

2027 Biennial Mission Summit Rochester Site Visit Summary

(Rochester is holding space until 3/31/2025)

Pros

- ABC of Rochester's 200th Anniversary
- The enthusiasm from the Convention & Visitors Bureau and hotel partners.
- The prices are affordable.
- Niagara Falls and the Finger Lakes are close for a pre/post Biennial vacation
- CVB is offering a \$5,000 subsidy for shuttling between hotels.
- No other meetings—we have full access to the convention center and the Hyatt.
- Local Area: several museums, shopping, and dining
- Tax Exempted in New York.
- The Convention Center, Hyatt, and parking are all connected by a skywalk.
- Rochester is located by Lake Ontario. Niagara Falls, Corning, and the Finger Lakes are about 90 minutes away.

Cons

- Early June dates: Rochester has an established jazz festival over our preferred dates. Schools are still in session until late June.
- There is not enough space in the convention center to hold everything. The Hyatt meeting space and the Convention center space will need to be used.
- When planning the schedule, we must remember to allow extra time for the Convention Center and Hyatt staff to change rooms between events, and for attendees to walk between buildings (It is a 2-3 minute walk)
- We would need to use several overflow hotels. They are all within walking distance, but we would probably have to arrange for shuttling.
- Flight availability. Twenty direct flights to Rochester are from the East Coast, Chicago, Detroit, and Las Vegas.
- Structures may need to be built by the decorator for Partner offices. (added expense)

Rochester Airport

Rochester Airport is modern and easy to navigate. The Convention Center is a 10-minute drive away. The Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) is not aware of any construction plans for the airport in the near future.

- Direct flights from Nashville via Southwest and Wilmington, NC via Avelo are now available.
- Flight options are limited; for example, American Airlines offers only two daily flights from Philadelphia, both on small planes with 40-50 seats. Additionally, there is one daily flight from Rochester to Philadelphia, also on a similarly sized plane.

The area surrounding the Convention Center and the Hyatt

The immediate area around the convention center seemed run down but appeared safe. Two blocks of vacant buildings across the street. The vacant hotel attached to the convention center will become a boutique hotel and residential space (completed by June 2027).

- There were a few restaurants within walking distance, but they were more than a mile from the convention center. Shopping and dining are on Pine St, a historic neighborhood called Corn Hill.
- The Convention Center is on the Genesee River. A 3-mile trail along the river could be used for a bike or walking event.

Convention Center

- A staffed information desk and guard in the corridor from the Hyatt/parking garage and at the main entrance from the street.
- There are two large digital customizable signs at the corridor and the bottom of the escalator. They also have two additional signs we can rent.
- They are updating their front exterior façade and adding new gender-neutral bathrooms.]
- There is not enough space in the convention center to hold all our sessions—we would need to use Hyatt for some of the workshops and larger meals.
- The Convention Center, Hyatt, and Hilton Garden Inn share a parking garage with 1500 spaces.

Hyatt

- There are 8-10 steps to climb to the lobby, from the main entrance (where those taking shuttle will be dropped off). A lift is available for people, but you must alert the Front Desk/Hotel Staff. A volunteer would need to assist with carrying luggage up the stairs for attendees.
- The hotel has a bar/lounge on the lobby level and two restaurants. One of the restaurants can be used for private functions.
- The building is shaped as an H, with the elevators in the middle. Staff heard the elevator and sound of the guest shower in the next room.
- A short walk via skybridge (from the Hotel lobby) connects the Hyatt to the Convention Center.
- The guest rooms are nice, clean, and updated.
- The meeting space was in decent shape. Except for the Grand Ballroom, the meeting rooms were not significant. The ballroom is the only meeting space with natural lighting, although the outside noise can be distracting.
- The Center City Terrace & Lounge is a good space for receptions, with seating for 75-100pp (indoor only) or up to 175 using the outdoor area. This space could be used for events like the ABC Donor reception, Young Adult Reception, etc. The outdoor area includes seating, fireplaces, TVs, and lighting.

Overflow hotels

Hilton Garden Inn

Very nice and charming. It is located in a historic building next to the Hyatt. All the rooms are different. The hotel is getting a full remodel of rooms and public space. There is a restaurant in the hotel and small meeting rooms.

