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HOLIDAY PARTY PLANNING GUIDE

2017 EDITION

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ON THE COVER

The Chicago Water Tower sparkles on a perfect holiday evening.

Photo courtesy of The Magnificent Mile® Association





Your Holiday Party Planning Starts Here

I get calls from event planners all of the time asking for referrals to venues and services for their holiday parties. I love to help people find the best in Chicago; after all, that's how Hereschicago.com was born in 2004.

As we've grown, we've been asked by our Hereschicago.com Planner Preferred members for solutions to get the word out about their holiday party offerings at this time every year. Well, we listened and partnered with Premier Travel Media to present to you our inaugural *Chicago Holiday Party Planning* print guide!

This publication is an extension of our online resource specifically featuring the best holiday party planning ideas and locations in Chicago. Planners have come to trust our recommendations on Hereschicago.com, our monthly newsletter "Chicago's Planner Preferred" and the new Hospitality Fest.

I would like to thank you for opening the cover and hopefully finding some new

ideas. I thank you in advance for supporting our partners who are featured as well. They helped us make this happen!

Lastly, I am strictly an "online guy," therefore I would like to thank Jeff Gayduk, Theresa O'Rourke, Jason Paha and the entire team at Premier Travel Media for making this all happen for you. I hope you enjoy the publication and find something that will help you plan your upcoming office or company holiday party!

My goal is to help make you feel comfortable with finding ideas for your upcoming meetings and events. That's why Hereschicago.com is the go-to resource for holiday party ideas and meeting & event ideas year-round 24/7.

Happy Holidays,

Jim "Santa" Grillo, CMP
President
Hereschicago.com



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A Holiday Party Can Cure What Ails Your



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Treat employees to meats and cheeses and you will be rewarded

By Jason Paha

Life may be a wondrous gift, but it certainly has its challenges. Our jobs are stressful, sharing a household is strenuous and our commutes can be full of strife.

The aggravations that plague us on a daily basis are typically magnified when the holidays arrive, thanks to an excess of bills and bothersome family members spending a bit too much time in our personal space.

Add to the mix an uncertain economy looming over our heads like the Sword of Damocles and both employers and employees might be tempted to forgo an office holiday party this year in favor of a cheap, relaxing night on the couch.

Think again.

A holiday celebration may not be an elixir for life's complexities, but it can be a balm for many office-inspired ailments. A party is more than just an excuse for folks to down a cocktail or five, it can also offer numerous short- and long-term benefits for those who attend.

Here's 5 reasons to throw a holiday party this year:

1 A holiday party can enhance relationships

Dave in sales and Max in accounting may have an abundance of common interests (perhaps they both bake a mean flan), but during office hours, the odds are against them sharing baking tips. At a party though, they can put their working worries on the backburner and make a personal connection. That kinship can subsequently do wonders for their job satisfaction. Numerous studies show a rise in workers' enthusiasm leads to an increase in productivity. One such study from the University of Warwick (yes, it's located in England, but job satisfaction transcends borders) found satisfied workers are 12 percent more productive than the average employee, while unsatisfied workers are 10 percent less effective than the median, a colossal difference. Boosting familiarity between employees leads to a cheerier, more comfortable workplace setting, which will almost certainly result in a happier office environment. People are more eager to show up to work if they know that cool guy from marketing may tell another amusing anecdote, just like he did at the party.

Company

2 It humanizes the employer

Similar to Max and Dave's bonding moment, if Barb the executive and John the underling chat at a holiday gathering, all the better. When a higher-up descends from rarified air and allows employees to see their true selves, resentments tend to be stripped away. The Harvard Business Review reports bosses who project warmth are more effective than those who opt for a rigid leadership approach. Employees feel greater trust for an amiable supervisor and are more productive working for someone they, quite simply, don't despise. One way to help cultivate such a scenario is to host a holiday gala, allowing supervisors the chance to mingle with the staff. Upper management will benefit from conversing with the labor, viewing them as flesh and blood people with feelings instead of cogs in a machine. Similarly, the moment an employee learns his or her boss also loves to watch reruns of "Party of Five," the icy façade that once separated them should crack, spawning a more congenial relationship. Humans being humanized is good for morale, which is excellent for a growing business.



3 It builds culture

All companies want to establish some form of culture. According to a recent Columbia University study, the probable job turnover at a business with a positive culture is 13.9 percent, while the turnover at more negative establishments is a hefty 48.4 percent. If management doesn't want to consistently watch half its workforce walk out the door, it makes sense to be as appealing as possible to the employees. One way to be likable while also establishing a brand is the aforementioned holiday celebration. On one hand, a company can use the festive platform (preferably briefly ... those hors d'oeuvres aren't going to eat themselves) to spotlight its priorities and keep the attendees in tune with its plans. On the other, it can let the staff, and the world, know while its competitors may be stodgy killjoys, this company knows how to let its hair down and have a good time. Along those lines, a party gives a business the chance to flex its creative muscles. If the head honchos want to bring a photo booth to the festivities, those narcissists in design will love the chance to show off their pearly whites. If they want to hire a clown that juggles knives while riding a unicycle... well, maybe they should think that one through a bit more. Whatever the case, employees will appreciate the extra effort put forth. As an added bonus, if an employer yearns to stake its claim as someone who thinks outside the box, hosting a holiday soiree in January (or even better, in July near Independence Day ... you're welcome for the tip) is a savvy way to get that message across. Even if a company ignores my sage advice for an Independence Day-style bash, it still stands to reap benefits from a winter gathering. A December party ends the year right, sending employees into the holidays with a favorable opinion of management (don't underestimate the power of recency bias), and a January celebration is an ideal way to start the New Year on a satisfying note.

4 It fosters a caring ideology

It goes without saying compassion is a positive trait, and while empathy and the business world don't always go hand in hand, there is significant evidence kindness on the job serves many benefits. According to Forbes, a compassionate workplace can lead to better employee retention, decreased stress and improved health (I.E.: less sick days). One of the best ways to display a benevolent working climate is to show employees they matter. When an employer cares enough about its workers to spend some hard-earned cash on a work-related function, the staff is more inclined to respond with gratitude and loyalty. Considering we live in an era where the internet connects the world and social media is king, positive PR can go a long way. Employers who throw a whiz-bang of a party should see their Glassdoor cache skyrocket, which should lead to more applicants trying to join in on the fun.

5 It will make people happy

Really, isn't that what life is about? I would say you can't put a price on happiness but many studies (not to mention all the evidence I just presented) say otherwise. Happier employees lead to a more robust bottom line and parties make people smile, especially on management's dime. A career network named Beyond surveyed 3,600 job seekers and discovered 74 percent of respondents think a company party boosts employee morale. Simply put, whether it's a liquor-fueled romp or a casual affair featuring cupcakes and candy bars, employees want to gossip with their peers off the clock. Preferably with no juggling clowns around. ■





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Tips to Help You Host a Spectacular Holiday Party

Chicagoland experts provide valuable gala insights

By Jason Paha

Those fortunate few tasked with organizing a company holiday party face a myriad of dilemmas. From finding a quality venue to serving the proper amount of delectable food, holiday parties require a substantial amount of time and effort to properly arrange. With so many details and potential roadblocks between the planning stages and the gala, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the process.

Which is why we tapped the expertise of some of the top entertainment experts in the Chicagoland area and mined their considerable acumen for tips on hosting a fabulous holiday party. Here are their suggestions:

Create a checklist

In order to successfully plan a party, attention to detail is important. A checklist is the best way to keep your ideas in order and ensure all items and activities are accounted for leading up to the event.

Among the more important components you should add to the checklist are: Determine the party's date and time; decide the party type; create a guest list; set a budget for the event; choose a venue and caterer; send out invitations; select entertainment; create an alcohol policy; determine transportation options and decide if gifts will be given.

A checklist will also be useful as the planning process progresses, helping you keep track of RSVPs while keeping you mindful of their entertainment preferences, dietary restrictions and family members

who will attend the function.

Establish the party location and date, and do so early

Procrastination is a bad habit, and waiting until the last minute to find a party site is a risky gambit that could burn you.

"Start with the venue. You can't have entertainment until you have a place to hold your event," said Jeff Durocher, president and CEO of U.S. Poker and Casino Parties.

"Number one, plan ahead," said David Blake, program director and entertainer for Chicago Corporate DJ. "The number one spoiler is waiting until the last minute and being stressed because your venue and entertainment are booked and/or are charging more for last-minute booking."

In a perfect world, everyone would hold their Christmas parties in December, but with only so many available venues in Chicago, that's not always a possibility. Schedule flexibility is advantageous when hunting for a location.

"The first week in December is typically the busiest," Blake said. "Plan another week or even have it the last week in November, the last week in December or the first week in January for the most options and the best prices."

"You open your calendar and immediately start eyeing those three precious Fridays that fall in December but aren't too close to the holidays," said Kristen Schascheck, vice president of sales for Medieval Times. "Those golden Fridays are prime picks for many companies and are therefore prime real estate for most event venues. Venues' rates



“Get everyone involved. Nothing brings people together better than group cooking. It is better than a potluck because the act of creating a meal together inspires connection.”

—Bibby Gignilliat
Founder, Parties that Cook

may be higher, their promotions may not be valid, or they may be sold out because the demand is highest. Selecting a weekday other than Friday can be a huge win for your bottom line. You can often score reduced pricing or minimums by making Tuesday the new Friday.”

Choose a venue

Determining whether you should hold a party in a banquet hall, a restaurant or a nontraditional site is a challenge, but closely inspecting what these establishments have to offer will make your decision easier.

“A good tip for selecting a venue is to find a location that is in close proximity to your hotel you are staying at, or if this is a work function, within a reasonable distance to the office,” said Melissa Hahn, account lead for Global Enterprise Solutions. “It will make your guests happy that they can walk back to the hotel, take a quick cab ride or drive home within a reasonable distance.”

Another important element to consider is the number of staff members the site provides. An understaffed party can lead to frustrated guests, which is counterproductive to the objective of those hosting the event.

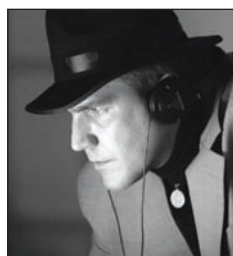
“Staffing is the key. Always ask about the number of staff ratio when planning your party and have this added in your contract,” Hahn said. “If it’s beer, wine and soft drinks only being served, a ratio of 1 per 75 (is a good number) since this is much faster to serve. If there are cocktails also, I would recommend a ratio of 1 per 50. The little things mean a lot. Who wants to wait in a long line for a cocktail?”

Nicole Salerno, partner and director of events for Rockit Ranch Productions, suggests you visit potential party locations in person so your chances of negative surprises are minimized.

“Make time to tour venues. Restaurant and venue event planners are pretty accommodating when asked to give tours of their event spaces in person. We are festive personalities that love to plan events, so pick our brains,” Salerno said. “As the person choosing a venue, you can learn a lot more going on a tour of the space than reading an email proposal or from scouring websites.”

If a personal visit does not fit your schedule, Salerno recommends you reach out via telephone as opposed to email.

“Call the venue event planner. If you have interest in a venue, but have questions, don’t use email. Learn what types of parties have



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—David Blake
Program Director and Entertainer, Chicago Corporate DJ

previously been in the space, what entertainment works and if the budget can be massaged to your needs. Learning firsthand how the event planner understands your needs will indicate how helpful she/he will be as you create your event. Lots of cool party ideas and experiences are not reflected on general catering packets that you find on a venue’s website. A quick chat can put you at ease and eliminate lots of back and forth emails.”

Janine Osborne, corporate sales manager for The Abbey Resort and Avani Spa, suggests you think big when selecting the party site.

