

Focus on:

Midwest/Great Lakes

By Kate Parham

AMERICA'S MIDWEST heartland is a melting pot of people and places. Divided into two areas, the Great Lakes and the Great Plains, the region is known as "the breadbasket of America" for its grain production. Revered for its ethnic diversity and strong cultural traditions, many parts of the area were originally settled by European immigrants, and their influences run heavy here. It's one of the largest regions in the country, and its cities are casual, fun and quirky. Hosting an event in one of the following cities could make your meeting casual, fun and quirky, too.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The largest city in the Midwest, Chicago is a major hub for industry, telecommunications and infrastructure, and is the country's third-largest convention destination. It's centrally located, providing easy access to meeting attendees. More than 20 percent of the U.S. population lives within a 300-mile radius of the city, and O'Hare International Airport (one of two international airports in the city) is the second busiest airport in the world. The two international airports were a key determining factor for Jessica Thurmond Pohlonski, program manager at the American Marketing Association, who recently chose Chicago as the destination for one of the association's flagship conferences called Summer Ed. "Summer Ed has a significant international representation, so choosing a city that offers direct access to other major international hubs is a priority," says Pohlonski.

Most large-scale conventions are held at McCormick Place, located just minutes from downtown Chicago. Comprised of four state-of-the-art buildings, McCormick Place is considered the economic engine that powers the city's entire convention and trade show industry. The Hyatt Regency McCormick Place is connected to the convention center, offering meeting planners more than 800 rooms, as well as banquet space and conference center. The Four Diamond, AAA-rated hotel will get a considerable revamp in 2013 with an \$87 million expansion that will add a new 461-room guest tower.

Although Chicago has many large hotels that house sizable meeting space, Pohlonski's

event requires a disproportionate amount of meeting space to sleeping rooms. "This ratio imbalance can often result in higher contractual obligations on our behalf—certainly a risk that we try to avoid," explains Pohlonski. "So, in selecting Chicago as our destination, we were able to choose from a variety of venues that meet our meeting space-to-sleeping room ratio requirements, and that are also centrally located and affordable to our attendees."

Pohlonski recommends The Gleacher Center, a University of Chicago property, for small training courses. Larger venues, such as the Marriott Downtown Chicago or the Westin Michigan Avenue, have been great for Pohlonski's larger conferences. But, if you want to break out of traditional conference rooms and discover a different kind of meeting space in Chicago, try the museums, of which there are more than 40 to choose from, which rank among the best in the world. The Chicago Cultural Center houses the world's largest Tiffany Art Glass Dome, a sparkling masterpiece created with nearly 30,000 pieces of stained glass.

"Every event should include three variables: learning, networking and fun," says Pohlonski, who feels Chicago is one of the best cities to optimize all three components. "In my 12 years of experience in strategic events, I have to say that Chicago is truly one of the best host cities. Despite its size, it has maintained a Midwestern friendliness that is often noted by our attendees. It's home to some of the finest cuisine in the nation, has notable on- and off-Broadway productions, great sporting venues, interesting museums, cutting-edge shops and boutiques...and a beautiful, clean and safe lakeshore. Our attendees never lack things to do when attending an event in Chicago."

One of Pohlonski's favorite activities in Chicago outside of meetings is visiting Wrigley Field, home to the Chicago Cubs. "Many of our attendees will hop the transit and head up to Wrigleyville to see the stadium and experience the energy of the neighborhood," says Pohlonski. "During season, it is one of the most fun places to go in Chicago, especially for baseball lovers." Pohlonski also suggests The



"The Bean" steel sculpture in Millennium Park in Chicago

FACTS & FIGURES

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Area guest rooms: 33,000
 Convention center: McCormick Place
 Exhibit space: 2.6 million square feet
 Meeting rooms: 173

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Area guest rooms: 10,473
 Convention center: Frontier Airlines Center
 Exhibit space: 189,000 square feet
 Meeting rooms: 28

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Area guest rooms: 13,000
 Convention center: CenturyLink Center Omaha
 Exhibit space: 194,000 square feet
 Meeting rooms: 16

OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS

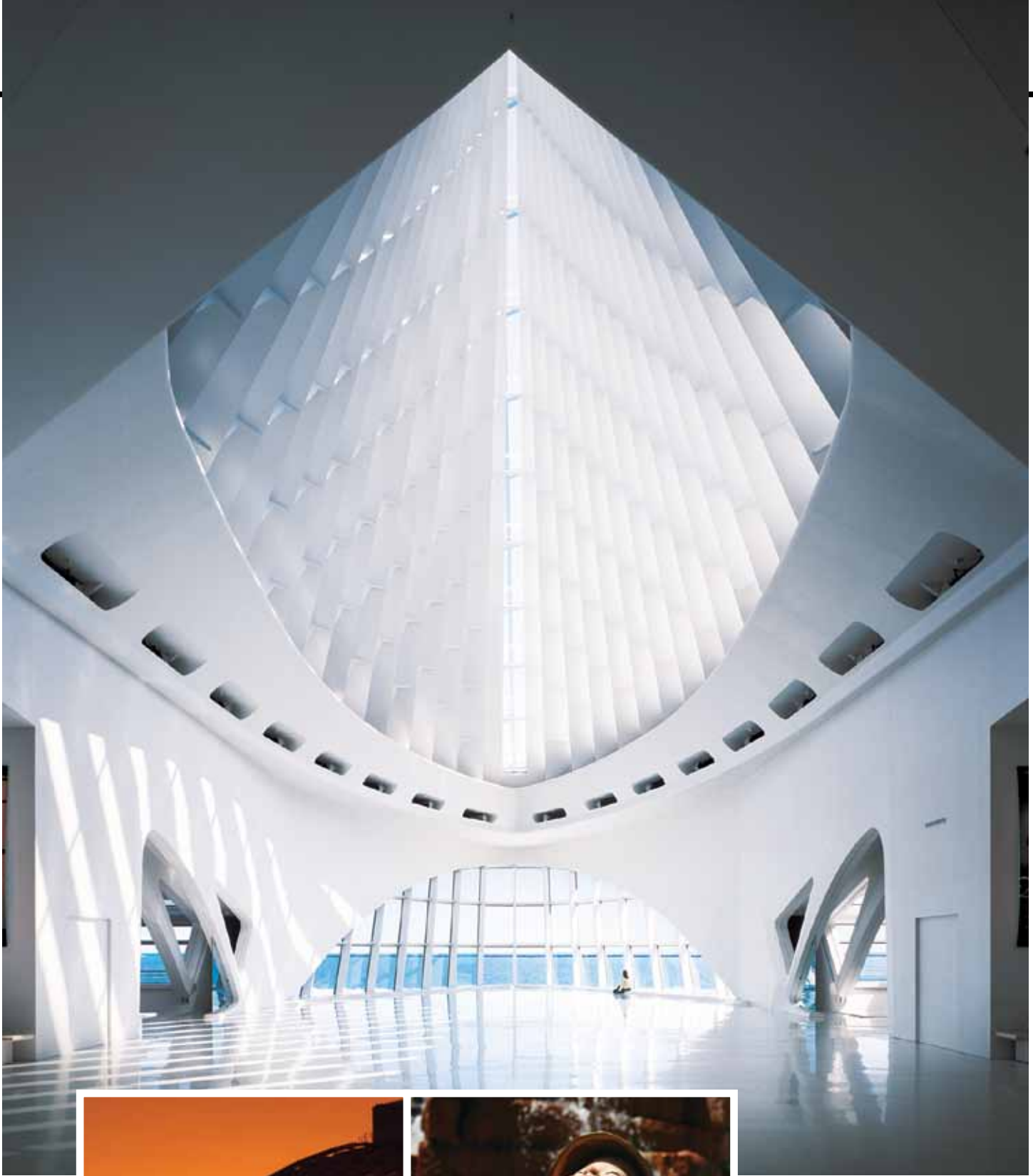
Area guest rooms: 5,200
 Convention center: Overland Park Convention Center
 Exhibit space: 60,000 square feet, plus a 25,000-square-foot ballroom
 Meeting rooms: 7

SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Area guest rooms: 4,100
 Convention center: Sioux Falls Convention Center
 Exhibit space: 100,000 square feet
 Meeting rooms: 12



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AT HOME IN THE HEARTLAND.
Clockwise from top: The Milwaukee Art Museum; Sioux Sculpture Walk in Sioux Falls, S.D.; and the Desert Dome, the world's largest indoor desert, at Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Neb.



FORM AND FUNCTION. Located in downtown Milwaukee, the architectural Frontier Airlines Center (formerly the Midwest Airlines Center) has almost 190,000 square feet of exhibit space.



Go Above the Treetops
Discover the thrill of flight high above the forest floor at Lake Geneva Canopy Tours, just outside Milwaukee. Plan for meeting attendees to go on an exhilarating two-hour canopy tour featuring eight ziplines, five skybridges and three spiral stairways.