Wyndham

Located about two blocks from the Convention Center. It is an old hotel, and it shows it. It started as a Crowne Plaza and became a Holiday Inn but was changed to Wyndham. With the new brand, there may come some updates and refreshes. Complimentary parking.

Courtyard by Marriott

This is a fairly new hotel—very nice. The guest rooms are large and lovely. The hotel can provide a shuttle to and from the convention center for hotel guests on a schedule, i.e., every hour. They have 36 complimentary parking spots.

Hampton Inn

Built in 2023. Located the furthest from the convention center but still within walking distance. It is located across the street from the Play Museum. The rooms were nice, with complimentary breakfast and airport transportation. Complimentary parking. There is a restaurant onsite and two additional ones across the street.

Rochester <https://www.visitrochester.com/>

Biennial Dates: June 10-13, 2027

Overall Dates: June 6-14, 2027

Location: [Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center](#)

Rental fee: \$32,000

F&B Minimum: \$90,000

Exhibit Hall would be in ½ of the Empire room. 24,000 sq ft; 130 10x10 booths max.

- In 2025, ABCUSA, MMBB, ABHMS and IM will have eighty-seven booths combined. That leaves 43 10x10 booth spaces for exhibitors. At this Convention Center, there will be no space for seating, Ministry Square or concessions unless the larger booths are reduced in size.

Plenary space is ½ of Empire Hall. 1500pp with AV and staging.

- In 2025, the plenary space will accommodate 1428pp with AV and staging.

Grand Lilac (room has pillars) - 450pp rounds of 10pp w/o A/V

- The partner luncheons will not fit unless seating is reduced to 325-350 to allow for AV. The luncheons will need to take place at the Hyatt.

Nine breakouts – Two large (150-225 max depending on room set & AV); Seven small (50-70pp max depending on room set & AV). If the selection is Rochester, meal functions and workshops will need to take place at the Convention Center and the Hyatt.

- In 2025, we have access to sixteen breakout rooms of varying sizes.

Union facility

Labor charge to switch room set.

Tax Exempt in NY.

Parking \$10/day

Host hotel: [Hyatt Regency Rochester](#) 3.5 rating - Connected to Convention Center by Sky bridge

- 335 total rooms; **Maximum room block 225 rooms and 7 suites.**
- **Proposed room rate:** \$169 for single/double
- No airport shuttle
- No valet parking/Self-parking in \$12; The city manages the parking lot.
- Grand Ballroom - can be used for partner luncheons; 400"ish" in rounds of 8pp or closer to 500pp in rounds of 10pp; Can be Portioned off for breakfast or dinners.
- Meeting space - Regency ballroom, can be divided into three separate rooms; Susan B Anthony, can be used for a prayer room, childcare; Eastman & Strong Board room and Frederick Douglass
- Some Biennial meal functions will need to take place in the Hyatt Regency.

- F&B minimum- \$50,000
- Twelve breakouts are available Tuesday-Thursday for Board meetings.
- Proposal valid through January 23, 2025

Additional Hotels:

[Holiday Inn Rochester Downtown](#) 3.6 rating. Located .3 miles from the Convention Center.

- 150 rooms available on peak nights: Wednesday-Sunday
- Proposed room rate: \$149 for single/double

Marriott (Waiting for information)

