brought up about the long wait times attendees experienced waiting for food & beverage at hotel establishments. The Executive Office highlighted new grab-and-go options at the venue to address previous issues with food service. Plans are in place to ensure that food is accessible and affordable, particularly for trainees, are prioritized.

Location Survey Findings

The group reviewed findings from the location survey, highlighting concerns such as avoiding Disney properties due to high costs and lack of walkability to nearby restaurants and entertainment. They agreed to categorize concerns into politics, access, and food logistics. The importance of closed captioning accessibility at the venue was emphasized, alongside the need for clearer categories related to cost for clarity in future evaluations and discussions.

Participants raised concerns regarding safety, medical access, and crime, stressing the need for venues to be safe and accessible for all attendees. The discussion included the importance of proximity to food places, public transportation options, and airport access. The use of the Human Rights Campaign score for evaluating potential locations was also mentioned, particularly in relation to factors like reproductive rights and LGBT-friendly legislation.

The conversation shifted to preferences for future conference locations, with participants expressing a desire for affordability, good political climates, and accessibility over warmer weather or popular tourist destinations. Baltimore was noted as a well-liked location despite its weather, with some participants reminiscing about past conferences held there. The group acknowledged the trade-offs between accessibility, affordability, and weather conditions when selecting venues.

Evaluation Improvements and Recommendations

The committee discussed the need for improvements in the survey process, including condensing questions to focus on the most useful information and ensuring consistency for comparison over time. Plans were made to form task groups to streamline the survey and generate a summary for the Council by September. The importance of collaboration between committees to utilize survey data effectively was also highlighted.

Upcoming Meeting

It was decided that members will utilize Dr. Lau's sign-up sheet to sign up for their task groups and then time will be given for task groups to move forward with their tasks/goals with the full group coming back together to meet in November. T

Task List

1. Finalize the survey by the end of December for the upcoming year
2. Form task groups via sign-up sheet
3. Generate a summary of Location Survey findings & recommendations for the Council by September
4. Plan for a full group meeting in November. [Complete time survey here](#)