



2008 International Convergence

Congratulations on your acceptance to the 2008 USFT Convergence! We are so excited that you will be joining us in building the power of the fair trade movement through the dynamic exchange of ideas, relationship and skill building and together engaging more deeply in the issues and questions of fair trade.

This packet contains a lot of information that you will need. Including:

- Things to bring!
- Fee Payment Information
- Directions to University of Washington and University District
- Maps & Seattle Information
- Housing & Meals Information
- General Convergence Schedule
- Financial Aid & Fundraising Information

There are many things that you can be doing to prepare to come to the Convergence. Some of these include:

- Spread the word about the Convergence! Tell other students (high schoolers, undergraduate, graduate etc.) interested in social justice about the convergence and encourage them to join us!
- Take some time to familiarize yourself with fair trade before arriving at the convergence- it is going to be a packed weekend and any background knowledge will make it more enriching. Check out resources like the reader at www.usft.org/learn
- If you are requesting financial aid, first contact your university for sponsorship. Please let us know soon exactly how much you will need. Scholarship funds are limited so we ask that everyone try to raise as much as they can. We will follow up with financial aid applicants within the next few days. We have attached the some fundraising materials, which should be helpful.
- Make your travel arrangements and let us know when you will be arriving, how you are traveling, and on what airline if you are flying (aedens@u.washington.edu). We will not be able to pick people up at the airport, but the Metro, Seattle's bus system, is easy to navigate —directions are included in this packet.

Seattle in November can be rainy, sunny, chilly, mild, or even snowy, so please bring clothes you can layer. Expect mid 40's to low 50's F (6° - 12° C). You may also want to bring some extra cash to pay for a meal in one of the U-district restaurants Saturday evening. **Plan on registering at the University of Washington HUB by 6:00pm on Friday, Nov. 7th** (registration will begin at 4:00 pm, dinner at 6). Please e-mail Ashley,

aedens@u.washington.edu or call (206) 276-4677 or (206) 221-3327, or e-mail Stephanie, s.e.adler@gmail.com or call (206) 290-1961 if you have any questions.

We wish you safe travels, and we cannot wait to see you in Seattle!

Ashley, Stephanie, and Heather
International Convergence Organizers

Things to bring!

- **Fork/spoon/preferred utensils, a bowl or plate**
- **Sleeping bag, pillow**
- Towel (if you know you will be staying some place with a shower)
- Deodorant, toothbrush, other toiletries etc.
- Extra cash for bus fare (bring one dollar bills and quarters), dinner on Saturday, the vendor fair, and any other costs you foresee
- Writing utensil, notepad

Fee Payment Information

Please send your checks, made out to USFT/Tides, to:

Andrew Kohan
USFT National Coordinator
PO Box 13113
Chicago, IL 60613

The fee for student participation is \$75, the fee for ally participation is \$100. These are sliding scale fees, but we ask that you pay for as much as you can. Please see below for information on financial aid and fundraising.

Directions to the University of Washington

If you are flying into Seattle...

The easiest way to get from the airport to the UW is via bus, assuming your flight arrives during the daytime (**the last bus from the airport to downtown leaves at 9:14 pm on weekdays**—if your flight arrives later than this, you will need to take a shuttle or taxi).

For the best results, use Seattle's metro (bus system) online trip planner:

<http://triplanner.metrokc.gov/>

For the first box ("where does your trip start?"), write "**Seatac**"

In the second box ("where does your trip end?"), write "**Brooklyn and ne campus parkway**"

Select the appropriate date and time you are arriving, giving yourself some time to get off the plane and collect any bags. The trip planner will give you multiple possible itineraries. Don't

forget to plan your return trip to the airport by clicking “plan return trip” on the itineraries page, making sure you list the correct time you are leaving the u-district to catch your return flight.

It’s easiest to use the trip planner above, but if you want to check out the schedules manually for the buses you’ll be using...

