CRAIN’S LIST

BEST NEW EVENT SPACES

This year, when we issued the call for new or recently rehabbed event spaces, we heard from more owners than ever before. What follows are 31 spots that are the most intriguing venues we’ve encountered. One prominent trend? Refashioning vintage spaces into settings that blend Chicago’s history with modern event necessities. By Molly Each

ACE HOTEL CHICAGO
Address: West Loop/111 N. Wacker Dr.
Square footage: 6,000 inside, 3,000 outside
Capacity: 180 seated, 500 reception-style
Cost: Space rental starts at $3,800 during peak periods, food and beverage for cocktails reception and meetings starts at $55 per person, formal dinners start at $195 per person.
Special Features: Unobstructed skyline views, adjacent terrace, flexible room combinations.
Best for: Corporate meetings and presentations in a city environment.

AMERICAN WRITERS MUSEUM
Address: Magnificent Mile/166 N. Michigan Ave., 2nd Floor
Square footage: 11,000
Capacity: 250
Cost: Typical cost per person for a three-hour event is $25.
Special Features: Events can maintain wide range of interactive exhibits that chronicle our country’s rich literary history.
Best for: Culture-filled cocktail parties.

BRIDGE 410
Address: West Town/410 W. Franklin St.
Square footage: 5,000 inside, 3,000 outside
Capacity: 130 seated, 300 reception-style
Cost: Rental rates start at $1,500 Monday-Thursday, $2,500 Friday, $3,500 Saturday.
Special Features: 3,000-square-foot courtyard, parking lot, food truck midway, catering kitchen.
Best for: Interactive outdoor gatherings.

THE COMMONS AT THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART
Address: Loop/Kometa/120 E. Chicago Ave.
Square footage: 1,000
Capacity: 550 seated, 150 reception-style
Cost: $145 to $1900 per person
Special Features: Views of Lake Michigan, hanging lights and plants by Monica Coryntis/Herbivore B Zona.
Best for: Art-inspired social time with co-workers.

CREATIVE COWORKING
Address: Edgewater/5040 N. Sheridan Rd
Square footage: 2,500
Capacity: 100
Cost: $1,000 space rental Monday-Thursday, Saturday-Sunday daytime: $2,000 Friday and Saturday evening: $3,000
Special Features: Mezzanine architectural details, commercial kitchen, 24/7 equipment, projector and screen, additional event bathrooms.
Best for: Collaborative meetings in a creative atmosphere.

EOLVEHER
Address: River North/310 W. Ontario St., Suite 300
Square footage: 2,000
Capacity: 200
Cost: $250 an hour for small conference rooms, $525 to $775 an hour for registration lab, $725 to $990 an hour for event space, $2,000 to $2,950 per day for full venue rental.
Special Features: AV equipment, projector and screens, graphic design assistance, photo booth, custom wall, event programming speakers, experiential displays, etc.
Best for: Informal catch-the-eye meetings, events building, and creative collaboration.
FIELDHOUSE JONES
Address: Near North/512 W. Ohio St.
Square footage: 3,500
Capacity: 190
Cost: $182 per person for an all-inclusive
Special features: Lavish event design, multi-sensory experiences, shimmering starry ceiling, racecar photo opportunities, four-course menu, and a private balcony.
Best for: Corporate events, product launches, and intimate celebrations.

THE GALLERY ROOM AT THE TALBOT HOTEL
Address: 619 E. Ohio St.
Square footage: 1,050
Capacity: 100
Cost: $120 per person
Special features: The Gallery Room offers a unique and upscale atmosphere with a sleek design, ideal for corporate events, receptions, and small conferences.
Best for: Corporate events and private parties.

GRAINGER SKY THEATER AT THE ADLER PLANETARIUM
Address: 1300 S. Michigan Ave.
Square footage: 5,000
Capacity: 190
Cost: $400 per person
Special features: Experience the stars up close with exclusive access to the Adler Planetarium's Grainger Sky Theater, featuring a 360-degree view of the night sky.
Best for: A truly unique and educational nighttime experience.

