Panel Criteria and Selection Information

Panel Selection Process

The Programming Committee will meet about a year before the conference to review the programming processes, make any updates, and determine the theme of the programming and the dates for:

- Submissions period
- Selection period
- Acceptance notifications go out
- Programming period
- Announcement of the programmed schedule

When programming is settled the following is accomplished based on the selected dates:

- Announce the opening of submissions

- Reminder of open submissions

- All submissions will be collected until the end of the selection period, at which time the submissions will be organized and filtered by relevance to specific submission requirements such as theme, requested topic, or other stated submission requests and the selection criteria. (documented below)

- All submissions will be acknowledged upon submission.

- Announce the closing of submissions

- All submitters will be advised if their submission is accepted or not, and why the decision was made.

The selection of moderators, panelists, and presenters is provided in the Panelist Selection process.

All questions can be directed at the Programming Committee Chair.

Submission Criteria

The selection process is admittedly subjective. The main focus is to provide an enjoyable experience to all of the attendees at the conference, and while all of the programming may not be of interest to all attendees, we aim to provide content that will please all who attend. With that in mind, the programming committee will select the panels, presentations, and masterclasses based on the information provided below.

Sapphic Literature – All submissions should have a strong connection to Sapphic literature.

Diversity and Inclusion – Submissions will have a better chance of being selected if there is an effort toward Diversity and Inclusion and no topic will be selected if it supports exclusion of any sort.

Themes – There may be a theme stated for a conference and the topic should relate to it. For example, the Denver conference theme, "Pursue Your Passion," can be a broad-ranging theme, so topics should have a connection to pursuing passions.

Variety – Aside from being part of the theme of the conference, we look for a good variety of topics that will interest the conference attendees whether they are readers, writers, or all of the fantastic creators who support or are interested in Sapphic literature.

New and Unique – While some panels are conference favorites and may be included each year, the majority of panels, presentations, and masterclasses should provide new topics, perspectives, and ideas. If a topic has already been presented, we may work with you to find a fresh way to present it, which is dependent on the other ideas submitted. If you're not sure if the topic has been presented, don't hesitate to submit it. It will give us an idea of its popularity and we may find a way to make it work.

Other factors may come into play depending on unforeseen circumstances. In that event, we will provide that information in the notification of whether the topic was accepted.

Panelist Selection Process

Once a panel topic has been selected, careful consideration is put into the selection of the Moderator and Panelists.

Moderators and panelists can be identified by the topic submitter. In fact, we love when the person who submitted the panel suggests participants for the panel. They may have ideas about the specific talking points and they may know great contributors. However, they must satisfy the below criteria and not already participate in too many other panels. The programming committee will be happy to help ensure they satisfy the criteria and/or select moderators and panelists.

If the panel submitter wants to select the moderator and/or panelists, they should submit the suggested moderator and/or panelists at the time the panel topic is submitted. Otherwise, let us know if help will be needed in selecting the participants.

Moderator/Panelist Criteria

- Knowledge of the topic
- Comfortable with speaking in front of audiences
- Ability and awareness to share speaking time with other panelists
- Ability to meet with the other participants prior to the panel
- Registered for the conference (This is required)
- Specific to the moderator: prior experience as a moderator

We try to give the opportunity to all those who want to participate in panels a chance to do it. Therefore, we may limit the number of panels in which a person can participate to allow others to participate. If there is ever a question about this, please contact the Programming Committee Chair.