“Even if your holiday party budget is limited, don’t shy away from bigger venues,” Osborne said. “Larger hotels and resorts are often better equipped to accommodate small events than smaller venues. With a large staff, more resources and a variety of event spaces available, such as restaurants and lounge areas, large venues are able to accommodate groups of all sizes, and often on short notice.”

Plan the party details

Once your venue is selected, you can determine the party’s theme, seating, entertainment, transportation, food and alcohol options. A good way to begin the process is to invite guests in an affable manner that will make them want to attend the event.

“Send out fun office holiday party invitations. Not everyone looks forward to a holiday party, but they will when they receive a playful invitation,” said Ellen Harte, special events planner and business development for Tasty Catering.

Another way to create interest is to hold a pre-party at your workspace a few days or weeks prior to the celebration. Bibby Gignilliat, founder of Parties that Cook, says a group cooking outing, either at the office or at an off-site location will provide a pleasant bonding moment.

“Get everyone involved. Nothing brings people together better than group cooking,” Gignilliat said. “It is better than a potluck because the act of creating a meal together inspires connection.”

Among the more crucial things to consider are what food and alcohol will be served at the party. Food allergies and the guests’ general palates should be taken into account, as should the cost of the meals. Surveying your guests prior to the party will help determine which menu items are most popular.

Fiscally speaking, plated meals tend to be more cost-effective than buffets and they give companies a chance to reinforce the



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Special Events Planner and
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—Jim Goodrich
Head Voice, The Caroling Connection
Owner, With A Voice Like This

theme of their event. Items that incorporate your event colors or brand are a preferable selection.

“When selecting your food, keep in mind all of the dietary needs of your guest,” Hahn said.

As is the case with most parties, alcohol is paramount to a successful soiree. But the quickest way to transform a rollicking celebration into a destructive melee is to overserve your guests. Limiting alcohol consumption through drink tickets, closing the bar early or only offering drinks during dinner helps keep the atmosphere cheerful and budget-friendly.

That said, this is still a party and guests want to let their hair down while enjoying a fancy cocktail or two.

“Don’t forget a great bar with a holiday-themed specialty cocktail,” said Hilary Saurer, director of sales for River Roast.

“Portable full bar service is super-convenient and planners can have fun with some unique, corporate-themed drinks with clever names and branded colors,” said Nina Madonia, director of business development for Inspired Catering Events.

Hahn suggests the quicker you get a cocktail into your guests’ grips, the better.

“I recommend having beer and wine ready to be passed on trays at the beginning of the event to eliminate lines,” Hahn said. “This way, the first 30 minutes of your event, everyone is happy with a drink in hand.”

While food and alcohol tend to get the bulk of a planner’s attention, one party aspect that is often overlooked is transportation. Specifically, the combination of valet parking and safe public transportation to and from the venue.

“Nothing is more frustrating than waiting 30 minutes to get your car after the event has ended,” Hahn said. “I would recommend working with your valet company to ensure there are extra staff. The extra dollars spent will be recognized. Especially if where they are parking cars is far from the venue. Raise the bar and make your guest experience amazing by adding a cold bottle of water or a snack for their ride home.”

Considering alcohol will most likely be served at the party, some planners prefer to utilize a party bus to transport guests from a previously determined location. If that is too cumbersome a maneuver, encouraging guests to employ ride-sharing services like Uber and

Lyft with the promise of reimbursement will ensure they can relish their cocktails without fear of driving home in a drunken stupor.

Select the entertainment

Given the wealth of talented performers in Chicago, it behooves an organizer to consider some form of entertainment, be it live music, magic, games or even something as simple as a photo booth.

Music, in the form of a band or a disc jockey, is essentially a must at any party.

“Add music of some sort. Holiday events become humbug without something in the background,” Blake said. “Plus, booking music is often a small fee more than just booking a microphone and speakers for announcements.”

Depending on the age group of your attendees, music might not be enough to capture the crowd’s attention. Which is where alternative entertainment like a magician, a standup comedian or a play become appealing options.

“What needs do you want the entertainment to fill? Will it be the main event of the evening, one of several highlights, or will it simply be background to everything else?” said Mitch Williams, of Magic Productions. “For example, if you’re having music, what is it for? Is it for dancing, background, creating a specific atmosphere? How many musicians, what type or style do you need? A show band or a DJ can be good for events where the tone is casual, upbeat and lively. A string quartet can add a great touch of elegance during the cocktail hour. A jazz combo gives an energetic, classy feel.

According to Trish Elliott of Redmink Productions, live performances that incorporate the plots of time-honored films and books are popular choices for parties geared toward families.

“You can take classic themes, like ‘Wizard of Oz,’ ‘Alice in Wonderland’ and ‘Willie Wonka,’ and make them holiday family themes with shows,” Elliott said.

If you decide to book an entertainer, it is recommended you are mindful of their needs, especially if you enlist the services of multiple acts.

“I own Chicago Kiddie Train and we use our trains for lots of Christmas parties,” said Phil Mostaccio, owner of Completely Nuts Inc. “People planning an event should have everything in place at the start of your party. Sometimes we are asked to bring in a train



“Selecting a weekday other than Friday can be a huge win for your bottom line. You can often score reduced pricing or minimums by making Tuesday the new Friday.”

—Kristen Schascheck
Vice President of Sales, Medieval Times



“We find that activities and games are a great way to bring guests together at holiday parties.”

—Martha Link
Group Corporate Director of Catering, Harry Caray's Restaurant



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—Mitch Williams, Magic Productions

halfway through an event and it gets very confusing for us and the guests. We are trying to weave through other activities and nobody has a clear handle on what we are doing. Rather than having a lot of different things, work on a couple things and do them well.”

“If you have both musicians with amplification and carolers strolling or singing without amplification, take that into consideration when placing the different performers at the event,” said Jim Goodrich, head voice of The Caroling Connection and owner of With A Voice Like This. “Provide a changing room for entertainment acts. The majority of performers don’t travel to and from events in costume. Can you say hoop skirt in a car, bus or train?”

Keep guests engaged at the party

Once the day of the party arrives, it’s important to remember the event’s mission: Put smiles on as many faces as possible.

The best way for that to transpire is for energetic conversation to be a sizable part of the event.

“Plan inclusive holiday party entertainment,” Harte said. “It is really critical that everyone feels comfortable and valued at your office holiday party. Ice breakers that help employees from all divisions mix and mingle are a great starting point, while department awards and recognizing corporate success as a whole are a great way to wrap up the evening.”

One of the best ways to instigate conversation is to set up the room’s seating arrangement in as social a manner as possible.

“Provide ample seating. Guests will spend longer socializing over small bites or even main meals when seating is not an issue,” Harte said. “So, make sure you have enough lunch tables and highboys available and that they are well-cleaned and maintained so guests want to hang out.”

“Get the guests talking,” Osborne said. “Place festive conversation starters on tables to encourage mingling in a way that will help break the ice without feeling too forced. For example, simple questions such as ‘What was your favorite holiday gift received as a child?’ will help the newly acquainted find common ground to talk about.”

Another way to facilitate communication is to promote some sort of communal exercise.

“We find that activities and games are a great way to bring guests together at holiday parties,” said Martha Link, Harry Caray’s

Restaurant Group corporate director of catering.

One popular idea among experts was the implementation of a photo booth, which has gained popularity in recent years.

“Holiday parties are best reception-style with an interactive element,” Saurer said. Get a photo booth or a team-building activity to help keep the energy up the entire event.”

“In addition to the food and beverages, many planners want to include an exciting, interactive element as well,” Madonia said. “This could be a photo booth, design your own takeaway candy table, or a live musical component.”

Bosses and other higher-ups can even get into the act if the spirit of the holidays seizes them.

“If you have a great management team who wants to get to know their teams, put them to work with welcoming their guests,” Hahn said. “It goes a long way making the guests feeling extra special.”

An underrated way to galvanize guests is to use the party as a charitable platform. Doing so unites people and does so for a good cause.

“Give back. Many companies and organizations do some sort of philanthropic effort around the holidays, such collecting food for a local pantry, buying gifts for underprivileged children or filling care packages for military personnel,” Osborne said. “Consider making the effort a friendly and healthy competition between departments and announce the winner at your party where everyone can celebrate the success of the joint effort.”

Enjoy the fruits of your labor

Let’s face it. Planning a party is stressful.

If anyone deserves to have fun at the company holiday gala, it’s you. After spilling what feels like gallons of blood, sweat and tears in an effort to perfect the celebration, don’t forget to embrace the revelry.

“Enjoy the event. Once you are in an environment with festive lights, music and smiling faces, it will make all the planning worthwhile,” said Tenille Allen, director of public relations and media for Five-Star AudioVisual. “Give yourself a pat on the back and get ready to party. The holidays are what we make of it. It’s the ending of another year so consider it your reason to celebrate all of your accomplishments that year.”

You’ve earned it. ■



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—Nicole Salerno
Partner and Director of Events, Rockit Ranch Productions



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Director of Business Development, Inspired Catering Events

How To

Host a Happy, **Healthy** Holiday Party



Keep your guests slim and smiling this holiday season



By Jason Paha

The best things about the holiday season are, paradoxically, often the worst things as well. As fantastic as pecan pie tastes while downing a glass of egg nog minutes after you've devoured a turkey leg, there are clearly better ways to treat your body.

The average American gains somewhere in the vicinity of two pounds between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, which is a troubling enough fact by its lonesome. The statistic is even more alarming when one realizes that weight rarely gets shed, meaning the two extra pounds become four the next year, and then six and so on. Eventually, those numbers add up and you may find yourself carrying the equivalent of a border collie around your midsection.

This creates a problem for companies who want to throw a fabulous holiday party without drowning their guests in calories.

Fortunately, there is an array of healthy food alternatives and serving tips to help you host a wholesome gathering without betraying your guests' taste buds.

Plan the meal thoroughly

The first order of business is deciding what food you want served. When planning a meal, determine if any attendees have dietary restrictions. If the meal is being catered, ask for these restrictions well in advance so you can ensure the caterer will provide appropriate food options. If your company wants an office potluck, make sure all participating are aware of the food limitations.

If your party is catered or you patronize a restaurant, present a list of questions to those preparing the food to make certain your guests will be served the healthiest possible options. Among the questions you should ask are:

- What ingredients are in the foods selected?

- Does the chef use sustainable practices?

- Can the chef provide a label for each food item that includes dietary restrictions, calories and fat content?

The cook or caterer should be able to answer these questions and provide an ingredient list to help you decide if the dietary restrictions are met.

A smart way to get your attendees to gravitate to the healthier eats is to display the foods' ingredients and (if possible) calorie and fat content. When faced with the grisly details of how many calories reside in that sausage link, guests may be inclined to eat only half of a link, or bypass it altogether. Caterers that utilize sustainable food sources not only provide healthier food options for the guests, but they will make the partygoers feel better about what they are eating. A win-win scenario.

Similarly, if a potluck is the option, ask those bringing their dishes to provide an ingredients list. This will not only create an air of transparency, but it may also spark conversation about the merits of eating healthy and foodie culture.

"Healthy eating is unique to each individual," said Ellen Harte, director of key accounts and business development for Tasty Catering. "Some people take full advantage of the company holiday party and throw caution to the wind. Others seek food items that fit their eating regimen. The caterer's responsibility is to take all of this into consideration when planning a well-balanced holiday party meal. This also includes guests who are gluten sensitive and those who practice a vegetarian or vegan lifestyle."



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Opt for healthier food choices

The best way to present a fit party atmosphere is to promote healthy choices among your guests. An emphasis on fresh fruits and vegetables, low-fat protein and dairy and a moderation on sodium and sugar are always a smart option.

