EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS UNFOLD

at the CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
The California Academy of Sciences is not your average venue. Home to an aquarium, planetarium, and natural history museum, it offers a universe of possibilities under one living roof. Host your event here, and you may find that the evening takes on a life of its own.
As daylight fades in Golden Gate Park... 

...the evening ushers in new wonders.
Public exhibits transform... into private retreats.
Stunning architectural spaces...

...are filled with a new cast of characters...
and the far-from-ordinary...

...becomes extraordinary.
Imagine dining with damselfish, mingling amidst butterflies, dancing beneath a blue whale, and—after a quick trip through the Milky Way—relaxing with a cocktail by the coral reef. At the California Academy of Sciences, finding the life of the party isn’t just a metaphor—it’s a daily occurrence.

**Aquarium**
Home to more than 38,000 live animals from around the world—including elegant moon jellies, expertly-camouflaged sea dragons, and a 165-pound giant sea bass—the aquarium offers a variety of scenic settings and countless conversation-starters.

**Planetarium**
Inside the world’s largest all-digital planetarium, visitors can embark on a journey to the farthest reaches of the Universe—and gain an astronaut’s view of our home planet. Each show is presented by an Academy expert and features the latest astronomical data and discoveries.

**Natural History Museum**
When your guests have the opportunity to take a virtual safari through Africa, visit the remote islands of Madagascar and the Galápagos, or catch up on the latest scientific discoveries around the globe, the world really is their oyster.

**Rainforest**
A symphony of croaking frogs and chirping birds welcomes visitors to this four-story living rainforest. After climbing past geckos and chameleons to meet colorful butterflies in the forest canopy, guests board a glass elevator and descend into the watery world of the flooded Amazon.

The charismatic penguins in African Hall are always a crowd favorite.
Dive into the world’s deepest living coral reef display, where thousands of reef fish dart through a technicolor forest of coral.

Travel across a continent by exploring African Hall. A unique mix of traditional dioramas and living exhibits makes for an unforgettable experience.

Bask among the reptilian stars of the Swamp exhibit—a rare albino alligator and the alligator snapping turtles that keep him company.

Gaze up at the night sky from the deck of the Academy’s iconic Living Roof. It’s the perfect place to search for shooting stars.

Soar past the Milky Way to search for new planets, and gain new perspective on our own—the only planet currently known to support life.

Climb into the canopy of the four-story Rainforests of the World exhibit, and come nose-to-beak with dozens of colorful songbirds.
The California Academy of Sciences has twelve unique spaces available for private events: the Forum on Level 2, the Aquarium on the Lower Level, and ten spaces on the ground floor. Choose the space that’s right for you, or book the entire building and let your guests explore.
African Hall

Square footage: 4,800  
Reception capacity: 400  
Seated capacity: 280

African Hall is a self-contained, carpeted space surrounded by traditional and living dioramas representing regions throughout the African continent. At the far end, the African Penguins are the star attraction. Perfect for seated dinners, dancing, and events with elements that encourage guests to move through the space.

Aquarium

Square footage: N/A  
Reception capacity: 350  
Seated capacity: 100

Ideal for cocktail receptions, smaller seated dinners, wedding ceremonies and more, the Aquarium is a dramatically-lit space filled with thousands of diverse and fantastic animals. The Aquarium is exhibit-rich and encourages social interaction and networking. Touchable Discovery Tide Pool available.

Piazza

Square footage: 5,900  
Reception capacity: 500  
Seated capacity: 350

Used for larger seated dinners, live entertainment, presentations, DJs, and proms, the Piazza is an open-air space for fair-weather events. Glass walls and ceilings allow for views of the evening sky and surrounding exhibits. Four large palms feature prominently in the space, which is well-suited to creative décor.

Main Lobby

Square footage: 4,100  
Reception capacity: details upon request  
Seated capacity: details upon request

The Main Lobby is an ideal space for registration, gift bag distribution, and other introductory affairs. A T-rex skeleton provides a dramatic welcome for your guests. Must be booked in conjunction with another space.

Download full-size floor plans at www.calacademy.org/visit/plan_an_event
East Pavilion Exhibit Hall

Square footage: 10,000
Reception capacity: 400
Seated capacity: 200
Let your guests explore engaging interactive exhibits throughout the evening in this versatile space. The East Pavilion is great for smaller seated meals, dancing, and DJs, and also works well as a setup area for buffets or music. Combines well with the adjacent African Hall space. Garden terrace included.

West Pavilion Exhibit Hall

Square footage: 10,000
Reception capacity: 400
Seated capacity: 200
The West Pavilion is ideal for group seated dinners, presentations, receptions, and wedding ceremonies. The space features immersive natural history exhibits and views into the Rainforest and the West Garden. Garden terrace included.