Chopping Block for hands-on teambuilding cooking classes. “We have chosen this venue for two meetings, and both were tremendously successful,” she says. Groups split up into teams to create meal components, then come back together to enjoy the meal as a group. “The experience builds great team spirit and group camaraderie.” Known for its ethnic mix of people, Chi-town, the second most populous city in the United States, is home to some of the country’s most distinctive cuisine, like Chicago-style hot dogs, Italian beef sandwiches and deep-dish pizza. One of Pohlonski’s favorite spots to take attendees is to an authentic Chicago pizzeria. “Whether it is Lou Malnati’s, Pizzeria Uno or Giordano’s, our attendees light up at the thought of experiencing Chicago-style pizza,” says Pohlonski.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Located on the southwestern shore of Lake Michigan, Milwaukee is one city meeting planners need to put on

“Milwaukee is what planners are looking for today: easy to get to, easy to get around, easy on the budget and easy attitude.”

their maps, if only for the food and festivals. There, you’ll find traditional German food favorites, like sauerkraut, bratwurst and cheese curds, festivals like Summerfest, the world’s largest music festival, and Brewfest, which features more than 150 craft beers and microbrews from around the globe.

“Milwaukee is what planners are looking for today: easy to get to, easy to get around, easy on the budget and easy attitude,” says Brent Foerster, VP of sales and marketing at Visit Milwaukee. One of the main attractions for meeting planners is the Frontier Airlines Center, which houses the 12,700-seat U.S. Cellular Arena and recently renovated \$42 million, 4,100-seat Milwaukee Theater. It’s connected by skywalk to two hotels: the 721-room, AAA Four Diamond Hilton Milwaukee City Center, which is undergoing an \$11.5 million multiphase renovation, and the 488-room Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, honored as Best Hotel of the Year by its owner company.

DeeDee Irby, conference hotel coordinator at Live Event Management Inc., producers of Women of Faith, says she chose Milwaukee for the two-day event as an alternate city for the Chicago- and Wisconsin-area ticket buyers. “Milwaukee is a great city, walkable and good to navigate,” Irby says. She used the Bradley Center, home of the IHL’s Milwaukee Admirals, for the event. “There are plenty of great hotels within either walking distance or close proximity of the center,” Irby says. “Also within proximity to the Bradley Center are great restaurants. I tried cheese curds for the first time; I was told it was a Milwaukee must-try and I’m sure glad I didn’t miss out,” she says. Another venue used for the Women of Faith event was the Riverside Theatre for the one-day Revolve Tour, a teen girls’ event. With 2,450 seats and 10 removable rows in the front of the main floor, the venue works well for large events.

Deborah Guess, director of operations at the National Association of Teachers of Singing, recently used the Hilton hotel for the NATS and the Music Teachers National Association Collaboration Workshop. “We were very pleased with the hotel and [its] service, as well as [its] facilities,” says Guess. “[Also,] some of our members are Canadian and they appreciated us choosing a venue that was easy for them to travel to and not so far away.” Guess also says Milwaukee’s great restaurants, meeting space at the hotel and overall friendly atmosphere contributed to a successful meeting experience.

Milwaukee has made the transformation from Brew City to New City. From the futuristic wings of the Milwaukee Art Museum soaring dramatically along the spectacular Lake Michigan shoreline to lively, redeveloped downtown neighborhoods like the Historic Third Ward and Brady Street, there's an undeniable energy in this evolving city. "Especially in tight economic times, it's important to highlight Milwaukee's affordability and accessibility," says Ross H. Hoff, conference director at International City/County Management Association, which recently held its annual conference there. "The city's Old World traditions are alive and celebrated even as the city embraces the 21st century through endeavors such as freshwater technologies, sustainability ventures and world-class businesses."

Hoff used the Frontier Airlines Center for the conference. "It's well designed and a good fit for a meeting of ours," he says. The conference had 2,300 main registrants, 400 accompanying partners and 133 exhibiting companies. "Everyone we worked with—especially the local host committee volunteers, hospitality community, caterers and other vendors—were very enthusiastic, professional and the model of 'Midwest Nice.'"

ICMA also hosted several major social events at various venues, including the Milwaukee Public Museum,

Discovery World and the Harley-Davidson Museum.