If the menu features hot meals, grilled chicken (or any lean meat), grilled or roasted vegetables, a garden salad and a side of brown rice is an offering that pleases the palate. Try to serve spreads and condiments separately or by request. If a patron has to ask for extra barbecue sauce, maybe they won't.

On the flip side, cold meals featuring sandwiches and salads are also popular among planners. If sandwiches are on the docket, offer whole wheat bread or tortillas to provide fiber. Low-fat cheese like mozzarella is preferable to traditionally fattier cheeses, and toppings such as lettuce, tomatoes and pickles should be included. Salads are encouraged, but if possible, avoid offering full-fat dressings in

lieu of lighter dressings and try to keep the croutons, bacon bits and meat away. Cheese and charcuterie trays can be replaced with platters featuring items like nicoise olives, green beans, cherry tomatoes and deviled eggs with American albacore tuna salad.

"Replace heavy sauces with lighter, fresher sauces (examples: peanut sauce with pistou or other fresh herb sauce, butter-based sauces with reduced stocks)," said Molly Schemper, of FIG Catering. "Everything doesn't need to be on bread – replace crostini/bruschetta/ etc. with fresh veggie 'chips' (not fried) like jicama, daikon radish or cucumber.

"It is important for people to eat because they will be drinking," Schemper added. "But if your bites are satisfying, they will eat less. If you're going to serve cheese, serve really flavorful cheese so guests only have to eat a small amount to get the full picture."

Those looking for fun alternatives to liven up a party have plenty of options to choose from.

One such example is a make-your-own noodle station. Certainly, make-your-own food runs the risk of guests gorging themselves on seconds and thirds (and fourths), but a noodle station can provide nutrients if accompanied with a quality selection of vegetables and nuts. Providing low-fat sauces like chili or soy is also an astute plan. Other popular choices include skewers, which offer endless combinations and provide a nice amount of vegetables; serving side salads in martini glasses to make them more appetizing and attention-grabbing; and using artistic fruit arrangements as table centerpieces. Fruit sculptures, in particular, can get guests talking while also chowing down on strawberry roses or apple tulips. As an added symmetrical bonus, fruit arrangements can be created to fit the brand of your company. Don't be afraid to ask a caterer to be creative. They appreciate the chance to display their inventive prowess.

"People eat with their eyes," Harte said. "Food that is presented beautifully will be consumed whether the item is perceived as 'healthy' or not. For instance, presenting the dreaded veggie crudité tray in a fun, individual vessel – dip included – is a sure way that guests will not walk right on by on their way to the pasta station."

"We love light and fun interactive stations like our BYOSR (build your own spring roll) station so that it still feels festive, but is not something fried or calorie laden," Schemper said. "If you're going to offer something indulgent (which you should – it is the holidays after all) consider making your passed hors d'oeuvres the high calorie item since they are small and beef up on healthier buffet options like pickled vegetable platters, grilled meat skewers (as long as you are offering a healthy dipping sauce these are packed full of protein and don't have to be heavy), and colorful salads."

Limit the alcohol options

First things first, offer partygoers plenty of non-alcoholic choices. Water, obviously, is the best option, but there are plenty of other preferable alternatives to soft drinks. For instance, seltzer water with a splash of orange juice over ice is a refreshing drink that brings to mind a screwdriver, while unsweetened juices containing 99 percent fruit juice are also popular options. Schemper suggests lightening up drinks with infused spirits or bitters to flavor soda water and seltzer-based drinks instead of syrups or sugar-based sodas. Those clamoring for a more seasonal drink can enjoy apple cider, which contains less fat than the notoriously unhealthy eggnog.



ivan.nakonechnyy/Bigstock.com

Assuming the majority of those in attendance will want something stronger to drink, there are plenty of alcohol options that aren't horrific for their waistlines. While all alcohol is caloric, clear liquors tend to have less sugar than darker ones and red wines tend to be more heart-healthy than white wines. And let us not forget the old classic, champagne, where a four-ounce glass only contains 85 calories. As an added bonus, champagne glasses tend to be much smaller than the typical wine glass, further reducing your guests' calorie intake. Among the many lower-calorie cocktails you can recommend a bartender create are a Mojito with reduced simple syrup (168 calories); an Old Fashioned (154 calories); a Gin and Tonic (148 calories); a Vodka Soda (96 calories) and a Rum and Diet Cola (96 calories).

Regardless of what alcohol is served, dispersing a limited amount of drink tickets (two or three) is a canny way to keep guests from overindulging.

Another trick that can help reduce consumption is serving drinks in skinny glasses as opposed to wider tumblers. According to the *British Medical Journal*, researchers from Cornell University and the Georgia Institute of Technology discovered people pour 20 to 30 percent more alcohol into short, wide glasses than tall, narrow ones of the same volume. This is because the taller glasses give off the deceptive appearance of containing more alcohol. In other words, employ slender highball glasses and your guests won't know you are skimping on the drinks.

Moderate serving sizes

To minimize gluttony, waste and cost, provide only small or moderate serving portions per person. The best way to control portions is to offer plated meals as opposed to a buffet.

"We notice attendees going up for second and thirds just because it is there," said Janine Osborne, corporate sales manager for The Abbey Resort & Avani Spa. "A plated meal option is great for portion control."

If possible, serve the food on smaller plates than the typical 12-inch dinner plate. Since the early 1900s, the size of a traditional American dinner plate has grown at least 25 percent larger. Not coincidentally, the American obesity rate has also risen in that timespan. Since 1990 alone, the average percentage of obese American adults over 20 years old increased from 11.1 percent to 37.9 percent.

Serving dinner on a 10-inch plate may not put a dent in that statistic, but for one night at least, it will give guests less real estate to fill their plate and few, if any, will notice the difference.

"Small plates definitely encourage guests to eat less," Schemper said. "If you have items that don't need utensils you can even just offer napkins instead of plates. This is especially a good idea for your dessert table."

Keep your guests engaged and moving

Even if you let guests serve themselves, there are ways to get their blood pumping and their mouths talking. Food stations encourage conversation between a variety of partygoers, whereas a sit-down meal tends to sequester people in small groups, giving them a chance to converse on foot and gravitate toward different areas of the room.

Osborne encourages additional movement by setting food and beverage stations in different locations. As guests refresh their

drinks or sample food, the natural migration created by this setup gives parties a vibrant atmosphere that guests will enjoy.

"Food stations are typically set up throughout the event space to encourage mingling," Harte said. "This method also reduces waiting in line at a single buffet. We try to pair protein and vegetable at the same station; for instance, roasted vegetables are placed at the carving station to encourage veggie consumption and for those guests who don't eat meat, yet want the station experience."

"Dessert stations typically include fresh fruit of some sort; petite 'one-bite' sweets are preferred over full-size portions, i.e., mini cupcakes, mini strudels, mini tarts, mini cookies, etc. It has been observed that guests take full advantage of the minis and will still fill their plate to try one of everything."

A full plate equals a full stomach, which equates to a happy guest. If you can please your co-workers without raising their Body Mass Index to appalling levels, consider your holiday party a rousing success. ■



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Chicago, IL 60640
Neighborhood: River North
Capacity: 450 guests

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WhirlyBall Chicago

WhirlyBall Chicago is a team sport combining basketball, soccer, and bumper cars. Whether you're planning a corporate meeting, team-building session, networking reception or other event for 25 or 500 attendees, WhirlyBall is the most complete event in Chicagoland that offers fun team-building activities and an event space. Full A/V capabilities, a state-of-the-art bar, and a variety of other entertainment options including catering and DJing. Over 20,000 square feet of space is available for your event. Our website provides a comprehensive overview for guests to focus, be productive or simply enjoy a wonderful celebration.



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River Roast

Located on the magnificent Chicago River, River Roast provides breathtaking city and water views from every seat, both inside and outside.

Helmed by James Beard award-winning Chef Tony Mantuano and Executive Chef John Hogan, River Roast is a lively social house and gathering place that offers a menu of contemporary American tavern fare featuring meat, fish and vegetables that are roasted and carved tableside. Inventive



drinks are on draft and cold-brewed cocktails from two slow-drip infusion towers are offered alongside a large selection of local and Midwestern beers, craft cocktails and wine.

With one of the best patios in the city, River Roast is a perfect gathering place to connect with friends, old and new. It even offers space for boats to dock, enabling you to arrive in style for your event.

River Roast can accommodate any group size, from 10 to 1,000, and with six spaces to choose from - each paying tribute to the venue's historic landmark building - it provides a multitude of options for corporate and social events.

For those looking to plan a first-rate outing, River Roast offers experienced event-planning and service teams to assist and anticipate your needs. River Roast's friendly staff takes pride in their customer service and will work with you to ensure you receive the finest event, and best value, possible.

Whether you are planning a gala for 1,000 or intimate affair of 8, River Roast's delicious customized menus and amazing sightlines will impress.



TO BOOK AN EVENT, CONTACT:

Hilary Saurer, Director of Sales
315 N. LaSalle Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60654
312-527-1417
rrevents@levyrestaurants.com
RiverRoastChicago.com

CAPACITY: 1,000 (750 SEATED)
MURDOCH ROOM: 450
RECEPTION-STYLE (275 SEATED)
MONARCH ROOM: 250
RECEPTION-STYLE (150 SEATED)
REID BAR: 25 RECEPTION-STYLE
MAIN DINING ROOM: 200
RECEPTION-STYLE (120 SEATED)
COMMERCE ROOM: 16 SEATED
SEMI-PRIVATE SPACE: 25 SEATED

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WhirlyBall

How did a game that uses portions of basketball, lacrosse and bumper cars come to Chicago? Contrary to some unpublished

reports, it didn't begin with a blindfold, a map and a dart. It began with a question: Where can people in need of fun but unable to go outside several months each year find some entertainment? The answer: Lombard, Illinois. In 1993, Sam Elias, Whirlyball founder, moved from Florida to Lombard to bring people what they wanted: 4,000-square-feet of indoor space for the masses to bump cars, slam dunk and embarrass themselves without getting arrested.

WhirlyBall was so popular, another location opened three years later near downtown Chicago. Eight years after that, WhirlyBall arrived in Vernon Hills. People loved the game that enabled players to ride in bumper cars and shoot baskets with a scoop and Wiffle ball, all while working as a team. Then, to the delight of adrenaline junkies, WhirlyBall added laser tag facilities and bowling.

Today, WhirlyBall on Webster Avenue is a 50,000-square-foot facility that offers two levels complete with ample dining and activity space that can host up to 1,200 guests. The venue features private event space with a rooftop view of the famous Chicago skyline and four conference rooms with full audio/video and presentation capabilities.

Corporations or groups looking to enjoy a unique experience will be awed by the venue's three WhirlyBall courts (with plenty of surrounding space); 12 bowling lanes; a laser tag arena that can hold up to 30 guests and two full bars with 32 craft beers on tap, craft cocktails and specialty drinks. WhirlyBall also provides a dedicated service staff, complimentary banquet supplies and linens and a creative menu where all the food is made on-site.

WhirlyBall is the perfect venue for social and corporate events. From adult and children's birthday parties, weddings, bridal showers, bar and bat mitzvahs to fundraisers, product launches, holiday parties and

retirement parties, WhirlyBall offers premier accommodations and unmatched entertainment. Eat. Drink. Game on!

TO BOOK AN EVENT, CONTACT:

Joel Alvarado, Sales Manager
773-486-7777

Direct line: 773-687-4005 • Fax: 773-486-7978
joel.alvarado@whirlyball.com

Chicago, IL: 1825 W. Webster Ave.

Lombard, IL: 800 E. Roosevelt Rd.

Vernon Hills, IL: 285 Center Dr.

