



New England
Aquarium

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www.neaq.org

Events at the Aquarium



New England
Aquarium

Protecting the blue planet

Special Events

617-973-5205
events@neaq.org

A photograph of an outdoor lounge area on a wooden deck overlooking Boston Harbor. In the foreground, there are white modular sofas arranged around a glass coffee table. The table holds a vase of red and green flowers and two lanterns. The deck is bordered by a metal railing and has two large potted plants. In the background, the harbor is filled with boats, and the city skyline is visible under a clear sky.

Be our guest.

Plan your next corporate event, wedding reception, conference or celebration at the New England Aquarium and experience one of Boston's unique venues. Set against a backdrop of awe-inspiring ocean creatures and with a scenic view of Boston Harbor, your event will be completely unforgettable.

Our event management team will assist you every step of the way—from deciding which of our multiple venues is ideal for your event to creating the perfect menu to complement your special occasion.

The New England Aquarium is combining education, entertainment and action to address the most challenging issues facing the oceans. The Aquarium is a certified member of the Green Restaurant Association, committed to furthering good environmental practices in our food service operations.

As a leading force in the sustainable seafood movement, the Aquarium has created menus that keep the oceans in mind, so you and your guests can enjoy choices that are sustainable and delicious.

Your support sustains our animals and exhibits and helps protect the blue planet.

Events at the New England Aquarium

At a New England Aquarium event, your guests have the opportunity to privately view our first-class exhibits featuring animals from around the world. Seasonally, enjoy cocktails near the seals and sea lions at the New Balance Foundation Marine Mammal Center, and dine beneath a soaring waterfront canopy. For events large or small, formal or casual, the Aquarium has the perfect setting.



Photo: Amy J. Grigg Photography/Art of the Event Design

Harbor View Terrace and Marine Mammal Center

Feel the outdoor breezes in our seasonal terrace and tent. This large, tented terrace has vaulted ceilings and archways that frame Boston Harbor.



Photo: Next Generation Images

Harbor View Café

The ocean-blue tile and natural wood cathedral ceilings make the Harbor View Café the perfect setting for a dinner or intimate cocktail reception. The floor-to-ceiling windows offer spectacular views of the city skyline and Boston Harbor.



Photo: Leah Haydock Photography

West Wing Gallery

Gather alongside the largest shark and ray touch tank on the East Coast! This venue is ideal for smaller cocktail receptions and dinners. The lower level is available for breakfast and lunch meetings alongside our inspiring sea jellies exhibit.



Photo: Leah Haydock Photography

Simons IMAX® Theatre

With its panoramic views of Boston Harbor, high-tech facility and spacious, elegant auditorium, the Simons IMAX Theatre is ideal for corporate meetings, breakfasts, receptions and dinners.



Main Exhibit Gallery

Mingle and dine as penguins, sea turtles and thousands of tropical fish swim beside you. Our four-story Giant Ocean Tank creates a fascinating centerpiece that will be long remembered by you and your guests.

Photo: Leah Haydock Photography

Educate, Engage and Entertain

Enhance your guests' experience with one of these optional programs, which your guests will surely enjoy.

Giant Ocean Tank Talk

Guests are provided with an informative presentation about our Giant Ocean Tank, including a question-and-answer session.

Program Length: One 30-minute presentation

Giant Ocean Tank Divers

Guests can observe divers as they feed more than 1,000 animals in the Giant Ocean Tank. Divers will interact with your guests through the glass.

Program Length: One 30-minute dive

Penguin Talk

Guests will be able to hear an informative talk about our penguins and penguin exhibit and have their questions answered.

Program Length: One 20-minute presentation

Marine Mammal Presentation

Guests are provided with an informative presentation about our marine mammals followed by a question-and-answer session.

Program Length: One 20-minute presentation

Edge of the Sea

This popular hands-on exhibit allows guests to touch and hold tidepool animals—including sea stars, sea urchins, hermit crabs and snails.

Program Length: 2 hours

Sustainable Seafood Talk

Guests enjoy an entertaining and informative presentation about the Aquarium's work in sustainable seafood. Guests will learn about the seafood served during your event and how they can make ocean-friendly seafood choices to help protect the oceans, followed by a question and answer period.

Program Length: 30 minutes

Costumed Characters

Costumed characters (shark, penguin and turtle) interact with guests and provide a great photo opportunity to remember the event.

Program Length: Two 30-minute costume appearances

Roving Interpretation

Educators will be available to answer questions and engage your guests with biofacts, stories and an in-depth knowledge of the Aquarium's mission and behind-the-scenes work.

Program Length: Up to 4 hours

IMAX Tickets

Pre-purchase IMAX tickets at a discounted rate for your guests. These tickets expire one year from date of the event and can be used at any time.

Keepsakes

Our photo and gift shop partners are available to help you design and customize the perfect event keepsake.



