

Getting to Know Your LASA

LASA CONGRESS CITY SELECTION PROCESS

December 3, 2017

A. INTRODUCTION

LASA Congress meetings take place at appropriate venues in North and South America, the Caribbean, and Europe. We rotate our congress meetings geographically to accommodate attendance by as many members as possible. In principle, any city could be a candidate for the LASA congress. However, the size of the LASA Congress with its associated requirements (e.g., venues, rooms) and the contractual conditions required by both LASA and the local businesses (e.g., hotels) leads quite often to situations in which a desirable location may not be operationally feasible. For this reason, the Secretariat must perform a feasibility assessment of the city candidates.

B. THE PROCESS

Feasibility assessment begins when the Executive Council proposes a list of potential sites to the LASA Secretariat. City candidates are researched usually with on-site inspections, and preliminary meetings and quotes are obtained. As alternatives are explored, a comparative analysis is developed using a widely used prioritization methodology, the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) model. Recommendations on operationally feasible sites and venues are made to the Executive Council based on the guidelines detailed in the next section.

C. GUIDELINES

1. City Logistics

The extent to which the city has proper meeting venues, affordable hotel room costs, policy best practices (e.g., gender friendly) and best business practices (e.g., contract payment policy) in general to make a LASA conference feasible. Each of these different aspects is described below.

1.1. Business Best Practices

Best practices in relation to contract elaboration, payment handling, and business dealings in general is needed.

1.2. Hotel Room Costs

This is the contractual room cost that can be offered to core members (about 1,000).

1.3. Meeting Venues

Venues must be able to accommodate a minimum of 5,000 attendees and have 50-70 meeting rooms of different sizes to be used concurrently during four days.

1.4. Policy Best Practices

Best practices as they relate to labor unions, same-sex unions, domestic partnerships, and green meeting locations are preferred.

2. City Travel

The extent to which the city is safe and convenient for travel for LASA members. There are several considerations related to these guidelines as follows.

2.1. Airfare Costs

The cost of airline tickets mainly for members from the US and Latin America.

2.2. Visa Costs

Extent to which it may be costly to obtain a visa to visit the city.

2.3. Other (Member's) Accommodations

Member's accommodations, different from those contracted by LASA are available at reasonable costs.

2.4. City Appeal

This is the extent to which the city has travel appeal or historical recognition to attract visitors.

2.5. Personal Safety

The extent to which the attendees may perceive they will be safe at a personal level.

3. City, Academic, and Political Alignment

The extent to which the city is aligned with, welcomes, and supports (politically, academically, and financially) hosting a LASA conference. The key aspects related to this guideline are as follows.

3.1. Academic Alignment

Preference is given to cities with broad alignment with LASA's strategic academic goals and objectives.

3.2. Financial Support

Extent to which the country/city government and/or related institutions are willing to financially support a LASA conference.

3.3. Political Support

How much the country/city government welcomes a LASA conference and is willing to support it. //