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32

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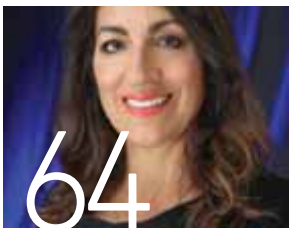
Contents



22



40



64



28

IN EVERY ISSUE

10 Publisher's Letter

By Michele Nichols

22 On The Road

We breeze through six special event venues in the Windy City, from a historic pier and centuries-old museum to all-inclusive conference centers.

28 The Main Event

Smooth Sailing Celebrations hosted a high profile government group for a night on the water with everything cruising along perfectly.

48 What's Trending

It's true what they say that "time is money," which is why some venues are now opting to stay competitive by offering spaces by the hour.

64 Person of Interest

With a range of eco tourism and holistic programs, President and COO Kathy Snyder is helping to transform the health of meetings at Beaver Hollow in Western New York.

FEATURES

32 Vow To Be Different

These special event venues provide 10 unique ways to say "I Do!"

40 A Good Cause & The Venue Effect

Choosing venues that give back to the community can give back to planners and groups in a number of ways, too.

Smooth Sailing

Celebrations

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ON THE COVER

32 A wedding at Redwoods in Yosemite is a perfect union with nature.

THE AGENDA

14 **Food For Thought**
At Curry College, Executive Chef Christian King's Asian Mussels are a favorite on the summertime "Fish Market Friday" menu

17 **Happy Hour**
Create this cocktail drink that combines apple cider and cinnamon as well as tequila and Triple Sec for a hearty taste of fall.

18 **Flashback Photo**
The story of New Orleans' once thriving movie palace, the Joy Theatre.

20 **Expert Advice**
Going with the workflow: Discover tips on creating team efficiencies from an award-winning venue.

FALL 2018

Contents



INDUSTRY UPDATES

52 **News & Awards**
The latest news and developments from Unique Venues members across the country and Canada.

54 **Venue Index**
Find Unique Venues across the U.S. and Canada, listed alphabetically by state or region.

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PUBLISHER'S *Letter*



When I watched the Royal wedding in May, I was pleasantly surprised by how modern, fresh, and non-traditional it was—from the Duchess showing her independence by walking herself down the aisle to the incredible gospel choir and American pastor that were breathtaking examples of the mix of cultures that were behind this groundbreaking union. I have lived through several Royal weddings in my time, but none had been done quite like this before. Watching it early on that Saturday morning, I knew we had an important topic to discuss in our latest issue of *Unique Venues* magazine.

Though we have covered a lot of ground in the six years of producing our publication, we had yet to cover the topic of weddings, but it's never made more sense to do so. Wedding planners, like the one we interviewed for our cover story, will tell you that some of the biggest "trends" for ceremonies and receptions are rustic themes, budget-conscious and eco-conscious parties, and yes, non-traditional venues.

Weddings, much like other remarkable life moments, are so different now. That idea of borrowed and blue is replaced by one-of-a-kind and colorful, with moments that truly reflect how much young adults are keen to carve their own way in life and set their own rules. The millennial generation continues to amaze me with how practical and confident they are in doing what works for them, their imaginations, and their wallets and also thinking about how much of a burden that extravagance can put on family members and friends.

Our cover story details 10 of the most unique spots for happy unions, from getting hitched like a pirate in a themed bar for \$7 (yes, \$7) to a movie-ending wedding in the heart of New York's Rockefeller Center. There are options for matrimony in the mountains and coming together at restored chapels in the Canadian countryside. While they're all completely unique experiences, the one thing all these spaces have in common is the ability to make each and every event personal and remembered fondly when that anniversary comes around each year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Nichols".

Michele Nichols, Founder
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Mitzvah Mania

iPlay America helps deliver a Slam-worthy party for one wrestling fan

It was a “match” made in wrestling heaven when iPlay America (just outside New York City) partnered with local providers Debbie’s Designs, By Dana, and Xplosive Entertainment to create a Bar Mitzvah party that would even make the WWE proud. Called “MattMania,” a take on “Wrestlemania,” the event turned the iPlay America Event Center into a true stadium with a kids lounge in the shape of a wrestling ring, bike racks to create the illusion of lines of fans, and a one-of-a-kind concessions stands (designed by Debbie’s) where guests could find dinner and dessert. The in-house A/V team at iPlay America utilized a large projector screen as well as two side-by-side LED screens to display official logos while Xplosive added trellis framing, an illuminated stage, and red up-lighting throughout the room for the perfect finishing touch. [uv](#)

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIRCHHOF PHOTOGRAPHY



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ASIAN MUSSELS

Courtesy of Curry College (Milton, MA)

At Curry College, Executive Chef Christian King's Asian Mussels are a favorite on the summertime "Fish Market Friday" menu. To make the popular dish, Chef Christian and his team of sous chefs sauté fresh mussels from Prince Edward Island with sesame oil and a range of spices to create a zesty sauce. Once ready, the dish is served in a beautiful cast iron bowl. This savory recipe is just one of the many reasons why Curry College Dining Services recently received a "Best of Milton Award" in the restaurant category.



INGREDIENTS:

- 3 oz. sesame oil
- 3 Tbsp. minced ginger
- 2 Tbsp. minced garlic
- 2.5 lbs. PEI Mussels
- 1/2 cup diced red pepper
- 1 cup white wine
- 4 oz. cold cubed butter
- 2 Tbsp. chopped scallions
- 1 Tbsp. toasted sesame seeds (optional)
- sriracha hot sauce (to taste)
- light soy sauce (to taste)**

DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat oil in sauté pan, add mussels, and cook for 20 seconds.
2. Add minced garlic and ginger, and flip mussels in the pan for 20 seconds so they are coated in the mixture.
3. Add the red pepper.
4. Deglaze the pan with wine.
5. Lace the pan with sriracha and soy sauces.
6. Add butter, scallions, and sesame seeds.
7. Add a lid to the pan to create steam to open the mussels.

****Light soy sauce is ideal to cut back on the saltiness. uv**

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The McNamara
Courtesy of McNamara Alumni Center
(Minneapolis, MN)

Before you know it, it will be apple-picking season. After you make the apple pies, apple sauces, and apple butters, save the leftovers to create this cocktail drink that combines apple cider and cinnamon as well as tequila and triple sec for a hearty taste of fall.

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Minneapolis, MN
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INGREDIENTS:

- 1.25 oz. tequila
- 0.5 oz. Triple Sec
- 3 oz. apple cider
- pinch of cinnamon
- 1 red apple slice (for garnish)

TO PREPARE:

1. Fill a cocktail mixer with ice.
2. Add in tequila, triple sec, cider, and cinnamon.
3. Shake vigorously.
4. Pour into a highball glass filled with ice.
5. Garnish with an apple slice.

Makes 1 serving. **uv**



HOLLYWOOD'S GILDED AGE

The story of New Orleans' once thriving movie palace, the Joy Theatre

New Orleans is a beacon of culture—where jazz and zydeco were born and Cajun food and French traditions first came Stateside. So it's no wonder the city also had connections to old Hollywood with the Joy Theatre. Originally opened in 1947, and one of the four original theaters in the downtown district, it was the first movie palace to be built after the Great Depression and World War II, signifying modern progression and a hope for the future thanks to its advanced features like the neon marquee and art deco architecture. During its first two years, a peak time for movie-going in America, the theater welcomed nearly 90 million patrons annually

with many riding the street cars from surrounding neighborhoods to downtown Canal Street.

Today, the Joy Theatre is a historical landmark that provides a link to the past while staying current. After sweeping renovations to preserve and update the building, the theater hosts 10,000 square feet of multipurpose space for concerts, comedy shows, and dramatic productions, while also providing a unique space for meetings and events for up to 1,200 guests. Some amenities include high-tech sound and lighting systems, a built-in stage, and flexible seating plans. [uv](#)

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Going WITH THE Workflow

Tips on creating team efficiencies from an award-winning venue

In June, the International Association of Conference Centres (IACC) delivered the first-ever IACC Americas Innovation award to the team at the University of California Irvine Student Center & Event Services for its “Real-Time Ops” app that was designed to improve staff communications and the overall customer experience.

“One of the key elements I use to measure efficiency is the ability to communicate effectively,” says Director Stacey L. Murren. “And one of the key things that repeatedly comes up in surveys is that folks want to feel that they have some decent communication, that they are in the know. As such, the “Real-Time Ops” app started out as a channel for delivering daily shift reports. The app has a record of activity the moment it happens and findings are shared with the entire staff.

Inspired by the award-winning app, here Murren shares her tips for creating workflow efficiencies that are adaptable to any organization.

-As directors or CEOs, we spend a lot of time gathering data and doing analysis to see what our key drivers are. I do not believe that is a starting point for anyone overseeing a large operation.

Decisions based only on data analysis or key drivers become rather ambiguous. The place I always start is spending a huge amount of time training my staff in efficiency models. There are many of them. It’s critical that people are trained in how to look at efficiencies.

-Once they have a periphery idea of efficiency, each staff member needs to map out their processes that they will be using, all the way from ordering A/V equipment to janitorial supplies. When you look at those processes, teach the staff to identify where the customer has a touchpoint.

-The next step is to figure out how much time it takes to do all of these processes. I ask our staff to do time journaling beginning when they get to work until they leave, and they do that for an entire month. Then we can go back together and look at evaluating which of those processes or components is taking up the most time.

-After you have implemented these steps, then you can analyze the data and see where the cost savings are. Some ideas won’t bring you huge cost savings necessarily but you will address customers’ needs and that is priceless.

uv



Stacey L. Murren is a 26-year veteran in team-building and leadership at the University of California, Irvine. Murren is currently responsible for the management of the UCI Student Center conference and event planning services. Murren has been honored with many awards in her career including the Student Service Award from the Associated Graduate Students, Commitment to Excellence-Management and Organizational Patterns Award, the California Council Quality Award for Team Excellence, the United States Environmental Protection Agency Award, Governor’s Environmental and Economic Leadership Award, UC Irvine Living Our Values Award, the Best Practice Award for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability for the Student/Conference Center, and most recently the 2018 IACC innovation award.

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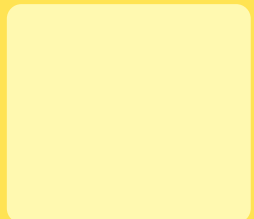
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ON THE ROAD

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By Selena Fragassi



Loyola University Chicago



Museum of Science and Industry

Museum of Science and Industry

This Chicago institution has events down to a science, with ample space for up to 12,000 guests, 364 days a year, and the capability to host multiple groups at one time. As one of the only remaining buildings constructed for the 1893 World’s Fair, this opulent venue in the city’s Hyde Park neighborhood starts with the 400,000-square-foot historic rotunda in the middle of the museum’s main floor that has state-of-the-art lighting systems customized for every event. There’s also a 650-seat auditorium, a dome theatre for presentations, and daytime conference spaces. A truly unique component of hosting events at the Museum of Science and Industry is the ability to host dinners and receptions within one of the interactive exhibits, including setups next to a real U505 Submarine, in a mirror maze, or steps away from a 40-foot simulated tornado. “We work well with guest experiences to provide tours,” says Stan Hansen, senior marketing specialist at Sodexo, which provides event management services including innovative and sustainable catering. The museum is located just 10 minutes from downtown Chicago on the shores of Lake Michigan with outdoor porticos for corporate picnics and retreats. Hansen says MSI also makes a great holiday venue in the winter. “We have the annual Christmas Around the World and Holiday of Light displays, with built-in décor that provides a great atmosphere.”

