

Proposal to host Snowmass Summer 2021 at the University of Washington, Seattle

Local Organization Committee (UW)

Shih-Chieh Hsu (Associate Professor), Gordon Watts (Professor), Ann Goussiou (Professor), Henry Lubatti (Professor)

Elementary Particle Experiment group at UW has hosted several domestic and international conferences and workshops, e.g. [DM@LHC2019](#), [CTD2018](#), [ACAT2017](#), [HFSF2015](#), [US ATLAS 2014](#), [Snowmass Energy Frontier 2013](#). We are enthusiastic to submit this proposal to host Snowmass summer meeting in 2021 in Seattle. We plan to expand the local organization committee by inviting colleagues from Intensity frontiers and Cosmology frontiers.

Dates

This proposal is based on planned Snowmass date July 9-19 2021.

Meeting Facilities

We propose to host Snowmass 2021 Summer meeting in the University of Washington Seattle campus. The plenary room is located in the Meany Hall. The 15 parallel rooms are distributed in Kane Hall and Mary Gates Hall. The poster session, cafeteria, reception and dinner banquet are hosted in the HUB. The distance between meeting rooms are within 100 meters.



Meany Theater (the plenary room)

Meany Theater (see the [webpage](#) for official information) is located on the West side of campus, and is one of the region's premier performance facilities. The maximum capacity is 1250 seats. It is located less than 150 m from "The Ave", otherwise known as University Ave, which contains many local food establishments.



Mary Gates Hall (parallel rooms)

[Mary Gates Hall](#) is the University's center for undergraduate learning — a crossroads and commons for University of Washington undergraduates. There are 20 classrooms with a capacity of 50 to 100 seats.



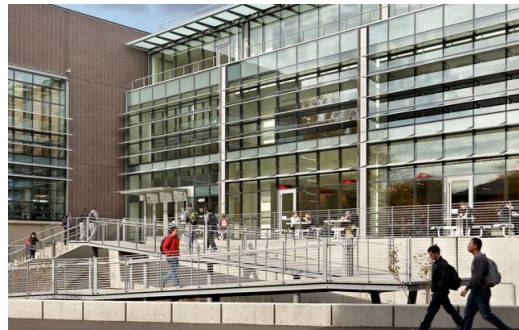
Kane Hall (parallel rooms)

It is named after former UW President Thomas Kane, [Kane Hall](#) offers a variety of rooms and auditoriums to accommodate almost any event from large classroom lectures (500 seats) to private conferences (100 seats).



Husky Union Building (ballroom)

[The HUB](#) is a center for student activity on the University of Washington's Seattle campus. There is a large *commons* area right outside the ballroom. The reception and dinner banquet will be setup there. Poster session and industry booths could also be setup in this area.



Technical Support

Each room contains projectors and screens. The main plenary room contains a sound system and speakers that we can plug into. We will supply wireless microphones or similar in order to make sure the speaker is easily heard as well as two for passing around through the audience so questions can be heard.

The university supplies WiFi (eduroam or shared account). The signal and bandwidth is nothing short of excellent. There should be absolutely no trouble handling a conference this size (UW has close to 46,000 students, a great number of whom live on campus).

Administrative Support

The UW conference management has a full office support staff. They have managed 3 to 4 events of this size each year in the past – they have coordinated folder stuffing, badge printing, handling the budget, etc.

We will hire students to help staff the tables for check-in, parallel room setup and general questions.

Coffee Breaks

Two coffee breaks, one mid-morning and one mid-afternoon, will be catered. They will include snacks, water, coffee, and tea. Coffee and hot water will be left out from mid-morning till the end of the day so that people can grab what they want when they want. Snacks will be left out starting in the morning until the end of the day.

There is a small commons market in the basement of the HUB, and it includes a nice coffee shop. If one wants something extra it is a few steps away.

Food

We expect participants to eat breakfast at their hotels, or purchase snacks at one of the many small stores and restaurants near the conference site.

The conference venue is located 150 m from “The Ave”. Along this large street, and just off it, are many local places for lunch. Most are very cheap, and many more flavors and better (and worse!) quality than a university catered lunch. We are currently proposing this for lunch.

We will plan a reception on the first night of workshop. We will serve wine, beer, other drinks and cater a number of snacks.

We suggest a dinner on campus, at the HUB ([link](#)). The UW catering serves very good food as well as having decent wine, beer, and other drinks. We have not arranged the menu yet, but in the past we have done a buffet style dinner with meat, fish, and vegetarian options. We are looking into the cost of doing an off-site dinner, right on the water.



For evening meals that aren’t organized by the conference there are too many options, from very high end to... dirt floor specials. Most are easily accessible from the university by public transportation and by taxi.

Hotels

Being UW-hosted workshop participants, we are eligible for the UW summer on-campus accommodations. All dorms are within 400 meters from the workshop venues. The summer housing discount rate is about \$80/person. There are options for shared room (2 beds in one room).