"The three venues made for very successful social events and should be considered by anyone planning a meeting in Milwaukee," says Hoff. Adds Foerster: "From high-tech displays to fresh and saltwater aquariums, to the dock of Wisconsin's official tall ship, Discovery World's maritime heritage meets 21st-century cool. The Pilot House atop the Aquatarium offers a 90-foot diameter rotunda surrounded by an 18-foot outdoor balcony—a 360-degree view that will blow you away."

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Founded in 1854 by Native Americans, Omaha is the largest city in Nebraska. In the heart of the Midwest, the city is one of the most convenient destinations in the country; it's just a couple hours plane ride from either coast to Eppley Airfield. "We've heard time and time again how easy it is to get around the city and how helpful people are; there is truly a Midwestern hospitality that you feel the minute you arrive," says Dana Markel, executive director at the Omaha Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Today, Omaha is growing as a creative, innovative destination where new ideas mixed with experience create amazing results, Markel adds. Home to five Fortune 500 companies (including ConAgra Foods and Berkshire Ha-



TIP

Milwaukee's Explore More Program offers incredible discounts and value-added deals on lodging, dining, shopping, entertainment, events, fun and more, including discounts at the Hyatt and reduced admissions to the Milwaukee Art Museum, Discovery World, Milwaukee County Zoo and Milwaukee Food Tours.



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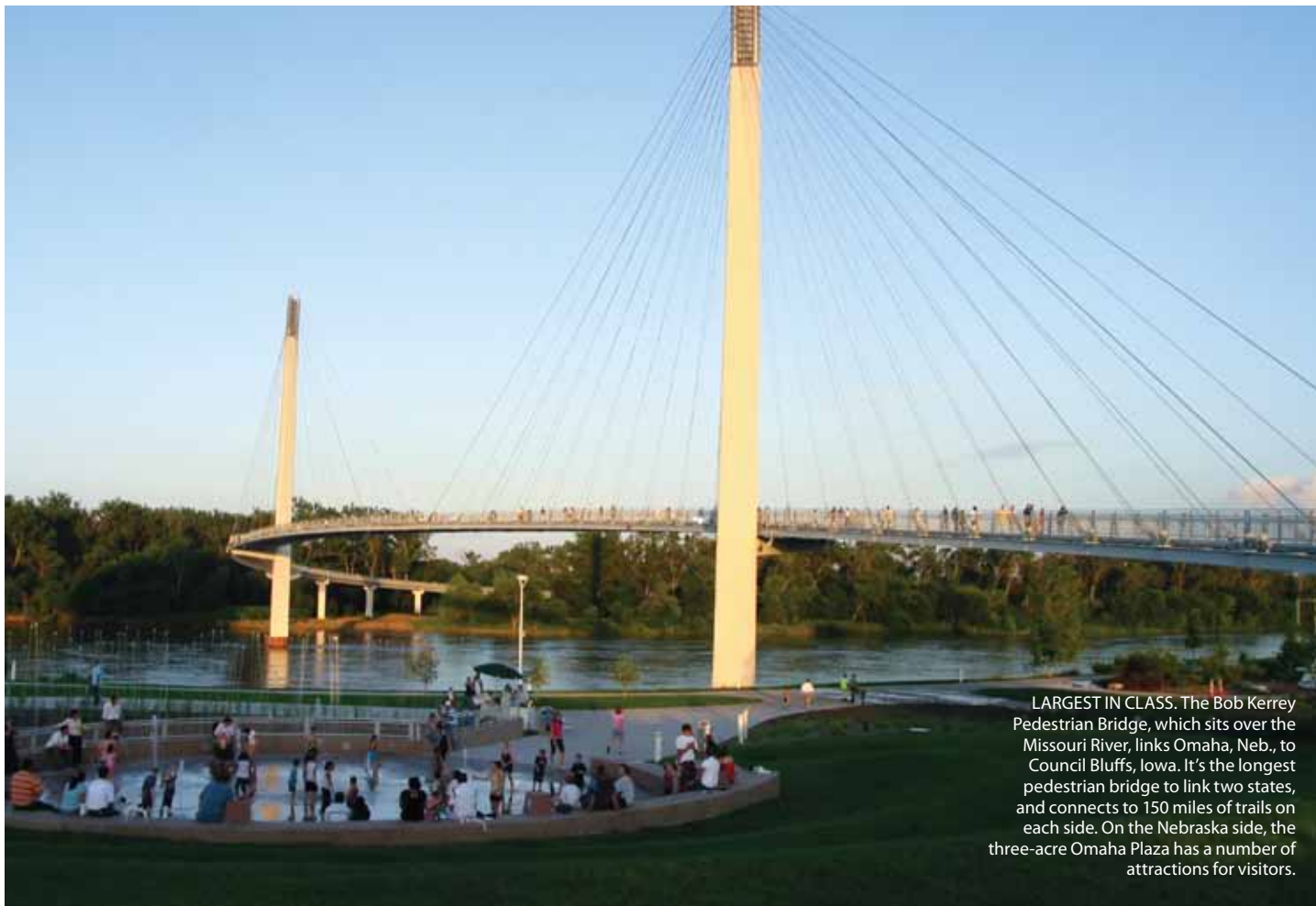


