

# KansasFest Venue Questionnaire Results 2026

Survey was open July 24 – August 17

74 responses

## Positive Experiences with 2024 Venue (UIS / Springfield, IL)

- Many attendees agreed that **UIS worked well in 2024** and was a significant improvement over Rockhurst.
- People appreciated the **lodging, nearby hospital, UNM proximity**, and the overall accessibility of Springfield.
- UIS was considered **centrally located** in the Midwest, making it convenient for many.
- Attendees praised the **dorm setup, food services, and affordability**, saying it fit KFest's needs well.
- Some noted issues with **ADA accessibility and airport distance** but still strongly supported UIS.
- Several explicitly said: *"I'd like to go back to UIS"* or *"UIS was the best venue."*

## Alternative Locations Suggested

Note: These were just the ones mentioned in the survey. We will consider other options as well.

### Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE)

- Highlighted as a **centrally located alternative** with ADA-compliant facilities.
- Closer to St. Louis airport (45 minutes vs. 90 minutes to Springfield).
- Still within driving range of the **garage giveaway storage locker**.
- Potential downside: might not offer an entire dorm for KFest, only a wing.

### University of Windsor (Canada)

- Pros: Safe city, conference-ready, near Detroit airport, and within driving distance of a large population.
- Cons: **Border crossing complications** (especially for some community members), limited direct flights, and **logistics challenges for the Garage Giveaway**.

### Some Other U.S. Options

- **VCF SoCal venue**: Near Burbank airport, affordable, used for tech conventions.
- **University of Oregon (Eugene) & Reed College (Portland)**: Strong Apple history, inclusive cities, potential tie-in with **Portland Retro Gaming Expo (PRGE)**.
- **Boston / New England**: Dense retrocomputing community, family-friendly destination.
- **CMU (Pittsburgh)**: Strong tech history, nearby museums, airport access.

- **Chicago area:** O'Hare airport is a major hub, easier for international travelers.
- **Atlanta / Georgia Tech:** Major airport hub, strong tech culture.
- **Michigan: Oakland University, Spring Arbor:** both about an hour from Detroit airport
- **Orlando / Texas:** Conference-ready cities, but mixed feelings about inclusivity/legal environment.
- **Colorado School of Mines (Denver):** Major airport, safe location

## Key Concerns & Criteria

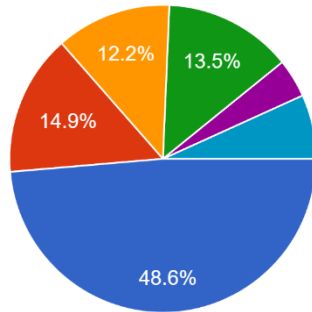
- **Inclusivity and safety:** Locations in states with **anti-LGBTQ+ or discriminatory laws** are unacceptable for many.
- **Accessibility:**
  - ADA compliance is essential.
  - Prefer venues within **30–60 minutes of a major airport**.
  - Avoid rural sites requiring long drives after flights.
- **Campus-style housing:** Dorms are preferred over hotels to maintain KFest's "communal vibe."
- **Cost:** Keeping attendance affordable is important; campus housing helps.
- **Garage Giveaway:** Some prioritize proximity to storage, others feel logistics can be adapted if the venue is otherwise strong.
- **Streaming/Hybrid options:** Some expect facilities to support virtual participation.

## Overall Sentiment

- **UIS received the strongest support**, with many describing it as the "obvious choice" unless a venue could beat it on ADA access and airport proximity.
- **SIUE was the most viable alternative** mentioned, with advantages on travel distance but possibly fewer dorm resources.
- While **West/East Coast venues** sounded attractive for cultural and tech reasons, concerns were raised about cost, inclusivity, and accessibility for the majority of attendees.
- Many emphasized the importance of keeping KFest **central in the U.S.**, rather than moving to coastal or politically hostile states.

What region would you most like to see KansasFest hosted in?

