



Independence Seaport Museum

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Seaport Announces New Facility Rentals Venture with Culinary Concepts

Events at ISM Offers Packaged Experiences for Social & Corporate Entertaining

PHILADELPHIA, PA (June 13, 2009) – [Independence Seaport Museum](#) today announced a unique partnership with [Culinary Concepts](#) to create a new paradigm in full-service facility rental and catering services at one of Philadelphia’s prime and most versatile venues for weddings, events, and meetings, which boasts dramatic views of the Delaware River and city skyline.

A new entity, [Events at ISM](#), has been formed to handle all venue rentals and catering at Independence Seaport Museum, located on Penn’s Landing in the heart of Philadelphia.

“We are very excited to partner with Culinary Concepts, one of Philadelphia’s most prestigious catering companies, on this new venture to increase the visibility of the Museum in the facility rental market,” said Independence Seaport Museum President Lori Dillard Rech.

“While the Seaport is one of the nation’s premier maritime museums and one of Philadelphia’s most popular tourism destinations, it also has multiple and varied rental spaces competitive with the finest rental venues in the region,” Dillard Rech said.

Events at ISM will offer full event planning services, and the Museum’s multiple private entertainment spaces will be renovated to enhance the client experience and create a casually elegant atmosphere to compliment the Seaport’s unmatched views.

“With four one-of-a-kind party spaces, superb waterfront views and even access to a private dock, *Events at ISM* will offer a wide variety of party and meeting packages that will create the perfect backdrop for any special occasion,” said Jim Israel, co-founder and owner of Culinary Concepts. “All the renovations, from outdoor gardens to lighting, to furniture to high-tech AV systems, will create a chic, modern and versatile atmosphere that can stand on its own or compliment any theme.”

Israel has been lauded by some of the region's most discerning hosts as "more than a caterer" for 22 years, creating experiences for 10 to 10,000 guests with a specialty in orchestrating large, logistically-challenging events. He has overseen events for such clients as the US Open Golf Tournament, the Philadelphia International Cycling Championship, and the Wharton School as well as for Philadelphia's elite residents, including the Obama for President campaign's largest private fundraising dinner.

Included in every *Events at ISM* experience will be custom-menu choices as well as guaranteed parking options and lighting services and an array of options in seating, flatware, stemware, and linens. Clients can also choose to depend on *Events at ISM* to personally handle all logistics for their event including music, decorative services, and unique touches like handmade wedding gowns, arrivals by yacht, tours for guests and overnight accommodations at local bed and breakfasts.

Events at ISM offers these flexible and unique party spaces:

The Ballroom, which can accommodate up to 600 guests, offers indoor and outdoor settings that showcase panoramic views of the Delaware River and City skyline.

The Balcony, holding up to 250 guests, can be formal or casual, offering sweeping views of the Delaware River and the illuminated night sky. An all-weather tent makes The Balcony the perfect waterfront rental space April through November. A few steps away, the Rotunda offers a scenic outdoor overlook of the river.

The Concert Hall is available for corporate presentations, dramatic productions, or musical performances. Acoustically acclaimed, it offers comfortable, tiered seating for up to 530.

The Museum Galleries feature a three-story replica of the Ben Franklin Bridge that stretches over the museum's first floor. This two-floor area is ideal for a pre-function reception and offers a dramatic prelude to the exhibits in the main galleries. Up to 800 guests can be accommodated for a standing reception.

Private dining and meeting breakout rooms round out the venue's offerings.

For more information about *Events at ISM*, please contact Director of Events Elizabeth Brito at 215.413.8622 or lbrito@EventsatISM.com or visit www.EventsatISM.com.

Independence Seaport Museum is located at 211 S. Columbus Blvd. and Walnut St., easily accessible via I-95 Exit 20, and a short walk from Independence National Historical Park. For general information, please call 215.413.8655, email seaport@phillyseaport.org, or visit www.phillyseaport.org.

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