

NABALINK

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

CHICAGO
REGIONAL CONFERENCE
SOURCE BOOK





Guylaine Saint Juste

President & CEO

Welcome to the NABA Link regional conference! We are so excited about this valuable opportunity for us to connect, learn, and collaborate.

Our presence here is a testament to the incredible legacy of the NABA Nine, who, 54 years ago, founded this organization to address the systemic challenges faced by Black accounting professionals. Their dedication and vision have paved the way for us to continue their important work.

While we have made significant strides, it's clear that there is more work to be done. NABA's commitment to empowering Black Business Leaders, as well as driving lasting change, remains steadfast. Together, under one mission and one voice, we hold the potential to accomplish remarkable strides toward a more just world.

Warmest regards,



Guylaine Saint Juste, SHRM-SCP, CAE

President & CEO





What we do

We engage, empower, and educate Black Business Leaders and Institutions by providing a platform to enhance skills and elevate Voice. Our 5 Es: engage, empower, educate, enhance, and elevate.

Doing so, we're "lifting as we climb."

Vision

We path and pave the way to a more just world, unleashing endless opportunities for growth and advancement so that Black Business Leaders achieve the best version of themselves at every point of their journey.





FREE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Kickstart Your Career in Finance, Accounting, Business or Entrepreneurship!

Join today for **FREE** and get:

- **Access** to industry leaders and exclusive networking events
- **Career support** to guide you along the way
- **Exclusive educational resources** tailored to your growth

Scan the QR code to unlock your potential and take the first step toward success!



Visit nabainc.org for more information



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AGENDA



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Friday, October 25, 2024

Start	From	Track	Session	# of ppl	Meeting Room
3:00 PM	4:00 PM	College Students	Student Orientation	680	S100A
4:15 PM	5:15 PM	College Students	From the Ballot Box to the Boardroom: Your Role In Shaping Our Future w/Lisa Howze	175	S102D
		College Students	PwC Community College Pilot Meet & Greet	175	S102BC
		ALL	Decide2Commit Health & Wellness Session w/Adrian Williams	175	S103A
		ALL	NABA Membership Benefits Spotlight	175	S103D
5:15PM	6:00 PM		BREAK		
6:00 PM	6:35 PM	N/A	Opening Kick Off with Michael Ellison in Expo Hall	-	S100A
6:40 PM	7:30 PM		Opening Plenary with a Special Guest Shawn Taylor		
7:35 PM	8:45 PM		Opening Reception in Expo Hall		
9:00 PM	10:30 PM		Student Engagement Activity inside Expo Hall/Rep Your College		S100BC

Saturday, October 26, 2024

Start	From	Track	Description	# of ppl	Meeting Room
7:00 AM	6:00 PM		Registration Open		Grand Ballroom Foyer
8:30 AM	9:30 AM		PwC Student Networking Breakfast: Reimagining the Future: PwC Careers and GEN AI Transformation	680	S100A
9:00 AM	6:00 PM	Activations	Career Expo	-	S100BC
			Career Accelerator, Sponsored by PwC	175	S106B
			Special Employer Spotlight		
			Interviews Open	-	S105BC
9:45 AM	12:00 PM	Early & Mid-Career Professionals	CPA Exam Review Session + CPA Bound 2.0 Info Session	175	S102A
9:45 AM	12:00 PM	Student Chapter Leaders and HS Students	Emerging Leaders Academy, Powered by KPMG	275	S103BC