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ADA Conference Center

As the headquarters for the American Dental Association, this property added on purpose-built conference space several decades ago to provide space for members to host regular meetings. That still takes place on the 25th floor, but the public is welcome to book options on the 2nd floor, in a boardroom, an auditorium, or four conference rooms—the latter of which can be combined for larger groups or divided up into more intimate spaces. The auditorium is the largest option with 3,900 square feet of space, a built-in stage and A/V, and attached pre-function space for registration. Each of the conference rooms and the boardroom also have built-in screens as well as projectors. “We have our lobby space for events too, after 5:30 p.m. when the day-to-day business is



ADA Conference Center

complete,” says Courtney Toms Morgan, manager, events & conference center, noting that the spaces are often popular with legal and realtor groups. The ADA Conference Center is steps away from Chicago’s storied Michigan Avenue, full of boutiques, restaurants, and a number of hotels that provide overnight accommodations when needed. Aramark is the exclusive caterer and also services a café that’s open to guests.

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Conference Chicago at University Center

Originally co-owned by three higher education institutes in Chicago—DePaul University, Columbia College, and Roosevelt University—Conference Chicago in the South Loop neighborhood



Conference Chicago at University Center

was designed to be a highly efficient and accessible property for urban meeting planners and students. It’s located within a one-block radius of all Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) train lines and several major bus routes, including one that goes almost door-to-door with McCormick Place, the largest convention center in the country. The building houses a year-round conference center with 15,000 square feet of space across a swath of 10 meeting rooms, the largest of which can host 175 people. One of the most popular is the Great Room & Terrace with a large outdoor space, fireplace, and hardwood floors. “A great feature is that we have all our A/V built-in and included in daily rates, along with a dedicated staff member available at all times, which makes it simple for budgeting,” says Jake Holtz, director of housing and conference services, adding that planners can choose from full or half-day rates with nights and weekends available. Catering is also provided through the exclusive company Chartwells with no food and beverage minimums. In the summer, Conference Chicago at University Center also has accommodations to rent that include linens, toiletries, and housekeeping services and are a “great alternative to costly downtown hotels,” adds Holtz. All



Navy Pier



OFFSITE Chicago

the accommodations recently underwent major renovations with new furniture, paint, floors, and free Wi-Fi in the building.

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the other hand, is in the middle of the hustle and bustle of Michigan Avenue with rooms on the top floors providing a look at the streetscape below. Both campuses are accessible by CTA trains and buses. Loyola prides itself on being a leader in sustainability with LEED Certified buildings and more green roofs than any other campus in the Midwest. "The majority of our spaces are state-of-the-art with built-in technology," adds Daphne Stojiljkovic, marketing and

to 4,300 for large conferences. The Lake Shore Campus also will open the doors to a new athletic facility in 2019.

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Navy Pier

As one of the top destinations in the city of Chicago, Navy Pier is also an incredibly special choice for meetings and events. "There really is no other location like it in the city, we are in the middle of the lake and all the views guests have from our various buildings are either water or skyline," says Payal Patel, public relations representative. Navy Pier was built in 1916 by famed architect Daniel Burnham as part of his Master Plan for Chicago; he originally envisioned five piers but only this one came to life. To celebrate the centennial anniversary in 2016, additions were added, including a revamped Ferris Wheel, to enhance the 50 acres of multipurpose space. It includes retail, dining, entertainment, and leisure options in addition to dedicated conference space. For large-scale events and tradeshows, the Aon Grand Ballroom and the Festival Hall expo space are prime options. They have hosted the annual Fifth Third Bank Winter Wonderfest along with the Chicago Flower and Garden Show, Chicago Toy and Game Fair, and even concerts. The Crystal Gardens, with a tropical botanical feel year-round, is another option for more social events. As well, Navy Pier has a selection of convertible meeting spaces, all with A/V



Loyola University Chicago

both options. The Lake Shore Campus is just seven miles north of the downtown district but makes you forget an urban jungle is outside its doors. The campus features historic buildings designed with Art Deco touches including cathedral ceilings and stained glass; the Mundelein Center is even on the National Registry of Historic Places. With the campus just steps away from Lake Michigan, many of the spaces have great views of the water. The Water Tower Campus, on

sales manager, "and very economical." Classroom spaces can be rented for as little as \$225 for the entire day and housing is available year-round at the Water Tower Campus and in the summer at the Lake Shore Campus. Stojiljkovic's team works with the Ramblers Outdoors department to arrange team-building activities and recently started managing the Gentile Athletic Arena where the headline-making Ramblers men's basketball team plays—it can host up

and on-site catering. “Guests make a full day out of their time at the Pier,” says Patel. “They might take a spin on the



Navy Pier

Centennial Wheel, grab a bite at one of our restaurants, bring the family to the Chicago Children’s Museum, or catch a show at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater or IMAX theater.” Navy Pier is accessible by the CTA and has dedicated ride share meeting spots as well as parking garages.

UniqueVenues.com/NavyPier

(312) 595.5300

OFFSITE Chicago

The West Loop neighborhood of Chicago is quickly becoming known as its tech district with Google offices and several startups in the area. OFFSITE Chicago fits right into this environment with a vision for a high-end meeting space that offers smart space, the latest technology, quality, and service. “We want the client to show up to the venue and all they have to worry about is their presentation. We take care of the rest,” says co-founder Patrick Everett who opened the Chicago location in 2014, which has the option for a full buyout or partial buyouts of the Main Floor and Mezzanine. The beauty of an event at OFFSITE is the one-stop shop nature—everything you could possibly need for a meeting is included in one flat fee. Included with the rental, groups have access to the space, dedicated staff including an on-site host and support staff, several LED TVs, a Mac laptop for presentations, wireless microphones, dedicated fiber Wi-Fi network, zoned audio system with seamless integration, beverages and snacks, and office supplies

including pads, pens, and a whiteboard. “The only thing that would be additional would be any food,” says Everett, noting groups can bring in their own or order off the OFFSITE menu. “There are no other hidden fees or service charges.” Or, if groups want a real Chicago experience, they can step outside the doors to Restaurant Row, where so many of the city’s top chefs have dining venues, including Girl and the Goat, bellyQ, and Monteverde, among others.

UniqueVenues.com/OffsiteChicago

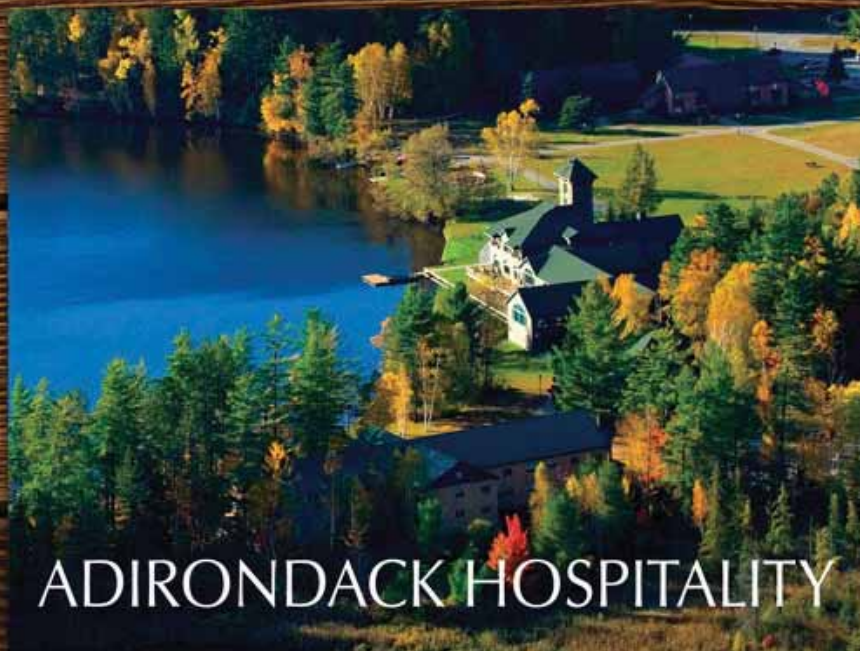
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Sea to Shining Sea

By Selena Fragassi

Smooth Sailing Celebrations hosted a high profile government group for a night on the water with everything cruising along perfectly.

A day spent on the water can be calming for just about anyone, especially for the hard working men and women of the Department of Homeland Security. Last August, after a full day of sessions at the United Nations headquarters in New York City, DHS chose to do just that, planning a group outing for 550 of its employees aboard the Majesty Yacht, which is a part of Smooth Sailing Celebrations' fleet. The company was founded 15 years ago by Camille Cerria, a hospitality industry veteran with 25 years experience. Today the company is the preferred vendor for many waterfront hotels including the W, Westin, Marriott, and Sheraton when corporate clients fly into town.

"People come to us when they are looking for a non-traditional venue," says Cerria, noting the company currently has 45 vessels in its fleet, all of varying sizes and with different features and price points. "To narrow their choice down, we'll ask basic questions and send pricing, menus, and pictures."

The DHS group opted to go with one of Smooth Sailing Celebrations' largest options, the Majesty Yacht, which has space for up to 1,200 people and plenty of room for formal seating configurations. "They wanted to do a seated buffet dinner for all 550 people simultaneously, which requires a boat like the

Majesty in order to have a cocktail lounge deck, a dining deck, and indoor and outdoor decks for dancing."

The RFP originally came through a connection from Meeting Professionals International (MPI), of which Cerria has been a member for 10-plus years. And though the proposed group size was rather large, it didn't deter her or the staff of Smooth Sailing Celebrations. "It actually wasn't our largest group," Cerria says. "Last June we had 900 people from Norway that sailed with us, and they are coming back this year, too. We've also had a group of 800 local New Jersey State Troopers that were on board for a full day of training and sailing so we are used to large groups."

All of the boats in the fleet are docked in the adjacent towns of Weehawken, Hoboken and Jersey City, New Jersey, as well as various docks in New York City and end up sailing down the East River and Hudson River, providing for opportune sightseeing of major points of attraction including the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. "Most cruises are about three to four hours, including a boarding and cocktail hour with appetizers, a dinner hour, and then time for dancing and entertainment," says Cerria, "but we always time the event so guests are done dining and back on the rooftop deck for the part of the cruise



when we pass by the landmarks. The boat will pause for 10 minutes at the Statue of Liberty while people take photos.”

Because most of the guests on this particular outing were very familiar with government landmarks, Cerria recommended an out-of-the-box narrator and Broadway performer that was more engaging and funny than dry and informative. “He is great about getting people out of their shell and interacting with each other,” says Cerria.

Most of the cruise was business as usual, she adds. “They had just had a whole day of meetings at the UN so this was their breakout entertainment so to say. They had no specific agenda other than to really just relax, dine, and have a great time. And they had a great day of weather for it.”

One of the things that was a bit unusual was that the boat had to have government clearance regarding security. “That was something that was different for us,” says Cerria, though her team was happy to accommodate, as they were for dietary needs, which presented another bit of legwork.