74 responses



- Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)
- Northeast (e.g., Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts)
- South (e.g., Texas, Georgia, Florida)
- West Coast (e.g., California, Oregon, Washington)
- Mountain states (e.g., Colorado, Utah)
- I'm open to anywhere!

## Raw Responses

What region would you most like to see KansasFest hosted in?	Venue Name and Address	Why do you think your preferred venue or region would be a great choice for KansasFest?
Northeast (e.g., Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts)	University of Pittsburgh	Because it's great!!!
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	UIS Springfield	Worked well in 2024
Mountain states (e.g., Colorado, Utah)	Quelab, Albuquerque, NM	It's close enough to me to actually be able to go. Also lodging, UNM, hospital all nearby. I'm happy to dig into this more should it be a consideration.
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	University Illinois Springfield	It already worked for the event!

Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	University of Illinois - Springfield	Kfest 2024 was hosted there and it was a huge improvement from Rockhurst. If we can find better than UIS, such as with better ADA compliance, I'm all for that too.
I'm open to anywhere!	SIU-E (Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville), Edwardsville Illinois	SIU-E represents a centralized location for the event that offers ADA compliant facilities in a area of the US that has committed itself to being open and welcoming to all people. The campus is located a short 45 minute drive from Lambert International Airport, where a event-sponsored (and attendee funded) shuttle service could quickly and easily address travel needs. As a public university, there are dorms and summer food service options. The campus is roughly a 4.5 hour drive from the GG storage locker, meaning that GG is still a viable option at this location (assuming the cost of a UHAUL rental would be an expense agreeable to attendees).
Northeast (e.g., Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts)	University of Windsor, 750 Sunset Avenue, Windsor, Ontario N9B 3P4	<p>There is information about their conference services here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.uwindsor.ca/conference-services/">https://www.uwindsor.ca/conference-services/</a></p> <p>I was starting to look at the phase one investigation into this location and found the above link but hadn't dug into the details too much yet when you offered this preliminary survey.</p> <p>That site claims it is "within driving distance to 60% of the entire population of the United States and Canada". Some good points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Canada and Ontario in particular is a safe destination for all</li> <li>- It is close to Detroit airport and Windsor also has a small airport. I have looked and there do seem to be flight options from major US airports into Windsor or connecting through major Canadian airports. But those will definitely require a connection, or two.</li> <li>- I have only started to review their information but it does seem like they have the kinds of facilities that are required.</li> </ul> <p>Some bad points:</p>

		<p>- Requires crossing a border into Canada and again back into the US for US residents. Crossing the US border is more fraught lately, especially for certain members of our community.</p> <p>- Although it is close to the Detroit airport, anyone arriving there still needs to somehow get across the border and to the location. They do talk about being close to Detroit airport so perhaps the conference services group there has experience on how to handle that kind of problem. Windsor does have a small airport so perhaps it would be easier to arrive that way but flight options would be very limited.</p> <p>- I have no idea how we could transport substantial garage giveaway equipment to that site and across the border. Seems like it would be logistically challenging. And it is quite far from where the giveaway items are currently stored.</p> <p>Anyway, of all possible Canadian locations, I think this is the best possible one. Even if it is the best Canadian location, I recognize there are serious downsides, mostly because of border crossings.</p>
West Coast (e.g., California, Oregon, Washington)	Hotel Fera, 100 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868, USA	This is where VCF SoCal is hosted: <a href="https://www.vcfsocal.com/event-details/vcf-socal-2025">https://www.vcfsocal.com/event-details/vcf-socal-2025</a>
West Coast (e.g., California, Oregon, Washington)	Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport, Burbank CA	Host of many small-to-medium sized conventions, close to the Burbank airport, a hotel and convention center with many other small rooms for breakout sessions. Cheaper than Pasadena or the LA Convention Center.
I'm open to anywhere!	No preference	Not being in any of the marginalized groups that prompted WSU getting cancelled, I'm open to any location that everyone's comfortable with. I just look forward to being with everyone live again.
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	University of Illinois Springfield, 2160 Vachel Lindsay Dr,	All reports I've heard are that KFest 2024 was a great success! While I've heard that the venue didn't have the best physical accessibility, it sounds like it was otherwise a fantastic venue for KFest's needs, is in a state with inclusive laws, and I was greatly looking forward to attending this year, and was extremely