A schedule for the 194 bus (SeaTac to Downtown):

http://transit.metrokc.gov/tops/bus/schedules/s194_0_.html

The 174 bus also goes from SeaTac to Downtown, but it takes significantly longer; we recommend using the 194.

A schedule for the 71, 72, 73, 74 (Downtown to U-District/University of Washington)

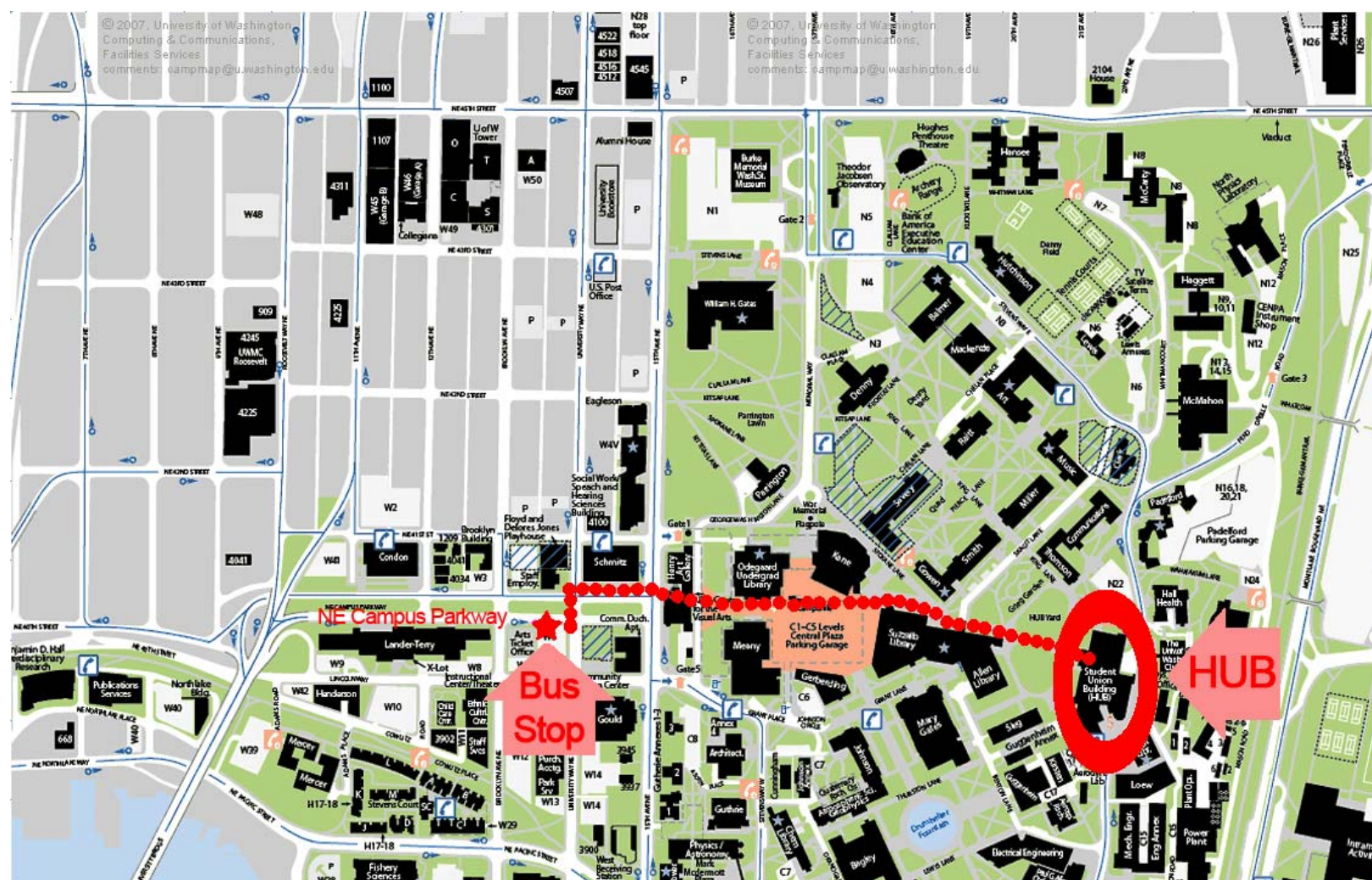
http://transit.metrokc.gov/tops/bus/schedules/s071_0_.html

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To get to the HUB from NE Campus Parkway



See below for more maps of campus!

