VENUE GUIDE

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY
BEHRING CENTER

Smithsonian
SMITHSONIAN’S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

ABOUT THE VENUE

Make your next event an historic occasion at the National Museum of American History! You and your guests can explore America’s past at a very special event. Corporations, associations, and individuals have an opportunity unavailable anywhere else: to rent the Museum for a daytime meeting, reception, or dinner adjacent to highly acclaimed exhibitions which tell the extraordinary story of the American people.

Exhibitions such as *The Star-Spangled Banner*, *The American Presidency*, *First Ladies*, *The Price of Freedom*, *American Enterprise*, and *America on the Move* feature artifacts which include Thomas Jefferson's lap desk, George Washington’s uniform, Julia Child’s kitchen, Dorothy's Ruby Slippers and thousands more. In season, the Museum’s two terraces with fabulous views of the Washington Monument are also available for daytime, evening events or wedding receptions. Receptions for as many as 3,500 guests or a seated dinner for 10 to 350 guests can be arranged in a variety of event spaces chosen to fit your group.

Please contact the Office of Special Events for specific pricing and availability at NMAHSpecialEvents@si.edu or 202-633-3306.
About the Space

Flag Hall is located at the entrance to the Star-Spangled Banner Gallery providing your guests with exclusive access to our most treasured object—the flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the poem that became our national anthem. This venue, which serves as the Museum’s “town square,” features vaulted ceilings, a skylight, and a large sculpture of an abstract flag that shimmers wonderfully when lit and provides the perfect backdrop for a speaker, band, or other entertainment. Flag Hall is surrounded on three sides by our third floor balcony, which provides an excellent location for a cocktail reception prior to dinner or a space for guests who want to feel like they are part of the action without being part of the crowd.

O’ Say does that Star - Spangled Banner yet wave,
O’er the land of the free, and the home of the brave

Capacity
Reception Capacity: 500+
Seated Dinner: 350
FLAG HALL
Unity Square opened as part of the Museum’s new wing celebrating “the nation we build together.” The wing also encompasses exhibitions that correspond with this theme including: *American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith,* and *Many Voices, One Nation*  an exhibition on immigration and migration’s effect on the peopling of America.

This venue showcases one of the Museum’s most famous objects  a section of the lunch counter at the Woolworth’s store in Greensboro, North Carolina that started the sit in movement in the fight for civil rights. In addition, the space features a wall of windows along with access to the outdoor Mall Terrace providing guests with views of the Washington Monument, National Mall, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

**Capacity**

- Cocktail Reception: 300
- Seated Dinner: 200
- Seated Breakfast or Lunch: 180
The Performance Plaza is centrally located in the Museum’s Innovation Wing, which showcases American Enterprise – an 8,000 square foot exhibition on business history, The Value of Money – an exhibition in the numismatics gallery, and Places of Invention – an exhibition that explores how geographical areas impact invention. The Performance Plaza features a built-in stage and demonstration kitchen that can be used for remarks, musical performances, cooking demonstrations, and much more, making this space perfect for seated dinners, cocktail receptions, and presentations.

**Capacity**
- Cocktail Reception: 500
- Seated Dinner: 250
- Theater Style: 275
The Presidential Reception Suite is available for daytime and evening events. As the Museum’s most formal and intimate space, the Suite has been used as a holding space for numerous celebrities and government officials including Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Cabinet Members. The Suite is a perfect location for a daytime meeting or lunch, or a small evening dinner or VIP holding area.

**Capacity**

Reception Capacity: 80  
Seated Lunch or Dinner: 70
About the Space

The theater is available for a variety of evening programming including movie premieres, film screenings, concerts, and lectures.

Capacity
Theater Style: 261
ROOFTOP TERRACE

ABOUT THE SPACE

The Museum’s Rooftop Terrace provides guests with a fabulous view stretching from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial and is available for daytime and evening events with up to 350 guests.

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Weddings

Be one of the first to host your wedding among some of the nation’s most treasured objects at the National Museum of American History!

With rooftop space providing panoramic views spanning from the Capitol to the Washington Monument and beyond, the possibilities are endless to make your wedding a spectacular event!
SPECIAL EVENTS OFFICE
NMAHSpecialEvents@si.edu
Phone: 202-633-3306

Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets, NW
Washington, DC 20560
http://americanhistory.si.edu/specialevents