“With that many people on board, we had a lot of dietary requests and requirements, for vegans, vegetarians, gluten-free, and kosher guests, as well as those with food allergies. It was a lot to manage but everyone ended up happy,” says Cerria noting that every one of Smooth Sailing Celebrations’ boats has its own executive chef, staff, and kitchen galley onboard. “I kept careful notes and once the list was finalized I

made sure to communicate that to the chef. We ended up doing plated meals for the vegans and vegetarians and also invited them to the buffet if they wanted to partake in those options. We had cards with more info about the food and there were servers there to answer questions as well.”

The sheer number of people also could have presented a bottleneck at the boarding phase, but Cerria and her team had a plan for that too. “We usually suggest to the host client that they stagger buses so no one has to wait in line to board. Because this group was coming from all different meetings that ended at different times it was easy. The boat also has an elevator for those who are walking-challenged.”

Another great benefit of booking with Smooth Sailing Celebrations is that everything is included in one flat fee. “We have a package rate that includes the boat, premium bar, choice of buffet or plated dinner service, tables, linens, and chairs,” says Cerria. “The client only needs to bring on board their choice of entertainment.” Cerria and her staff can also customize options like personalized napkins and lighting colors. “For DHS they chose a traditional, white color scheme, but it was very elegant and added a nice touch for this high profile group.”

uv

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Smooth Sailing Celebrations

New York, NY

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Vow to Be Different

These special event venues provide 10 unique ways to say “I Do!”

By Selena Fragassi

Chicago Botanic Garden (Glencoe, IL)

A wedding day is one of the most personal moments in a person’s life, and more brides and grooms are realizing that it takes a special venue to make it truly meaningful. The planning website SpecialEvents.com, citing a survey on The Knot, states that “formal weddings decreased by 16 percent in 2017 because couples booked nontraditional venues such as barns, historic homes, and wineries instead,” citing reasons such as intimacy, longer use of the venue, more picturesque spots, affordability, and creativity.

Planner Necoya L. Tyson has seen this trend firsthand. “When I think about it, I can’t even remember the last time one of my clients had a hotel wedding, it’s been a while,” says the D.C.-based wedding planner who started her own firm, All About You Event Management, LLC in 2009. Nowadays, her couples have opted for wineries, museums, and monuments that are abundant in the nation’s capital. “The biggest thing is the bride and groom can really get creative in these spaces, the sky’s the limit,” she continues, cautioning, “With more traditional spots there are a lot of rules and regulations. But at non-traditional venues, the coordinators actually want to see different ways venues can be utilized—that helps them as well, to promote their venue.”

Tyson also believes the trend will keep growing. “Brides and grooms love options and appreciate any time they can use their imagination and make their day personal,” she says.

In that spirit, we chose 10 of our favorite places to find that perfect union.

3 West Club (New York, NY)



3 West Club (New York, NY)

There are few things more classic than a wedding in New York City, especially one in the middle of the landmark Rockefeller Center. The team at 3 West Club can make it happen—and for far less cost than might be expected for all the glamour. In fact, 3 West Club (winner of the Best of the Knot Wedding awards in 2017 and 2018) is the most cost-effective private club in the city, with an average savings of 20 percent over other formal venues, with space to accommodate up to 150 guests. In addition, brides and grooms can take advantage of special pricing if their plans are flexible, with some of the lowest rates available for Friday and Sunday weddings as well as the off-season months of January, February, July, and August (the venue is open year-round). Standard and premium wedding packages are available at 3 West Club that include a 5-hour time window, menus customized and created

by the in-house Culinary Institute-trained chef, and a day-of wedding coordinator that can help to make sure everything goes as planned. Premium wedding packages also include a \$200 Oasis Day Spa gift certificate to get pampered for the big day. Rehearsal dinner and bridal shower packages are also available, and 3 West Club has a 27-room hotel located on the property with group rates for wedding parties.

UniqueVenues.com/3West

(212) 582.5454 ext. 2183

Chapel Charm (Laval, QC)

For couples that are looking for the traditional church setting but with a unique twist, there is Chapel Charm. This abandoned church, located in the cozy St. Rose suburb of Montreal, was originally built in 1947 and shuttered in 1967 until it was later bought by owner Nicholas Pergat. He invested 20 years into fully restoring it, and the results speak for themselves. The beautiful, open loft layout accommodates 90-100 people and includes a vaulted 25-foot cathedral ceiling with a Juliet balcony, arched windows, stained glass, and fireplace with mantel. Beyond the décor, brides and grooms will enjoy the exclusivity and affordability of Chapel Charm. Pergat only allows one or two events a month so that couples and planners can access the space several days prior to the event in order to set up and make the wedding their own. He also works within budgets with complete planning and event packages, no restrictions on food and beverage, and plenty

3 West Club (New York, NY)





Chapel Charm (Laval, QC)

of décor and ambiance already built into the space. One of the most memorable occasions happened last October when Pergat worked with a local planner to host three “pop-up weddings” in one day—the planner posted an ad on Instagram with details on a mystery location for the ceremony and mini-reception. Suffice to say, all three couples were very pleased and were able to enjoy a very unique experience.

UniqueVenues.ca/ChapelCharm
(514) 970.6200

Chicago Botanic Garden (Glencoe, IL)

A true fairytale wedding can be had at Chicago Botanic Garden. The lush 385-acre property offers incredible greenery, serene lakes, and native woodlands that make any event look like it’s straight out of a storybook. Couples and planners can choose from a range of indoor and outdoor spaces that are available during all four seasons, including the 400-person capacity Nichols Hall, the 350-person McGinley Pavilion, and the 250-person Rose Garden, among other special spots. Chicago Botanic Garden offers a range of convenient amenities, from full A/V to coat check and valet and street parking, but one of the most unique offerings is how the event team makes sure every event adheres with the property’s mission of being sustainable. Coordinators work closely with the bride and groom to help pick a menu that is chosen with peak growing seasons in mind and that uses produce from the on-site Windy City Harvest Youth Farm program, an urban agriculture education and jobs training initiative aimed at building healthier communities. Chicago Botanic Garden also recycles and composts waste from events and incorporates biodegradable place settings made from recycled bamboo and leaves. One of the venue’s most memorable weddings happened when a couple brought the garden inside with a décor team that assembled a massive ceiling treatment filled with hanging wisteria.

UniqueVenues.com/ChicagoBotanicGarden
(847) 835.8370

1909 Taverne Moderne (Montreal, QC)

The largest weddings will feel right at home at this Montreal upscale casual eatery with three fully accessible floors offering 25,000-plus square feet of space and a maximum capacity of 1,515 guests. The layout includes opportunities for a full buyout or a separate plaza and a mezzanine that can be reserved exclusively or used for semi-private function space. One of the most prominent features of 1909 Taverne Moderne is a giant 46’ x 20’ television screen with 4K quality, plus 65 HDTVs and a full A/V system, that can be connected for special video projections, chosen by the bride and groom. Each wedding is 100 percent personalized with the venue’s coordinators who can help arrange customized printed menus, branded décor, visuals on the screen, and other unique touches. One of the most memorable weddings the venue helped plan was a themed event where guests were led in a time travel journey. Specially chosen food, lights, images, and songs represented different eras in American history, from the Roaring ‘20s to the disco era and the hippie generation. Because it’s a bustling restaurant, 1909 Taverne Moderne also has the food and beverage component covered with delicious made-from-scratch menu items, plus 40 beer taps, an extensive wine list, and cocktail menu.

UniqueVenues.ca/1909TaverneModerneMontreal
(514) 557.0187



1909 Taverne Moderne (Montreal, QC)



Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (La Jolla, CA)

Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (La Jolla, CA)

For animal loving couples, a whole kingdom awaits at Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institute of Oceanography. From an intimate ceremony among the fishes in the Giant Kelp Forest to a fete for 500 on the outdoor Tide Pool Plaza, the 30,000-square-foot aquarium provides a unique combination of indoor and outdoor spaces, all with fantastic views. In fact, Birch Aquarium is located on a bluff overlooking the artsy, seaside town of La Jolla with some of the best sunsets in Southern California. Hosting a wedding here also provides unparalleled exclusivity as the aquarium remains open just for guests during the event so they can explore interactive exhibits and come up close with beautiful creatures including a rescued Loggerhead Sea Turtle, Leopard Sharks, and seahorses, or take pictures in front of the largest whale sculpture in the world. Museum interpreters are also available to provide more information and parties can add on an exclusive dive show. One of the best features is that all proceeds from events support the aquarium's conservation efforts and contribute to the research done by Scripps. In addition to the space, Birch Aquarium also offers farm-to-table menus with locally sourced ingredients curated by one of the venue's exclusive caterers.

UniqueVenues.com/BirchAquarium

(858) 822.5439

Chicago Private Yacht - Adeline's Sea Moose (Chicago, IL)

The right person can make you feel like you're floating—and Adeline's Sea Moose can provide the same feeling for a wedding day. The private, mid-size yacht can accommodate 45 guests and operates April through October, providing one

exquisite venue for the reception, ceremony, and after-party that cruises along the incredible Chicago skyline. In addition to unique views, the panoramic backdrop also makes for unforgettable photos and is accompanied by a docent that narrates all the memorable architecture. As well, Adeline's Sea Moose is equipped with surround sound both indoors and outdoors for all the onboard entertainment and has two separate decks with a bar and lounge that opens to the scenery outside. Because the ship is a private, more intimate venue option, the team is able to add a range of personal touches to make the day extra special, including the choice of ceremony location and photo backdrop at various tourist points along the lake. The rental fee includes a bridal suite open for one hour prior to the charter (along with complimentary champagne) and a master stateroom with full dressing area, plus a licensed captain and crew. The vessel also can provide open bars with bartenders, catering options, and even overnight stays for up to six guests.

UniqueVenues.com/AdelinesSeaMoose

(224) 601.0220



Chicago Private Yacht - Adeline's Sea Moose (Chicago, IL)



Gaspar's Grotto (Ybor City, FL)

Gaspar's Grotto (Ybor City, FL)

A wedding for \$7? Couples can take “the plunge” with Gaspar’s Grotto, which provides all the loot with a pirate-themed ceremony officiated by a real sea captain. The ridiculously affordable complete package rate includes the venue, rental tux, witnesses (if needed), music, flowers, plus a shot and beer for each the bride and the groom. The staff at the “notorious

pirate bar” is a believer in having fun at weddings, without the stress. One of the coordinators can set up everything you need for one of the most unique weddings possible. The Grotto can accommodate up to 875 people, and the team is well equipped to handle elopements with no guests or guest lists with hundreds of family and friends. The venue, located in Tampa’s historic National Landmark District known as Ybor City, also has full-service food and alcohol for a complete reception too.

UniqueVenues.com/GasparsGrotto
(813) 924.5759

Globe and Mail Centre (Toronto, BC)

If you’re looking to plan a wedding that will grab headlines, The Globe and Mail Centre in Toronto is a newsworthy choice. Located on the top floor of the headquarters of Canada’s leading national newspaper, the grandeur of this space is just as classic. The LEED Gold Certified building has floor-to-ceiling windows that offer breathtaking panoramic views of the city skyline, enhanced by a location just steps away from the downtown core. For weddings, the year-round Globe and Mail Centre is suitable for ceremonies and seated dinners with a dance floor for up to 250 guests and offers the dual accompaniment of flexible indoor and outdoor spaces including exclusive use of the Event Hall & Lounge and Terrace. Each area is equipped with the latest digital A/V technology and comfortable furnishings including the use of up to 300 black leather chairs, 50 matte black rectangular tables, and eight gallery benches, plus setup and tear-down.