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9:45 AM	10:45 AM	Early & Mid-Career Professionals	The Agency You Think You Know: Careers with the IRS	175	S102D
		College Student	College Student Session: Global Mindset Skills for a Global Career, Sponsored by EY	275	S102BC
		College Student	EXPO Hall Visit		S100BC
		ALL	LinkedIN Bar, Sponsored by Microsoft Rock Your Profile Session 1	40	S106A
		College Student	Student to Professional: Taking the Leap, Sponsored by Medtronic	275	S102BC
		College Student	EXPO Hall Visit		S100BC
		ALL	LinkedIN Bar, Sponsored by Microsoft Rock Your Profile Session 2	40	S106A
12:15 PM	1:45 PM		EXPO Hall CLOSED FOR LUNCH		S100BC
12:15 PM	1:45 PM	College & HS Students	Networking Luncheon & Healthcare Industry Career Panel With Abbott, AbbVie and Medtronic	680	S100A
2:00 PM	3:00 PM	ALL	WONN: Women of NABA Leadership Development Session (CPE): Personal Power, Presence and Influence with Michelle Anne Johnson and Guylaine Saint Juste Sponsored by PwC	275	S103BC
		ALL	MONN: Men of NABA Leadership Development Session (CPE) with Butch Reynolds and Durran Dunn	175	S102A
		College & HS Students	Exploring Careers with the IRS	275	S102BC
		ALL	LinkedIN Bar, Sponsored by Microsoft Rock Your Profile Session 3	40	S106A
4:30 PM	5:30 PM	ALL	LinkedIN Bar, Sponsored by Microsoft Rock Your Profile Session 4	40	S106A
4:30 PM	6:00PM	ALL	EXPO Hall Visit		S100BC
7:00 PM	9:00 PM	College Students	Student Social and Karaoke Night	500	S100BC

Sunday, October 27, 2024

Start	From		Description	# of ppl	Meeting Room
11:00 AM	12:00 PM	ALL	Closing Ceremony & Brunch with Speaker: Fired Up and Ready to Go!		S100A



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SPEAKERS





Shawn Taylor

Board of Trustees

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Shawn Taylor was appointed to the Board of Trustees on July 1, 2022. With a 30 year career as a successful CEO, industry leader, and entrepreneur, Taylor has delivered value in a variety of environments from corporate to fast growing venture backed startups to turnaround situations. He brings diverse business experience with particular expertise in the restaurant and food industry as an owner, developer, and operator of 30+ restaurants in the Taco Bell and subsequently Zaxby's franchise systems.

With exceptional operational and leadership skills, along with strong financial acumen and a foundation in "Big 5" public accounting, Taylor has been a strategic advisor on franchise operations helping guide businesses to succeed and grow. He was elected to the National Board of Advisors representing the southwest region on Zaxby's Franchise, LLC's ZAC Advisory Council and on Taco Bell's Franchise Management Advisory Council. As a key contributor who builds deep relationships, he has worked closely with Boards and senior management teams on developing solutions to financial, operational, customer service, and growth challenges. He holds leadership roles on a number of Advisory Boards including a U.S. banking franchise, the Finance and Audit Committee for Houston's Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, the board of directors for the Memorial Hermann Foundation, and the board of directors for Noodles and Company (NDLS) and serves on the audit and nomination, and governance committees.

In 2011, along with a group of leading business leaders, he became a member of the ownership group that acquired the MLB Houston Astros. Subsequent to selling his interest in 2017, he became a special advisor to the Chairman.

A determined and proactive national ambassador for workforce diversity, Taylor is passionate about influencing organizations on the benefit of organizational diversity, and has successfully recruited, coached, and developed minorities to achieve long term success. His involvement in outside community activities and education has also enhanced Zaxby's and Taco Bell's brand value.





Uneka Hicks

Finance Director of Global Procurement



Uneka Hicks brings 17 years of extensive experience at Abbott Laboratories to her current role as Finance Director for Global Procurement. Throughout her career at Abbott, Uneka has demonstrated exceptional leadership in various finance organizations, including Legal, Global Engineering Services, and Core Diagnostics. Her expertise extends beyond Abbott, having held finance and accounting roles at Allstate Insurance Co. and Grainger. Uneka is an active member of the Abbott Finance Diversity & Inclusion team and serves as the Treasurer for Abbott's Black Business Network (BBN). Uneka is a Certified Public Accountant, has an MBA from Keller Graduate School of Management and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Columbia College.