You can also opt to take a shuttle or taxi from the airport to the UW, but these can be \$20+. Bussing is cheaper and works just as well!

If you are driving...

See <http://depts.washington.edu/sauf/hub/directions.php> for directions to the HUB.

Parking is EXPENSIVE on campus. We recommend trying to find street parking in the U-District and then walking rather than paying for parking on campus. To find street parking:

Take exit 169 off of I-5

Go east on 45th St. [take a right if coming **from** the south (off of northbound I-5), take a left if coming **from** the north (off of southbound I-5)]

Take a right on 12th Ave, start looking for street parking as soon as you reach 43rd St. Beware of signs that say “No parking between 4pm-6pm weekdays” as you WILL get towed during those hours (we say this from experience!!). Other street parking is available around the U-district, but this is the closest. We recommend printing off a street map of the U-District as well as a campus map (see below) to help you walk from your parking spot to the HUB. Try typing in “HUB, University of Washington, Seattle, WA” into your preferred internet map provider (e.g. Google Maps, Mapquest etc.) and familiarize yourself with the streets mentioned above online.

Maps and Seattle Information

Information about Seattle, the U District & the University of Washington:

<http://www.seattle.gov/html/visitor/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_District,_Seattle,_Washington

<http://www.washington.edu/>

General map of Seattle:

http://www.seattle.gov/html/citizen/maps_seattle.htm

U-District Map:

<http://clerk.ci.seattle.wa.us/public/nmaps/html/NN-1120S.htm>

Campus Maps:

<http://www.washington.edu/home/maps/>

<http://www.washington.edu/home/maps/northcentral.html?HUB>

Housing & Meals Information

To those of you who are staying with friends or are finding your own housing, thank you!! We really appreciate it. People who have signed up for free housing—we are in the process of putting you all in different churches/friends' floors/couches. You will receive individual e-mails soon detailing where you are staying and other information (please remember that the

accommodations will be fairly simple—most places will not have access to a shower). In the meantime, it would help us out if you would browse places like www.CouchSurfing.com, ask your friends if *they* have friends in Seattle, look on Facebook and see if any of your high school buddies attend the UW or are in Seattle, and ask your family/loved ones if they have any connections to Seattle.

We will provide the following meals during the convergence:

Friday: dinner

Saturday: light continental breakfast, lunch (free night, no dinner provided)

Sunday: light continental breakfast, lunch, dinner

Monday: light continental breakfast, brown bag lunch

General Convergence Schedule

FRIDAY, NOV. 7:

4-6 Registration & Vendor Fair at the **HUB, University of Washington**

6-7:30 Dinner

7:30-10:00 Opening Ceremony

-Welcome & Intro to USFT

-Keynote Speaker

-Community building

SATURDAY, NOV. 8:

7:30 Wake up!

8-9:30 Breakfast, community building

9:30-11:15 Workshop Set 1: Anti-oppression activities and workshops

11:15-12 regional breakout

12-2 Lunch & vendor fair

2-3:45 Workshop Set 2: Fair Trade: Past & Present

4-5:45 Panels

6-6:30 Closing

6:30- Free night! Explore Seattle! Film showing option at 9pm

SUNDAY, NOV. 9:

7:30 Wake up!

8-9:30 Breakfast

9:45-10:45 Student Keynote

11-12:45 Workshop set 3: Skills and Campaigns

12:45-2:45 Lunch & vendor fair

2:45-4:30 Workshop Set 4: Taking it Forward

4:30-4:45 Snack time!