	Springfield, IL 62703	<p>disappointed in the move. I'd very strongly consider attending a KFest at UIS with adequate COVID precautions.</p> <p>Outside of UIS, I'm certainly open to attending in other locations, as long as the safety of *all* community members is held paramount.</p>
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, IL	Centrally Located, near St Louis Lambert Airport
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	Spring Arbor University 106 E. Main St. Spring Arbor, MI 49283	<p>Spring Arbor was only suggested because the field was required. I would prefer a closer location (to MI). I think making the garage giveaway as easy as possible is important. I would focus on finding a location that meets as many of the needs of the participants as possible, while keeping costs affordable.</p>
West Coast (e.g., California, Oregon, Washington)	University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon	<p>University of Oregon is in beautiful and funky Eugene, Oregon. Eugene has a lot of connections to early Apple (i.e. Apple ][ era), is a walkable and safe city that actively embraces diversity, it's near a large regional airport, and is a short drive from a number of interesting natural features. They appear to have a number of options for conferences to be held on campus. Eugene is *great*, U of O is beautiful, and I think it would be a super-cool opportunity.</p> <p><a href="https://conferences.uoregon.edu/planyourevent">https://conferences.uoregon.edu/planyourevent</a></p>
West Coast (e.g., California, Oregon, Washington)	Reed College, Portland, Oregon	<p>(I hope it's okay to submit two suggestions.) I think Reed College (<a href="https://www.reed.edu/cep/">https://www.reed.edu/cep/</a>) in Portland, Oregon has real potential as an excellent event space for Kansas Fest. It's a beautiful campus close to an international airport (that was recently renovated and is amazing- <a href="http://www.flypdx.com">http://www.flypdx.com</a>). Portland is a city that doesn't need my endorsement, it's just awesome. Reed obviously has the Steve Jobs connection. There's so much to do and see and experience... and I think it would still be really cool to stay on campus for the duration of the trip. It's that kind of laid-back vibe, just being there. One thought that occurred to me: Portland Retro Gaming Expo is getting really big and I hear a lot of midwest folks wishing they could get out to see it. What would it be</p>

		<p>like if Kansas Fest got bumped to October and linked up with PRGE- like led into it? PRGE is a multi-day event but Saturday tends to be -the- day. Maybe K-fest runs Wednesday - Friday and Saturday folks are free to do PRGE? All just thoughts. I don't have a strong opinion. But I do really appreciate all of you that work so hard to put this thing on. I really do feel that you've traditionally had everyone's best interests at heart and hope you find the energy and passion to continue doing what you're doing.</p>
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	McKendree University	<p>Similar location as Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, but MIGHT be less expensive? VERY small town vibe. Illinois is pretty socially liberal, though southern Illinois is more conservative. Truthfully, I don't even know if McKendree would be interested, but I visited the school once. Right down the street from Mad-America airport in Belleville, Illinois.</p>
Northeast (e.g., Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts)	Anywhere in the greater Boston area	<p>New England has a large population of Apple II and retro activists who would likely attend an in-person event in the northeast. Boston and New England is also a great place for families to visit while the dad is nerding out at KFest!</p>
West Coast (e.g., California, Oregon, Washington)	Computer History Museum, Mountain View CA	<p>Good venue, accessible, touring the museum, proximity to SV companies, could probably get tours of Apple, Google, Microsoft, etc. Cost maybe prohibitive. Alternately, host at a local hotel with conference facilities and do a tour of the museum.</p>
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	Rockhurst	<p>Go back to where it all began for me, esp if any of the halls have been upgraded to better address needs of folks with mobility issues.</p>
Northeast (e.g., Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts)	Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh, PA	<p>Pittsburgh is a wonderful city to visit, has a great science museum and the LSSM as well as a Kfest organizer in residence</p>
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana	

Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	University of Illinois at Springfield	Notwithstanding that I am from New England, I attended KFest in 2024 and I strongly believe that the location, facility, amenities, and cost were excellent. It is of vital importance that KFest not become a coastal event, thereby overburdening those from the opposite side of the country. 2024 was excellent in every regard. Nit-picking in a relentless search for perfection is a fruitless exercise, and there will always be some number of people who will complain no matter where KFest is located, but Springfield came as close to the bullseye as any site ever will. Please stick with the site that worked as well as any site could work.
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	UIS	I'd like to go back to UIS! It was the best venue.
Mountain states (e.g., Colorado, Utah)	Colorado School of Mines	Still close to the midwest, but could pick up some of the western states.
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	any	I prefer the midwest because I live there and it's a central location, but the important items would be: Handicap accessible is essential. Travel time is important. States (or other entities) that discriminate should not be considered. In general, make the in-person event as welcoming as possible.
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	University of Illinois Springfield	Apolgies if I already submitted, I don't recall and wanted to be sure. Anyway, I'm suggesting UIS as a baseline venue. Most people in 2024, myself included, thought it was great. There are a couple things that could be improved such as better ADA support and airport proximinty. If there is another venue which can improve on these points without sacraficing inclusivity in other ways, I'm open that, but otherwise UIS to me is the obvious choice.
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	University of Illinois Champaign Urbana <a href="https://www.uic.edu">https://www.uic.edu</a>	Same system as UIS, A little closer to Chicago airports



Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh PA	CMU has a huge history of tech, it's a great campus in Pittsburgh with easy access to the airport, the Large Scale Systems Museum is nearby as is the Bloop Video Game Museum.
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	Minnesota State University, Mankato	Still relatively in the 'middle' but in trans-friendly Minnesota
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	Oakland University 201 Meadow Brook Road Rochester, Michigan 48309-4451	Michigan is a great state and the Detroit region is very diverse and has a lot of great amenities and places to see. Summers can be hot, but they can also be humidity free with pleasant temperatures in the 70s There are multiple Universities with dorms. While I have not vetted the location I am listing for compatibility with KFest demands (and it is about a 56 minute drive to the major airport in good conditions), I was told to submit it anyway. I would also vote for Chicago area and its suburbs as well. O'Hare Airport is one of the largest airports in the region and would provide international travelers with easy access to the area without having to travel 1.5 hours through a rural area like STL to UIS (or take additional flights). While some attendees might not mind driving more than an hour after flying, getting hard to get speakers to attend like this (and we are not getting any younger) does not make a lot of common sense. It is also just courtesy to international travelers that might have a 9 or 12 hour or more flight who are tired and don't even want the hassle of having to request a ride that is longer than 30 minutes. Chicago has an extensive subway system that avoids having to use even a taxi in many cases. It also has train service for people like Dr. Buggie.
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	Univ of Illinois Springfield	
South (e.g., Texas, Georgia, Florida)	Georgia Institute of Technology	It's one of the top technical schools in the world and also has a vintage computer program in the library.
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	UIS	UIS was about at the limit for me of an 8 hour drive. That said, I could fly anywhere but I would not be able to bring my equipment which is a big factor for me.