MIKE ELLISON

Actor, Recording Artist, &
Emmy® Award-Winning Producer

Mike Ellison is an actor, recording artist, and an Emmy® Award winning producer. Born to parents living and working in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia before the family relocated to Reston, Virginia where he was raised, Mike fully realized himself as an interdisciplinary artist in Detroit. Mike's acting credits span film, theater and television, including appearances on CHICAGO FIRE and CHICAGO PD. With a Communications Degree from the University of Virginia, Mike began his career in sports marketing and public relations. He utilizes the creative arts as a vehicle for cultural collaboration, community and corporate engagement, and charitable endeavors throughout the United States and his birth country. His boutique agency, Wendemé Creative, provides a range of creative strategy, content and production services to select companies and organizations. Mike's father, the late journalist Bob Ellison, was the first African American president of the White House Correspondents' Association.





Tamika Taylor

Finance Director & CFO Cardiovascular Diagnostic
Business

Medtronic

Tamika Taylor is an experienced finance professional with over 25 years of experience working in Fortune 500 companies in Consumer Goods, Retail, and the Medical Device Industries. She is currently a Finance Director/CFO of the Cardiovascular Diagnostic business at Medtronic and has served in various executive level roles for the past 4 years. Her passion for strategy and partnership across functions has led to a continuous track-record of optimizing business performance and building strong relationships. Tamika is a servant leader that prioritizes serving the needs of her staff and organization as well as champions Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. At Medtronic she serves on the Global Leadership Team of the African Descent Network and works closely with the Awareness Benefiting Leadership and Employees About Disabilities (ABLED) specifically focused on heightening awareness of Neurodiversity.

Tamika is a graduate of Spelman College where she earned her B.A in Psychology and earned her M.B.A from Xavier University with a concentration in Finance.





Harry "Butch" Reynolds

Gold Medalist, World Record Holder and subject of the award-winning ESPN 30 for 30 Documentary "False Positive"

Butch Reynolds was a 400-meter runner who competed at the 1988 and 1996 Olympics, winning a silver medal in the 400 in 1988 and a gold medal that same year in the 4x400 relay. A three-time gold medalist in the 4x400 relay at the World Championships, Reynolds helped U.S. teams win in 1987, 1993, and 1995. He also won silver medals in the 400 at the Worlds in 1993 and 1995 and a bronze in 1987. At the 1993 World Indoor Championships, Reynolds also won a gold medal in the 400.

One of Reynolds' greatest accomplishments came in August 1988, where he ran 400 meters in 43.29 seconds – setting a world record that stood for over 11 years, bettering Lee Evans' famed 400 world record set at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics. In 1990, Reynolds was suspended for alleged drug use by the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF). He fought his suspension in court for almost two years. Eventually, his battle took him to the U.S. Supreme Court, which declared him eligible to compete at the 1992 Olympic Trials. Reynolds made the 4x400 relay team for the 1992 Olympics, but the IAAF would not allow him to run at the Olympics. Reynolds later won a libel suit against the IAAF in the U.S. court system, but the IAAF refused to recognize that verdict, and it was eventually overturned on appeal.

Reynolds is a graduate of The Ohio State University, where as a student-athlete he set a school and track record by running 44.10 seconds in the 400 at the Jesse Owens Invitational. Butch worked as a trainer and speed coach on the 2005-2006 Ohio State Buckeye Football Team that reached the National Championship game under then Head Coach Jim Tressel.

Today, Butch continues the fight to clear his name from the fraudulent tests. He trains athletes seeking to achieve their peak performance and manages the Butch Reynolds Care for Kids Foundation.

For more information go to www.butchreynolds.com or contact Larry Lundy, President LMG at llundyimg@gmail.com.





Adrian Williams

CEO



Adrian Williams is a distinguished motivational speaker and fitness expert, renowned for his innovative integration of corporate acumen and fitness expertise. With over 30 years of experience in both the high-stakes world of corporate America and the dynamic field of health and fitness, Adrian has developed a unique approach that blends his deep understanding of the corporate environment with a passionate commitment to wellness.

Best known for his Healthy Lifestyle Program, the "Eat & Move for Your Health" TV show, and the "No Excuses Fitness Video", Adrian has become a pivotal figure in revolutionizing corporate wellness. He skillfully uses business terminologies such as Waterfall vs Agile methodologies, ROI (Return on Investment), and KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) to draw compelling parallels between corporate success and personal health.