Colorado Springs, CO: 3971 Palmer Park Blvd.
Whirlyball.com

CAPACITY:

THE CHICAGO LOCATION CAN HOLD
AROUND 1,200 PEOPLE

**MAIN EVENT SPACE
SEATED ROUNDS:** 200

SEATED THEATER: 220
RECEPTION: 230

**ADDITIONAL GUESTS
WITH UPSTAIRS BAR:** 65

**ADDITIONAL GUESTS
WITH BOWLING:** 40

FIRST FLOOR BUYOUT: 800

SECOND FLOOR BUYOUT: 400

FULL BUYOUT: 1,200

Buddy Guy's Legends

Buddy Guy's Legends is Chicago's premier blues club. Owned by seven-time Grammy Award winner and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Buddy Guy, Legends offers great food, a full bar and the best live music in town.

Opened in 1989 by Buddy Guy, Legends is renowned for hosting the finest blues acts in the country and is the site of many famous recordings from celebrated artists like Buddy and Junior Wells. Filled with memorabilia from musical icons, the club is a museum that comes alive nightly. Guests can bask in the presence of fabled instruments – the walls are adorned with guitars owned by B.B. King, Carlos Santana, Eric Clapton and more – all while enjoying the most outstanding food, drinks and live music the city has to offer. On most nights, when he isn't touring, Buddy can be found sitting at the bar, savoring the best atmosphere in Chicago.

Legends offers hungry visitors a variety of delicious Louisiana-style Cajun and soul food options from the club's customized

menus served by an in-house culinary staff. One bite of Legends' award-winning jambalaya, from Buddy's personal recipe, catfish po' boy or blackened blues burger will have you clamoring for more.

Consistently voted the No. 1 blues club in Chicago, Legends hosts private events of all sizes and will accommodate any assemblage, be it a small group of 30 or a corporate event for 550 in a clean, comfortable atmosphere. Legends prides itself on its flexibility and value, enabling the club to fit within most budgets, making it the perfect venue for networking and entertaining.

Groups and corporations seeking a uniquely Chicago experience should look no further than Buddy Guy's, where you will have a legendary night.

TO BOOK AN EVENT, CONTACT:

Randy Hajduk, CMP, Director of Group Sales
Buddy Guy's Legends
700 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago, IL 60605
312-427-1190 • Fax: 312-427-1192
BuddyGuy.com



CAPACITY: 550 (270 SEATED)
FIRST FLOOR: 400
PARTY ROOM: 80
UPSTAIRS
(INCLUDING PARTY ROOM): 150



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❄️ Groups from 30-550. Customized food menus, full open bar, and the best live music in town would even make Scrooge get up and boogie! ❄️

CONTACT RANDY HAJDUK - RANDY@BUDDYGUY.COM OR CALL 312.427.1190



Roy's Restaurant

Roy Yamaguchi is an international culinary visionary and the creator of Hawaiian fusion cuisine. A James Beard Award winner, Roy has hosted six seasons of the television show "Hawaii Cooks with Roy Yamaguchi," seen in more than 60 countries, and has published three cookbooks.

In 1988, the first Roy's Restaurant opened in Honolulu, Hawaii, where Roy's merger of European techniques, Pacific Rim cuisine and warm hospitality helped create the exceptional dining experience that is unique to Roy's Restaurant. Since then, Roy has spread his passion around the world with 20 restaurants in the continental United States, six in Hawaii, one in Japan and one in Guam.

Among those locations enjoying Roy's delectable cooking is Chicago, where Roy's offers source-to-table dining that provides guests the finest beef, fish, seafood and

seasonal produce available. At Roy's the food is always masterfully prepared and presented in a fresh, contemporary way. Among the menu's more popular items include Misoyaki Butterfish, made famous by Roy himself, and a succulent 8-ounce hand-carved fillet.

"I've always been inspired by the bold and distinct flavors of the Pacific Rim," Roy said. "And that's why I've dedicated my life to exploring and sharing their unique beauty. Roy's talented culinary team in Chicago works to bring these flavors to life every day for our guests, so everyone can share my inspiration."

For those looking to savor a delicious meal for two or an all-day meeting for hundreds, Roy's has you covered with prix fixe menus, exceptional service, a full bar and an extensive wine list. Featuring private and semi-private dining rooms, Roy's is an ideal location for intimate gatherings, VIP

corporate events, rehearsal dinners and weddings. Roy's seats 220 comfortably for breakfast, lunch or dinner and for cocktail receptions can accommodate more than 400 guests. Roy's also offers dedicated event space, customized menus and a professional group sales staff to help with every detail of your event.

.....
TO BOOK AN EVENT, CONTACT:

Monika Pruski, Private Dining Director
Roy's Restaurant
720 North State Street
Chicago, IL 60654
312-787-7599

RoisRestaurant.com/locations/il/chicago

WINE ROOM: 30 SEATED/
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pdrchicago@roysrestaurant.com

RoysRestaurant.com

*Restrictions apply



Museum of Science and Industry

The largest science center in the Western Hemisphere, the Museum of Science and Industry is a place where inspiration comes alive.

One of the only remaining structures from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition and just steps from Chicago's lakefront, MSI provides a marvelous backdrop for all functions, from special events to board meetings. With more than 35,000 artifacts and nearly 14 acres of hands-on experiences, MSI offers compelling interactive exhibits and spaces that transform meetings and events into fascinating outings.

MSI is one of the only venues in Chicago offering capacity for events featuring more than 5,000 guests. The museum provides event spaces that will accommodate a meeting for 20, a seated dinner for 800 or a strolling dinner reception throughout the entire museum for 12,000. Those looking to host a memorable excursion can choose from 12 spaces, including the museum's main level featuring an Art Deco-style rotunda, a 300-seat auditorium and the U-505 Submarine exhibit, the only German U-boat

captured during World War II.

The U-505 Submarine is one of MSI's numerous displays that can be incorporated into private events. Other exhibits include Science Storms, a 26,000-square-foot exhibition that explains the science behind nature's most powerful storms; YOU! The Experience, a 15,000-square-foot exhibit that explores the human mind, body and spirit; and Numbers in Nature, a showpiece that explores patterns in nature featuring an 1,800-square-foot mirror maze as the focal point. During warmer weather, groups can enjoy one of MSI's many outdoor settings, including the newly updated Smart Home and Smart Park, an energy-efficient venue available exclusively for corporate and VIP events of up to 100 guests.

For those in need of planning assistance, an event consultant can handle every aspect of the process, including designing table settings and lighting schemes, creating floral arrangements and booking entertainment.

MSI's Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light exhibit makes it the perfect holiday party venue in Chicago. Guests

mingle amidst a forest of over 50 festive trees and displays with a spectacular 45-foot Grand Tree as the centerpiece.

With thousands of exhibits, artifacts and "wow" moments that last a lifetime, MSI is the premier destination for holiday celebrations.

TO BOOK AN EVENT, CONTACT:

773-753-2583
specialevents@msichicago.org
MSIChicago.org/specialevents

CAPACITY ENTIRE MUSEUM:
 400,000 SQUARE FEET, 12,000 PEOPLE
ROTUNDA: 5,500-PERSON CAPACITY
NORTH PORTICO:
 1,500-PERSON CAPACITY
SOUTH PORTICO:
 1,500-PERSON CAPACITY
U-505 SUBMARINE:
 700-PERSON CAPACITY
ENTRY HALL: 600-PERSON CAPACITY
HENRY CROWN SPACE CENTER:
 300-PERSON CAPACITY
SMART HOME AND SMART PARK:
 100-PERSON CAPACITY INDOOR
ROSENWALD ROOM:
 130-PERSON CAPACITY
GIANT DOME THEATER: 300 SEATS
AUDITORIUM: 849 SEATS
LITTLE THEATER: 200 SEATS



Ala Carte Entertainment

Founded in 1970, Ala Carte Entertainment operates Chicagoland's favorite restaurants, pubs and party venues. Experts in hospitality, Ala Carte provides an experienced staff that delivers exceptional private-party and catering services and, of course, entertainment.

Ala Carte (ACE) oversees around 1,500 employees at 24 restaurants and nightclubs, including Finn McCool's Irish Sports Pub, Chandler's Chophouse & Grille, Famous Freddie's Roadhouse, Moretti's Ristorante & Pizzeria and others. With 80 percent of its venues featuring private rooms or private dining rooms, ACE locations are perfect settings for your holiday parties, corporate events, bachelorette parties, boat charters, weddings, mitzvahs, casual catering or off-site coordinated custom events.

Thanks to a team of acclaimed chefs

and professional event planners, and through the use of detailed collaboration with professional partners, ACE businesses provide you with award-winning food, service staff and premium locations that will ensure a superior entertainment experience. Using event coordinators' extensive knowledge and business partnerships with other affiliates, ACE offers valuable suggestions, collaborative efforts and guidance to create the perfect setting, atmosphere and stress-free experience for your special day. ACE locations are renowned for offering top-notch banquet space with party packages along with first-rate, off-site casual catering services and will even customize a menu to your liking. Regardless of the event, ACE locations will go the extra mile to assist your party-planning efforts.

When you visit an ACE establishment, you are not only ensuring yourself a

fabulous outing, you are also helping others as the company is active in charitable and civic events in every community in which it operates. Be it a dine-in fundraiser or an on-site fundraiser gala, ACE is committed to giving back to the community.

Whether you are hosting a rehearsal dinner or a business party, from 10 people to 1,500 people, ACE has packages to fit your budget and dazzle your guests. After all, the right place is always an ACE place.

.....

TO BOOK AN EVENT, CONTACT:

Jim Earley
Corporate Sales, Catering and Marketing Director
jearley@aceplaces.com
2330 Hammond Drive, Suite G
Schaumburg, IL 60173
Office: 847-303-4425
Mobile: 312-208-0060
Fax: 847-303-0112
AcePlaces.com
AlaCarteSpecialEvents.com

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847-303-4457**

www.alacartespaciaevents.com

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Neighborhood: Northwest Suburbs of Chicago

Clark Street Ale House: A Casual, Fun Setting for Your Next Event

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312-642-9253**

www.clarkstreetalehouse.com

Our event coordinators will assist with all elements, including branding opportunities, catering, cocktails, lighting, sound and every other detail that must be considered for your event. These details will be outlined and carried out for you in advance so that you can spend time with your guests.

Neighborhood: River North

Capacity: 150

Cubby Bear Wrigleyville

**1059 W. Addison St.
Chicago, IL 60613
773-327-1662**

www.cubbybear.com

Cubby Bear Wrigleyville is a 30,000-square-foot venue that specializes in Cubs outings, but can accommodate birthday, corporate and social events ranging from 20-1,200 guests. We offer three private party rooms, each with their own bar, washroom, sound system and numerous plasma TVs.

Neighborhood: Wrigleyville

Capacity: 1,200

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Chicago, IL 60654
312-836-0066**

www.fadoirishpub.com/chicago

Fado Irish Pub is a unique venue to plan a corporate event, client, friends or family gathering. Our warm and welcoming pub creates an atmosphere for celebration, while staff delivers the best of food, drink, and Irish hospitality.

Neighborhood: River North

Capacity: 450

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Neighborhood: Michigan Avenue, Gold Coast

Capacity: 300 guests

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Neighborhood: River North

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Hard Rock Café Private Events & Escape Room

**63 W. Ontario St.
Chicago, IL 60654
312-943-2252**

www.hardrock.com/cafes/chicago

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Neighborhood: River North

Capacity: 650 guests

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**33 W. Kinzie St.
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312-828-0966**

www.harrycarays.com

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Neighborhood: River North

Capacity: 400

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312-527-9700**

www.harrycarays.com/harry-carays-tavern/private-parties

Several areas within the restaurant can be sectioned off for private events, including the space adjacent to the patio—providing guests with an unforgettable night with a spectacular view of Lake Michigan.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago, River East

Capacity: 440

Hofbrauhaus Chicago

**5500 Park Place
Rosemont, IL 60018
847-671-2739**

www.hofbrauhauschicago.com

Dine on authentic German cuisine while enjoying live entertainment every day of the week. Hofbrauhaus can host group events from 15 guests to 1,000 guests. From corporate events and meetings to graduation, birthday and bachelor parties we offer special group menus and drink options.