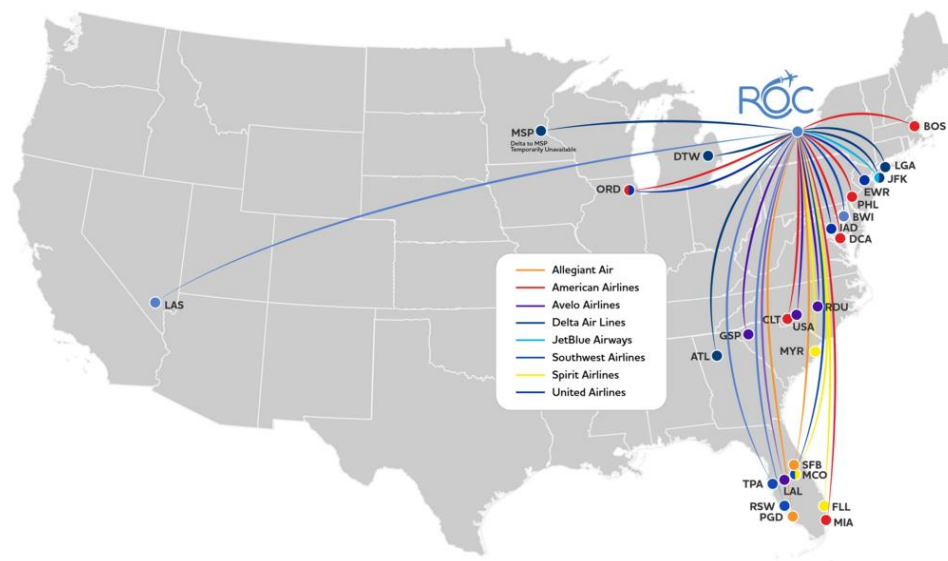
Shuttling would be needed. Convention & Visitors Bureau may be able to subsidize shuttling.

About Rochester

The third largest metro in New York, Rochester, is the cultural capital of Upstate New York.

Located on the southern shore of Lake Ontario, 45 minutes from the Finger Lakes, 90 minutes from Niagara Falls, and within a day's drive of 1/3 of the U.S. population, Rochester is easy-to-get to and even easier to get around.

The Frederick Douglass Greater Rochester International Airport is less than 15 minutes from downtown Rochester. Twenty direct flights to Rochester – mostly from the east coast + Chicago, Detroit, and Las Vegas.



A vibrant arts scene, diverse cuisine, natural wonders, and unique world-class attractions for all ages. Rochester offers a blend of historical charm and modern attractions. Known for its cultural institutions like the George Eastman Museum and the Strong National Museum of Play, Rochester is ideal for visitors interested in history, art, and interactive experiences. Its scenic location on Lake Ontario also provides opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Rochester is known for its rich history and cultural contributions. It was a major hub for the abolitionist movement and the home of Susan B. Anthony. Visitors can explore historic sites such as the Susan B. Anthony Museum & House. Rochester is also home to a vibrant arts scene, including the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and annual events like the Rochester International Jazz Festival. Its proximity to the Finger Lakes region offers access to world-class wineries, hiking trails, and scenic views.

Security Information

Rochester Convention Center

From the Rochester Convention Center Director

"We have a guard in our Control Office 24/7 and 2 guards on-site during an event (1 posted at the Skyway and 1 at the Main St Entrance). The convention center must staff these guards. We do not have metal detectors but can coordinate rental if required. Third-party security is permitted for metal detectors/bag checks but must be approved by our Executive Director. We typically require 3 guards per metal detector (currently \$35/hour, 4hr minimum)."

They also provided us with their Security Preparedness & Emergency Response Plan document.

Hyatt Regency Hotel

From the Director of Sales

"We have security on site 24/7. They are "stationed" in the main lobby but routinely walk the stairwells, event space, and guestroom floors. On a "normal" day, we have one staff member on at a time. However, depending on hotel occupancy, this may change.

Doors to the motorcourt (main entrance) and skywalk are locked at night. Room key access is required."

If a group is looking for additional security, Groups will sometimes find their own security provider."

The Hyatt Regency provided us with two documents about their Emergency Management Plan.

Rochester Convention & Visitors Bureau

From the Director of Sales

"VisitRochester meets with the Rochester Police Department bi-monthly to ensure constant communication of any convention(s) downtown. At Visit Rochester, we are always dedicated to the safety of our visitors and event attendees. Through these regular meetings with the police department, we keep them informed about upcoming events and convention schedules, helping them stay aware of attendees' movements. We do this by

providing the convention schedule, list of participating hotels/facilities, and key contact information. Hotels have 24-hour security on-site and the South Avenue Garage.”

RPD headquarters is situated in the Convention Center District, just two blocks from the Convention Center. Visit Rochester also employs Rochester Police officers who are stationed outside the Convention Center and Hyatt Hotel during evening hours to enhance safety and provide a sense of security.