Adrian's expertise extends to lifestyle change, family fitness, weight loss management, sports performance training, and body sculpting. His programs have significantly impacted hundreds of individuals, including high-profile celebrities and former pro athletes, helping them achieve their health and fitness goals.

He is also the co-founder of N-SPIRE.org and has developed physical education programs for major organizations like Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Adrian's motivational videos and upcoming book, "The CEO of Me, Because Your Health Is Your Business," slated for release summer 2024, emphasize his philosophy that managing personal health should mirror running a successful enterprise.

As a visionary bridging the gap between the boardroom and the gym room, Adrian inspires individuals to become CEOs of their health, managing their well-being with the same dedication and strategic insight they apply to their professional lives. His approach not only empowers but also transforms personal health into a sustainable and innovative journey.





Brianna Davis

Director of Finance

abbvie

Brianna Davis is currently a Director in finance at AbbVie supporting the US Psychiatry organization. She has 10+ years of experience as a finance professional in the pharmaceutical industry supporting various organizations including Research and Development, Corporate Audit Services, International Commercial Therapeutics, and US Commercial Therapeutics. Brianna holds a bachelor's degree in finance from Howard University and a Master of Business Administration from Emory University. Outside of work, Brianna serves as an advocate for DEI initiatives at AbbVie and is an Associate Board member for the local Chicago chapter of Girls Inc. In her personal time, Brianna enjoys raising her baby girl Naiomi and puppy Daisy, spending time with family and friends, and traveling.





Michelle Anne Johnson

Managing Partner

Hollywood Actress and Corporate VP

During my 25-year career as a professional actress in Hollywood, I co-founded an award-winning theater company, wrote and performed in sketch comedy troupes, and guest-starred in dozens of popular television shows, including The Jamie Foxx Show, Friends, Bones, CSI, CSI: Miami, Modern Family, and NCIS. Concurrently (yes, at the same time!) I had a vice president role in one of the largest insurance brokerages in the world, leading two teams in different offices. I credit many of the skills I developed as an actress to my rapid rise in the corporate world.

From External Success to Personal Power

But even with two successful careers, I found myself feeling lost, confused, and anxious about my future. So I did what anyone would do: I quit my job, walked away from acting, and meditated for 5 years. I call it “My Big Time Out.” It was then that I began to understand that external success doesn’t equate to personal empowerment. So I began to do the work within to do my work in the world.

Personal Transformation to Corporate Consultant

After reprioritizing my life and finding my purpose, I reinvented myself as an executive coach and leadership consultant. Drawing on my own transformational journey in addition to a BA in Psychology and MBA, I show leaders how to unlock and harness personal power to amplify their influence. I developed The ACP Presence Model, a framework that builds presence by cultivating authenticity, confidence, and purpose – the building blocks of personal power. Over the last 10 years, I have coached hundreds of professionals and facilitated dozens of workshops for companies such as Lowe’s, Deloitte, AbbVie, Amex, Cisco, Genentech, and KPMG.

Keynotes That Entertain and Inspire

For me, keynote speaking is the perfect synthesis of my performing and consulting careers. I use my acting skills to infuse my talks with energy, emotion, and humor; and my consulting experience has taught me how to explain concepts in practical terms that create tangible results. I’m on a mission to encourage as many people as possible to do the work within to do their work in the world.





Don Thompson

CEO & Founder



Don Thompson brings his signature blend of savvy business acumen and warm personal touch to his role as CEO and Founder of Cleveland Avenue (CA), LLC. Founded in 2015, with his life partner and wife, Liz Thompson, CA is a prominent Chicago-based investment firm specializing in lifestyle consumer brands and companies that positively disrupt large and growing markets. The Thompsons concurrently formed The Cleveland Avenue Foundation for Education which is committed to supporting and mentoring students and professionals as they progress from the classroom to the boardroom through philanthropy and education support services. Mr. Thompson launched his own recipe for success at CA following over 25 years of climbing the ranks at McDonald's, where he departed after successfully running the company as President & CEO. Thompson not only invests in but also mentors entrepreneurs by combining his electrical engineering background, global leadership, and business expertise with his passion for customer innovation to create a powerful environment of analytical thinking and creativity. He presides over a global portfolio as rich in humanity as it is in strong investment returns. Thompson stands at the intersection of insight and opportunity by merging CA's talented diverse teams and resources with his global business leadership experience and connections.