Neighborhood: Rosemont O'Hare

Capacity: 1,000

Home Run Inn Pizza Group Event Space near Wrigley Field

**3215 N. Sheffield
Chicago, IL 60657
773-525-9696**

www.homerunninpizza.com/location/lakeview

We are located in the Lakeview neighborhood of Chicago, walking distance from Wrigley Field, in the heart of the Belmont Theater District. Our space is perfect for networking before a show, dinner before a Cubs game, client event, company party or a presentation in a casual, welcoming environment.

Neighborhood: Lakeview

Capacity: 220

Howells & Hood, Chicago Restaurant & Pour House

**435 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611
312-262-5310**

www.howellsandhood.com/private-parties-pages-304.php

This restaurant is a vibrant addition to one of Chicago's most beloved and recognizable skyscrapers. With the largest draft beer selection in Chicago, American cuisine with brilliant twists and unmatched hospitality, Howells & Hood is a magnificent complement to Michigan Avenue.

Neighborhood: Michigan Avenue

Capacity: 600 inside (more available if the patio is open)

Jake Melnick's

**41 E. Superior St.
Chicago, IL 60611
312-266-0400**

www.jakemelricks.com

From BBQ ribs and brisket to fresh chopped salads, we're sure to please every palate. Jake Melnick's Corner Tap is a Chicago restaurant with private event space located in River North.

Neighborhood: Gold Coast, River North

Capacity: 220 seated, 400 reception style.

Latinicity

**108 N. State St., Suite #300
Chicago, IL 60602
312-795-4444**

www.latinicity.com

We have a gorgeous space available for weddings and formal dinners, or we can provide a smaller board room that is perfect for lunch meetings or celebrating your friend's birthday.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago

Capacity: 700 guests

**Morton's the Steakhouse Wacker Place
and Original Location on State Street**

65 E. Wacker Place

Chicago, IL 60601

312-201-0410

www.mortons.com/wacker

Morton's The Steakhouse—Wacker Place and Original Location on State Street has been a Chicago staple since 1977. Offering prime steaks from Allen Brothers, legendary service and a meeting planner's dream, with over seven private spaces and a private bar for receptions.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago

Capacity: 250

**River Roast Private Events
on the Chicago River**

315 N. LaSalle St.

Chicago, IL 60654

312-822-0100

www.riverroastchicago.com

Experienced event planning and service teams aim to accommodate and anticipate your needs for a flawless event. Whether you are planning a grand gala for 300 people, or an exclusive affair for eight, the delectable customized menus and exceptional views will impress.

Neighborhood: River North

Capacity: 1,500

**Rockit Burger Bar Wrigleyville
Private Party Space**

3700 N. Clark St.

Chicago, IL 60613

773-645-4400

www.rockitburgerbar.com/parties-events

Corporate or social events, semi-private or private are customized to fit your tastes and budget, just steps away from historic Wrigley Field. Our full-service event experts will handle it all, from menu creation to event production, impressing your guests at every opportunity.

Neighborhood: Wrigleyville

Capacity: 250

Rockit Group & Private Event Space

22 W. Hubbard St.

Chicago, IL 60654

312-645-6000

www.rockitbarandgrill.com

Smaller groups can rent out "sections" of the lounge for groups from 20-100 Guests, 7 days a week.

Venue includes elevator, valet parking attendants, DJ booth, 10 wall-mounted TVs, microphone, DVD players, Wi-Fi and more.

Neighborhood: River North

Capacity: Lounge: Up to 300

Reception Venue Buyout: Up to 400 guests

**Spiaggia Restaurant & Lounge
Interactive Group Experiences**

980 N. Michigan Ave. Third Floor

Chicago, IL 60611

312-280-2750

www.spiaggiarestaurant.com/private_events_story

Spiaggia is Chicago's upscale Italian restaurant located on North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, and has multiple small and large private and semi-private event spaces for corporate events, social parties and special events.

Neighborhood: Michigan Avenue

Capacity: 220 people seated, 300 people reception

Sunda Corporate Events & Parties

110 W. Illinois St.

Chicago, IL 60654

312-644-0500

www.sundachicago.com

Corporate or social events, semi-private or private are guaranteed to impress when you choose "River North's preeminent pan-Asian restaurant" (Dining Chicago). Our full-service event experts will handle it all, from menu creation to event production, impressing your guests at every opportunity.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago, River North

Capacity: 300

**Untitled – Chicago Speakeasy
Private Event & Meeting Space**

111 W. Kinzie St.

Chicago, IL 60654

312-880-1511

www.untitledsupperclub.com

We are available for booking private dining for large parties, corporate functions, business meetings and large semi-private group bookings.

Neighborhood: River North

Capacity: 600

Event Space

19 East

19 E. 21st St.

Chicago, IL 60616

312-487-4973

www.foodforthoughtchicago.com/19east

19 East is a full-service venue for events of all kinds and sizes — from intimate weddings to large-scale fundraisers to high-energy fashion shows.

Neighborhood: South Loop

Capacity: 500 reception/250 seated

**Adeline's Sea Moose –
68' Private Luxury Yacht Rental**

1559 S. Lake Shore Drive

Chicago, IL 60605

224-601-0220

www.chicagoprivateyachtrentals.com

We specialize in hosting corporate outings, social events such as birthdays, anniversaries, high tea, bat mitzvahs, holiday parties, graduations & reunions. We love hosting romantic dinners, marriage proposals.

Neighborhood: River East, Downtown Chicago

Capacity: Charters: 40 people

Sleep aboards: 6 people

**Buddy Guy's Legends Group
& Private Events**

700 S. Wabash Ave.

Chicago, IL 60605

312-427-1190

www.buddyguy.com

With state-of-the-art audio/video equipment, fantastic mainstage ambiance, a private upstairs party room with full bar & pool tables and the best Blues music in Chicago, Buddy Guy's Legends has transformed into Chicago's premier venue for private parties of all sizes!

Neighborhood: South Loop

Capacity: 550

Chicago Elite Private Yachts

455 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive, Suite 2600

Chicago, IL 60611

888-289-8833

www.eliteprivateyachts.com

From corporate outings to weddings and birthday parties, we have packages available that include the cruise, menu, bar and entertainment, all for one price per person. We also have a variety of other entertainment options such as casino, games, live bands, etc.

Neighborhood: River East, Downtown Chicago

Chicago History Museum

1601 N. Clark St.

Chicago, IL 60614

312-642-4600

www.chicagohistory.org/events/host-an-event

From intimate dinners of 30 to outrageous receptions for 1,000, our spaces include reception, dinner, conference, and breakout rooms, as well as a fully renovated theater and 15,000-square-foot outdoor plaza.

The Chicago History Museum is an ideal location!

Neighborhood: Lincoln Park

Capacity: Entire museum: 800; Entire museum + Plaza: 1,500

Chicago Sports Museum

835 N. Michigan Ave. Level 7

Chicago, IL 60611

312-202-0500

www.harrycarays.com/chicago-sports-museum

Neighborhood: Michigan Avenue

The Chicago Sports Museum offers a highly interactive experience for small and large groups, corporate and social, to explore the legends and lore of Chicago sports. Enjoy an inventive culinary selection offering a wide variety of creative menus, including reception stations featuring a spin on American classics to formal multi-course dinner menus.

Capacity: Museum: 300 seated, 700 reception

Private dining room: 50 seated, 75 reception

Venue Buyout: 500+ seated, 1,200 reception

**Chicago Theater Works Interactive
Dinner Theater & Event Space**

1113 W. Belmont Ave.

Chicago, IL 60657

312-391-0404

www.chicagotheaterworks.com

Chicago Theater Works is Chicago's No. 1 interactive dinner theater and event venue, providing a turnkey unique and affordable event space with the option to add dinner, drinks and/or a Chicago-style interactive comedy experience.

Neighborhood: Lakeview

Capacity: 170 guests

Chicago's First Lady Cruises

112 E. Upper Wacker Drive

Chicago, IL 60601

847-358-1330

www.cruisechicago.com

Choose a daytime or evening cruise and select one of our celebrated caterers to design a custom menu perfect for your private event. Guides available for private architecture tours, if desired. River and/or lake cruises available.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago

Capacity: 250

Event Space *(Continued)*

Chicago's Interactive Show Tony N' Tina's Wedding is Great for Groups

3309 N. Seminary Ave.

Chicago, IL 60657

917-359-8592

www.tonylovestina.com

Interactive group outing ideas for corporate groups, bachelor/bachelorette parties, birthday parties, client events, office outings, anniversaries and more near Wrigley Field. At TONY N' TINA'S WEDDING, you're not just a member of the audience - you're part of the family! Private events are available and highly encouraged.

Neighborhood: Lakeview

Conference Chicago at University Center

525 S. State St.

Chicago, IL 60605

877-482-2463

www.universitycenterconference.com

Conference Chicago at University Center is a full-service conference facility located in downtown Chicago, near many of the most popular attractions in the city. We offer 15,000 square feet of modern meeting space, including 10 rooms with flexible room configurations, all at competitive rates.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago

Capacity: 15,000 square feet of meeting and event space

Cuvee

308 W. Erie St.

Chicago, IL 60654

312-202-9221

www.cuveechicago.com

Cuvée is the premier locale for events to be hosted – 5,500 square feet, two expansive bars, lounge seating, state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems are all included in our venue and available for your enjoyment.

Neighborhood: River North

Capacity: 400

Free Spirit Yacht Cruises

Burnham Harbor Dock J, Slips 24 & 25

Chicago, IL 60605

708-361-2220

www.freespiritcruises.com

Have fun this summer! Book your yacht party for your special event in Chicago! We offer two of Chicago's finest yachts available for corporate entertaining, employee appreciation, weddings, showers, graduations, birthdays and afternoon lunches.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago

Capacity: Up to 120 guests

Galleria Marchetti Sets the Tone for Flawless Events

825 W. Erie St.

Chicago, IL 60622

312-563-0495

www.galleriamarchetti.com

With in-house catering and five distinct areas that can be combined into two separate event spaces or one big event space for very large groups, Galleria Marchetti offers endless flexibility to customize your next event.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago

Capacity: 1,200 Cocktail Style

Gleacher Center

450 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive

Chicago, IL 60611

312-464-8787

www.gleachercenter.com

The Gleacher Center was designed in collaboration with the Booth School of Business' world-class faculty to provide the best learning environment available. Training rooms, breakouts, shareholder meetings, private parties, classroom training, seminars, educational conferences, sales meetings and more.

Neighborhood: Steps from Michigan Avenue

Capacity: 50,000 square feet/41 individual meeting rooms

Hangar at Fort Knox Studios Custom Chicago Event Space

4245 N. Knox Ave.

Chicago, IL 60641

630-689-6969

www.fortknoxstudios.com

Fort Knox Studios' new 7,200-square-foot space is perfect for your TV - MUSIC - FILM project. The Hangar can also be converted to meet any of your event needs this holiday season.