The Trust Family Foundation Shark and Ray Touch Tank

An Aquarium educator opens this 25,000-gallon touch tank exhibit, interacting with guests and allowing them to touch a variety of species of sharks and rays.

Program Length: Up to 2 hours

Rental Information

Facility Rate, Staff and Additional Labor

The Main Exhibit Gallery facility rental includes admission to its exhibits. Educational programs can be added for a fee to enhance your event.

NOTE: Facility rental of the Harbor View Terrace, Harbor View Café, West Wing Gallery and Simons IMAX Theatre in the evening does not include admission to the Main Exhibit Gallery unless rented in conjunction with the Main Exhibit Gallery.

An Aquarium sales manager will work with you to ensure a smooth booking process. The sales manager will communicate seamlessly with one of our catering managers, who will be your direct contact during the planning and execution of your event.

Multiple locations or particular event set-ups may require more staff or equipment and additional fees may apply.

Food and Beverage

A food and beverage minimum is required for all private events held at the Aquarium and varies based on the event space reserved. Strolling dinners and stationary display food stations cannot be prepared for less than the guaranteed guest count. Food and beverage station placement will be determined by the event coordinator based upon exhibits, lighting and fire code requirements.

All food and beverages must be supplied by our exclusive in-house caterer. No outside food or beverages can be donated or brought into the Aquarium for a private event. Kosher catering requests will be reviewed on an event-by-event basis. Excess food cannot be removed from the premises due to health storage and safety issues. Bar service (alcohol) must conclude thirty (30) minutes prior to the end of the event.

A 19% event management fee*, 6.25% Massachusetts sales tax* and .75% Boston meal tax* will be applied to the food and beverage total. The event management fee covers administrative overhead, documentation, preparation and proper management of the event. It does not include a gratuity for waitstaff or service employees.

**Subject to change without notice*

Tables, Chairs and Linens

The New England Aquarium offers complimentary house tables and chairs for a specific number of guests, which varies based on the event space reserved. Events with more guests may incur additional costs if tables and chairs are needed. Floor-length Bengaline linens in our house colors are available for guest tables and food stations for a small fee. We are happy to arrange for specialty linen or upgraded chairs—please inquire with your catering manager for details and pricing.

Guest Guarantee, Deposit and Payment Policy and Day-of Additions

An initial deposit is required to secure the event space.

The guaranteed number of guests and final payment must be provided to the catering manager no later than seven days prior to your event. The final invoice will be calculated according to the final guaranteed number or actual attendance number, whichever is greater. Any requests and/or changes made the day of or during the event require a credit card to be charged. An authorized credit card will be kept on file in case changes or additions need to be made the day of the event.

Preferred Vendors, Outside Vendors, Storage, Coat Check, Parking and Security

The New England Aquarium is proud to partner with vendors who provide outstanding service for our clients. We will connect you with these vendors to ensure your event's success.

NOTE: For the safety of our animals, amplified music is monitored at a reasonable sound level. Band restrictions may apply for Main Exhibit Gallery events.

All outside vendors must communicate with the catering manager to arrange delivery and pick-up two (2) weeks prior to the event. Due to our limited storage space, drop-off and pick-up times must occur the day of the event.

Coat check is a hosted service and available for a fee. Events with more guests may incur additional costs if additional equipment is needed.

Several parking garages are located near the Aquarium. The Aquarium offers a parking discount with validation at some of those garages and pre-purchased parking passes at the Harbor Garage. These rates may vary—please inquire with your catering manager on the most up-to-date fees.

NOTE: The Aquarium does not own or operate any parking garages.

Aquarium security guards are on-site for all of our events. The Aquarium reserves the right to require additional security and/or a Boston Police Department detail—the number required may vary depending on the event size.

Décor Guidelines and Logo Usage

Please note that for the safety and well-being of our animals, certain guidelines apply for flower arrangements. We specifically prohibit elastic bands, rubber/silicone wristbands, balloons, glow items such as sticks, bracelets, necklaces, Hawaiian leis, toothpicks, skewers, stirrers, certain plant materials, cans or bottles, marbles, sand, small toys, ribbon, Mylar, confetti, glitter, rice, birdseed, live fish, and dried marine life. Seashells are allowed in vases only. Candle flames must be enclosed by glass (for example, hurricane lamps or votive holders).

NOTE: The use of open flame on the premises requires a Fire Marshall detail, and the cost of this detail will be billed to the client. Electrical capacity is limited; please consult your event coordinator.

Signs and banners can only be displayed in specific areas. Nothing may be posted or attached to the walls, floors, exhibits or exhibit graphics. All items must be removed at the conclusion of your event, and the Aquarium is not responsible for items left behind. All event materials that use the New England Aquarium or IMAX corporate name, logo or reference must be pre-approved by the Aquarium prior to printing or distribution.

The Aquarium is a smoke-free environment.



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