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LARGEST IN CLASS. The Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge, which sits over the Missouri River, links Omaha, Neb., to Council Bluffs, Iowa. It's the longest pedestrian bridge to link two states, and connects to 150 miles of trails on each side. On the Nebraska side, the three-acre Omaha Plaza has a number of attractions for visitors.

TIP

Say Cheese
In the middle of the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge in Omaha is the state line for Nebraska and Iowa, allowing visitors to be in both states at once. "It's a great photo op and a wonderful way to take a break from meetings and enjoy the outdoors," says Dana Markel, executive director at the Omaha CVB.

thaway), Omaha is known for its high value, eclectic array of entertainment and attractions that appeal to a wide variety of interests, from the Lincoln Memorial Stadium (home to the legendary Husker football team) to some of the finest Midwest wineries and Smithsonian-caliber museums.

Recently, the riverfront and downtown received more than \$2 billion in new development, in addition to the \$22 million, 3,000-foot long Bob Kerrey Bridge that spans across the Missouri River, giving pedestrians a spectacular, almost airborne experience. Connected to more than 150 miles of nature trails, the bridge plaza features a small amphitheater and 26 dancing water jets, making the location perfect for festivals, concerts and events.

CenturyLink Center, Omaha's convention center that's connected to a 450-room Hilton, is an impressive location for events. Kay Chelena, vice president of The Management Office in Charlotte, N.C., and conference manager for the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, recently planned the association's 2011 annual conference at the hotel. "[The space allowed] us to host the majority of our room block and all the meeting/

exhibit space under one roof," says Chelena. "Accessibility and affordability were major factors as well, [and] you can't get much closer to the airport. The complimentary hotel shuttles were excellent."

Melissa Bohlmann, convention services and meeting manager for Lutheran Hour Ministries, also used the center for the group's recent meeting in Omaha. With such a large Lutheran population in the Midwest, Omaha was a convenient option for LHM. The friendly community of Omaha was another essential selling point for Bohlmann. "The people of Omaha, from those at the airport, to the shuttle drivers, to the hotel and CenturyLink Center staff and just people in general always made [us] feel welcome," says Bohlmann. "Omaha always made me feel like I was at home." The 1,180-attendee conference agenda featured some off-site events for the 35 international ministry center directors, including a trip to the Henry Doorly Zoo, home to one of the world's largest indoor rainforests (where attendees can eat at the Durham TreeTops restaurant), the world's largest indoor desert and the world's largest nocturnal exhibit. LHM also used the Strategic Air and Space



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Museum for a Family Night event. “For the age demographic of our group (65-80), this venue was perfect,” says Bohlmann. “We were able to combine a fabulous meal with some great entertainment by the Avi8tors that brought them all back to a wonderful time in their lives.”

Bohlmann also talks about how easy getting around is in Omaha. “There is so much within a very easy walk, such as restaurants, museums and theater. If you can’t walk to it, there is a very easy affordable transit system that can be used.” Bohlmann also loved the complimentary airport shuttles most hotels offer: “It’s a big bonus and very cost-saving for our organization.”

Durham Museum, located in Omaha’s historic Union Station (the first art-deco train station in the nation), is another venue worth considering. This architectural masterpiece offers visitors a hands-on glimpse of the region’s rich history, where visitors can explore trains trackside and hop on board President Harry S. Truman’s historic train car. In terms of meeting space, The Great Hall is one of the most breathtaking aspects of The Durham, with

65-foot-high ceilings and 13-foot-tall copper and glass chandeliers. “Convention groups consider this a magnificent, unique and versatile off-site venue,” says Markel.

If you’re looking for a teambuilding activity, consider Omaha’s Hot Shops Art Center, an eclectic warehouse, where you can witness more than 80 artists create cutting-edge art. The spot offers ‘Come Create It’ classes, where groups have hands-on experiences and create pieces alongside the artists. “It puts people in a different environment and allows for some unique interactions they might not normally have in a traditional setting,” says Markel.

OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS

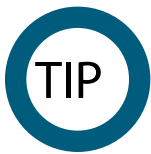
Overland Park, the second-most populous city in Kansas, offers large-scale meeting facilities in a laid-back, casual suburban town. Consistently ranked in the top 10 of CNNMoney and Money magazine’s 100 Best Cities to Live in the United States, Overland Park was recently recognized as one of the best places to raise your kids and one of the best places to grow up.

About 15 minutes south of downtown Kan-

sas City, Overland Park dates back to 1905, when the city was the site for the first airplane flight west of the Mississippi (yes, the Wright brothers performed here). Today, Overland Park is one of the largest suburbs of Kansas City, and is home to some of the largest companies and firms in the U.S., like Sprint and Black and Veatch. Overland Park is known for its suburban hospitality, modern facilities, entertainment and attractions in a central and safe location, says Liron BenDor, vice president of marketing at Visit Overland Park.

With more than 34 hotels, a state-of-the-art convention center with 237,000 square feet of flexible space (and an attached 412-room Sheraton, which adds an extra 20,000 square feet of meeting space) and myriad off-site options, “there’s nothing cookie-cutter about our destination,” says BenDor. “[And], since we are home to mega companies, our hotels are designed to meet the needs and exceed the expectations of the business traveler.”

Matthew Johnson, former president of the Missouri District of the General Youth Division of the United Pentecostal Church Interna-



Don't Be Fooled
The Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City, Mo., is a Hyatt no more. It's now the Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center following a \$13 million renovation and rebranding. The 40-story, 730-room hotel has more than 100,000 square feet of meeting space and is less than a mile from the city's convention center.

tional, says Overland Park was a natural pick for his group. Several thousand young people attend UPCI's annual youth convention, and Johnson needed a city that was clean and safe with quality hotels. Overland Park fit the bill. Most of the event took place at the Overland Park Convention Center. The city's CVB staff also was a big attraction for Johnson. "We needed a CVB that would partner with us for long-term success," he says. "The staff helped us locate restaurants for our attendees and did a great job providing us a large block of rooms so many of the attendees had a very short walk for our multiple sessions."

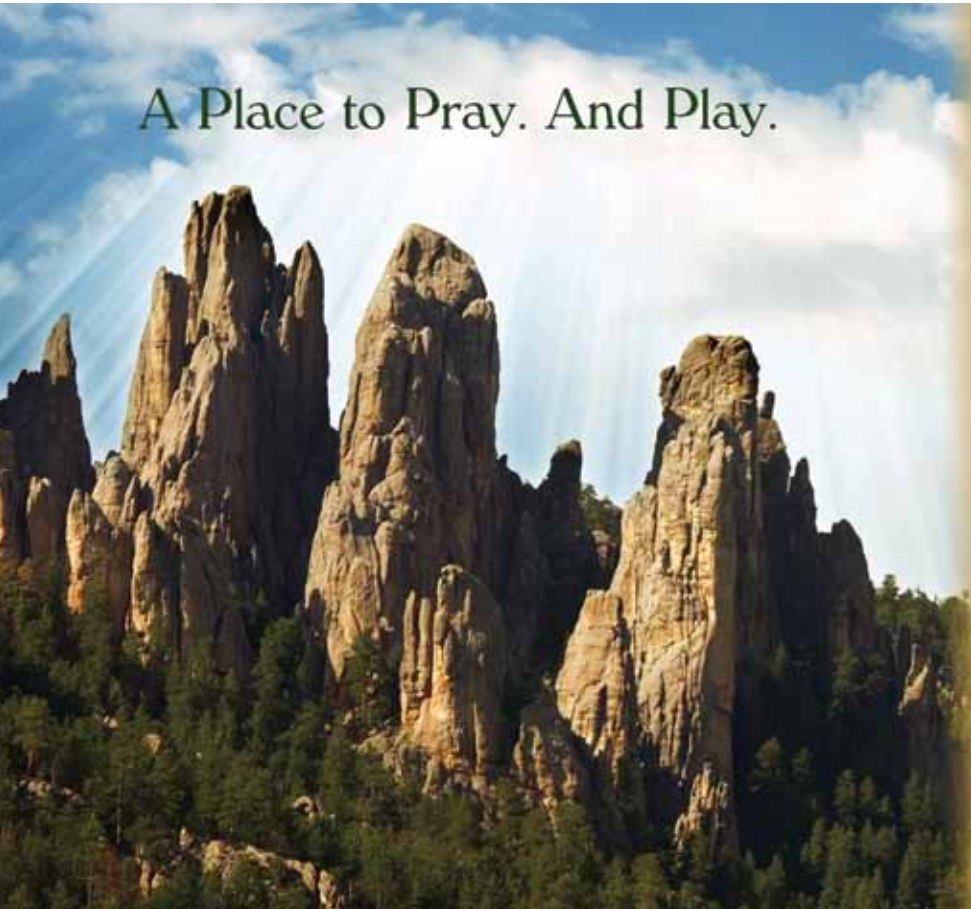
Another noteworthy meeting space is the Johnson County Community College. On campus is the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, the only contemporary art museum in Kansas, which offers a variety of high-tech auditoriums and breakout rooms for groups up to 300 people. For those that enjoy the outdoors and need a break from the boardroom, there's also the 17-mile Indian Creek Bike and Hike Trail that runs along many of the hotels around the area, perfect for the attendees who like to get exercise during their stay. Overland Park's Deer Creek Golf Club recently won the category of the 2011 Favorite Golf Course by the Kansas City Visitor Choice Awards.