4:45-7:30 Open Space: Taking It Forward

7:30- Dinner, Party

MONDAY, NOV. 10:

7:30 Wake up!

8-9 Breakfast
9-10 Regional breakouts
10:15-11:45 Future of USFT
12- Brown bag lunch/Goodbye!

Fundraising & Financial Aid

If you need financial aid to attend the convergence, please fill out the financial aid application, which will be emailed to you shortly if you requested financial aid on your registration application. If you did not request financial aid on your registration application but would like to now, you can download a copy of the financial aid application at www.usft.org/finaid. Our funds are very limited, so please try to do as much fundraising as you can before asking us for money. Ideas for whom to ask for funds:

- Fair trade stores, coffee shops, organizations
- University departments and centers
- Union locals
- Non-profits with sufficiently large budgets to consider donating
- Student governments
- Local foundations
- Places of worship
- People or organizations with an interest in social justice

Below is a letter we wrote to the UW Geography Department asking them to donate funds to the convergence (which they have decided to do!). Consider using this as a basis to write your own fundraising letters—personalize as much as possible. Why would the person or organization you are asking for money be interested in sending you to the convergence? What kinds of contributions have you or your group made to your community, and how would going to the convergence continue this important work? Why is building solidarity among different movements important? Connect what you are doing to what they are doing. How will this help you achieve your goals? Don't be afraid to ask for money or feel guilty asking! They are perfectly capable of saying "no", but you won't know until you ask!



October 14, 2008

Students for Fair Trade
UW Box 352238, SAO Box 66
Seattle, WA 98195
sponsorship.usft@gmail.com

To Katharyne Mitchell & the Geography Department at the University of Washington:

My name is Ashley Edens, and I am a student majoring in Geography at the UW. I work with United Students for Fair Trade (USFT), a national network of student groups organizing around Fair Trade principles, products, and policies. In other words, we are a group of students organizing in solidarity with cooperatives and producers around the idea that the global trading system is defunct, and we think our schools should support alternatives to exploitation and injustice. We believe the Geography Department's mission and values, and particularly the need to understand and explain spatial phenomena, overlap with fair trade, as an alternative means of connecting people across—as well as questioning and redefining—the global north-south divide. For this reason, we are asking you to support Students for Fair Trade at UW and USFT by helping us put on our 2008 Annual International Convergence.

The Convergence is one of the largest Fair Trade events in the world; it is an opportunity for students interested in fair & alternative trade to meet, discuss, and plan strategies for continuing to promote fair and alternative trade at our schools and in our regions. The United Students for Fair Trade International Convergence is happening at the University of Washington on November 7-10, with the theme of "Taking It Forward". The goals of this Convergence are to have students connect with one another across regions and to connect intellectually through discussion and dialogue about fair and alternative trade. The theme "Taking It Forward" was chosen because we believe that Fair Trade itself can continue to evolve to better serve the values, principles, and goals it is based upon. Furthermore, there are many alternatives to the current system of trade that are likewise seeking to achieve economic justice, and we as students interested in economic justice can support and help create new alternatives.

This year, Students for Fair Trade at UW is coordinating/hosting USFT's 2008 International Convergence. Students for Fair Trade is a student group at UW that recently had a successful campaign working with Tully's to develop/create Fair Trade coffee and espresso blends for the University of Washington. Tully's decided last year to take this to the next level by have Fair Trade espresso at all of their locations. In having the USFT Convergence at the University of Washington, we hope to inspire other students from around the country to continue working towards economic justice.

The Convergence is an excellent opportunity for the Geography Department to continue to support its interest in economic justice issues and to support students who are organizing for change. We appreciate any donation your department can make towards the success of the Convergence and the efforts of Students for Fair Trade at UW. Please let us know if this is something the Department would be interested in, and if you would be available to meet to discuss possible support of and involvement in this year's Convergence.

Sincerely,

[signature]

Ashley Edens
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work 206.221.3327