Neighborhood: Chicago's Old Irving

Capacity: 700 guests

Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza River North

350 W. Wolf Point Plaza

Chicago, IL 60654

312-836-5000

www.martplaza.com

With some of the most extensive facilities of any hotel in Chicago and featuring 25,000 square feet of flexible function space – the smooth transition of delegates from one meeting to another is seamless. The Mart Plaza offers ballrooms with breathtaking views. We will help you plan just the right menu and serve it with just the right touch.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago, River North

Capacity: 25,000 square feet/50-5,000 guests

Howl at the Moon

26 W. Hubbard St.

Chicago, IL 60654

312-863-7247

www.howlatthemoon.com/chicago/

We have a full-service kitchen, private banquet/meeting facility and dueling pianos that rock music of all genres. We can hold up to 400 guests and we offer singing along to your own customized company song.

Neighborhood: River North

Capacity: 400

Lacuna Event Space near McCormick Place

2150 S. Canalport

Chicago, IL 60608

312-600-9147

www.lacunaeventsbylm.com

Lacuna is also home to many talented Chicago artists and their one-of-a-kind creations can be found throughout the building and used as decor for private events. In the summer months, the rooftop provides stunning views of the city's skyline and is perfect for an outdoor ceremony or cocktail reception.

Neighborhood: South Loop

Capacity: 700

Lake Shore Sport & Fitness Indoor & Outdoor Meeting & Event Spaces

211 N. Stetson Ave.

Chicago, IL 60601

312-856-1111

www.lakeshoresf.com

We provide a variety of unique social and athletic event experiences. These experiences range from: cocktail receptions, holiday parties, bar/bat Mitzvahs, rooftop summer outings, team-building and many more. Our location is two blocks from public transportation and we offer on-site parking.

Neighborhood: River East, Downtown Chicago

Capacity: 500

Loyola University Chicago-Conference & Event Spaces

820 N. Michigan Ave.

Chicago, IL 60611

773-508-8090

www.luc.edu/conference

Offering unique and affordable event solutions, Loyola University Chicago has two picturesque Chicago campuses, Lake Shore and Water Tower, in which to host your overnight conference, day meeting, special event or house visiting guests. Select from state-of-the-art meeting facilities, fully furnished apartment style suites, advanced technology services and gourmet catering.

Neighborhood: Michigan Avenue • **Capacity:** 750

Maggie Daley Park Indoor & Outdoor Holiday Party Event Spaces

337 E. Randolph St.

Chicago, IL 60601

312-552-3918

www.maggiedaleypark.com

With ample lawn space, picnic groves, indoor field-house facility and a two-acre garden, there are locations for events of 10-1,000 people. There are also seasonal activities such as ice skating, rock climbing and mini golf that could be included for events.

Neighborhood: River East, Downtown Chicago

Capacity: 1,000 Guests

Museum of Science and Industry

5700 S. Lake Shore Drive

Chicago, IL 60637

773-753-2583

www.msichicago.org/visit/private-events

The museum offers various event spaces to accommodate a meeting for 20, a seated dinner for 800 or a strolling dinner reception throughout the entire museum for 12,000. Our interactive exhibits and dramatic spaces offer the perfect backdrop for any corporate or social event.

Neighborhood: Chicago • **Capacity:** 1,200

Navy Pier Meeting & Event Spaces

600 E. Grand Ave.

Chicago, IL 60611

800-595-7437

www.navypier.com/events

Navy Pier's historical Grand Ballroom, Lakeview Terrace and Rooftop offer a unique backdrop for events up to 3,000 people. Navy Pier's 170,000 square feet of flexible exhibit space along with 36 meeting rooms offer plenty of options for all types of events.

Neighborhood: River East

Capacity: Over 200,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor meeting and event space.

NIU Naperville Meeting and Conference Facility

**1120 E. Diehl Rd.
Naperville, IL 60563
866-753-0010**

www.niuconferences.com

NIU Naperville Conference Center offers flexible setups in our modern, sun-lit meeting rooms, and advanced technology enhances all types of events in our meeting rooms, computer labs and video conference rooms.

Our IACC-certified space was designed for learning and the perfect choice for your next corporate meeting, professional presentation or group getaway.

Neighborhood: Naperville

Capacity: 700

OFFSITE Chicago Private Meetings & Event Space

560 W. Washington Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60661

312-655-8000

chicago.gooffsite.com/

OFFSITE was built from the ground up with the perfect gathering in mind. From the state-of-the-art A/V system to the comfortable yet versatile decor, our multipurpose facility offers the ideal backdrop for your next board meeting, brainstorming session, focus group, product launch or social event.

Neighborhood: West Loop • **Capacity:** 100

Ravinia Festival Private Dining & Group Events

418 Sheridan Rd.

Highland Park, IL 60035

847-266-5100

www.ravinia.org/page/groupevents

We've got stars on the stage and stars in the sky and it's all within your reach. But there's more to Ravinia than merely the world's greatest music. Levy Restaurants offers an array of dining options at the park.

Neighborhood: Highland Park

Capacity: more than 18,000

Roaring 20's Chicago Interactive Speakeasy Dinner & Event Space

2114 S. Wabash Ave.

Chicago, IL 60616

312-225-0273

www.tommygunsgarage.com

You & your group will be transported back to da 1920s complete wit da boss's 1928 Model Ford, Roaring Twenties music and memorabilia from da Twenties. We can also give you's a show if you want.

We provide semi-customized shows for private events.

Neighborhood: South Loop

Shay

222 W. Ontario St.

Chicago, IL 60654

312-374-4683

www.shaychicago.com

The venue features two bars, lounge seating, state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems, robust catering offerings, expansive windows and customized branding opportunities. Shay is the preeminent destination for cocktail receptions, company outings, launch parties, convention receptions, fundraisers, holiday parties and more.

Neighborhood: River North

Capacity: 500

Spin Chicago Group Outings & Event Spaces

344 N. State St.

Chicago, IL 60654

773-635-9999

www.wearespin.com

SPIN Chicago offers professional Olympic ping pong tables, VIP private lounge spaces, full-service catering and bar service, on-site event sales planners to handle every detail in your event planning. We also offer access to professional ping pong players.

Capacity: 700 Guests

The Metropolitan Club

233 S. Wacker Drive

Chicago, IL 60606

312-876-3200

www.clubcorp.com/clubs/metropolitan-club

Located in the iconic Willis Tower, The Metropolitan Club boasts breathtaking views of Chicago from the 66th and 67th floor. Your private event director can handle all details for your event, providing a one-stop shop; special flowers, linens and entertainment are just a few of the services we can coordinate.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago

Capacity: 400

The Murphy

50 E. Erie St.

Chicago, IL 60611

312-280-8447

www.the-murphy.com

Steps from the Magnificent Mile, the historic John B. Murphy Auditorium has become one of the premier event venues of Chicago. Restored to its original splendor in June 2006, the Murphy is truly one of Chicago's finest architectural jewels.

Neighborhood: River North

Capacity: Banquet-210, Reception-300,

Classroom-164, Theatre-520

The Showroom on Hubbard Historic Event Space

670 W. Hubbard Suite 100

Chicago, IL 60654

630-531-5077

www.showroomonhubbard.com

Neighborhood: River West

The Showroom on Hubbard is an inviting space that features the beauty of sustainability. We also serve as the showroom for Reclaimed Table, a custom, eco-friendly furniture company whose warm, reclaimed wood enhances our contemporary style.

Neighborhood: River West Chicago

Capacity: 125

The Underground

56 W. Illinois St.

Chicago, IL 60654

312-644-7600

www.theundergroundchicago.com/parties-events

The Underground features a unique subway-style entrance, a posh lounge-like interior with plush sofa seating, cocktail tables, three bars, two DJ booths and motion-reactive party lighting creating two purposefully designed spaces that can be booked for large private events or smaller semi-private events.

Neighborhood: River North

Capacity: 450 Total Venue. Split Venue: The Club (325), The Lounge (125)

The Zhou B Art Center

1029 W. 35th St.

Chicago, IL 60609

www.zhoubevents.com

773-823-9600

Your guests will be surrounded by stunning artwork from the renowned Zhou Brothers showcased in 28,000 square feet of bright modern space. Since its inception, the mission of The Zhou B Art Center is to promote and facilitate a cultural dialogue by organizing contemporary art exhibitions and programs of international scope.

Neighborhood: South Loop

Capacity: 1,000

UIC Picnic Grove

800 W. Maxwell St.

Chicago, IL 60607

773-486-7300

www.windycityfieldhouse.com/company-picnics

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Picnic Grove partners with Picnics In Chicago (PIC) to organize corporate picnics and summer outings on its scenic campus.

Neighborhood: South Loop

Capacity: Up to 10,000 people

Venue One Chicago

1034 W. Randolph St.

Chicago, IL 60607

312-605-8300

www.venueonechicago.com

Featuring sweeping views of the Chicago skyline, the venue houses over 20,000 square feet of multi-level, open event space and state-of-the-art technical capabilities. Whether a seated dinner, an intimate social function or a grand cocktail reception, let the event creative team help host your next event.

Neighborhood: West Loop

Capacity: 800



Corporate Activities

Absolutely Chicago Segway Tours

238 E. Monroe
Chicago, IL 60603
312-552-5100

www.chicagosegways.com

Absolutely Chicago Segway Tours gets people out of the meeting room and into the fresh air for an adventure to remember. It's perfect for groups, single travelers or team-building events. Our on-site owners will make sure our guests are given first-class service.
Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago

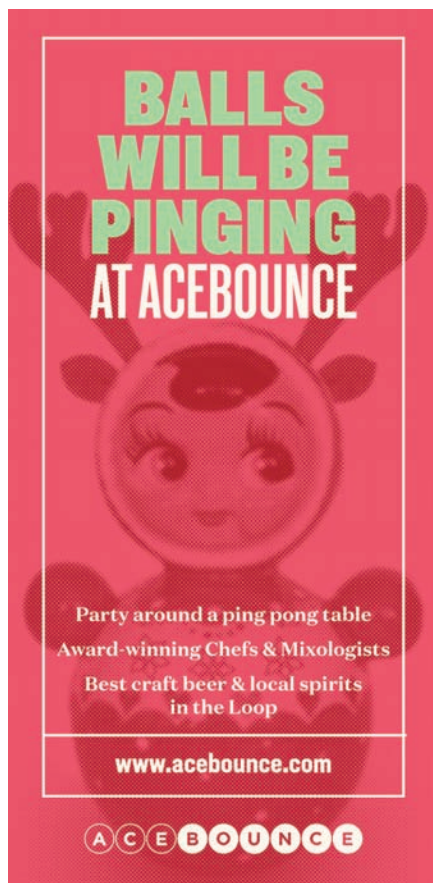
AceBounce

230 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60601
773-219-0900

www.acebounce.com

Celebration party, team building, networking event, product launch? You name it, we'll knock it out of the park. Our formula is simple. For a legendary event, we combine the unexpected fun of partying around a ping pong table with impeccable hospitality to create a truly unique and memorable experience. To take it to the next level we have Games Guru entertainers at the ready, who excel at getting every last guest smashing balls and laughing with the best of them. A must-have for the ultimate AceBounce experience. Perfectly positioned in downtown Chicago, we have tailored spaces and custom options for parties from six to 550 guests. AceBounce has two-semi private raised areas with ample seating and two ping pong tables at the side of the main playing space, overlooking the bar, for up to 50 guests.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago • **Capacity:** 100



**BALLS
WILL BE
PINGING
AT ACEBOUNCE**

Party around a ping pong table
Award-winning Chefs & Mixologists
Best craft beer & local spirits
in the Loop

www.acebounce.com

ACEBOUNCE

CEI, Chicago's Team Building Company

400 E. Randolph
Chicago, IL 60601
312-540-1000

www.corpevent.com

CEI - Chicago's Team Building Company - your local partner for engaging team building and charitable team experiences. Building on 25+ years of service, CEI designs and produces original programs to enhance attendees' experience.

