

site Chicago

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Chapter News

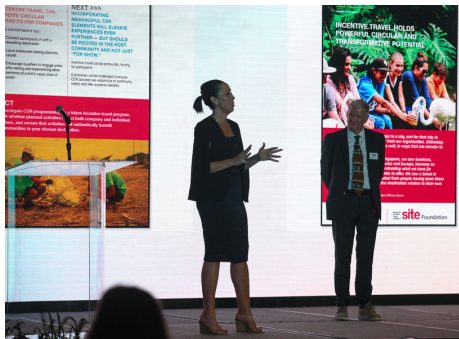
Fall 2022

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SITE Classic, SITE Nite, Our Incredible Industry, Oh My!

Knowledge. Inspiration. Entertainment. Connection. SITE Classic delivered all of this and more over just a few days in September at The Boca Raton in The Palm Beaches. SITE Chicago represented!



To say that SITE NITE is a much-anticipated event might be the understatement of the 21st century!

SITE members, friends and the entire global incentive travel industry are gnawing on the leash, chomping on the bit, rattling the cage in delirious anticipation of getting back up-close-and-personal, shoulder-to-shoulder, face-to-face at IMEX America, the global gathering for all business event professionals.

Individual tickets are available with SITE members enjoying a USD\$30 discount at each phase. [Get your ticket now!](#)



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Board Retreat Fuels Future Plans

There is something magical in the air and on the streets of Puerto Vallarta. Perhaps this magic is inspired from the friendly, enthusiastic locals, or the mouth-watering Mexican cuisine, or the way the sun hits the coastline up to the mountain range. Perhaps it's a mix of everything!

SITE Chicago was honored to be guests of the Marriott & The Westin Resort & Spa in Puerto Vallarta with incredible hospitality and adventures from Tropical Incentives DMC. Our experience started with roundtrip airfare provided by our lovely United Airlines sponsor where we landed in Puerto Vallarta and took the shortest ride, 5 minutes, to the beautiful Marriott.

Between the two resorts, the board had many opportunities to bond, collaborate, and brainstorm on our past, present, and future of our chapter. We were blessed to bring our two ambassadors, who represent Wisconsin and Michigan, along on the trip to provide even more color to our discussions. We also got to experience some lovely activities that truly solidified our relationships together as board members. There's nothing like a wine & paint night, or a cooking class with the resort executive chefs, or jumping into a waterfall that will bond people together.

Our retreat inspired many great conversations that we have already put into practice since. For example, we've reimagined what Strategic Sponsorship means and have made changes to our sponsorship agreements for our events. We've also created a start to finish guide on the process of an event which includes our metrics on what is worthwhile in pursuing and what we feel could be postponed or put off to the side.

Our evenings were spent with our gracious sponsors, learning more about the destination and the value Puerto Vallarta brings to group travel. What you can expect if you bring a group to Puerto Vallarta:

- an incredibly warm and hospitable culture
- dynamic yet soulful cuisine
- gorgeous evening events with beautiful lighting, tablescapes, and themes that bring you closer to the destination
- an assortment of activities that fit all levels of interest, from adventure to relaxation to education
- a feeling of home that you miss even months after your stay.

If you are interested in learning more about the destination, we recommend you reach out to our lovely partners, Annette Rullman (annette.rullman@marriott.com) and Elsa Perez (elsaperez@marriotthotels.com).

Rose Hippert, CIS, CIP
President, SITE Chicago



Experience Alaska with a Visit Anchorage FAM

Towering mountain ranges. Ancient, dazzling glaciers. Alaska is so spectacular, you have to see it to believe it – and Anchorage is the best place to start. Visit Anchorage [FAM tours](#) help meeting planners experience it firsthand.

Tours scheduled for March 5-8, 2023 and May 17-20, 2023 offer an ideal opportunity to explore Anchorage [conference facilities](#), meet vendors, and learn about Alaska's multi-season attractions and activities. While Anchorage meeting spaces provide the perfect venue for any gathering, the area's access to great Alaska adventure makes it a world-class place to play when the day's business is done.