The hotels near the university can easily accommodate a conference like this. There is a good deal of demand, however. We will do our best to get some blocks reserved, but the hotels will want to release them as early as possible. The rates below are physics department rates, and what we'd get if you were to make the reservation now. It is too early to lock in a price for a room, however.

Easy Walking Distance (10-15 minute or less walk):

- University Inn - \$160/night
- Watertown - \$200/night
- DECA - \$200/night

Still close (20-25 minute walk):

- Travel Lodge University - \$120/night
- Silver Cloud Inn - \$180/night (might be 25 minute walk)

Economic Option

- Modern dorm rooms (these are not your father's dorm rooms, and are likely not even your dorm rooms). Private bathrooms, about \$92/night. Include a cash card worth \$24/day (has to be spent before the day after you leave). These are only available for a summer conference date (see date section below).

Other options:

- AirBnB (sometimes you can get something right on the water)
- Downtown Seattle, about a 20 minute bus ride or drive or so, with some walking, is packed with hotels.

Getting Around Seattle

Seattle is a series of neighborhoods, split by bridges. Traffic during rush hour can be brutal. There is not a very good public transportation system, unfortunately. That said, the campus is well served by the bus system, with easy connections from the meeting room to downtown and Capitol Hill.

Taxis can easily be called in the campus area. The town also has Uber and Car2go.

Parking

On campus parking is limited. There are a number of garages that are close by, but the students and faculty fill them up. We can purchase passes for a small number of cars, etc. If there is a real demand for this, then we will have to revisit free passes. Street parking is almost impossible during the day in this area.

Excursion

While only some of the schedules are currently known, Seattle hosts the Seattle Symphony, Seattle Opera, the Pacific Northwest ballet, several theatre companies, the Seattle Art Museum, etc...plus many artistic events on the UW campus. The Seattle Symphony has no events scheduled in the first week of the April 2018 yet. The Seattle Mariners of the baseball American League has usual opening game in the first week of April. The Seattle Sounders, of Major League Soccer has year round schedule including April.

Great family entertainment can be found at the Seattle Aquarium, the Zoo, and the Museum of Flight(located in Boeing Field, half way to Seatac airport). The Pacific Science Center, located in the Seattle Center grounds (where the Space Needle is) offers temporary and permanent hands-on exhibits for all ages! Located on their grounds there are two IMAX theaters. One can take a monorail ride from the Seattle Center to downtown, or vice versa. There are relatively inexpensive eating venues at both ends of the monorail, at the Seattle Center House and at the Westlake Mall.



Most of the free museum day is scheduled in the first Thursday of every month. There are two museums/gallery on-campus: Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture and Henry Art Gallery.

Budget

The initial conference estimates indicate this can be done for about \$830/person (11 days without any external support for 1000 participants), including the meeting facilities, lunch/coffee breaks, reception/dinner banquet, conference management and contingency. This far out it is very difficult to get a firm amount as no one is willing to commit to prices this far in advance. A summary of the breakdown cost is listed below (detailed budget spreadsheet is attached as supplementary file).

<i>Total Estimated Cost</i>	\$830,000
<i>Facilities and related fees</i>	\$195,000
<i>Catering</i>	\$466,000
<i>Catering cost per day (includes lunch + morning and afternoon breaks)</i>	\$37,000
<i>Conference planning and management</i>	\$82,000
<i>Contingency reserve</i>	\$75,000

The meeting facility cost is composed of 8hrs of 1 plenary room in the first and the last day, 6 hours of 1 plenary rooms and 15 parallel rooms in the rest of 9 days.

This estimate assumes an **11-day** conference (July 9-19, 2021). However, the 2013 Snowmass conference material online indicates that the 2013 event was only 9 days. Adjusting down to 9 days would **save** approximately **\$105,000** (\$74,000 in catering and \$31,000 in facilities fees).

Another potential cost savings is to remove the catering for the afternoon break, which would save approximately \$9,000 per day.

Sponsorship and Networking

These budget numbers assume no sponsorship. We have investigated sponsorship and it should be no problem: the university is well setup to deal with gifts of this nature. Additional sponsorship could be considered as travel fellowship for selected graduates or postdoctoral researchers.

We have a connection with Tony Hey, over at Microsoft, who is in charge of academic outreach for computing there. In his past life he was a theoretical physicist (Southampton, wrote a fairly well known Quantum Field Theory book).

At the University of Washington is the eScience Institute (<http://escience.washington.edu/>) – “Supporting data-driven discovery in all fields.” They were recent recipients of a large (~\$40M) 5-year grant for data research in sciences. The UW branch of this is located on the 6th floor of the physics building, located about 300m from the conference center. This institute has setup and is fully running now. The provost has also identified this as a major initiative. The institute also has direct connections with Microsoft Research, and close collaboration with Amazon, Google, Facebook and Xilinx.

At UW, we have close connections with UW Physics and Astronomy departments, the Institute for Nuclear Theory with its many visitors and workshops, CENPA, and many other well known groups in theoretical and experimental physics.

The local organizing committee is interested in making connections with these connections, and getting the right people to attend and sponsor the event.