LAKESIDE PAVILION AT THE CHICAGO MARRIOTT LINCOLNSHIRE RESORT
Address: 500 N. Milwaukee Ave., Lincolnshire
Square footage: 2,500
Capacity: 200
Cost: $125 per person
Special features: Lakeside views, outdoor terrace, and a state-of-the-art audio-visual system.
Best for: Corporate events, weddings, and private celebrations.

LEVEL 33 AT MARRIOTT MARQUIS CHICAGO
Address: 333 N. Michigan Ave.
Square footage: 1,700
Capacity: 100
Cost: $125 per person
Special features: Rooftop bar and lounge, panoramic city views, and a modern, elegant atmosphere.
Best for: Corporate events and private celebrations.

LOFT 21
Address: 1801 S. Michigan Ave., Lincoln Park
Square footage: 1,000
Capacity: 50
Cost: $250 per person
Special features: A unique, modern space with an open, industrial design.
Best for: Small gatherings and intimate celebrations.

LOFT LUCIA
Address: 111 W. Peachtree St., Atlanta
Square footage: 2,000
Capacity: 200
Cost: $125 per person
Special features: A stunning venue with a sleek design and state-of-the-art technology.
Best for: Corporate events and private celebrations.

THE LYTLE HOUSE
Address: 515 E. 63rd St.
Square footage: 2,000
Capacity: 100
Cost: $125 per person
Special features: A modern, sophisticated space with a focus on sustainability.
Best for: Corporate events and private celebrations.

MARCUS'S LANDING
Address: 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, 2nd Floor
Square footage: 2,000
Capacity: 225
Cost: $150 per person
Special features: A unique venue with panoramic city views and a modern, industrial design.
Best for: Corporate events and private celebrations.
**MB Ice Arena**

Address: Near West Side/1601 W. Jackson Blvd.
Square footage: 125,000
Capacity: 2,000
Cost: Room rentals range from $150 to $5,000 depending on space; ice rental starts at $450 per hour.
Special Features: Two NHL regulation-size hockey rinks, executive suite, rooftop deck with skyline views, flat-screens TV, high-definition inputs, adjacent private parking lot, food by Levy Restaurants, chance to watch the Blackhawks practice or get a behind-the-scenes tour of team facilities.

Best for: Big company parties, viewing parties or family-friendly events.

**Midtown Athletic Club**

Address: Bucktown/2444 W. Belmont Ave.
Square footage: 25,000
Capacity: 250
Cost: $200 to $1,115 per person
Special Features: Fitness studios, tennis courts, three conference rooms, a rooftop with views of Lincoln Park and Lake Michigan, guided team-building activities.

Best for: Team building, sports and activities, dinner and drinks after.

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**The Park at Wrigley**

Address: Wrigleyville/1101 W. Waveland Ave.
Square footage: 31,000
Capacity: 1,000
Cost: Space rental fees start at $199 per person, food and beverage costs start at $45 per person.
Special Features: Multiple spaces including a restaurant, conference rooms, open-air plaza and second-floor terrace, projectors and screens in each room, views of the field and additional venues within the ballpark.

Best for: Game-day parties, large group events.

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**The Plant**

Address: Bucktown/1400 W. 48th St.
Square footage: 7,775 inside, up to 24,000 outside
Capacity: 100 inside, 200 outside
Cost: Space rentals start at $51,900, catering starts at $52 per person.
Special Features: Two-story event, food and beverages served on-site, catering kitchen, outdoor area with space to cook or bring in food trucks, repurposed historical artifacts, site tours.

Best for: A site-specific, eco-friendly event that mixes local history with sustainable technology.

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**Revel Motor Row**

Address: 2400 S. Michigan Ave.
Square footage: 58,000
Capacity: 2,600
Cost: $5,000 to $25,000, with an average of $150 per person for food and beverage
Special Features: 5,000 square-foot private rooftop, up to 20-event spaces to suit different groups and breakout events, meeting rooms with flat-screen TVs, 3 historic boardrooms, a fully-furnished two-story apartment with fireplace.