Globe and Mail Centre (Toronto, BC)



A list of carefully selected rental providers and caterers add to the ambiance, and customized bar and beverage packages are also available. Each wedding party is appointed an event specialist and attentive event staff to ensure everything goes smoothly on the big day.

UniqueVenues.ca/GlobeandMailCentre
(416) 585.5420

Redwoods in Yosemite (Wawona, CA)

History and nature make for a beautiful union at the Redwoods in Yosemite National Park. Couples can choose from hosting the event in the brand-new Wedding and Event Center or in a number of outside locations within the park that also provide stunning backdrops for photo sessions. The Event Center features a dining hall with room for 80 seated for formal dinners as well as a large open deck with indoor and outdoor fireplaces. Inside there’s also a separate bridal changing room and catering kitchen if couples want to bring in their own food, though the venue can provide a list of preferred caterers. If dates are flexible, weddings held on Sundays through Thursdays are 50 percent off the package rate and provide extra discounts for on-site lodging, with the choice of an intimate log cabin or spacious year-round vacation rental home. If your pet is a part of your wedding you can bring them, too! Many of the vacation



RockRidge Canyon
(Princeton, BC)

homes are pet-friendly and there are pet-friendly hiking trails nearby. Other outdoor activities include touring historic railroads, snowboard and ski areas, horseback riding, sleigh rides, fishing, rafting, and golf. Event planners are ready to assist with wedding planning information, including park guidelines for outdoor wedding services, catering, photographers, and florists.

UniqueVenues.com/RedwoodsInYosemite
(877) 496.3052

RockRidge Canyon (Princeton, BC)

For brides and grooms dreaming of a white winter wedding, this resort-like, 1500-acre Young Life Camp property set in the mountains of gorgeous Princeton, British Columbia is the perfect destination. Their specialty is all-encompassing ceremonies and receptions from November through February for 50 to 350 people that allow guests to get away without breaking the bank, meaning more guests will have the ability to RSVP, too. Rates vary based on chosen activities, but start at \$295 for two nights accommodations, six Instagram-worthy gourmet meals, and a range of group outings such as snowshoeing, a tubing hill, ice skating, cross-country skiing, and

bonfires under a star-filled sky. The options here are an outdoorsy couple's dream, including His and Hers Ziplines utilizing the longest, dual, over-water zipline in North America that traverses the property's private lake. RockRidge Canyon is also in the middle of two ski resorts with Manning Park one hour to the west and Apex Mountain one hour to the east that allow guests to enjoy the slopes for a day, capping the perfect weekend that everyone will truly remember.

UniqueVenues.ca/RockRidgeCanyon

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MEET AT A SMARTER LEVEL





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Choosing meeting and event venues that give back to the community can give back to planners and groups in a number of ways, too.



Carter Hall Conference Center Millwood, VA

By Selena Fragassi

Depending on where you book your meeting or event, some venues might see dollar signs and others will see opportunity.

At Keep Memory Alive Event Center in Las Vegas, for example, event organizers look forward to building up their calendar because each dollar raised means more funding and research for curing brain disorders.

“All the event proceeds from any event we have—weddings, social celebrations, corporate events, meetings, fundraisers—every dollar goes back to the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health,” says Director of Event Sales and Marketing Margaret Tuitele. “It’s the building right next to us that provides treatment, research, and state-of-the-art prevention studies for patients with Lou Gehrig’s disease, Alzheimer’s, and dementia. And in Vegas that’s a big differentiator. The entire strip is filled with casinos with convention space and ballrooms, but the money raised goes back to the casinos. So, a lot of companies come to us because they like knowing their event is giving back.”

The Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health was started by Larry Ruvo, senior managing partner of Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits Nevada, who wanted a way to memorialize his father after he passed away from Alzheimer's 25 years ago and provide funding for critical research that could lead to a cure. The Keep Memory Alive Foundation was founded and, in 2010, it reached another landmark when Ruvo was able to enlist famed architect Frank Gehry to build the organization's stunning Event Center, an abstractly shaped "stainless steel canopy" with 199 windows. It can accommodate 450 seated or 700 standing with additional space in the outdoor gardens for 1,500 guests.

"We've done a lot of corporate events and honed in on the conventions that have come to town," says Tuitele, referencing a list of past clients that have included Samsung, Petsmart, and

"We had a wedding where the bride's grandparent had dementia. Part of the reception included the traditional money dance, and the bride and groom told everyone the extra money they collected would be going back to the Event Center. Corporations, too, have not only held events here but also bought a brick or tile on the wall and unveiled it in their meeting to show attendees they are giving back. It really checks off that corporate social responsibility box while elevating the event experience."

LENDING A GLOBAL HAND

At Carter Hall Conference Center, set in the Shenandoah Valley in Millwood, Virginia, there is a similar mission of service that planners and groups can contribute to with bookings. The venue is owned and operated by Project HOPE (Health Opportunities



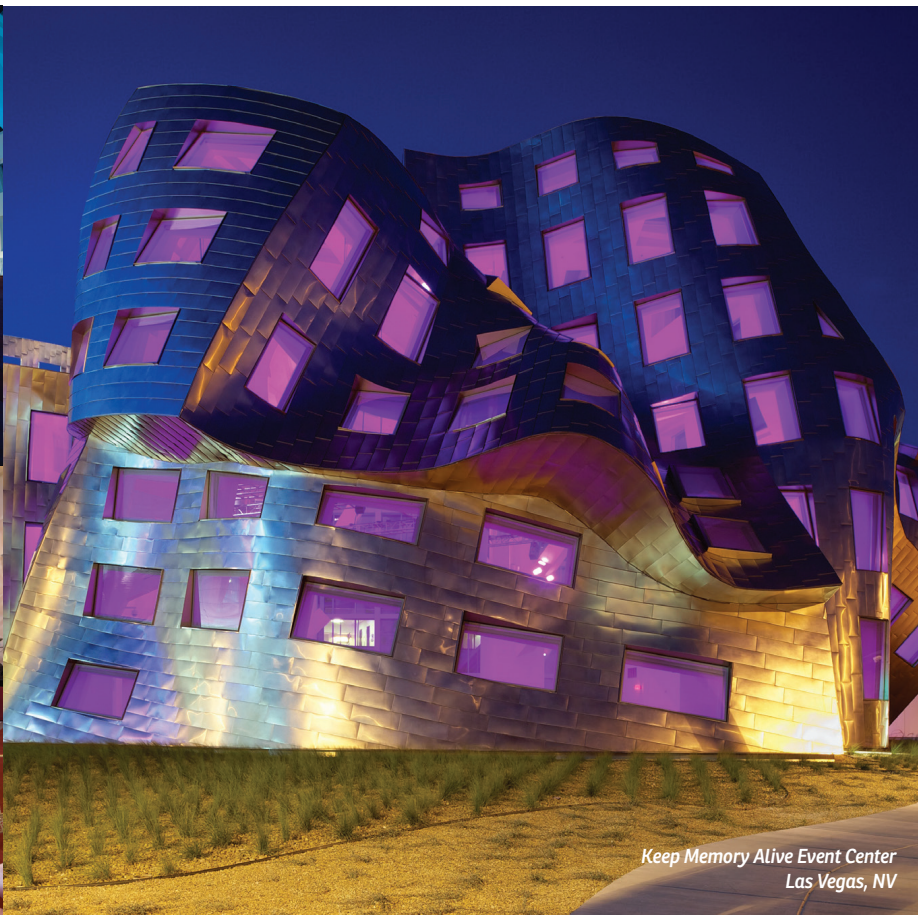
Alnoba
Kensington, NH



Volvo. The tax-exempt Event Center also hosted an MSNBC Presidential Town Hall Debate between former candidates Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton. "But we also do really well with social celebrations. We've done very lavish Indian weddings and had our first gay wedding this year," she adds. Many times the reason given for choosing the venue is that someone in the family has been affected by the work that the Lou Ruvo Center is doing.

for People Everywhere), an international nonprofit that provides health education, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief in more than 30 countries. Most recently in the States, they helped rescue and rebuild in areas hit by Hurricanes Harvey, Isabella, and Maria.

"With the programs we build, we don't just go in and respond to a disaster and then leave. Project HOPE is committed to the



long-term. We might even be in a country for up to a couple of years at a time depending on the need and situation,” says Senior Manager of Facilities and Conference Services Jennifer Liesener.

Located on over 80 acres of beautiful countryside, the 18th Century estate, including the Manor House and several dependencies serve as the conference center and offer hotel-like accommodations. The property was gifted to Project HOPE, which was founded in 1958 by Dr. William B. Walsh, a medical officer aboard a Naval Destroyer Ship who was so impacted by the poor health conditions he saw around the world, he wanted to make a difference. Walsh and other associates were given authorization by President Eisenhower to purchase the USS Consolation for \$150 in 1958, and transformed the ship into the SS HOPE, and set sail around the globe to provide education and medication to those in need.

“We try to stick with the mission of Project HOPE as much as possible with the groups that come to our venue, there has to be some sort of education or training involved,” says Liesener, noting that they don’t book events like weddings or reunions.

Repeat clients include Save The Children, the American Bird Conservancy, and humanitarian organizations like the Red Cross. “One of the great things is that groups have exclusive use of the campus. We don’t double book, and we offer an affordable complete meeting package.” Carter Hall is also unique in offering a no obligation hold; dates can be held until another group is interested and then there’s a 24-hour first right of refusal offered. “Beyond our services,” adds Liesener, “I think most planners like that this is not only a great venue but the money is going to a good cause at the same time.”

SUPPORTING THE YOUTH OF AMERICA

Meeting and event proceeds at the National 4-H Conference Center outside Washington, D.C. in Chevy Chase, Maryland, also are used for a good cause, directly supporting the 4-H youth development movement, “to build a world in which youth and adults learn, grow, and work together as catalysts for positive change.” Programs are implemented by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through 110 Land Grant Universities and 3,100 local extension offices across the country.



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National 4-H Conference Center
Chevy Chase, MD

“The National 4-H Conference Center has been around since 1959. National 4-H has been around since 1902 and is the largest youth development organization in the U.S. with nearly 6 million youth impacted every year,” says Christa K. Priesing, vice president, conference center manager, noting that nearly 80 percent of the curated programming at the conference center is focused on important STEM-based topics, encouraging children to pursue opportunities in science, tech, and math. Most notably, National 4-H Conference Center, hosts the Department of Energy Science Bowl every year and the conference center is known for curating eighth grade trips to D.C. for millions of students.

With the conference center, planners can find an affordable option in the heart of one of the nation’s most in-demand cities. The venue offers 40,000 square feet of meeting space including a 525-seat auditorium. “We were originally built as an educational facility so we have a number of smaller, flexible rooms, plus complete A/V, full catering, and a cafeteria open for all meals,” says Priesing. “There’s also the chance for educational tours and workshops.”