Of course, visitors to Overland Park are near everything Kansas City has to offer, including the new,

world-renowned, \$366 million Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts (opened September 2011). The site, designed by architect Moshe Safdie, is the perfect post-convention destination. For outdoor teambuilding, the Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens or the Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead are great for adventurous scavenger hunts.

SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Chartered in 1856 on the banks of the Big Sioux River, Sioux Falls is South Dakota's largest city. The lack of state corporate income tax has resulted in a number of financial companies such as Wells Fargo and Citigroup making their home there. Known for its health care (the city has four major hospitals), Sioux Falls experienced a cultural renaissance during the last several years. "Sioux Falls is a great place for meetings because we offer all the amenities of a big city without the 30-minute drive from airport to hotel," says Krista Orsack, director of sales and marketing at Sioux Falls CVB. It's easy to get around in town with public transit options that include the Sioux Area Metro and the Sioux Falls Trolley, and Sioux Falls also is easily accessible from every direction, within a day's drive of most Midwest metropolitan cities. The Sioux Falls Regional Airport is served by five major airlines and



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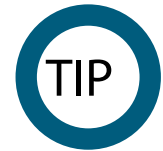
Mike Amiot, Great Plains area director for Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, chose Sioux Falls for its prime location. "Our area covers eight states and it was the most central spot with the necessary facilities available to meet our needs," says Amiot. He has organized meetings for the ministries at the Sheraton Hotel and the Sioux Falls Convention Center for the last three years. "The Sioux Falls Convention Center is an amazing property and the staff is exceptional. It has multiple uses for any type of meeting and is a very clean and professional site." The conveniently attached Sheraton was also a big appeal for Amiot. "Since our conference is held each year during January, this makes it a warm and convenient walk to the meetings."

One of the most popular attractions in Sioux Falls is Falls Park. The 123-acre park features a triple waterfall, visitor information center, five-story observation tower, cafe and historic ruins, all located on the banks of the Big Sioux River. Many of CACM's students enjoy Falls Park. "It is truly a unique feature in Sioux Falls and a must-see," says Amiot. Teresa G. Alfaro, CMP, meetings manager at Volunteers of America, was very pleased with her recent event at Falls Park, as well. "[Everything] was perfect,

from the weather, to the food, to the entertainment and the fireworks over the falls," she says. "Once you get to Sioux Falls, you don't want to leave," says Alfaro, who loved the warmth of its people. Alfaro was also impressed with the level of support she received from the CVB when planning her meeting. Staff members helped her secure Falls Park for a welcome reception, worked with her on the booking deadline, made sure all permits and requirements were in place, and attended pre-planning meetings.

The Washington Pavilion, located in a beautifully renovated historic building in downtown, houses the three-story Kirby Science Center, Wells Fargo CineDome and six art galleries in the Visual Arts Center. The Great Hall inside is known for attracting popular Broadway shows and musical talent filling a year-round schedule and is home to the South Dakota Symphony. Alfaro organized the Volunteers for America awards dinner on the stage overlooking the auditorium of the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science. She says it's one of only a few facilities in the world to bring together under one roof the performing arts, visual arts, interactive science and educational opportunities. "This is a first-class venue in a first-class city and perfect for an event such as an awards dinner, a reception, or a dance."

