

The Wright Stuff

Incorporate Frank Lloyd Wright’s legacy into your meeting in Buffalo.

On the banks of Lake Erie in upstate New York, and 30 minutes from the natural wonder of Niagara Falls, sits Buffalo, birthplace of the popular spicy chicken wings. Once home to thriving automobile and manufacturing industries, the city recruited masters of architecture Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan as well as other structural engineers who would make their mark on the city. Today, the impressive landmarks they created serve as distinct venues for events.

Eleanor and Wilson Greatbatch Pavilion on the Darwin Martin House Complex serves as an elegant setting for up to 150, with Wright’s prairie-style home as a backdrop. In 1927, Wright designed a fuel filling station, and although it was never built, a model was constructed in the Buffalo Transportation Pierce-Arrow Museum to Wright’s specifications. This fascinating site showcases a collection of classic cars with event space for up to 3,000 people.

Book an All Wright All Day Tour to give attendees a chance to explore these architectural wonders further. Or, plan an off-site event at the Roycroft Campus in nearby East Aurora. This National Historic Landmark features guild houses built in the early 20th century to house woodcarving, stained glass and copper works artisans. —*Mira Temkin*

➤ QUICK FACTS

Area guest rooms:
9,722

Nearest airport:
Buffalo Niagara International

Convention center:
Buffalo Niagara
Convention Center

Meeting space:
110,000 square feet

Meeting rooms: 21

NEW IN 2015

➤ The RiverWorks development, opened in June, has revitalized a traditionally industrial area with a restaurant, 5,000-seat event venue and boat docks.

➤ The 200-room Buffalo Marriott HarborCenter opened in August.



Clockwise from left:
Spirit of Buffalo;
Frank Lloyd Wright
filling station; Wright’s
Martin House Complex.



[CASE STUDY]

Elise Freed-Brown, project assistant for the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada, brought about 300 editors, journalists and media professionals to Buffalo for the annual Catholic Media Conference in June.

“Buffalo was selected because we were looking for a city in our Eastern region, and Bishop Richard Malone of the Diocese of Buffalo invited us,” says Brown. “It was an easy flight from New York City for our international attendees and also helped increase attendance from Canada.”

The three-day conference was held at Hyatt Regency Buffalo, which connects to Buffalo Niagara Convention Center, and other hotels were used for spillover. Mass was held for the group each night, and Brown also arranged a group outing to Niagara Falls, a highlight of the conference. Some attendees came in early to visit New York City prior to the meeting, notes Brown, but appreciated the more relaxed, laid-back atmosphere of Buffalo for the event.