Neighborhood: All of Chicagoland

Chicago Helicopter Experience Group Outings & Corporate Events Indoor & Outdoor

2420 S. Halsted St.
Chicago, IL 60608
312-967-8687

www.chicagohelicopterexperience.com

Host and fly up to 500 guests in our customizable indoor and outdoor space and treat everyone to the ride of their life on a helicopter experience. Party on the tarmac and deliver the most memorable experience in Chicago to your company or client event.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago • **Capacity:** 250 guests

Crafts & Drafts Mobile Interactive Arts & Crafts Parties

Chicago, IL
www.crafts-drafts.com

Crafts & Drafts invites you to tap into your crafty side! We are a completely mobile business hosting arts and crafts parties around Chicago.

Neighborhood: All of Chicagoland

CSZ Chicago - ComedySportz

929 W. Belmont Ave.
Chicago, IL 60657
773-549-8080

www.cszchicago.com

ComedySportz performances are always clean, fast-paced and very interactive. Private performances are customized to your audience. Corporate training, team-building customer service training, communication and leadership development, sales training employee engagement.

Neighborhood: Lakeview, Lincoln Park • **Capacity:** 150

Do Good Bus

Chicago, IL
888-398-8326

www.teambonding.com/programs/do-good-bus

Your team never knows where they'll end up and what they might end up doing. Do you want to support a local cause? Does your team love chocolate? Ever dreamed of becoming a spy? Theme your hunt to target your team's interests.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago, River North

Firehouse Team Building – Firefighter-Based Team Development Program

1100 National Pkwy.
Schaumburg, IL 60173
847-824-3473

www.firezoneschaumburg.weebly.com

Firehouse Team Building is the first firefighter-based team development program in the country. Firehouse Team Building is a one-of-a-kind experience featuring scenario-based activities and skills taught by real firefighters.

FTW Corporate Events & Team Building

River East Center, 322 Illinois St.
Chicago, IL 60611

312-245-8331

www.forthewinenentertainment.com/locations/chicago

FTW Chicago specializes in a wide range of events from corporate events, team building or fundraisers to holiday parties, birthdays, bachelor/bachelorette parties or rehearsal dinners and showers.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago • **Capacity:** 600

GOTEK- High Tech Chicago Scavenger Hunts Chicago, IL

888-398-8326

www.teambonding.com/programs/team-building-savenger-hunts

GoTek uses gamification to engage participants, the "Process of using game thinking and game mechanics to solve problems and engage audiences." Put simply, it means that you'll get far better results from your group if you engage them within a game environment.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago

HT Company Picnic Grounds, Events and Team Building

www.htpicnics.com

Our venue can accommodate up to 2,500 guests and offers two go-kart tracks plus a junior kart track, two award-winning miniature golf courses, laser tag arena, amusement rides, batting cages and hundreds of sports and redemption games.

Capacity: up to 2,500 guests

iFLY Indoor Skydiving for Group Outings (Rosemont, Lincoln Park, Naperville)

779-456-4359

www.iflyworld.com

If you are looking for an all-inclusive venue, iFLY is the place for you. We have tailored space that can accommodate group outings, special events, product launches, corporate parties or team-building events. We would love to have your group experience the dream of flight!

Neighborhood: Rosemont O'Hare, Lincoln Park, Naperville • **Capacity:** 151-214

Improve It Chicago

Chicago, IL
312-561-5543

www.improveitchicago.com

Improve It! is on a mission to provide high-energy, laughter-filled corporate team-building workshops that feature professionally-trained improvisers. Improve It!'s corporate performances will have your team roaring with laughter, and their highly-interactive workshops will enhance your team's cohesion and communication skills.

Kane County Cougars Stadium Group & Private Events

34W002 Cherry Lane
Geneva, IL 60134
630-232-8811

www.kccougars.com

The stadium holds nearly 11,000 fans, with private and semi-private catering areas available for groups from 20 to 11,000. Special character appearances are scattered throughout the summer, and we have over 25 post-game fireworks shows each season!

Neighborhood: Geneva • **Capacity:** 20-11,000 guests

Lucky Strike Chicago

**322 E. Illinois St.
Chicago, IL 60611
312-245-8331**

www.bowlluckystrike.com/locations/chicago

With 18 state-of-the-art lanes and our many big screens located throughout the venue, Lucky Strike Chicago is a great place to have a group outing, special event, corporate party or team-building event.

Neighborhood: River East, Downtown Chicago

Capacity: 1,000

Murphy's Rooftop Overlooking Wrigley Field

**3655 N. Sheffield Ave.
Chicago, IL 60613**

312-871-1637

www.murphysrooftop.com

Book Murphy's rooftop for up to 80 guests and enjoy a Cubs game in style from atop Murphy's Bleachers. Take part in a Wrigley Field tradition that goes back to the first Opening Day in 1914 by watching baseball from a rooftop overlooking Sheffield Avenue.

Neighborhood: Wrigleyville

Capacity: Murphy's Rooftop 80 people —
Occupancy 100

Parties That Cook

**917 W. Washington Blvd. #107
Chicago, IL 60607
888-907-2665**

www.partiesthatcook.com/chicago-venue-options

Perfect for team building, client entertainment, recruitment and holiday parties, guests put on an apron and collaborate to cook a delicious gourmet meal from start to finish.

Picnics in Chicago

**2367 W. Logan Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60647**

773-486-7300

www.windycityfieldhouse.com/company-picnics

Picnics In Chicago (PIC) provides fantastic interactive, all-inclusive outdoor or indoor picnic packages at the best venues throughout the Chicagoland area. PIC also delivers you with a highly engaging and entertaining environment for employees and families of all ages.

Capacity: We have many picnic venues to choose from throughout Chicagoland & Chicago suburbs

Scavenger Hunts in Chicago

**2367 W. Logan Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60647**

773-486-7300

www.windycityfieldhouse.com/scavenger-hunts

Scavenger Hunts In Chicago (SHIC) is Chicago's largest provider of exciting and creative "Mission Impossible" Scavenger Hunts and Great "Amazing Races" taking place at locations throughout the city and suburbs.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago

Teambonding

**Chicago, IL
888-398-8926**

www.teambonding.com/location/chicago

Whether your event is for 10 or 1,200, we'll take care of everything. Through our simple process, we get to know you and your goals. Then, we choose our best people who will go above and beyond to ensure your team-building activity goes off without a hitch.

Neighborhood: All of Chicagoland

The Second City

**1616 N. Wells St.
Chicago, IL 60614
312-337-3992**

www.secondcity.com/private-parties/chicago

We offer a number of theater spaces, food and beverage service, restaurant dining, customized entertainment and workshops — all under one roof. With three theaters and shows seven nights a week, we can accommodate groups of 15-500 people looking for a fun and uniquely Chicago experience.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago

Capacity: 500

Topgolf Naperville Meeting & Event Space

**3211 Odyssey Court
Naperville, IL 60563**

630-596-1000

www.topgolf.com/us/naperville

Topgolf Naperville is a three-level, 65,000-square-foot venue with 102 hitting bays, a full-service restaurant and bars, a rooftop terrace, a gaming lounge and more. Topgolf Naperville is an event venue perfect for meetings, fundraisers, trade shows, conferences, private dining, client entertainment and team-building events/activities.

Neighborhood: West Suburban Chicago

Capacity: Events & private space for 12–1,200

WCF Team Building & Corporate Events

2367 W. Logan Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60647

773-486-7403

www.windycityfieldhouse.com

Windy City Fieldhouse (WCF) is the Midwest's largest team building and corporate entertainment company dedicated to assisting its clients in the creation of exceptional and memorable interactive events throughout the Chicagoland area. Whether your event is in the city, the suburbs or at WCF's 55,000-square-foot raw entertainment venue, you will have a fabulous time.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago

Capacity: 3,500 people

Whirlyball Chicago

**1825 W. Webster Ave.
Chicago, IL 60614**

773-486-7777

www.whirlyball.com

WhirlyBall is the most complete venue in Chicagoland that offers flexible meeting facilities and event space, full A/V capabilities, a creative F&B menu and a variety of other entertainment options including laser tag and bowling, too!

Neighborhood: Wicker Park

Capacity: 1,200

Whirlyball Vernon Hills

**285 Center Drive
Vernon Hills, IL 60061**

847-918-0800

www.whirlyball.com/location-vernonhills

WhirlyBall combines lacrosse, hockey, basketball and souped-up bumper cars in a game of skill and chance. If that's not enough, add a climbing wall, state-of-the-art laser tag, great food, fully-loaded sports bar, video games, foosball, pool and a broad range of customizable catering options from simple to elegant.

Neighborhood: Vernon Hills

Capacity: 450

Windy City "Cake Boss" Challenge,

**Chicago, IL
Chicago, IL**

773-486-7300

www.windycityfieldhouse.com/portfolio/cake-boss-challenge

The "Cake Boss" Challenge is designed to re-energize your team while boosting morale and improving teamwork. Focusing on communication, creativity and thinking outside the box, this program is the perfect balance of fun and creative team building.

Capacity: 3,500

Windy City Mousetrap Race Car Challenge

Chicago, IL

773-486-7300

www.windycityfieldhouse.com/team-building/mousetrap-race-car-challenge

Challenge your team in a competitive and fun environment to improve communication, dare to think outside the box and persevere through unexpected challenges. Building a race car from a mousetrap is harder than it looks — see what your teams are capable of doing.

Neighborhood: Downtown Chicago, Rosemont O'Hare, Michigan Avenue, Lakeview, Lincoln Park, Schaumburg, Highland Park, Logan Square

Capacity: 3,500

Windy City Team Challenge, Chicago, IL

Chicago, IL

773-486-7300

www.windycityfieldhouse.com/team-challenge

The Windy City team works with you to determine the key impacts you want for the event and, in turn, selects from a vast list of activities to customize an event designed to meet your unique mission and objectives.

Capacity: 3,500

Event Services

AAA Rental System

Chicago, IL

312-836-7859

www.aaarental.com

Since 1927, the AAA family has been in the customer service business. We rent equipment that is used for both large and small parties, events and festivals throughout the Chicago area and, on occasion, nationally.

A-Z Entertainment

847-537-5100

www.azentertainment.com

A-Z Entertainment DJs also produce interactive dance parties, corporate game shows, fashion shows, and fundraisers.

Neighborhood: All of Chicagoland

"All That Jazz" Chicago Revue

Chicago, IL

www.mystiqueproductions.com

The revue, designed especially for the corporate event setting, is primarily driven by the recognizable music from the 1920's - including many classic tunes and medleys that evoke the spirit of Chicago and many other jazz, swing and blues favorites.

Neighborhood: All of Chicagoland

Event Services (Continued)

Aries Charter Transportation

4525 W. Grenshaw St.

Chicago, IL 60624

773-826-2000

www.ariescharter.com

Book a charter bus or private car for travel groups, corporations, weddings, proms, special occasions, sporting events and more. Serving the Chicagoland area for over 20 years, Aries Charter Transportation is your group transportation expert.

Bruce Wolf

Chicago, IL 60610

When you think of Chicago media, Bruce Wolf is in the top celebrity ranks and grabs an audience with stories about sports legends and TV stars bringing a motivational message which relates to everyone.

Casino Party Planners

14737 Drexel Ave.

Dolton, IL 60419

630-628-8150

www.casinopartyplanners.com

With over 30 years of event-planning experience, our highly professional team specializes in bringing the thrill and excitement of Las Vegas directly to your private home party, charitable fundraiser or corporate event.

Neighborhood: All of Chicagoland

Chicago Media Celebrities Bob Sirott and Marianne Murciano are for Hire!