Best for: Large indoor-outdoor parties in a historic space.
THE REVIVAL
Address: 1140 E. 55th St.
Square footage: 4,400
Capacity: 100 seated, 200 reception-style
Cost: Space rental starts at $1,050 to $2,500, beverage costs start at $25 per person.
Special Features: Stage, cocktail lounge, dance floor, 4K video projection, including projector and screen, full bar, catering capabilities, adjacent outdoor patio, private meeting rooms, comedy nights.
Best For: Terrific branding through comedy followed by drinks.

ROW 24
Address: Near South Side/2411 S. Michigan Ave.
Square footage: 2,800
Capacity: 200 seated, 300 reception-style
Cost: Space rental starts at $2,000
Special Features: Soho style crystal chandeliers, custom ceiling, 65-inch flat screens
TLC private area with service entrance, green room, massage in balcony and a customized-on-site beverage program.
Best For: Cocktail parties with a vintage vibe.

STRAFFORD ON THE PARK
Address: Lincoln Park/2300 N. Lincoln Park West
Square footage: 1,000
Capacity: 160 seated, 300 reception-style
Cost: Cocktail receptions range from $45 to $50 per person, formal dinners from $50 to $70 per person.
Special Features: AV equipment, views of Lincoln Park, outdoor patio, food and drinks from Botticelli En travestimento, five inklusive of salads,entrée and service.
Best For: Elegant dinners and receptions.

STUDIO 6F
Address: Logan Square/2007 W. Bloomingdale Ave.
Square footage: 1,400
Capacity: 100
Cost: Space rental starts at $3,290.
Special Features: Catering kitchen, sound system, vintage and one-of-a-kind custom furniture, a curated selection of snacks, select bar list of wines, additional vendors approved on a case-by-case basis.
Best For: Gallery shows, design-centric parties, intimate performance events.

THE TAVERN CLUB AT 333
Address: Logan Square/333 W. Jackson Blvd.
Square footage: 5,127
Capacity: 90 seated, 120 reception-style
Cost: Hourly rate $5,000, three hours, beverage costs $40 to $42 per person.
Inspire guests and support nonprofits.
Special Features: Stunning contemporary art, full kitchen, multiple televisions, skyline and lake views, outdoor area, event planning.
Best For: Company gatherings with breakout sessions.

THEATER ON THE LAKE
Address: Lincoln Park/2101 N. Lake Shore Drive
Square footage: 11,350
Capacity: 400 seated, 600 reception-style
Cost: Rental rates start at $3,000.
Special Features: Stage with modern lighting and sound, full-service restaurant and bar, outdoor influx of patios, 6 acres of surrounding green space available for use.
Best For: Large reception-style celebrations, performances, creative outdoor events.

TRIGGER
Address: Logan Square/2101 W. Addisson St.
Square footage: 4,000
Capacity: 150 seated, 400 reception-style
Cost: Space rental costs $1,050 to $3,000, custom catering $50 to $150 per person.
Special Features: Commonwealth restaurant-grade kitchen, warming kitchen, rustic setting, 50-inch flat screen TVs, multiple flat screens, outside seating, outside catering allowed.
Best For: Family gatherings.

V. COLLECTIVE PENTHOUSE
Address: Near North Side/1231 W. Jackson Blvd.
Square footage: 2,000
Capacity: 400 outside, 200 inside
Capacity: 200
Cost: $3,750 to $5,250
Special Features: Skyline views, retractable windows, AV capabilities, outdoor terrace with fountain, grilling stations, gardens, meditation lawn.
Best For: Well-appointed outdoor events that start with yoga and end with dinner.

VICEROY CHICAGO
Address: Gold Coast/351 E. Wacker Dr.
Square footage: 3,600
Capacity: 150 seated, 300 reception-style
Cost: Rates start at $375 per plate, including beverages (in the Garden Ballroom).
Special Features: Large balcony can be divided into two spaces, private event spaces, 75-inch super TV, outdoor terrace, city views, menu by Top Chef star Graham Elliot.
Best For: Upscale, gourmet dinners and receptions.