

10 UNIQUE OUTDOOR MEETING VENUES in Greater Fort Lauderdale



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Ready for some fresh air? It's time to bust out of the board room and the ballroom. There's nothing better than inviting guests to a scenic outdoor event space where attendees can soak up ocean views, check out the yachts on the waterfront or stroll through a palm tree-laden tropical garden. With 3,000 hours of annual sunshine, here in Greater Fort Lauderdale, outdoor events are what we do best. You'll find many locations with open-air spaces that will keep your attendees safe and feeling at ease. Here are a few of our top suggestions.

1. ON A BOAT IN "THE VENICE OF AMERICA"

Get on a boat. For a truly unique and unrivaled meeting experience, book one of the many boat tour options in Greater Fort Lauderdale. Whether on a local water taxi or a private yacht charter, a cruise amidst multimillion-dollar mansions and mangroves will be one of the highlights of your agenda. Choose from companies such as Denison Yachting and the Fort Lauderdale Water Taxi. Both offer charter voyages and offer a variety of vessels to suit your needs and budget. Denison Yacht Sales: 850 NE 3rd St. #205, Dania Beach, FL 33004; denisonyachtsales.com; Fort Lauderdale Water Taxi: multiple stops, including Stop #1, 335 SE 6th Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301; watertaxi.com



2. HISTORIC ESTATE IN FORT LAUDERDALE BEACH

One of Fort Lauderdale's preeminent historic gems, the Bonnet House Museum & Gardens is a testament to elegance and environmental preservation. Spanning 35 acres along famous A1A on Fort Lauderdale Beach, the 1920's era property features tropical architecture and artistic embellishments situated alongside tranquil courtyards with hibiscus gardens, orchids of every color and a lush tree canopy providing plenty of shade. Bonnet House is a haven for indigenous birds and manatees that occasionally seek refuge in the estate's Boathouse Canal. The venue can host groups of any size and offer a list of preferred vendors with experience on the property. Bonnet House Museum & Gardens: 900 N. Birch Road, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33304; bonnethouse.org/estate-rental

4. A HIDDEN GARDEN NEAR THE EVERGLADES

Perfect for smaller, intimate events, the Living Sculpture Sanctuary in Davie can host 120 guests and features lush gardens, hundred-year-old oak trees, waterfalls, Koi ponds, a Bonsai wall and a rock Zen garden. The sanctuary celebrates the tranquil beauty of nature and promotes wellness, peace and balance. And to ensure meeting planners are as calm and relaxed as their attendees, the sanctuary offers a variety of event coordinators, caterers, rental companies, entertainers, photographers, florists and decorators serving a range of budgets and needs. Living Sculpture Sanctuary: 2800 S. Flamingo Road, Davie, FL 33330; livingsculpturesanctuary.com



3. ROOFTOP VIEWS AT AN OCEANFRONT HOTEL

Picture views of the Atlantic Ocean that stretch for miles. While the Pelican Grand Beach Resort certainly has top-of-the-line traditional ballrooms with water views, it's the outdoor rooftop event space that truly sets this venue apart. Known as the Oceanview Terrace, the 2,678-square-foot rooftop features a permanent gazebo and can accommodate up to 120 guests. Located 10 miles north of the airport, the resort is located on a pristine section of Fort Lauderdale Beach and sits directly on the sand. Additionally, the resort is part of the Noble House portfolio and offers an enticing list of meeting planner perks that range from complementary upgrades to discounts on rental fees. Pelican Grand Beach Resort: 2000 N. Ocean Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305; pelicanbeach.com



5. HIP HOTSPOT ON THE WATERFRONT

A favorite hangout for in-the-know locals, The Wharf Fort Lauderdale is an open-air venue that features 54,000 square feet of event space. This nautical-themed destination is located directly on the water where boats wind through downtown on their way out to the Intracoastal Waterway. With five unique dining concepts from some of the area's most sought-after food vendors, as well as four cocktail bars, attendees can enjoy culinary creations, delectable libations and some of the best water views in town. The Wharf Fort Lauderdale: 20 W. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301; wharfftl.com

6. A PLANT LOVER'S PARADISE IN DAVIE

Imagine an enchanting tropical garden with one of the largest collections and varieties of orchids in South Florida. It's no wonder that The Bamboo Gallery in Davie is a favorite destination wedding choice, but it's also an inspiring locale to plan a group incentive trip for up to 400 guests. Traverse through bamboo-flanked pathways where 2.5 acres of lush tropical landscaping leads to Tiki huts, waterfalls, gold fish ponds and fire pits. Your group will feel like they're in their very own faraway paradise. The Bamboo Gallery: 2325 S. Flamingo Road, Davie, Florida 33325; thebamboogallery.com

7. GRILLIN' & CHILLIN' IN DOWNTOWN

Located in Fort Lauderdale's historic Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District, Backyard Ft. Lauderdale offers the ultimate backyard experience for up to 750 guests for a reception or 300 seated. Attendees can eat, socialize, play games, and maybe even get some work done in this spacious outdoor venue with LED lighting, two large projection screens and 18 plasma TVs. Take advantage of the large stage for live entertainment. Known for exceptional food, creativity and contemporary presentation combined with outstanding service, caterers include Revolution Live, Backyard and Stache Drinking Den + Coffee Bar. Backyard Ft. Lauderdale: 100 SW 3rd Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312; backyardftl.com/private-events



8. HOLISTIC NATURE PRESERVE IN HOLLYWOOD

Situated on 20 acres along the Intracoastal Waterway in Hollywood, the Anne Kolb Nature Center is one of Florida's largest urban parks. Set amidst 1,500 acres of coastal mangrove wetlands, the park offers an outdoor amphitheater and expansive event space, giving attendees plenty of room to roam. Other features include an exhibit hall, 3,500-gallon aquarium, hands-on EcoRoom, 68-foot observation tower, fishing pier, and three miles of nature trails. Anne Kolb Nature Center: 751 Sheridan St., Hollywood, FL 33019; broward.org/Parks/Pages/Park.aspx?=1



9. ACTION-PACKED PARK IN HALLANDALE BEACH

Imagine a large green space with plenty of room to spread out. Perfectly landscaped Peter Bluesten Park in Hallandale Beach is an ideal setting for large outdoor events. In fact, the South Beach Wine & Food Festival hosted one of its premier events at this venue. The LEED® Silver Certified facility features an artificial turf soccer field, three baseball fields, stage, playground, tennis, basketball, racquetball and support buildings. You could host everything from an outdoor movie night, to a food truck round-up or a sports-themed team building event. Peter Bluesten Park: 501 SE 1st Ave., Hallandale Beach, FL 33009; hallandalebeachfl.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Peter-Bluesten-Park-4

10. ART & CULTURE COLLIDE IN MIRAMAR

A treasured cultural institution that celebrates creativity and diversity, the Miramar Cultural Center & Amphitheater is well-known for its state-of-the-art 800-seat performing arts venue. However, the property also features a serene lakeside botanical garden with outdoor space for groups ranging from 10 to 400 attendees. Discover artist Alison Sky's work of art made of a seven glass panels inspired by the area's unique ecosystem and vibrant sunsets. The property can provide full-service catering and event planning. Miramar Cultural Center & Amphitheater: 2400 Civic Center Place, Miramar, FL 33025; miramarculturalcenter.org/1195/Botanical-Garden