No trip to Anchorage is complete without an introduction to the area's vibrant Indigenous cultures. Anchorage is located within the traditional and present homelands of the [Dena'ina Athabascan people](#) (after whom the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center is named), FAM tours bring guests to the Alaska Native Heritage Center and the Anchorage Museum, two community gems rich with Alaska Native culture and art – plus several unique, flexible meeting spaces and event options.

Find an elevated perspective aboard a [flightseeing](#) tour of the city and surrounding parkland. The view from Anchorage convention centers is stupendous; pre or post-meeting flightseeing tours can take it to another level.

Want to see [wildlife](#) up close? Visit Anchorage FAMs include a stop at the renowned Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, where some of Alaska's most iconic animals roam a 200-acre habitat, and the cozy meeting venue comes with a wildly unforgettable view.

Participants enjoy a different perspective on a day cruise through [Prince William Sound](#). Just an hour outside Anchorage's downtown hotel and convention center district, the Sound is a watery wonderland rich with glaciers, wildlife, and natural splendor. Learn how to charter a cruise for your closing banquet, or offer an unforgettable spousal tour option. Encounter 100-plus reasons to plan a conference in Anchorage – a scenic day cruise adventure is just the tip of the iceberg.

[Anchorage accommodations](#) and amenities also offer plenty to get excited about. The new Aloft Hotel opened its doors in Midtown this spring. In Girdwood, Anchorage's premier ski resort destination, the Alyeska Nordic Spa offers hot and cold plunge pools, saunas, and other forms of hydrotherapy in the heart of the Chugach Mountains. Alyeska Resort's hotel renovation is slated to be completed by late 2023. Come to meet some of the best of Alaska; leave refreshed.

Interested in experiencing Anchorage on a future FAM tour? Contact Andrea Schmidt aschmidt@Anchorage.net to get started.

Learn more on YouTube:

- [Meetings and Conventions in Anchorage, Alaska](#)
- [Welcome to Anchorage, Dena'ina Etnena](#)
- [Visit Anchorage, Alaska](#)



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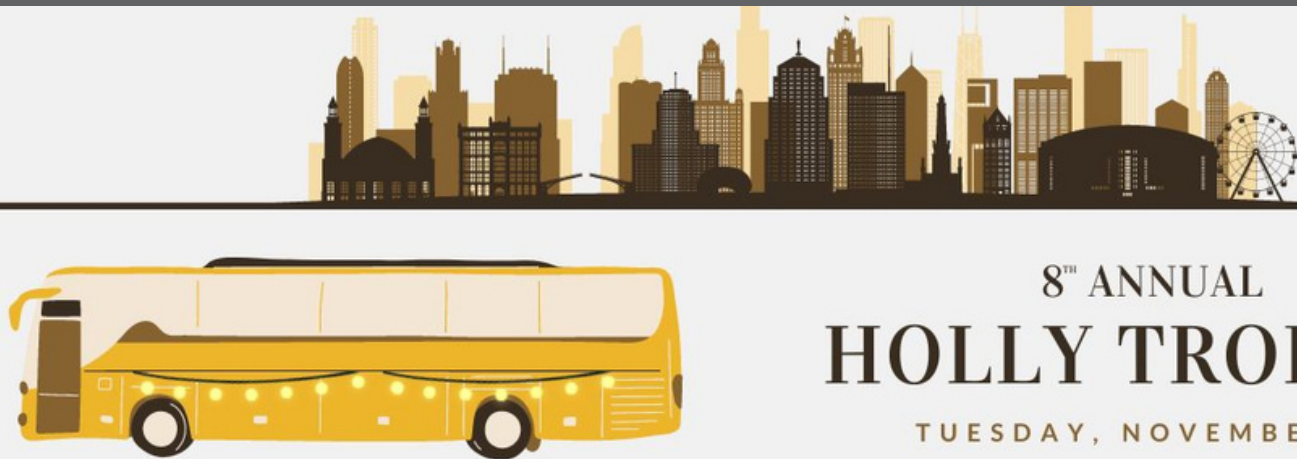
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Holly Trolley



8TH ANNUAL HOLLY TROLLEY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Join 125+ incentive colleagues on Tuesday, November 29, as we fill our festive trolleys and tour Chicago and hit three hot venues. Food, drinks, networking, merriment and signature experiences await. You do not want to miss this memorable evening.

