

Dear Attendees,

Thank you for your patience through the quiet while we worked through some opportunities at the close of our 2018 Conference. We were unable to announce our 2019 dates at the end of the convention owing to the fact that, while our contract with the Radisson extends that far, our multi-year contract with the Lansing Center came to a close with the 2018 show. With this new opportunity we have made a staff-wide decision to restructure and work on bringing more focus back to the con & its attendees. We're excited to announce that we have decided to begin to look for new and fun places in and around Lansing for a place to host Shuto Con in the future!

Additionally, some of you may know this, but some may not. In November of 2017 my staff and I voted to become a non-profit organization, and with that unanimous decision we began that process. We are still working through all of the options and elements of that project, but converting from an LLC to a fully recognized 501C non-profit is very complex, and so it most likely will not be in place for the next year's convention. There is still a desire to make the switch, as we know that doing so is something that the community has been asking for, and once we are able to get everything in order we know it will provide us with other opportunities to improve what we care most about – the experience of our attendees. Please know that you have been heard and your requests have not been forgotten.

Looking back at this year, our attendance for 2018 was 15% lower than the previous year. In light of this fact, we feel it is important to reevaluate what is feasible and manageable both from a business and entertainment side of things and we are working internally to figure the best course of action moving forward.

In regards to our crew and staff, the checks are currently being written, mailed, and should be in everyone's hands by mid-May. If you need to make us aware of any address changes, or have any questions, please direct them to the Conchair email (conchair@shutocon.com). Thank you to all of you who put in hard work to help make this year possible!

So what does this all mean for the future of Shuto Con? For 2019, we will be holding a scaled back event at the Radisson, which will most likely be limited in badge sales due to the Radisson's building capacity. As we mentioned previously, we will also be working with the Radisson and the City of Lansing to look into other areas to host the convention alongside the Radisson.

We can say now that our dates for this event at the RADISSON will be March 22nd-24th, 2019. More information will be provided in the next few months so stay tuned!

While this absolutely represents a change from the past few years, we do want to let you know that it is still our desire and goal to bring you all an amazing experience to the fullest extent we can and we hope to see many of our biggest Shuto Con fans there! We are truly grateful to all of you and hope that you will continue to show us your support in this time of transition.

We look forward to future years of learning and growing with you in the quest to share meaningful experiences with lovers of all things anime!

Stefanie Black
Conchair of Shuto Con