		UIS in 2024 was my first in-person KFest and I had a fantastic time. I have no complaints or criticisms of UIS
South (e.g., Texas, Georgia, Florida)	Orlando somewhere so it can be combined with other fun things?	Maybe (in the future) somewhere in Europe (EU)? Sweden where I'm from, Germany, The Netherlands etc.
Northeast (e.g., Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts)		Mostly just concerned about the safety of the venue for trans and LGBT attendees. I would not attend a mountain state due to altitude sickness.
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	No Specific Preference or Suggestion	<p>Having generally followed the discussion, I feel that the following criterial are important (in order of most-to-least, from my point of view)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Located in a state with acceptable legal protections for all attendees</li> <li>2. Located such that reasonable travel arrangements are possible for attendees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For example, it seems that there are a number of people that travel Amtrak, so a town 100+ miles from a station would be a negative</li> <li>- Other have expressed an unwillingness to travel by vehicle through adjacent states due to personal safety concerns, this would imply needing a location near a major or large regional airport to facilitate direct travel.</li> <li>- Ideally located within ~30 minutes travel time from the nearest airport and hopefully no more than an hour. The 90-minute drive in 2024 really seems to have been a turn-off for some. This might be mitigated by the availability of a convenient shuttle service or other local transit option to get to the final destination.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Located on a college campus or similar "dorm-style" arrangement. I have doubts that any sort of hotel or conference center could be a direct replacement and the "dorm takeover" aspect of</li> </ol>

		<p>KansasFest is, IMO, a core part of its "vibe". Or brand, as Ron may say.</p> <p>4. Cost, which I think is only a valid objection if KFest moved away from a college campus setting. There's realistically never going to be cheaper option than that kind of setup.</p> <p>5. Accessibility and creature comforts. Based on what people have said about Rockhust, I think a lack of air conditioned spaces, elevators and difficult walking situations would only discourage attendance</p> <p>6. Garage Giveaway. I feel that too much focus on GG could get in the way of finding good locations. I have faith that, once the physical location of future KansaFests are settled (whether it's one semi-permanent spot, or a rotating list of sites), that the GG giveaway logistics can be adapted, even if the exact form of the GG changes a bit.</p> <p>7. Local transit options. Getting people the "last mile" to KFest has its logistical hurdles, but always seems to work out. But, having options beyond "phone a friend" provide some flexibility.</p> <p>8. Local amenities. Food, "Geek Stuff", and proximity of other entertainment</p>
South (e.g., Texas, Georgia, Florida)	Georgia Tech 225 North Avenue NW, Atlanta, GA 30332	<p>Close to the Atlanta airport, the busiest in the world (so very efficient) - Georgia Tech has a vintage technology program so they are likely to be receptive. Georgia's LGBTQ protections, while not perfect, are much better than Kansas' and a majority of other southern states.</p> <p><a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBTQ_rights_in_Georgia_(U.S._state)">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBTQ_rights_in_Georgia_(U.S._state)</a></p>
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	Anywhere!	
Northeast (e.g., Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts)	Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in Boston, Massachusetts. 415 Summer	<p>Easy to get to, a lot of areas to stay and see. Excellent food. Great tech community with opportunities to collab with MIT, NEIT, etc.</p>

	Street in the Seaport District	
I'm open to anywhere!	TBD	It's impossible to make a specific suggestion unless you list other states or cities, which like KANSAS, are activist-blackballed. Would you REALLY allow Kansasfest in Texas or Florida? What about Arizona? Since Kansas was canceled, it's clear that other states or cities are blackballed as well. You might as well state them up front.
West Coast (e.g., California, Oregon, Washington)	Hotel Fera Anaheim by Hilton, 100 The City Dr S, Orange, CA 92868	It has been used successfully for both Disneyana Collector shows AND for VCF SoCal
Northeast (e.g., Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts)		
Northeast (e.g., Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts)	I'm open	For me the key requirements are. Dorm style rooms where we can setup out own equipmentn' and can visit each other. Sark and his friends have to be there because the music and fixing is part of Kfest lore. Garage give away is important to have a large stash of new hardware to try to fix and a Solderfest. Onsite food is a bonus.
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	Avila University;	Seems legit.
South (e.g., Texas, Georgia, Florida)	University of Texas at Dallas, Davidson-Gundy .utdallas.edu Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center 800 W Campbell Rd, Richardson, TX 75080 · 9.1 mi (972) 883-5393	VCFSW will not be here next year due to sizing and World Cup events in the area June 20th week. It's a great facility and very friendly to retro enthusiasts. Hotels are nearby and pricing is good. Definitely an inclusive environment and ADA compliant.

Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	The 2024 venue seems to have been well-liked, with the slight exception of its distance from an airport and train station.	I want to see KansasFest happen in a state that is welcoming to all. No anti-LGBTQ+ laws, no anti-women laws.
West Coast (e.g., California, Oregon, Washington)	Ontario Airport Hotel and Conference Center	Near LA without the cost. Close to Ontario Airport. Plenty of amenities in the area and fun stuff to do.
South (e.g., Texas, Georgia, Florida)	VCF Southwest	Would love to see this show co-located with the VCF Southwest shows in Texas. It's very accessible with major regional and international airports. Many hotels of various prices are nearby and available. And plenty of room could be available for exhibitors and seminars.
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	The Chicago area would be amazing.	Central to all, drivable for many
Mountain states (e.g., Colorado, Utah)		
South (e.g., Texas, Georgia, Florida)	UT AUSTIN - Pickle Research Center by the Domain	So much to do, no matter your personality and inclinations. Inexpensive accommodations around the Pickle Research Center, large number of food options, great live music, numerous outdoor activities and day trips
West Coast (e.g., California, Oregon, Washington)	Computer History Museum - Mountain View, CA	Because it's near the birthplace of the apple 2. And it's as non political of a venue as you can get. No one said it has to be held in a college. Open your eyes to new things.

Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	Kansas City (or, worst case, Kansas state)	<p>It's where the show belongs and where the good people of Kansas City have treated us well for many many years.</p> <p>Rejecting that community for unfounded safety reasons has broken my heart. Please consider returning to that incredibly safe and welcoming environment. The one that has allowed this community to thrive for decades</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)		
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	University of Illinois Springfield	I have been the Rockhurst and that was OK but I feel UIS was a nice upgrade. Food was good, rooms were nice, and plenty of space for presentations and mingling. I would love to see it there again.
West Coast (e.g., California, Oregon, Washington)		My preference choice is based solely on reducing travel for me.