The cost savings are substantial, she adds, providing yet another benefit. “Because of our special exemption, planners also don’t have to pay the occupancy tax which in D.C. can range from six to eight percent, depending on what side of the river you are sitting on so that’s a great advantage. ...Plus, everything is going back to the greater good and not to some big corporate conglomerate, which I think groups appreciate.”



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CONSCIOUS OF COMMUNITY

Alnoba, in Kensington, New Hampshire, is another venue where “inspiration meets action.” The venue is closely aligned with the Lewis Family Foundation that focuses on four pillars, including leadership, conservation, the arts, and wellness. According to their mission statement,

the foundation “created Alnoba to develop strong leaders and strong communities, help protect our wild places, support local farmers and promote healthy living, awaken reflection and creativity through art, and foster mindfulness.”

That’s done through a few different ways, says Director of Social Mission Angela Greene. “Our space, which

opened in 2016, is a little over 400 acres and was built with the hopes of providing more leadership training opportunities, not just to nonprofits but to businesses and organizations. We have a ropes course, aerial park, and plenty of areas meant for reflection, mindfulness, and reconnecting with the earth. We are also as mindful of the land as possible,” she continues. “A lot of investment was made in the spirit of conservation. In the meeting house for example we have timber that is more than 200 years old, and we work with organizations to preserve farmland and walking trails as well as creating space for communities that are not being overdeveloped.” Alnoba also has a challenging mission of being completely waste-free by the year 2020.

All of the proceeds from meetings at Alnoba (which can accommodate up to 500 people) support the Lewis Family Foundation’s work with national and local nonprofits, youth organizations, and the greater Kensington community. Some of the groups they partner with include College Works and Bigger Than My Block to promote education and increase college graduation rates in the Boston area as well as the Firehouse Center for the Arts in Newburyport, Massachusetts to provide scholarships. Alnoba also has started to offer yoga and meditation retreats, including an outdoor and unplugged series for kids to reconnect them with nature.

“We really try to look for the underdogs and support them because they are doing great work that should be recognized and supported,” says Greene, echoing the sentiment of the other interviewees that contributing to the greater good always pays off in the end. **uv**



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Breather

by the *Hour*

It's true what they say that "time is money," which is why some venues are now opting to stay competitive by offering spaces hour-by-hour.

By Selena Fragassi

You don't need a full day for your meetings—so why should you have to pay for one? That's the premise of an on-demand rental app called Breather, which provides a 24/7 platform for booking meetings and events whenever they're needed, for as little as one hour at a time.

"Companies love using our spaces for a whole host of reasons. Some don't have enough space in their own office for a big meeting so they have to take it offsite, others just prefer our spaces because of the design and the tech that's installed. Many of our clients are from fast-growing tech companies like Spotify and Facebook who use Breather as spillover space or as a satellite office for longer stretches of time," says Tom Sleight, director of real estate for Breather. "Anyone can hop on the app and book something quickly."

The platform has been around for five years and though it started in Montreal and New York, it has expanded rapidly to London as well as 10 cities in North America, among them San Francisco, Boston, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Washington D.C. To date, there are 500 spaces to choose from and Breather's niche is smaller,

more intimate options that cater to 4-10 people. “Our max capacity seated is about 50 guests,” says Sleight, noting that each is designed with the end user in mind with lots of natural lighting, LCD TVs with every possible connector, and free Wi-Fi. There’s also a 24/7 help desk and a network of Breather ambassadors in every city that can meet a group at the venue for a welcome introduction and/or for troubleshooting. Tours can also be arranged.

The Breather app, and a coordinating online portal, are incredibly easy to use and specific, with filters that can be added for hours of the day, city and neighborhood, and price, which can be incredibly economical, some venues renting for under \$50/hour. The app uses live pricing and locks in rates once booked, and also allows the planner to send the agenda and access code to everyone attending. But the real differentiator, says Sleight, “is that we focus on flexibility.” Not only does Breather let you rent by the hour, but they also let you cancel up to two hours

in advance with no penalty fee. “It’s really unusual in the meeting and event world, but as groups change and planners change, we wanted to meet them head on,” he adds.

It’s a common scenario at Metro Meeting Centers-Boston as well. This high-end conference center in the middle of the city’s financial district also offers hourly rates and is one of the only places in this top tier market to do so.

“No one really offers hourly options in Boston,” says Maureen Ridings, VP of sales and marketing. “A lot of venues have a la carte packages, which is great since you can pick and choose what you need, but food alone can be \$100 or more per person. I really do think we have the best deal in town.”

Metro Meeting Centers employs both all-inclusive rates for full day meetings and hourly rates of just \$29 per person per hour that includes the room, full A/V including a projector, screen, and built-in audio, Wi-Fi, and a continental breakfast

or afternoon break, depending on the time block. Hourly meetings carry a two-hour minimum and are usually held from 8-10 a.m. and 9-11 a.m. or 3-5 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. and are quite popular with the venue’s clients in the financial, law, pharmaceutical, and biotech industries that rely on regular meetings to get the job done.

“When we opened 12 years ago, the day meeting package was all the rage, but now with companies being so cost conscious and scaling back from being away from the office all day, the hourly package is really enticing,” adds Ridings. “Boston is super competitive—we have so many hotels and conference centers in the area, so we have to be ahead of the curve.”

And the venue has an inherent benefit in offering this model too, says Ridings. “After the morning meeting, we can turn the room around and use it for another group in the afternoon, so it makes sense for us too. We can book more clients in the same day.” **uv**

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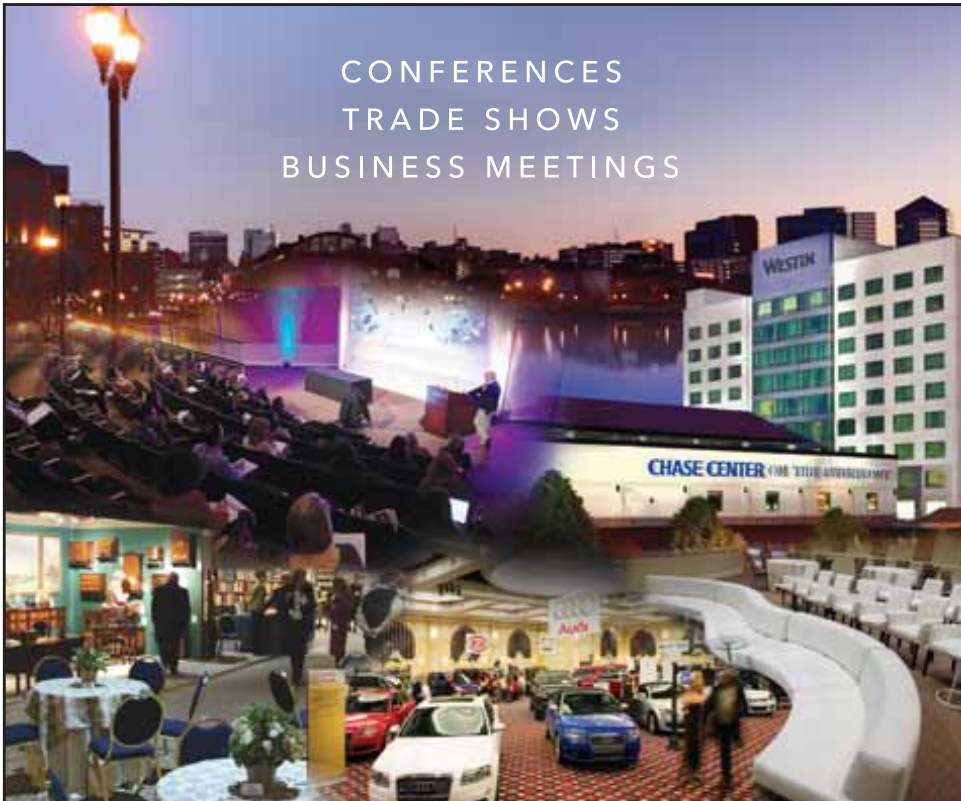
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News & Awards

Bill Reid Gallery Renovation Is A Work of Art

The popular gallery, located in Vancouver, that highlights Northwest Coast Art recently unveiled a new reimagined design for its interior rooms on June 8. While the expanded exhibit space provides a showcase for the great work of late Canadian artist Bill Reid as well as works demonstrating the cultures of the region, the venue also makes a great rental option for meetings and events surrounded by towering sculptures and ambiance. The redesign was done by Merrick Architecture and offers additional programming space for educational programs, lectures, and workshops, while the lobby and gallery shop have been restructured with the visitor in mind. The gallery also celebrates its 10-year anniversary in 2018 with special events scheduled including new exhibits.

UniqueVenues.ca/BillReidGallery

History Is Made with New Museum on University of Minnesota Campus

It was a development three years in the making, and as of July 13, the Bell Museum feted its arrival on the St. Paul campus with a grand opening celebration. The museum itself is actually 146 years old, opened in 1872 as the state of Minnesota's official natural history museum. Though it was originally called the James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History, today it has a simpler name and is part of a collaboration with the Minnesota Planetarium Society, a partnership forged in 2011 that brings a public planetarium back to the Twin Cities. This space exploration center has a dedicated space in the new Bell Museum, enhanced by a full 120-seat dome projection theater, high-tech exhibits, and an outdoor learning area featuring live interactive "tours" of the Minnesota sky. The museum, made almost solely of sustainable materials, also has smart classroom space with floor-to-ceiling windows, labs, and exhibit space that also make for thrilling meetings and events. To date, the Bell Museum has hosted six weddings under the stars and is also set up for corporate receptions, trainings, and retreats coordinated by dedicated event staff.

UniqueVenues.com/BellMuseumPlanetarium

A Celebration 30 Years in the Making at Scarritt-Bennett Center

This renowned nonprofit educational center and conference and special events venue in Nashville has been a part of some landmark achievements in its three-decade history in its mission to empower women, eradicate racism, and transform lives through education and spiritual enrichment. In June, the Center marked its 30-year anniversary with a celebration in the campus' Bennett Hall where guests were also introduced to new Executive Director Sarah Wilke that will lead the property into the future. Already named a "Best Place to Get Married" by Toast of Nashville and one of The Knot's "Best of Weddings" designees, the former college campus is a picturesque spot for meetings and events with 10 acres of green space and gothic architecture, plus meeting packages and overnight accommodations.

UniqueVenues.com/ScarrittBennett

The Great Outdoors Are on Full Display at the Annapolis Basin Conference Centre

Take it all in at the Annapolis Basin Conference Centre. Located on the shores of the waterway in Southwest Nova Scotia and one of the area's "best kept secrets," ABCC recently unveiled a new outdoor gathering area that makes a picturesque spot for meetings and events. The addition includes a pergola and gardens with 280-degree views of the Bay and makes a stunning backdrop for weddings while also a pensive space for retreats and conference guests to enjoy relaxation time with coastal views and sunsets on full display. This former Royal Canadian Navy training base also has a traditional historic mansion for meetings and events with 14 separate rooms, dining halls, and lodges for overnight accommodations. ABCC is open year-round and specializes in groups of 40 to 400 with added amenities including on-site experience packages.