As a distinguished global speaker, coveted thought influencer, and friend to many, Thompson brings people together through a shared vision of nurturing and advancing innovative brands worldwide. Thompson is also at the intersection of potential and purpose by cultivating a culture that stays true to his foundations of faith, family, service, philanthropy, diversity, and inclusion. Thompson is a member of the Commercial and Economic Clubs of Chicago, World Business Chicago, the Arthur M. Brazier Foundation, and serves on the National Football League (NFL) Diversity Advisory Committee as well as is a Trustee of The Cleveland Avenue Foundation for Education. In addition to Footprint, Thompson lends his expertise to

high-profile boards as a Director at Royal Caribbean Cruises Limited, The Northern Trust Corporation, and Northwestern Memorial HealthCare. He formerly served on the boards as a Director at Beyond Meat, Exelon, McDonald's Corporation, as an Advisory Board Member with DocuSign, and as a Purdue University Board Trustee.

Thompson received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University and an Honorary Doctorate in Science from Excelsior College. In 2021, Thompson received the Dreamer Award from his alma mater, Purdue University, for his service and impact on the lives of millions of Boilermakers across the country throughout his career.

Cleveland Avenue and the Cleveland Avenue Foundation for Education have received numerous awards and recognition for their social impact, including the Baumhart Center at Loyola University Chicago Social Impact Award. Additionally, Mr. Thompson has been honored with the National Black MBA Association's Outstanding Leadership Award, been inducted into the Chicago Innovation Hall of Fame, and received 1871's Momentum Chicagoness Award.



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OUR PROGRAMS





In 2007, NABA launched the CPA Bound program to address barriers black professionals and students face in obtaining their Certified Public Accountants (“CPA”) license. Phase two of the program launched in 2020, with the goal of creating and equipping a community of CPA candidates with the tools and resources needed for licensure achievement.

As a community, NABA’s intent is to support in relieving some of the stresses NABA members experience in their journey toward CPA attainment. NABA strives to promote unity; an encouraging environment, uplifting engagement that breaks through the barriers of isolation, during and after the CPA achievement process, thereby, “lifting as we climb.”

The program will focus on the following CPAs for success:

1. **Connect:** Create a community of candidates seeking to address the pain points of studying for the CPA exam through group communication.
2. **Prepare:** Prepare CPA candidates by providing access to CPA requirement information, study materials and scholarship opportunities.
3. **Award:** Celebrate new CPAs with recognition awards and incentive opportunities.
4. **Support:** Support current CPAs in maintaining their license by promoting CPE opportunities and leveraging relationships with NASBA and the AICPA.

Program components will include:

- **Community chats and discussion boards, connecting candidates across the country preparing for exams**
- **Bi-monthly webinars featuring:**
 - o CPA exam review partners
 - o CPA study coaches
 - o Inspirational speakers





ACAP is a unique pipeline from high school to college that allows students to become prepared and informed about the expectations of college life.

The Accounting Career Awareness Program and the Accelerated Career Awareness Program (ACAP) for high school students (freshmen through seniors) in which they are put in the NABA pipeline to help build future Black Business Leaders with a focus on directing them to major in accounting, finance, and its related business fields including entrepreneurship. It included a one-week residency at a college or university combined with year-round programming.

During a week-long summer campus residency program, a select group of students can explore careers in accounting, finance, and business-related fields via a rigorous class and study schedule, college-level content, and valuable networking opportunities. ACAP® introduces underrepresented diverse high school students to accounting, finance, economics, technology, and management while providing the foundation of financial literacy and the development of interpersonal skills. Prominent business leaders share their knowledge, provide tips for success, and discuss career opportunities. Student's experience careers in accounting firsthand through tours of local certified public accounting firms and companies in the private sector. Students to learn the value of collaboration and teamwork through the group projects or case study initiatives. The program concludes with a recognition luncheon or banquet for students, parents, speakers, and corporate partners.

