Hosting an Event at the National Mall Building
Frequently Asked Questions

How much does it cost to rent the Museum?
The Smithsonian does not rent the Museum; however, groups that support the Museum with a donation are invited to hold a private celebratory event. For more information on donations, contact the Office of Special Events.

What is included in the donation?
The total payment provides exclusive use of the Museum’s public areas, and includes facility services such as security, housekeeping, and support from the Office of Special Events.

Are there any restrictions when hosting an event?
Events cannot be fundraisers, political, religious, or personal in nature. Branding and product display are not permitted.

Can a date be held?
Due to high demand, dates cannot be held without a signed agreement and nonrefundable deposit. Dates are confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis.

What time can an event take place?
Most private events begin at 7:00 pm. Receptions and dinners are designed for a three to four hour time period.

What is the museum’s capacity?
For standing receptions, the Museum can accommodate up to 4000 guests.

What spaces are available for a private event?
The Museum’s first and second floor galleries are open for your event.

What other parts of the museum, such as the theater, can be used for an event?
Private evening events have the opportunity to enjoy the Lockheed Martin IMAX Theater, Albert Einstein Planetarium, Interactive Flight Simulators, and the Museum Store.

Are catering services or audio-visual equipment available on site?
There are no catering services or audio-visual equipment available on site. A list of pre-approved caterers will be provided.

Can a photographer or videographer be used to capture an event?
Yes, with the Museum’s prior permission. However, any photos or video of the event may only be used for internal purposes and may not be used for promotional or commercial use.

For more information, contact the Office of Special Events at 202-633-2340.
Boeing Milestones of Flight (Gallery 100)
Standing 700 / Seated 350

America by Air (Gallery 102)
Standing 500 / Seated 250

Space Race (Gallery 114)
Standing 700 / Seated 400

Barron Hilton Pioneers of Flight (Gallery 208)
Standing 500 / Seated 230