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Scarritt-Bennett Center



Annapolis Basin Conference Centre



Bell Museum Planetarium



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INDEX

- Aquarium of The Pacific // Corona del Mar
- Bad to the Bone BBQ Event Center // San Juan Capistrano
- Bently Reserve // San Francisco
- Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography // La Jolla
- Breather - Berkeley St // San Francisco
- Breather Brannan St // San Francisco
- Breather E. 8th Street // Los Angeles
- Breather Harrison St // San Francisco
- Breather Howard St // San Francisco
- Breather LA - Melrose // Los Angeles
- Breather Market St // San Francisco
- Breather Mission St // San Francisco
- Breather New Montgomery // San Francisco
- Breather Rose Ave // Los Angeles
- Business Expo Center // Anaheim
- Calamigos Equestrian // Burbank
- California College of the Arts // San Francisco
- California State University Channel Islands // Camarillo
- California State University San Marcos // San Marcos
- California State University, Northridge // Northridge
- Centre Concord // Concord
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- Clifton's Republic // Los Angeles
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- IA&A at Hillyer // Washington
- Josephine Butler Parks Center // Washington
- Madame Tussauds Washington DC // Washington
- Mangia DC Food Tours // Washington
- Meetings & Events @ Regal Gallery Place Stadium 14 // Washington
- National Cathedral School // Washington
- National Union Building // Washington
- Nationals Park // Washington
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Meetings & Events @ Regal South Beach Stadium 18 // Miami

Meetings & Events @ Regal Waterford Lakes Stadium 20 & IMAX // Orlando

Minus 5 Ice Bar // Orlando

Oliver's Classic Cars // Winter Park

Snap! Orlando // Orlando

Southeastern University // Lakeland

Sugar Factory // Orlando

The Hangar // Orlando

The Rooftop Orlando Event Venue // Orlando

Tomko's Tavern // Orlando

University of Florida Department of Housing Conference Services // Gainesville

University of Miami, Office of Conference Services // Coral Gables

University of South Florida-St. Petersburg // St. Petersburg

Zenith Art & Fashion // Miami

GEORGIA

AMA Atlanta Conference Center // Atlanta

AMC Parkway Pointe 15 // Atlanta

ClubCorp Venues - Atlanta Metro // Atlanta

dk Gallery // Marietta

Emory University // Atlanta

Georgia Institute of Technology // Atlanta

Georgia International Horse Park // Conyers

Jekyll Island Club Resort // Jekyll Island

Meetings & Events @ Regal Atlantic Station Stadium 18 IMAX & RPX // Atlanta

Meetings & Events @ Regal Avalon 12 // Alpharetta

Meetings & Events @ Regal Perimeter Pointe Stadium 10 // Atlanta

Oxford College of Emory University // Oxford

Riverside EpiCenter // Austell

Southern Exchange Ballrooms // Atlanta

Student Activities Center at Clayton State University // Morrow

The Appalachia Event Center // East Ellijay

University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel // Athens

Young Harris College // Young Harris

HAWAII

NaLaNi an Agricultural Gathering Place // Lahaina

IDAHO

Red Horse Mountain Dude Ranch // Harrison

University of Idaho - University Support Services // Moscow

ILLINOIS

52EIGHTY at the Cambria Chicago // Chicago

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum // Springfield

AceBounce // Chicago

AMC River East 21 // Chicago

American Dental Association // Chicago

Bowlero - Buffalo Grove // Buffalo Grove

Bowlero - Naperville // Naperville

Bowlero - Randall Road // Algonquin

Bowlero - Romeoville // Romeoville

Breather - Franklin // Chicago

Breather - West Erie // Chicago

Breather - West Huron // Chicago

Breather - West Jackson // Chicago

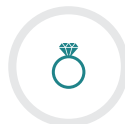
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INDEX

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Chicago Botanic Garden // Glencoe

Chicago Meeting Solutions // Chicago

Chicago Private Yacht - Adeline's Sea Moose // Chicago

Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau // Lansing

Chicago's North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau // Skokie

ClubCorp Venues - Chicago Metro // Chicago

Conference Chicago at University Center // Chicago

Galena Country Tourism // Pekin

Howl at the Moon - Chicago // Chicago

Illinois State University // Normal

Lake Williamson Christian Center // Carlinville

Lewis University // Romeoville

Loyola University Chicago // Chicago

McHenry County College // Crystal Lake

Meetings & Events @ Regal City North Stadium 14 // Chicago

Meetings & Events @ Regal Webster Place 11 // Chicago

Millikin University // Decatur

Museum of Science and Industry // Chicago

Navy Pier Chicago // Chicago

North Central College // Naperville

North Shore Conference Center at Double Tree by Hilton Chicago North Shore // Skokie

Northern Illinois University Conference Centers // Naperville

OFFSITE Chicago // Chicago Southern Illinois University

Carbondale // Carbondale

The Field Museum // Chicago

The Student Life Center at East-West University // Chicago

The University of Chicago // Chicago

University of Illinois Conferences & Special Events // Champaign

Western Illinois University // Macomb

Wheaton College // Wheaton

Wojcik Conference Center at Harper College // Palatine

INDIANA

AMC Indianapolis 17 // Indianapolis

Anderson University // Anderson

Horizon Convention Center // Muncie

Howl at the Moon - Indianapolis // Indianapolis

Indiana Wesleyan University - Merrillville // Merrillville

Indiana Wesleyan University Fort Wayne Education and Conference Center // Fort Wayne

Indiana Wesleyan University Kokomo Education and Conference Center // Kokomo

Monroe Convention Center // Bloomington

Purdue University // West Lafayette

Saint Mary's College // Notre Dame

University of Indianapolis // Indianapolis

University of Notre Dame // Notre Dame

Zionsville Performing Arts Center // Zionsville

IOWA

Boulders Conference Center // Denison

Grand View University // Des Moines

Iowa State Center // Ames

Iowa State University // Ames

Sunstream Retreat Center // Ogden

KANSAS

AMC Studio 28 // Olathe

Wheat State Camp // Augusta

KENTUCKY

Buffalo Trace Distillery // Frankfort

Howl at the Moon - Louisville // Louisville

Indiana Wesleyan University - Florence // Florence

Indiana Wesleyan University - Lexington // Lexington

Indiana Wesleyan University - Louisville // Louisville

Northern Kentucky University // Highland Heights

LOUISIANA

AMC Elmwood Palace 20 // Harahan

Joy Theatre // New Orleans

New Orleans Athletic Club // New Orleans

River City Venues // New Orleans

University of Louisiana at Lafayette // Lafayette

MAINE

Colby College // Waterville

University of Maine // Orono

University of New England // Biddeford

MARYLAND

Anne Arundel Community College // Arnold

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Frostburg State University // Frostburg

Glenview Mansion // Rockville

Historic Oakland // Columbia

Howl at the Moon - Baltimore // Baltimore

iFLY Baltimore Indoor Skydiving // White Marsh

Loyola University Maryland // Baltimore

Maritime Conference Center // Linthicum Heights

Meetings & Events @ Regal Bowie Stadium 14 // Bowie

Meetings & Events @ Regal Majestic Stadium 20 & IMAX // Silver Spring

National 4-H Conference Center // Chevy Chase

New Psalmist Retreat & Meeting Center // Baltimore

Ram's Head Live! // Baltimore

The Arthouse // Baltimore

The Grand & Embassy Suites by Hilton - Baltimore Inner Harbor // Baltimore

Towson University Event & Conference Services // Towson

University of Maryland Baltimore SMC Campus Center // Baltimore

University of Maryland, College Park // College Park

Washington College // Chestertown

Woodend Sanctuary & Mansion // Chevy Chase

MASSACHUSETTS

AMC Boston Common 19 // Boston

Anna Maria College // Paxton

Boston College Connors Center // Dover

Boston University // Boston

Breather Cambridge // Cambridge

Breather Congress Street // Boston

Breather Fort Point // Boston

BSA Space // Boston

Buxton School // Williamstown

Curry College // Milton

Emmanuel College // Boston

Essex Woods // Essex

Fitchburg State College // Fitchburg

Hampshire College | Event Services & Summer Programs // Amherst

Hotel UMass // Amherst

Howl at the Moon - Boston // Boston

Howl at the Moon - Patriot Place // Foxborough

Meetings & Events @ Regal Fenway Stadium 13 & RPX // Boston

Metro Meeting Centers - Boston // Boston

Misselwood Events at Endicott College // Beverly

MIT Endicott House // Dedham

Mount Holyoke College Summer Conferences // South Hadley

Nichols College // Dudley

Northern Essex Community College // Haverhill

Salem State University // Salem

Simmons College // Boston

Spirit Fire Retreat Center // Leyden

Springfield College // Springfield

Stonehill College Conference & Event Services // Easton

The Conference Center at Waltham Woods // Waltham

The International // Bolton

The Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School // Boston

The Sinclair // Cambridge

Tufts University // Medford

University of Massachusetts Lowell // Lowell

Utec Events & Catering // Lowell

Wheaton College - Massachusetts // Norton

Willits-Hallowell Conference Center & Hotel - Mount Holyoke College // South Hadley

Willowdale Estate // Topsfield

Wylie Inn and Conference Center at Endicott College // Beverly

MICHIGAN

AMC Star Southfield 20 // Southfield
Central Michigan University // Mount Pleasant

Faholo // Grass Lake

Hope College // Holland

Lost Valley Retreat Center // Gaylord

Michigan State University // East Lansing

Oakland University - Oakland Center // Rochester

Royal Oak Music Theatre // Royal Oak

Studio Center // Farmington Hills

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INDEX

MINNESOTA

Bell Museum // Minneapolis
Bethel University // Saint Paul
Bowlero - Blaine // Blaine
Bowlero - Eden Prairie // Eden Prairie
Bowlero - Lakeville // Lakeville
Brunswick Zone XL - Brooklyn Park // Brooklyn Park
Camp Pillsbury // Owatonna

Hamline University // Saint Paul
Macalester College // Saint Paul
McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota // Minneapolis
Oak Ridge Hotel & Conference Center // Chaska
St. Catherine University // St. Paul
St. Olaf College // Northfield
University of Minnesota Conference and Event Services // Minneapolis

University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis & St. Paul // Minneapolis
Windows on Minnesota // Minneapolis

MISSISSIPPI

The University of Southern Mississippi // Hattiesburg

MISSOURI

Arrowhead Stadium // Kansas City
Arvest Bank Theatre at the Midland // Kansas City

Cedar Creek // New Haven
Eagle Rock Retreat Center // Eagle Rock
Howl at the Moon - Kansas City // Kansas City
Missouri State University // Springfield
Washington University Medical Center Eric P Newman Education Center // St. Louis

MONTANA

University of Montana // Missoula

NEBRASKA

Lied Lodge & Conference Center // Nebraska City
University of Nebraska // Lincoln
Wayne State College // Wayne

NEVADA

Beer Park // Las Vegas
Celebrity Cars Las Vegas // Las Vegas
Chateau Lounge, Main Room // Las Vegas
Chateau Rooftop // Las Vegas
Chayo Mexican Kitchen & Bar // Las Vegas
Enclave // Las Vegas
Hexx Kitchen & Bar // Las Vegas
Keep Memory Alive Event Center // Las Vegas
MEET Las Vegas // Las Vegas
Meetings & Events @ Regal Downtown Summerlin 5 // Las Vegas
Meetings & Events @ Regal Red Rock Stadium 16 & IMAX // Las Vegas
Springs Preserve // Las Vegas
Temple Sinai Event Center // Las Vegas
University of Nevada, Las Vegas // Las Vegas