For something more traditional, consider the Sioux Falls Convention Center, which offers 100,000 square feet of



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WHAT A BEAUTY. Located near Traverse City, Mich., Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore was voted "Good Morning America's" Most Beautiful Place by viewers.

flexible meeting space, and is attached to an 8,000-seat arena and 243-room Sheraton hotel. In November, residents approved the construction of a \$115 million event center, scheduled to be complete by fall 2014. The multipurpose arena will add 30,000 square feet of space to the existing convention center and arena, amounting to 132,000 square feet of meeting space, allowing for 180 standard trade-show booths.

TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN

Traverse City, located on Grand Traverse Bay, a long deep inlet of Lake Michigan in the northwest corner of Michigan's Lower Penin-

sula, has "small-town charm seasoned with True North sophistication," says Brad Van Dommelen, president of Traverse City Convention and Visitors Bureau. Although Traverse City is relatively small both in terms of population (15,000) and geography (8.4 square miles), more than 174,000 people are considered part of the Traverse City area.

Despite its northern latitude (Traverse City sits on the 45th parallel, exactly halfway between the Equator and the North Pole), the area has a surprisingly moderate climate, thanks to the warm Lake Michigan waters that surround it, explains Van Dommelen. Early farmers discovered they could grow delicate fruit like peaches and cherries on the slopes above Grand Traverse Bay, which gave Traverse City its title as the nation's Cherry Capital. Near the time of cherry harvest, the city holds an annual weeklong Cherry Festival during the first full week of July, attracting approximately 500,000 visitors.

Long celebrated for its pristine lakes and streams, verdant forests and miles of golden beaches, the Traverse City area has 234 miles of continuous Lake Michigan shoreline, with more than 95 inland lakes at least 50 acres in size. It is undoubtedly an outdoor-oriented community, winning fans for its laid-back lifestyle, its diverse cultural life and its astonishing culinary scene.

Between the region's picturesque port towns, hidden byways and historic downtown, Traverse City is a great place to indulge the appetite, with a thriving farm-to-table movement, a growing group of talented chefs and an acclaimed wine industry. Year after year, the city

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is celebrated as one of the country's leading foodie towns. In fact, Bon Appetit rated it No. 5 in 2010.

"We're able to provide a meeting environment that people actually want to immerse themselves in," says Van Dommelen. "What we have in Traverse City is a truly beautiful, relaxing setting with lots of extra experiences that aren't available in most convention destinations. We call it 'food for the soul.'"

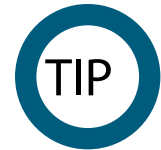
Many groups find they get record attendance at Traverse City meetings, likely because it's a place where attendees like to bring their families. "People feel comfortable bringing their spouse and kids along when they come to Traverse City, because it's safe and there's a lot for them to do," says Van Dommelen.

Although the city doesn't have a dedicated convention center, there are dozens of options for special meeting venues, like Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, the area's largest full-service resort hotel. With 660 rooms, the resort offers 85,000 square feet of meeting space for groups of up to 2,500, plus a Governors' Hall with 20,160 square feet of group space with 20-foot ceilings, state-of-the-art conference equipment and a projection booth.

Roxanne Johnson, executive assistant at the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents, chose the Grand Traverse Resort for a recent meeting because of

its amenities and beautiful surroundings. Its location 10 minutes from the Cherry Capital Airport made for a convenient trip for attendees. "PIA members loved the Grand Traverse Resort," says Johnson. "Everything was very convenient, and the banquet and events staff was wonderful to work with. The variety of wonderful restaurants on property was very pleasing to our members, and the views at sunset from Aerie [Restaurant] were spectacular." Even better? Johnson was able to bring her meeting in under budget due to the affordability of the property. Johnson says some members expressed hesitation about going to what they thought was a remote location, but once they arrived there, many said they would definitely go back to the area on their own for family vacations.

There's a plethora of teambuilding options in Traverse City, too. From The Tall Ship Manitou, which offers sailing on the Great Lakes, to golf (Golf Magazine selected Traverse City as one of America's top six golf regions) to canoe and kayak excursions, there's something for every type of personality. One of the most popular excursions is into the wine country. The Leelanau and Old Mission peninsulas are dotted with more than 27 vineyards and wineries that consistently bring home awards from regional, national and international competitions. Almost all are open for tastings and tours. ■



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Main photo: I-X Center's new state-of-the-art telescopic portable seating
Inset photo: I-X Center's east entrance

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