<p>Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)</p>	<p>UIS: 2160 Vachel Lindsay Dr, Springfield, IL 62703; or SIUE: 1 Residence Drive, Edwardsville, IL 62025</p>	<p>Middle of the country, a reasonable distance to drive from either east or west coast. Staying in the middle seems best for avoiding becoming a regional meeting. But I do think our people kind of skew east, so being in the eastern quarter of the US may still be generally accessible to most of the audience. With INIT HELLO now being something of an east coast regional Apple II-themed weekend meeting, it may be just as well for KansasFest to stay further inland. KFest is a week-long camp, so the demands it can place on travel are a bit more open but my sense is: it's best for KFest to stay in the middle, drivable from all coasts and borders without being excessive. Most KFest attendees have, historically, driven there. Many middle states don't meet other requirements, but Illinois is there. Obviously UIS is an option in IL that is hard to beat, but I think still potentially possible to beat. SIUE (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville) is promising. Ron is in the area and could scout it out, knows it a bit. UIS has a whole lot of positives and only a few negatives, so alternatives would need to be pretty compelling. SIUE may only have a wing of a dorm available, rather than UIS's whole dorm—Advantage: UIS. But at UIS every other year may require negotiation about going against their maintenance schedule in order to remain in the dorm with the Great Room. SIUE is 45 minutes from STL, UIS is 90 minutes from STL—Advantage: SIUE. SIUE is further from Chicago airports than UIS is, for anyone dedicated to staying within IL the whole trip—(pretty minor) advantage: UIS. SIUE is around an hour closer than UIS is to KCMO. Anyway, UIS has a lot going for it, but SIUE is a contender. Closer to Chicago could be easier for those who fly, but prices will rise, and it gets further from the southern edge of the country for those who drive from there. So: I'd probably go to a KFest if it were held in the midwest or northeast. If it got further west, I'd start thinking about whether it's worth it. But I'd draw a pretty bright line on the state's suitability too. I probably would not go if KFest were in the deeper south, but it would be based not on the southness, but on the host state's legal stances toward members of our community. Plus, if KFest were to choose a venue in a hostile state, that would signal enough of a disregard for the community that I wouldn't really want to support the event by going.</p>
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		<p>Given that it's no real sacrifice to meet somewhere where everyone can attend, if KFest were to choose a hostile state anyway, KFest will have taken the stance that either 1) not everyone in the community is in fact actually welcome, or 2) that the concerns some in the community have for their safety and dignity are being dismissed as not being real. That is exactly what was communicated by choosing Wichita briefly in 2024. And, to be frank, I foresaw correctly what the reaction to Wichita was likely to be, based on the survey results we had, and warned of it in committee meetings repeatedly and constantly, but to no effect. The committee has since then changed composition, and those who pushed hardest to hold the meeting in a hostile state are no longer there, but still the new committee has yet to plant a flag on this issue. Town halls, surveys, posted meeting minutes are all great, but no amount of these things would be sufficient to excuse a decision to hold KFest in a hostile state. So, in that sense, this venue choice is high stakes for me (and for others I believe, but for me certainly) insofar as it is effectively the primary thing that determines whether KFest actually is an organization I'm comfortable aligning myself with in the future.</p>
Northeast (e.g., Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts)	Onassis Cultural Center, Olympic Tower 645 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10022	The Onassis Cultural Center is known for its exhibitions and initiatives, where artists, researchers and academics promote the timeless messages of (primarily the Greek) culture; however, the Apple II has left a profound impact on the history of personal computing and the digitalization era, which deserves to be celebrated.
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)		I'd like to go back to Springfield IL. This is a midwest show and should stay there.
West Coast (e.g., California, Oregon, Washington)	Don't know	Closest to me, but I would probably go anywhere.
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	No idea	While I am in mid-Atlantic, mid-west would be better for all. But then, I'm not aware of the population concentration. Wherever it is most convenient for the most people. No sense in having it in the Rocky



		Mountains if 90% of the folks live east of the Mississippi.
Northeast (e.g., Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts)		
I'm open to anywhere!		I think it would be great if Kansasfest were able to rotate to different locations. I understand this may not be logistically possible. But it could mean some attendees could drive some years and fly others.
I'm open to anywhere!	n/a	I don't have a strong opinion on a venue, as I am most likely virtual-only for the foreseeable future. As such, I hope that facilities allow for easy streaming or recording of sessions for (real-time or delayed) streaming.
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)		
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)		KansasFest deserves to stay in the part of the country it originated in, Kansas City preferably.
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	Open	I'm ok with any place that has private bathrooms , good wifi, and good AC
South (e.g., Texas, Georgia, Florida)		Orlando has plenty of conference space and many things to enjoy.
South (e.g., Texas, Georgia, Florida)		Atlanta is also another great choice. Many different travel options and hotels to choose from. Perhaps better than Orlando.
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)		
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)		Somewhere central to the US equalizes travel distances for many attendees. We could certainly do it in a state that is less concerning than KS/MO.
Midwest (e.g., Missouri, Illinois, Indiana)	I liked Springfield, and don't have any suggestions	I thought it was a fine in 2024, maybe not 100% perfect fit, but Oz will never be found.

Northeast (e.g., Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts)		Most NE states are relatively safe for our lgbt attendees. West coast is second best option.
South (e.g., Texas, Georgia, Florida)		So it's closer to me