



Museum of Science Fiction
Washington, DC
USA: Earth: Sol: Milky Way

ESCAPE
VELOCITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Asgardia The Space Nation Joins Escape Velocity 2018

Washington, DC (Feb. 5, 2018) – The Museum of Science Fiction welcomes Asgardia the Space Nation as a special event partner for its third annual Escape Velocity convention scheduled for May 25-27, 2018.

"In science fiction, we speculate about what's possible. Among other futures, we think about how we will shape humanity's path to the stars. New technology is one way of shaping this future. Putting into practice new ideas about how we all interact—the very basis of our culture—is another, and that's what Asgardia is about. Escape Velocity 2018 is the only place where you'll see something like this," commented Mason Peck, Associate Professor in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Director of Space Systems Design Studio at Cornell University, former NASA Chief Technologist, and member of the Museum of Science Fiction's Board of Advisors.

Lena De Winne, the CEO and First Vice-President of NGO Asgardia will be delivering the "State of the Space Nation" address at the conference. De Winne said: "I am honoured to present Asgardia at Escape Velocity, as we share an optimistic and clear vision of humanity's future in space. From space, Earth can be seen as one beautiful common place for all of humankind to live in equality and peace. Together let's make this come true."

Over 170,000 people around the world have applied for and been granted citizenship to Asgardia, the "first ever space nation." On November 12, the space nation's first satellite was successfully launched into orbit, a CubeSat carrying 500 gigabytes of data including Asgardia's Constitution, national symbols, and database of its citizens. Asgardia seeks recognition by the United Nations as a full-fledged, independent nation, one that promotes the peaceful use of space, protects Earth from space threats, and acts as a free scientific base of knowledge in space.

"The theme of Escape Velocity 2018 is "Other Worlds," so I can't imagine a more perfect partner for this year's convention than Asgardia," said Museum production counsel, Charles Hildebrandt. "Many of the seminal works of science fiction feature settings beyond our planet, and Asgardia is taking the first steps towards bringing the dream of living among the stars into reality."

Escape Velocity 2018 is the third annual convention presented by the Museum of Science Fiction. It will be return to the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center at National Harbor, MD, the site of the inaugural convention on May 25-27, 2018. For additional information about Escape Velocity, including details for press registration, please visit:

<https://escapevelocity.events/press-media/>

About the Museum of Science Fiction

The nonprofit Museum of Science Fiction will be the world's first comprehensive science fiction museum, covering the history of the genre across the arts and providing a narrative on its relationship to the real world. The Museum will show how science fiction continually inspires individuals, influences cultures, and impacts societies. Also serving as an educational catalyst to expand interest in the science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) areas, the Museum uses tools such as mobile applications and wifi-enabled display objects to engage and entertain. For a full press packet on the Museum of Science Fiction's vision and other information, please visit: www.museumofsciencefiction.org/presspacket

About Escape Velocity 2018

The Museum of Science Fiction and NASA are partnering to bring Escape Velocity 2018 to Washington, DC. The event is a futuristic world's fair to promote STEAM educational activities within the context of science fiction using the fun of comic cons and fascination of science and engineering festivals. Escape Velocity 2018 seeks to make a measurable positive impact to boost informal learning on the more conceptually challenging academic areas. Escape Velocity's mission is to re-invigorate the interest of our young people in science, technology, engineering, art, and math by producing and presenting the most compelling, exciting, educational, and entertaining science festival in the United States using science fiction as its primary engine. Escape Velocity will achieve orbit on May 25-27, 2018 at the Marriott Gaylord Hotel and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, just outside of Washington, DC. For a full press packet on Escape Velocity, please visit: www.escapevelocity.events/press-media

About Asgardia The Space Nation

[Asgardia](#) is the first in human history space nation. Asgardia was announced on October 12th, 2016 by Dr Igor Ashurbeyli at a press conference in Paris. The announcement received blanket news coverage in mainstream media and trade publications worldwide. On November 12th, 2017 Asgardia launched its first satellite, which became the first independent territory in space. Asgardia has its own Constitution; with a current population of over 170,000 people from over 200 nations of the world. Dr Ashurbeyli is the founding father of Asgardia and the Head of Nation. He is a scientist, businessman, philanthropist, and author of over 100 scientific publications including monographs and encyclopaedias, recipient of numerous state, public and official awards.

About Lena De Winne

Lena De Winne is the CEO and First Vice-President of NGO Asgardia, which is a prototype of the future space state. She holds an MSc in engineering, an MBA, and a PhD in psychology. After fifteen years of a successful career at the European Space Agency (ESTEC, The Netherlands), where she worked in business development, liaison, promotion and education, she published several popular books about space in English and Russian for children and adults, and hosted a television program in Belgium. In 2013 she joined AIRC (airc.at) as a director, where she took on further duties as a director of [ROOM, The Space Journal](#). Lena De Winne played a pivotal role in setting up and running [Asgardia](#), the first in human history space nation founded by Dr. Igor Ashurbeyli.

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