Chicago, IL

With a longtime fan-base on the air and now on social media, they are fixtures on the Chicago media landscape. They're true veterans of TV and radio with successful careers in broadcasting and communications.

Celebration Authority Party & Event Rentals

220 S. Shaddle Ave.

Mundelein, IL 60060

847-566-3006

www.celebrationauthority.com

We supply inflatables, climbing walls & sports inflatables, inflatable obstacle course, boxing rings, mechanical bull rental, bounce house, moonwalks, slides, giant slide rentals, water slide and water inflatables rentals, event rentals. Tents, tables, chairs, decor, catering and concessions.

Chicago Honey Bear Dancers

Chicago, IL

630-863-2623

www.chicagohoneybeardancers.com

Chicago Honey Bear Dancers provide customized entertainment for corporate events, trade shows, casinos, conventions, private parties, resorts, military bases, fairs, festivals and special events.

Chicago Kiddie Trains

3121 Jackson Drive

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

847-394-4312

www.chicagokiddietrain.com

The Great Chicago Kiddie Express is available for rental seven days week inside or out. The train will carry 15 to 20 children in its four cars or a reduced number of adults. Train rental includes engineer and helper.

Dance All Night

1340 Woodland Lane

Riverwoods, IL 60015

847-940-9788

www.danceallnight.com

Video projection and live video simulcasts, sound systems, lighting and special effects. Disc jockeys and karaoke too! Recent clients include Hillary Clinton, Kanye West, Bill Cosby, Dennis Miller, John Legend, Ludacris, Pink, USO: Guantanamo Bay – Cuba. Est. 1977. Celebrating over 25 years.

DANCE Spectacular Productions

Chicago, IL 60654

630-863-2623

www.dancespectacularproductions.com

Producing customized song and dance performances worldwide for more than 40 years, DANCE Spectacular Productions works with event planners who are planning conferences, conventions, trade shows, meetings, receptions and special events where we customize entertainment packages to meet specific needs and budgets. Tell us your theme or branded message and we will create a performance tailored just for you. Our spectacular dance routines (some performances incorporate our production singers) can be performed in front of conservative corporate crowds or casual festive audiences. DANCE Spectacular Productions enables you to customize your show package with a branded message and theme. We offer show lengths ranging from one to 60 minutes; provide the number of performers and performances of your choosing; and supply a meet-and-greet where performers interact with guests in themed costumes or company-branded attire.

David Ranalli Magician & Corporate Emcee

Chicago, IL

877-506-1687

www.davidranalli.com

David typically provides his stage show of magic and mind reading as after-dinner entertainment or integrated into a conference program. His close-up magic is great for cocktail receptions and networking events.

Edward Fox Event Photography & Video

6133 N. Northwest Hwy., Suite A

Chicago, IL 60631

773-736-0200

www.edwardfox.com

Edward Fox is the source for all your corporate photography and video needs. Conferences, trade shows, award presentations, golf outings, large groups and individual portraits and special events. Same-day and next-day service available. Providing online viewing and ordering to allow all attendees to view images.

FM Stars Band Corporate Entertainers

Chicago, IL

www.fmstars.com

We play top 40, dance pop, country, rock and just about everything you hear on the radio today. We love entertaining corporate audiences as well as private and special events, festivals and clubs around Chicagoland.

Neighborhood: Chicagoland



Game Show Gurus

Your Exciting Alternative to Boring Meetings and Events

We can provide a variety of game shows that simulate your favorite TV shows or bring our unique spin. A few interactive game shows commonly booked for holiday events include:

- Survey Says • Category Challenge • Trivia Blitz
- What The ____ (Blank) • Versus • Win It In A Minute
- Get Wired For This • Says Who? • Talent Hunt
- Guess The Price • Extreme Glow Bingo • Celebrity Game Party



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847-781-7033

www.gameshowgurus.com

Serious game shows cannot be produced by a "DJ" company with a "game show." They require a special combination, special knowledge and special skills from qualified, college-educated professionals. We are Game Show Gurus. Your final answer in mobile game show production. We spend every moment of every day developing new interactive programs that are unique, thinking of ways to simulate TV game shows in a cost-effective way for corporate use while making changes to keep their lawyers happy and collecting all of the resources in the market concerning game show production, including software, hardware, scenery, lights, sound, video and more. Because we are located in a central metropolitan location, and unlike almost all of our competitors, we produce game shows at various production levels to meet the budget of any type of event.

Harris Kal Productions

Chicago, IL 60061

847-579-0504

www.harriskal.com

At age 10, he joined the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) and took his first acting job at the Goodman Theater playing Mamillius in "A Winter's Tale." He is also an alum of Chicago's famed Second City.

Neighborhood: All of Chicagoland

Intermedia Meetings & Events

736 N. Western Ave. #389

Lake Forest, IL 60045

847-295-6400

Intermedia Meetings & Events is a full-service meeting management company that provides customized meeting and event management solutions, "The Meeting Planning Experience" - a proprietary on-site training program for non-traditional planners and association management services for organizations.

Island Dreams Corporate Music Entertainment

Chicago, IL

773-707-2222

www.islanddreamsmusic.com

We offer Live Music in the Chicago area for holiday parties, corporate events, receptions, weddings, and parties. You are sure to be pleased with our ability to offer authentic and unique styles of music, including Caribbean, steel drum, calypso, salsa, mambo, Latin jazz, jazz, dance and swing.

Lori Brittin

www.loribrittingroup.com

Whether it's an office holiday party, a corporate function, a not-for-profit gala, a wedding or an intimate reception, Lori's music can either be front and center or provide a great background effect for your event.

Michael Grandinetti is Not Your Ordinary Entertainer

818-497-8759

www.michaelgrandinetti.com

As an in-demand corporate entertainer, Michael Grandinetti is renowned for combining stunning visual illusions with a company's brand, message and executives to convey their product benefits in a unique, compelling, fun and, most importantly, memorable way.

Most Sought-After Corporate Comedian Tom Dreesen

Los Angeles, CA

818-789-3390

www.tomdreesen.com

Tom Dreesen has appeared countless times in Las Vegas, Tahoe, Reno and Atlantic City with artists like Smokey Robinson, Liza Minnelli, Natalie Cole and Sammy Davis, Jr. He has recorded comedy albums, starred in his own TV comedy special and hosted a late-night talk show in Chicago.

Pettycash Band Chicago

Chicago, IL

773-213-1003

www.pettycashband.com

So what happens when five musicians who love amazing music get together for good times & great tunes? PETTYCASH! Songs you know? CHECK. Singing along allowed? CHECK. Dancing in the aisles to your favorite songs? REQUIRED!

Neighborhood: All of Chicagoland

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Schiller Park, IL 60176
800-871-7627

www.smartcarsinc.com

By 2000 SMART Cars, Inc. had added other vehicle types to its offerings. These now include Limousines, SUVs, Vans, mini-Buses, Trolleys and Coach Buses. In addition, SMART Cars, Inc. introduced its automatic message alerts system.

Neighborhood: All of Chicagoland

Sogo Marketing

160 Eisenhower Ln N
Lombard, IL 60148
331-642-0337

www.sogomarketingagency.com

SOGO Marketing is a nimble group of marketing professionals with big agency experience. We develop sound strategy and are always true to the brand.

The Caroling Connection

Chicago, IL
630-492-0487

www.thecarolingconnection.com

The Caroling Connection is a quartet of Dickensian costumed a cappella singers who sing four-part holiday songs to provide an almost magical experience to our audience, helping to make holiday memories that last a lifetime.

The Chicago Rat Pack

Chicago, IL
800-664-5777

www.chicagoratpack.com

The Chicago Rat Pack performance can be anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes, performed to CD tracks. The celebrity impersonators are authentic character actors and can combine walkaround meet-and-greet before or after their show.

Neighborhood: All of Chicagoland

The Convention Store

405 Headquarters Drive, Suite 7
Millersville, MD 21108
800-285-0001

www.theconventionstore.com

The Convention Store (TCS) provides transportation system design and management for conventions, trade shows, sporting events, airports, parking facilities and special events. No matter how small or large your event is, TCS is the one-stop-shop for all your shuttle bus and transportation needs.

Neighborhood: Chicagoland

Total Event Resources

1920 Thoreau Drive, Suite 105
Schaumburg, IL 60173
847-397-2200

www.total-event.com

Under the leadership of President Kathy Miller, Total Event Resources has worked with Fortune 500 companies and associations nationwide in the management and production of their major events, trade shows and meetings.

Travis Inc

920 E. State Pkwy.
Schaumburg, IL 60173
847-843-1313

www.travisav.com

We liberate our clients from the technical logistics so that they may focus on the other aspects of their event. Let's face it, any company can deliver equipment. We hit our mark for successful events consistently by executing a plan, but planning for the unexpected.

Neighborhood: Schaumburg

Upbeat Music Productions, Corporate Event Band, Chicago Wedding Band

3615 N. Ashland Ave.
Chicago, IL 60613-4789
773-593-2431

www.upbeatmusicproductions.com

THE UPBEAT BAND, a dynamic 10-piece orchestra – UpBeat Orchestra, a 14 piece orchestra – The Michael Cascio Orchestra, a jazz group – Michael Cascio Trio or jazz quartet for reception music, a string quartet for classical ceremony music, solo piano or strolling violin, a blues group or a custom theme for a corporate gala.

U.S. Poker & Casino Parties

820 Eagle Drive
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www.uspokercasinoparties.com

We pride ourselves on making your event a resounding success by providing you with the very best in elegant casino tables, fun and professional dealers, entertainment and casino theme decor. We are one of the longest standing providers of casino night parties in Chicago.

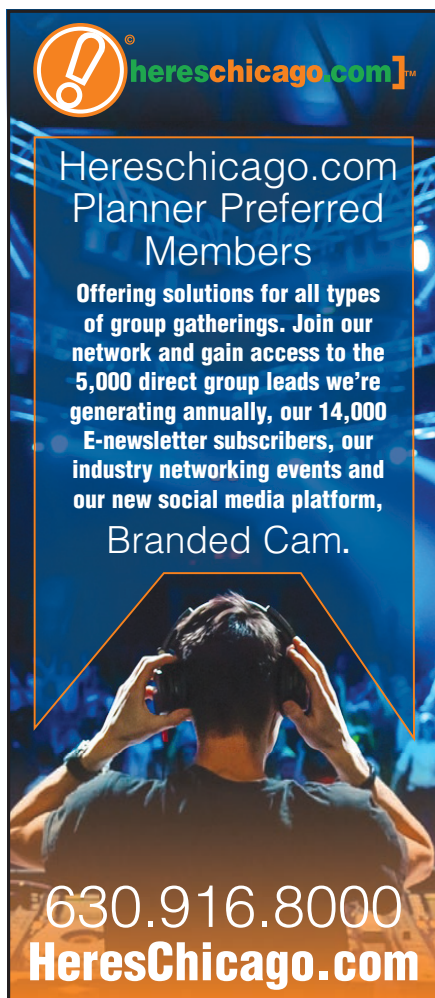
V.I.P. Valet Services

Chicago, IL 60610
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www.vipvalet.com

At V.I.P. Valet Services, our family extends beyond our employees. Since the beginning of our operations, our customers have known us personally and have been with us throughout the growth of our business. We would like to develop the same relationship with you as a meeting, conference or event planner. As a client of V.I.P. you rely on us to establish an immediate and positive rapport with your customer. In this manner, we create the first impression your customer has about the quality of your establishment. We pride ourselves both in the quality of service and the professionalism of our personnel. We provide a number of services including valet parking, traffic control, parking attendants, coat check & greeting attendants and parking management & consulting.

Neighborhood: All of Chicagoland



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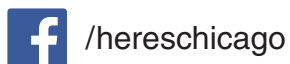
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