Saint Anselm College // Manchester
Southern New Hampshire University // Manchester
The Music Hall // Portsmouth
University of New Hampshire Conferences and Catering // Durham

NEW JERSEY

AMC Garden State 16 // Paramus
College of Saint Elizabeth // Morristown
Conference Center at RWJ Hamilton // Mercerville
Drew University // Madison
Essex County College // Newark
Georgian Court University // Lakewood
Glynallyn Castle // Asbury Park

Grounds For Sculpture // Hamilton
iPlay America's Event Center // Freehold
Kean University Conference & Event Services // Union
Lake Terrace // Lakewood
Liberty Science Center // Jersey City

Luciano Conference Center at Cumberland County College // Vineland
MetLife Stadium // East Rutherford
Raritan Valley Community College // Somerville
Rutgers University Inn & Conference Center // New Brunswick

Saint Peter's University // Jersey City
Seton Hall University School of Law // Newark
Sirena Ristorante // Long Branch
Smooth Sailing Celebrations // Weehawken
Starland Ballroom // Sayreville
Stella Marina Bar & Restaurant // Asbury Park

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Trinity Hospitality Group // Asbury Park

NEW MEXICO

Blame Her Ranch // Ribera

El Morro Theatre and Events Center // Gallup

Red Rock Park Convention Center, Arena & Amphitheater // Gallup

University of New Mexico // Albuquerque

NEW YORK

3 West Club // New York

Adelphi University // Garden City

AMA New York Conference Center // New York

AMC 34th Street 14 // New York

AMC Empire 25 // New York

AMC Lincoln Square 13 // New York

Beaver Hollow Conference Center // Java Center

Breather - 459 Clementina // New York

Breather NYC - 86 Chambers // New York

Breather NYC - Chelsea Market // New York

Breather NYC - Grand Street // New York

Breather NYC - SoHo Broadway // New York

Breather NYC - SoHo Grand // New York

Breather NYC - TriBeCa // New York

Breather NYC - W 17th Street // New York

Breather NYC - W 28th // New York

Breather West 27th Street // New York

Breather Wooster // New York

Brooklyn Steel // Brooklyn

Carnegie Hall // New York

Center for Automotive Education & Training // Queens

Dunham's Bay Resort // Lake George

Frost Valley YMCA Retreat & Conference Center // Claryville

Hauppauge Education and Conference Center // Hauppauge

thaca College // Ithaca

Manhattan Center - Adelphi University // New York

Manhattan College // Riverdale

Meetings & Events @ Regal Battery Park Stadium 11 // New York

Meetings & Events @ Regal E-Walk Stadium 13 & RPX // New York

Meetings & Events @ Regal Union Square Stadium 14 // New York

Meetings & Events @ UA Court Street Stadium 12 & RPX // Brooklyn

Music Hall of Williamsburg // Brooklyn

New York Historical Society // New York

NFL Experience Times Square // New York

Niagara University // Niagara University

Nyack College // Nyack

Nyack College in Manhattan // New York

NYIT Auditorium on Broadway // New York

NYU Wasserman Center // New York

OFFSITE Loft NYC // New York

OFFSITE New York // New York

Pace University Conferences and Event Planning // New York

Paul Smith's College // Paul Smiths

PlayStation Theater // New York

Rough Trade NYC // Brooklyn

Rubin Museum of Art (RMA) // New York

Silver Bay YMCA - Conference and Family Retreat Center on Lake George // Silver Bay

Smooth Sailing Celebrations NY // New York

St. John's University - Manhattan // New York

St. John's University - Queens // Queens

SUNY Maritime College // Bronx

Terminal 5 // New York

The City College of New York // New York

The College at Brockport // Brockport

The Culinary Institute of America - New York // Hyde Park

Utica College // Utica

Velvet Brooklyn // Brooklyn

NORTH CAROLINA

Castle of Joy // Murphy

Dilworth Neighborhood Grille // Charlotte

Duke University // Durham

Howl at the Moon - Charlotte // Charlotte

Lenoir-Rhyne University // Hickory

Lutheridge Camp and Conference Center/ Novusway Ministries // Arden

Meetings & Events @ Regal Ballantyne Village Stadium 5 // Charlotte

University of North Carolina at Wilmington // Wilmington



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INDEX

Western Carolina University // Cullowhee

Wild Wing Cafe - Charlotte Uptown // Charlotte

Wild Wing Cafe - Raleigh/Cary // Raleigh

OHIO

Agora Theatre // Cleveland

AMC Easton Town Center 30 // Columbus

Arden Shisler Conference Center // Wooster

ASM International - Geodesic Dome // Materials Park

Bowling Green State University // Bowling Green

ClubCorp Venues - Cleveland/Akron Metro // Cleveland

CMBA Conference Center // Cleveland

College of Wooster // Wooster

Denison University // Granville

Indiana Wesleyan University - Cincinnati // West Chester

Indiana Wesleyan University - Columbus, Ohio // Hilliard

Indiana Wesleyan University - Dayton // Dayton

Indiana Wesleyan University - Independence, OH // Cleveland

John A. Spitzer Conference Center // Elyria

Kent State University at Stark Conference Center // North Canton

Kenyon College // Gambier

Miami University Conference and Event Services // Oxford

Ohio University // Athens

The Inn at Honey Run // Millersburg

The Marcum Hotel & Conference Center // Oxford

The Ohio State University // Columbus

University of Dayton // Dayton

University of Toledo // Toledo

OKLAHOMA

University of Central Oklahoma // Edmond

OREGON

Artful Venues at Portland Art Museum // Portland

Central Oregon Community College // Bend

Lewis & Clark // Portland

Marylhurst University // Marylhurst

Meetings & Events @ Regal Pioneer Place Stadium 6 // Portland

Oregon Institute of Technology // Klamath Falls

Portland State University - Viking Pavilion & Smith Memorial Student Union // Portland

Silver Falls Lodge & Conference Center // Sublimity

The Falls Event Center in McMinnville // McMinnville

University Place Hotel and Conference Center // Portland

Vernonia Springs // Vernonia

World Forestry Center // Portland

PENNSYLVANIA

Albright College Camps and Conferences // Reading

Allegheny College // Meadville/Erie

American Helicopter Museum // West Chester

Bucknell University // Lewisburg

California University of Pennsylvania // California

Camp Zeke // Lakewood

ClubCorp Venues - Philadelphia Metro // Philadelphia

ClubCorp Venues - Pittsburgh Metro // Pittsburgh

Conference Center at Penn State Great Valley // Malvern

Eastern University Conferences // St. Davids

Elizabethtown College // Elizabethtown

Gettysburg College // Gettysburg

Greater Johnstown Cambria County CVB // Johnstown

Historic Acres of Hershey // Hershey

Howl at the Moon - Philadelphia // Philadelphia

Howl at the Moon - Pittsburgh // Pittsburgh

iFLY Indoor Skydiving // King of Prussia

Indiana University of Pennsylvania // Indiana

Keswick Theatre // Glenside

KMR Research Studio // Collegeville

Lackawanna County Convention & Visitor's Bureau // Moosic

Lehigh University // Bethlehem

Meetings & Events @ UA Riverview Plaza 17 IMAX & RPX // Philadelphia

Millersville University of Pennsylvania // Millersville

Muhlenberg College // Allentown

National Museum of American Jewish History // Philadelphia

Nittany Lion Inn // State College

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts // Philadelphia

Pertman Camp // Lake Como

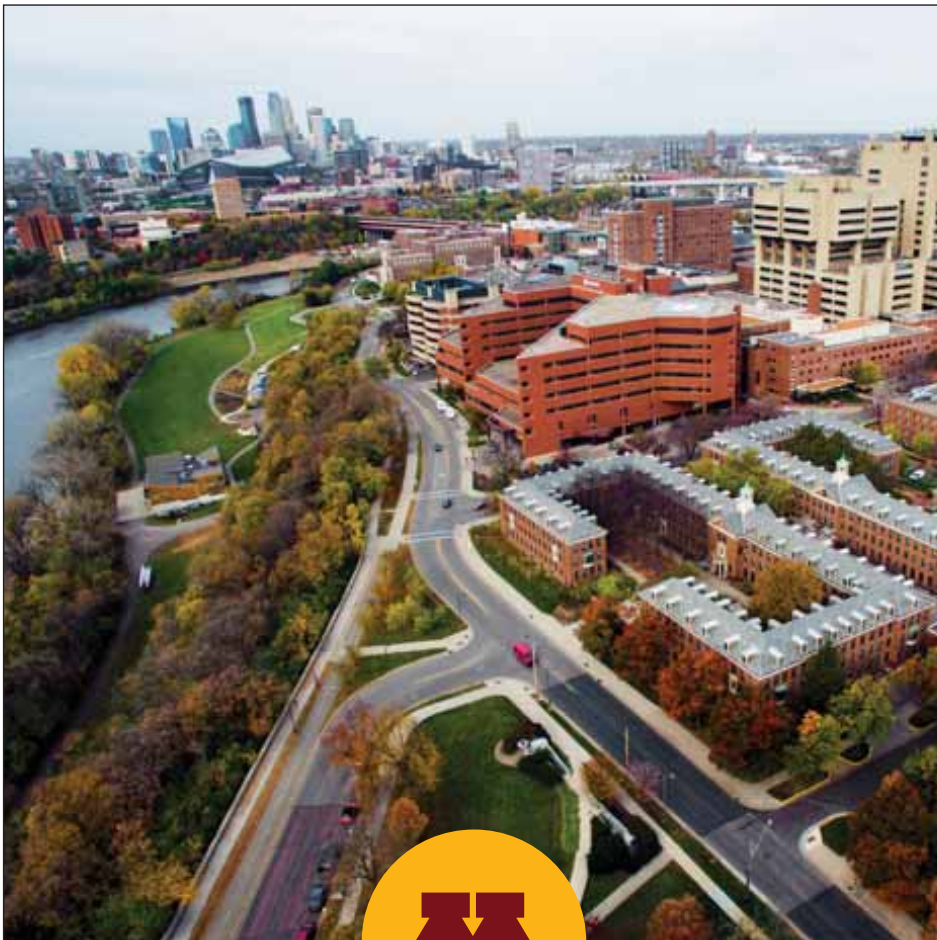
Philadelphia Museum of Art // Philadelphia

PNC Park // Pittsburgh

Roundtop Mountain Resort // Lewisberry

Slippery Rock University // Slippery Rock

Temple University // Philadelphia



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The Franklin Institute // Philadelphia

