Entertaining at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art
The renowned Smithsonian National Museum of African Art is the premier venue in the nation showcasing the diverse, rich, and artistic dynamism of Africa. With an unparalleled collection of 12,000 works of art—including the Walt Disney-Tishman African Art Collection—the National Museum of African Art provides the perfect setting for that conference, evening reception, or private event, including weddings, birthday celebrations, or retirement parties.
Situated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.—paces from the Washington Monument and Smithsonian Castle—the National Museum of African Art sits among some of the nation’s most iconic landmarks. Guests will feast their eyes on stunning works of traditional and contemporary art from across Africa and the diaspora in a warm and inviting atmosphere. From alcoves filled with handcrafted gold pieces to sinuous wood and stone sculptures, the National Museum of African Art will offer your guests a luxurious and memorable cosmopolitan experience.
The museum’s large architectural windows face the picturesque Enid A. Haupt Garden and fountain. Guests enter through the prominent iron gates to the garden as they approach the museum. Opened in 1987, the museum has four levels, with limestone walls and granite flooring. The central staircase is open from the skylights above to the indigo blue tiled fountain on the lowest level.

Our expert events management team is available to assist you with all your event logistics, including suggesting caterers and valet parking, arranging audio-visual services, or accommodating your media needs. Each of the museum’s four floors is accessible by elevator and stairs. The museum is adjacent to the blue, orange, and silver lines at Smithsonian Metro station; street parking is available on Independence Avenue and Jefferson Drive.
Evening Event Spaces

These spaces are available for evening events only. They can be used independently or in conjunction with the museum’s other spaces. All areas prominently feature African art nearby.

The pavilion, mezzanine, and remaining museum spaces can be combined to accommodate a standing reception for up to 750 people.
THE PAVILION

The main entrance to the museum is a spacious and inviting room featuring a high vaulted ceiling, large architectural windows, Moroccan design elements, limestone walls, and granite flooring—surrounded by African art.

- Up to 110 individuals for a seated dinner
- Up to 200 individuals for a standing reception
THE MEZZANINE

The mezzanine is the central point between three galleries. This area features large architectural columns and beams, carpeting, and a glass overlook into the museum’s largest gallery on the floor below.

- Up to 80 individuals for a seated dinner
- Up to 80 individuals for a standing reception

When used in conjunction with the pavilion during an event, the mezzanine can be utilized as a separate VIP or reception space with a distinctive overlook affording a beautiful view of our permanent collection.
Day or Evening Meeting Spaces

These spaces are available for both day and evening meetings and events. All have Wi-Fi and full audio-visual connections. Adjacent rooms can be staged for catering.

To schedule an appointment to tour the event spaces or to learn more, please complete the National Museum of African Art Events Overview and return to Kimberly Mayfield Williams at kim@si.edu.
LECTURE HALL

Located off the four-story atrium, the lecture hall features wide plank oak flooring, Knoll seating, and a large mural of an African art textile from the museum’s collection.

- Up to 90 individuals with lecture-style seating
- Up to 80 individuals for a seated dinner
The larger of our two conference rooms, this room features a custom large glass-topped teak conference table, adjustable seating, projector and monitor connections, a white board, and cabinetry—the perfect setting for your executive retreat. Images of African art accent the walls.

- Up to 16 individuals with boardroom-style seating
WELCOME CONFERENCE ROOM

The smaller of our two meeting rooms is suited to a more casual, professional meeting. Equipped with audio-visual connections, this room features vintage Marcel Breuer chairs, and windows that look onto the S. Dillon Ripley Center concourse.

- Up to 16 individuals with boardroom-style seating
Please complete this Event Overview form so that our events management team may best address your specific needs.

Please email the completed form to Kimberly Mayfield Williams at kim@si.edu.