Swamp

Square footage: 5,000
Reception capacity: 300
Seated capacity: 200
Featuring tall columns and other impressive architectural elements, the Swamp space is ideal for seated dinners and presentations. During the event, guests can wander over to visit with Claude—the Academy’s albino alligator—and his reptilian tankmates. DJs and dancing also work well in this space. Extended seating can be arranged.

Forum

Square footage: 4,000
Reception capacity: 400
Seated capacity: 280
The Forum contains both a Gallery and a Theater, separated by a moveable wall. Use the Theater’s retractable seating, projector, and screen for a presentation or 3D film, and the Gallery for refreshments—or open the space up, bring in a live band, and dance the night away. Availability is limited and based on exhibit schedule.

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Planetarium

Square footage: 1,300 (Dark Adapt area only)
Reception capacity: 70 (Dark Adapt area only)
Seated capacity: 50 (Dark Adapt area only)

In the world’s largest all-digital planetarium, take a trip to faraway galaxies, or host your own lecture or ceremony. The Dark Adapt area is a unique location for small dinners or receptions. The Planetarium can be booked independently or as part of a larger event. Theater capacity is 296. Includes an HD projector with Blu-Ray capabilities. No food or drink permitted in the theater.

Board Room

Square footage: 1,250
Reception capacity: 120
Seated capacity: 70

The Academy Board Room is an intimate space well-suited for lectures, presentations, and seated or buffet lunches. Tables and chairs included, along with state-of-the-art AV capabilities and an adjacent reception area.

Rainforest

Square footage: n/a
Reception capacity: 275
Seated capacity: n/a

An exciting addition to any event, the Rainforests of the World dome offers four stories of exhibits filled with hundreds of live animals. Appropriate live music is permitted. Must be rented in conjunction with another space. No food or drink permitted. The Rainforest closes at 8:00 PM.

Academy Cafe & Moss Room Restaurant

Square footage: n/a
Reception capacity: 100
Seated capacity: 79

Featuring a 44-foot-long fish tank along the north wall, the Academy Café is an ideal location for pre-dinner receptions. Downstairs, the elegant Moss Room restaurant’s private dining room is perfect for a small gathering—or buy out the entire venue for a truly lavish affair.
A successful event requires expert staff, and you’ll meet only the best at the California Academy of Sciences. Find them setting up the museum, assisting your guests, and working behind the scenes to keep your event running seamlessly.

**Event Coordinators**
Academy event staff are a phone call away, and will assist you through the planning and scheduling of your event, as well as the night itself. Your coordinator will walk you through every step of the process, help you select the perfect location, provide recommendations for entertainment, catering, and extras, and will be on hand throughout the event to keep everything on track.

**Guest Services**
From the moment your first guest arrives on the scene, guest services staff are on hand to make the evening a success. They greet visitors at the door, provide general information, and ensure the safety of the animals. You’ll see them acting as guides in the exhibits, as ushers in the planetarium, and much more. They’re the friendly face of the Academy, and they’re ready to help.

**Audio/Visual**
Whether you need music for your event, digital signage to welcome your crowd, or a cutting edge digital projection with surround sound, the AV team has the resources and know-how to bring your vision to life. Work with them in advance to plan your technical needs, or schedule an in-person walkthrough to take in the space. For audio/visual needs both simple and complex, the AV team is your go-to team. 

**Facilities and Operations**
The Academy’s skilled custodial, electrical, and security staff are on site to assist you. Offering a wide range of support including venue setup, maintenance, first aid, and emergency services, they play a critical role and offer you peace of mind. Security staff are a friendly presence at your event, providing information, crowd control, and more.

**Biologists**
The thousands of animals living full-time at the Academy require round-the-clock care from expert aquarium biologists, whose work behind the scenes ensures a vibrant community of critters to greet (and amaze) your guests. From caring for barn owls to bromeliads, a giant octopus to an albino alligator, rainforest orchids to wildflowers on the roof, biologists keep the Academy alive and healthy.

**Docents**
Academy docents are resident science experts, and as your guests will tell you afterwards, their presence on the floor during your event makes for a truly unique experience. Docents roam the floor as exhibit guides, and man the Discovery Tidepool and interactive science stations, providing one-on-one interactions that your guests will remember for years.

*Extra fee applies.*
Let the wonder begin. Imagine an event where the live music includes a chorus of songbirds, the acrobats perform underwater, and a handful of the hosts were born wearing tuxedos. Call today to start planning your sensational event.

Phone
415-379-5497

Email
spevents@calacademy.org

Web
calacademy.org/visit/plan_an_event