The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center // State College

The University of Scranton // Scranton

University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown // Johnstown

University of Pittsburgh Conference Services // Pittsburgh

Ursinus College // Collegeville

Villanova University Conferences // Villanova

Walk In Art Center // Schuylkill Haven

Washington & Jefferson College // Washington

West Chester University of Pennsylvania // West Chester

Westmoreland College // Youngwood

Whitetail Resort // Mercersburg

RHODE ISLAND

Bryant University // Smithfield

Salve Regina University // Newport

The University of Rhode Island // Kingston

SOUTH CAROLINA

Furman University Summer Programs // Greenville

Riverbanks Zoo & Garden // Columbia

The Riley Park Club // Charleston

University of South Carolina, Conference and Event Services // Columbia

Wild Wing Cafe - Columbia Downtown // Columbia

Wild Wing Cafe - Greenville Downtown // Greenville

Wild Wing Cafe - Hilton Head Island // Hilton Head Island

Wild Wing Cafe - Spartanburg Downtown // Spartanburg

Younts Conference Center at

Furman University // Greenville

TENNESSEE

Capitol Theatre // Maryville

Dawg House Saloon // Nashville

Elvis Presley's Graceland // Memphis

Losers Bar Nashville // Nashville

National Civil Rights Museum // Memphis

Scarritt-Bennett Center // Nashville

Tennessee State University // Nashville

The Millennium Conference Centre // Johnson City

The University of Tennessee // Knoxville

Vanderbilt University // Nashville

TEXAS

A Quixotic World // Dallas

AMC Grapevine Mills 30 // Grapevine

AMC Stonebriar 24 // Frisco

AMC Studio 30 // Houston

Blaine Stone Lodge // Midlothian

Cityplace Events // Dallas

ClubCorp Venues - Austin Metro // Austin

ClubCorp Venues - Dallas/Fort Worth // Dallas

ClubCorp Venues - Houston Metro // Houston

ClubCorp Venues - San Antonio Metro // San Antonio

CY Texas // Wimberley

Dallas Zoo // Dallas

Greene Family Camp // Bruceville

Howl at the Moon - Houston // Houston

Howl at the Moon - San Antonio // San Antonio

Lone Star Park // Grand Prairie

Meetings & Events @ Edwards Houston Marq'e Stadium 23 & IMAX // Houston

Perot Museum of Nature and Science // Dallas

Ripley's Believe It or Not! Odditorium // Grand Prairie

San Antonio Meeting Center // San Antonio

SPR Banquet Hall // Plano

Texas Lutheran University // Seguin

The Graeber House at 410 // Austin

The University of Texas at Dallas // Richardson

The University of Texas at San Antonio // San Antonio

Trinity University // San Antonio

Verizon Theatre // Grand Prairie
Waller Creek Boathouse // Austin

Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Hill Country // Canyon Lake

UTAH

Dixie Center at St. George // St. George

Miller Conference Center at Salt Lake Community College // Sandy

The Falls Event Center in Salt Lake City // Salt Lake City

The Falls Event Center in St. George // St. George

The Tower at Rice-Eccles // Salt Lake City

Thomas S. Monson Center // Salt Lake City

University of Utah Guest House and Conference Center // Salt Lake City

VERMONT

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INDEX

VIRGINIA

AMA's Washington Area Executive Conference Center at Arlington, Virginia // Arlington

AMC Tysons Corner 16 // McLean

Carter Hall Conference Center // Millwood

ClubCorp Venues - Virginia/Washington DC // Tysons

Eastern Mennonite University // Harrisonburg

Goodstone Inn & Restaurant // Middleburg

Green Acres // Fairfax

Historic Blenheim // Fairfax

Historic Rosemont Manor // Berryville

James Madison University // Harrisonburg

Meetings & Events @ Regal Ballston Common Stadium 12 // Arlington

Meetings & Events @ Regal Potomac Yard Stadium 16 // Alexandria

Morven Park // Leesburg

National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum // Alexandria

Northern Virginia 4-H Educational and Conference Center // Front Royal

Old Dominion University // Norfolk

Old Town Hall // Fairfax

Pine Creek Retreat Center // Gore

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center at NOVA CC // Alexandria

Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center at NOVA CC // Annandale

Richmond Raceway Complex // Richmond

Roanoke College // Salem

The College of William and Mary // Williamsburg

The National // Richmond

The National Conference Center // Leesburg

The NorVa // Norfolk

The Stacy C. Sherwood Center // Fairfax

Virginia Commonwealth University // Richmond

Virginia Tech Executive Briefing Center // Arlington

Virginia Zoo // Norfolk

Virtue Feed & Grain // Alexandria

Walden Hall // Reva

WASHINGTON

AMC Factoria 8 // Bellevue

Captain Whidbey Inn // Coupeville

ClubCorp Venues - Seattle Metro // Seattle

IFIOC // Spokane

Kittitas Valley Event Center // Ellensburg

Pacific Lutheran University // Tacoma

Safeco Field - Seattle Mariners // Seattle

Seattle University // Seattle

Showbox SoDo // South Seattle

The Evergreen State College // Olympia

The Showbox at Market // Seattle

University of Puget Sound // Tacoma

University of Washington // Seattle

Whatcom Community College Conference & Events // Bellingham

WEST VIRGINIA

Potomac Park Retreat & Conference Center // Falling Waters

WISCONSIN

Green Lake Conference Center & Lakeside Hotels // Green Lake

Manitowoc Area Visitors & Convention Bureau // Manitowoc

Marquette University Conference Services // Milwaukee

Perلمان Retreat Center // Mukwonago

University of Wisconsin-Platteville // Platteville

Wingspread Retreat & Executive Conference Center // Racine

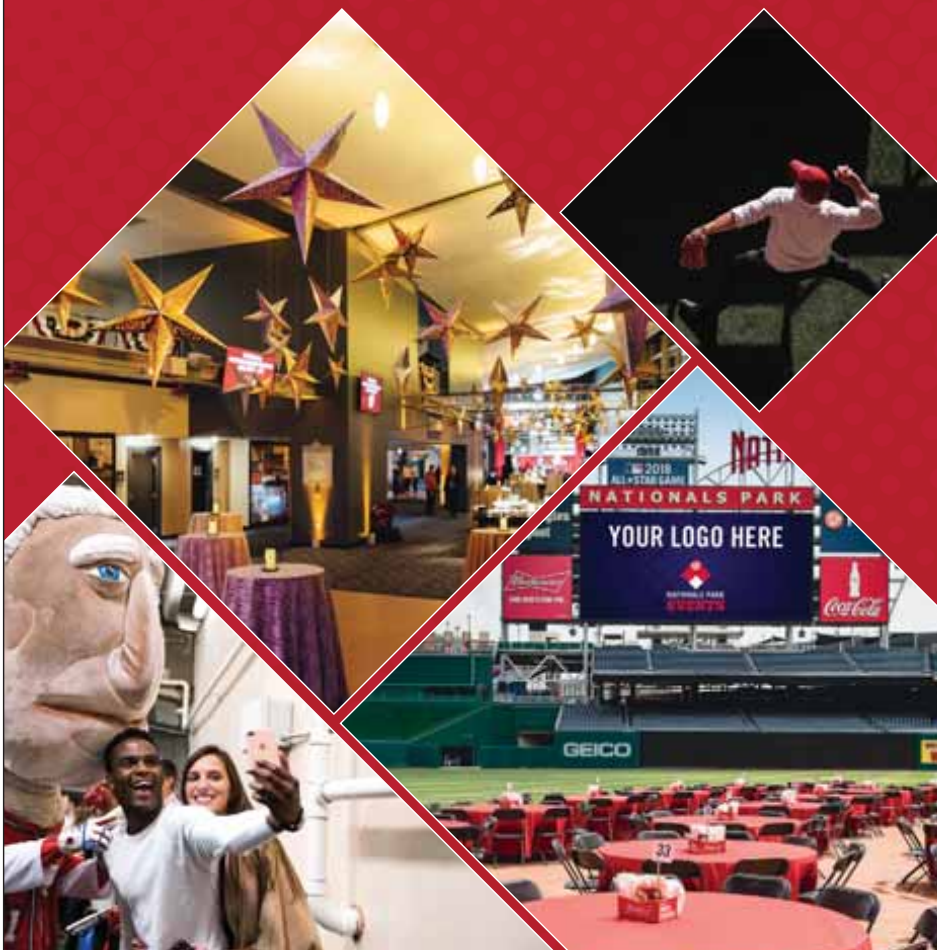
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INDUSTRY UPDATES

THE Biggest Winner



With a range of eco tourism, wellness, and holistic programs, President and COO Kathy Snyder is helping to transform the health of meetings at Beaver Hollow in Western New York.

By Selena Fragassi

Kathy Snyder has always been fascinated with food and the science behind it. “I have always loved food, especially the impact of what you eat and drink can have on your body,” she says. After growing up in a hospitality-oriented family, including working summers in food service at her father’s amusement park, Snyder attended the Cornell School of Hotel Administration and the Culinary Institute in Hyde Park and found the experiential side of food and beverage quite thrilling. After cutting her teeth at the Hyatt in Buffalo, New York, Snyder was part of the opening team of Beaver Hollow 30 years ago, a state-of-the-art conference center in Java Center, New York. With a 300-acre location surrounded by lakes and scenic woodlands, Beaver Hollow offers recreational and holistic activities, a complete fitness village, an award-winning spa, and a nutritious food and beverage menu in addition to business services. It’s also an official Biggest Loser Resort, with weight loss and stress management programs funneling into weeklong conferences. “Our team knows we are changing lives here,” says Snyder.

Unique Venues: *What really makes Beaver Hollow different from how most conference centers operate?*

Kathy Snyder: “What we are doing at Beaver Hollow is creating a different story in the hospitality industry that reflects our resources and specialness. We don’t even do transient business, which is unique in its own right. We only cater to groups, and work hand-in-hand with organizations in delivering a unique experience.”

UV: *How does that manifest in the programs you offer?*

KS: “We really focus on eco tourism and wellness with a unique combination of outdoor activities, recreation, team-building, holistic therapeutic activities, and fitness opportunities to go along with the conference center. We can also take it a

step up and offer guided weight loss intervention. It’s play with a purpose. We might do a ‘get to know your gym’ segment where we get people comfortable in a gym space and knowing how to use equipment. Or maybe it’s an international group that travels a lot—for them we plan ‘siestas’ where we teach progressive relaxation to recover from jet lag. And it’s all bonded together by healthy eating while the groups are with us. We are situated in farm country so we have access to some unique opportunities with food. Our corporate guests really love our Biggest Loser menus.”

UV: *Why is having a wellness-focused conference program important?*

KS: “Organizations pay for the health of employees no matter what—on the front end or back end, one just costs more. And stress is costing our

country so much money. Most bad behaviors are actually the result of stress and trauma, and our programs provide different ways to deal with stress responses rather than making poor diet or lifestyle choices. There’s also the issue of how the workforce has changed. So if you are trying to accomplish something as an organization or investing in the workforce, you need them to bond otherwise what is the retreat all for?”

UV: *Are there specialty groups you work with?*

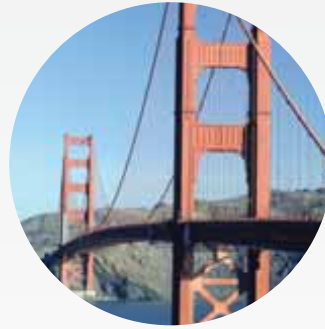
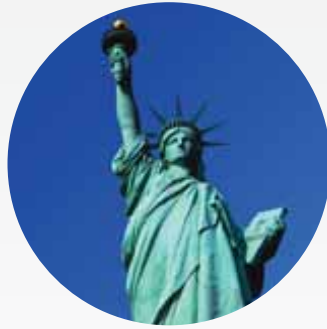
KS: “We have contracts with first responders, veteran service organizations, and active duty groups to offer our programs. They are able to start new habits in a safe protective environment that they can take with them. It’s a life-changer.”

uv

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