Sponsorships for this legendary annual event are now available. Please [take a look](#) and [email us](#) to select your sponsorship or learn more.

Holly Trolley is the holiday event of our industry, and it sells out, so keep an eye out for your invitation coming in October.



Shout Out to Michigan & Wisconsin!

We are thankful for hosting two successful events this past year, and we couldn't have done it without the Board's support and all of our members!

We are excited to share that we have gained new members in each of our states and will host more one of a kind of events that are coming soon!

We are dedicated to incentive travel professionals, and if you are interested in being part of the MI or WI committees, please reach out to us!

Amy Young- MI Ambassador- ayoung@destinationconsultants.com

Amie Devine- WI Ambassador- adevine@hybridgroupevents.com



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YLC Grand Slam IS a Grand Slam!



WRIGLEY ROOFTOP

UNITED
FOR BUSINESS

SITE Chicago, with stellar assists from our all-star sponsors, hosted the perfect game day gathering at Wrigley Field on the 3637 N Sheffield rooftop. Located down the 1st base side, attendees watched the game from the rooftop bleachers or got play-by-play coverage in our clubhouse. SITE Chicago's bullpen roster of Board of Directors and Committee members kept the networking lively, with no one left on the sidelines.

The roster of sponsors included on deck circle United Airlines, batting appearances from several CVBs and DMCs, as well as a lineup of luxury hotel partners. Rose Hippert, our lead pitcher and 2022 President, MC'd the 7th inning stretch announcements and raffle drawings.

The excitement over the Hawaiian Aloha package, courtesy of United Airlines and Meet In Hawaii was a highlight. Alex Bakalis, SITE Chicago's Director of Events, was on the mound at the time providing live streamed coverage of the winning raffle ticket spin.

Overall, a Grand Slam Day with perfect weather; a Cubs win; Aloha excitement and high-spirited networking. Thanks to all who attended or knocking it out of the park!



Congratulations to our Grand Slam
Winner, Mark Marino!



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Young Leaders & Mentors: A Powerful Match-Up

Our Young Leaders' Mentorship Program connects two members at different stages of their careers in our industry to support and inspire them personally and professionally.

We asked one of our Young Leaders, Molly O'Connor, to share her experience with this valuable program.



What have you gotten out of the Mentor program?

The most obvious benefit has been someone to build a professional relationship with to bounce ideas off of and look to for career advice. This has helped me branch out when it comes to networking and professional development. Specific to my mentor Mark Marino, he brings years of experience to the table and has taught me a lot about different aspects of the industry that I haven't had a chance to learn about in my current role. He's been great about helping me think about what my next moves are in my career as well as educating me in things that are helpful to know in general.

Is there something in particular that has made your mentorship impactful?

Since starting my mentorship with Mark, a job opportunity came up that he thought of me for and helped me set up an interview with. This was the first time an opportunity came to me instead of me actively searching for it. Although the opportunity wasn't something I moved forward with, it was a tangible way to see that my mentorship was benefitting me and my career goals.

No Better Time To Get More Members

Spread the word, recruit someone new and benefit NOW from the special **Member-Get-A-Member Promotion**, available only the weeks during and after IMEX in Las Vegas – Thursday, October 6 – Friday, October 21.

SITE is offering you a USD\$100 credit to apply to your 2023 membership if you recruit a new member to join SITE. The NEW member gets a 14-month membership (October 2022 – Dec 2023) for the annual price of USD\$445 LESS another USD\$100 dollars. That means they only pay USD\$345 (we're also waiving the USD\$50 once-off joining fee!).

If you would like to renew but don't have a new member, please email Lisa Crolus, Membership Chair, and she will pair you with a new member. Lisa.crolus@westin-cayman.com.

Register your interest in the program from October 6th (the link can be found at www.siteglobal.com/member-get-member), and we'll provide you with further details on how you and your prospective new member can avail of this great offer.

With over 2000 incentive travel professionals from 90 countries around the world holding SITE membership, SITE is the "I" in MICE, the natural home for anyone involved in incentive travel and its transformative power on individuals, corporations and destinations.



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