Through mentoring we help them to matriculate to college but also how to succeed in college through a mentoring initiative. The program is fully supervised and all-expenses-paid. Students selected will receive free tuition, room, and board, books, materials, tools, NABA HS membership, and mentoring.

Since its beginning in 1980, the program has served as a turning point in the academic lives of thousands of high school students, motivating them to pursue higher education and develop their own unique paving and pathing to reach their maximum potential.



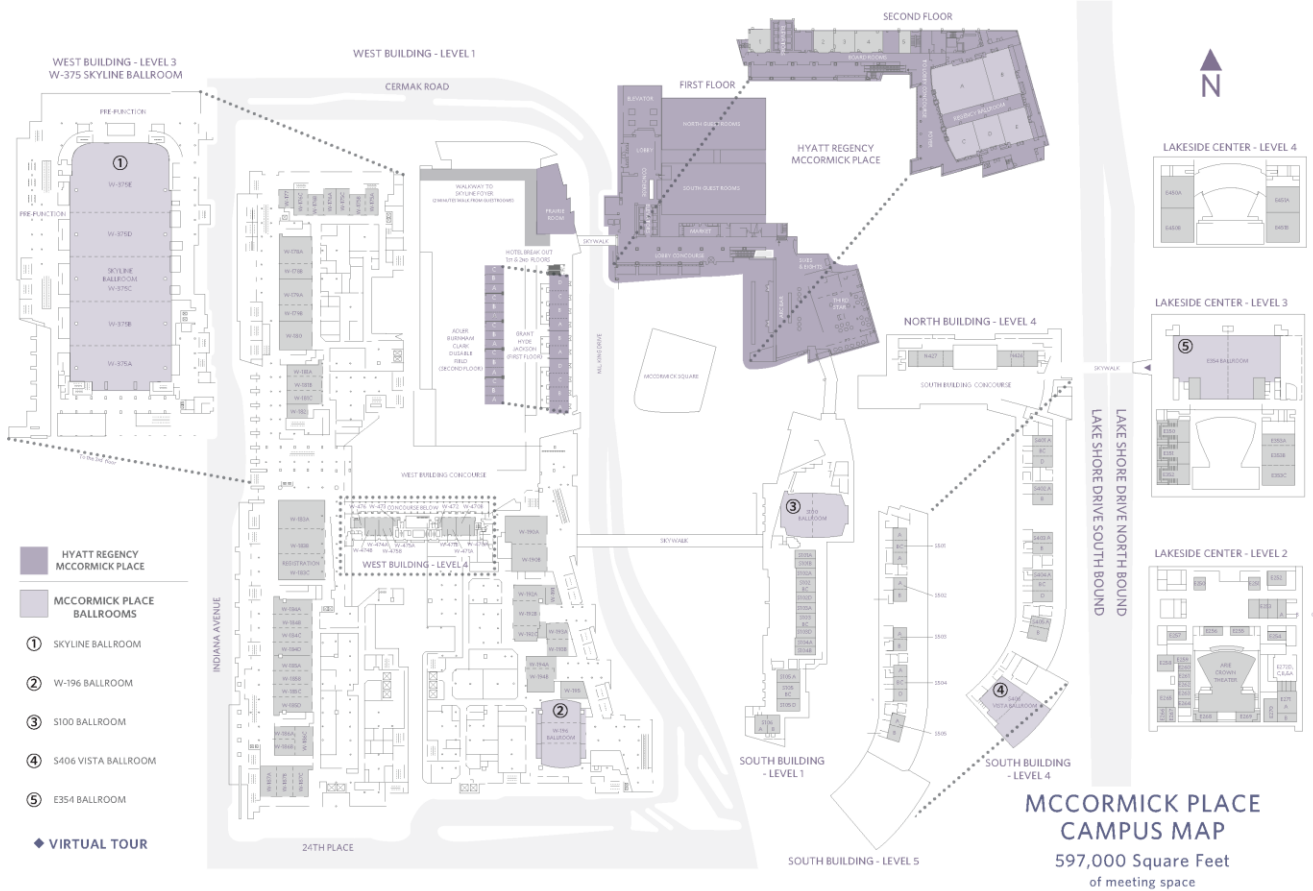
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EVENT FLOORPLAN



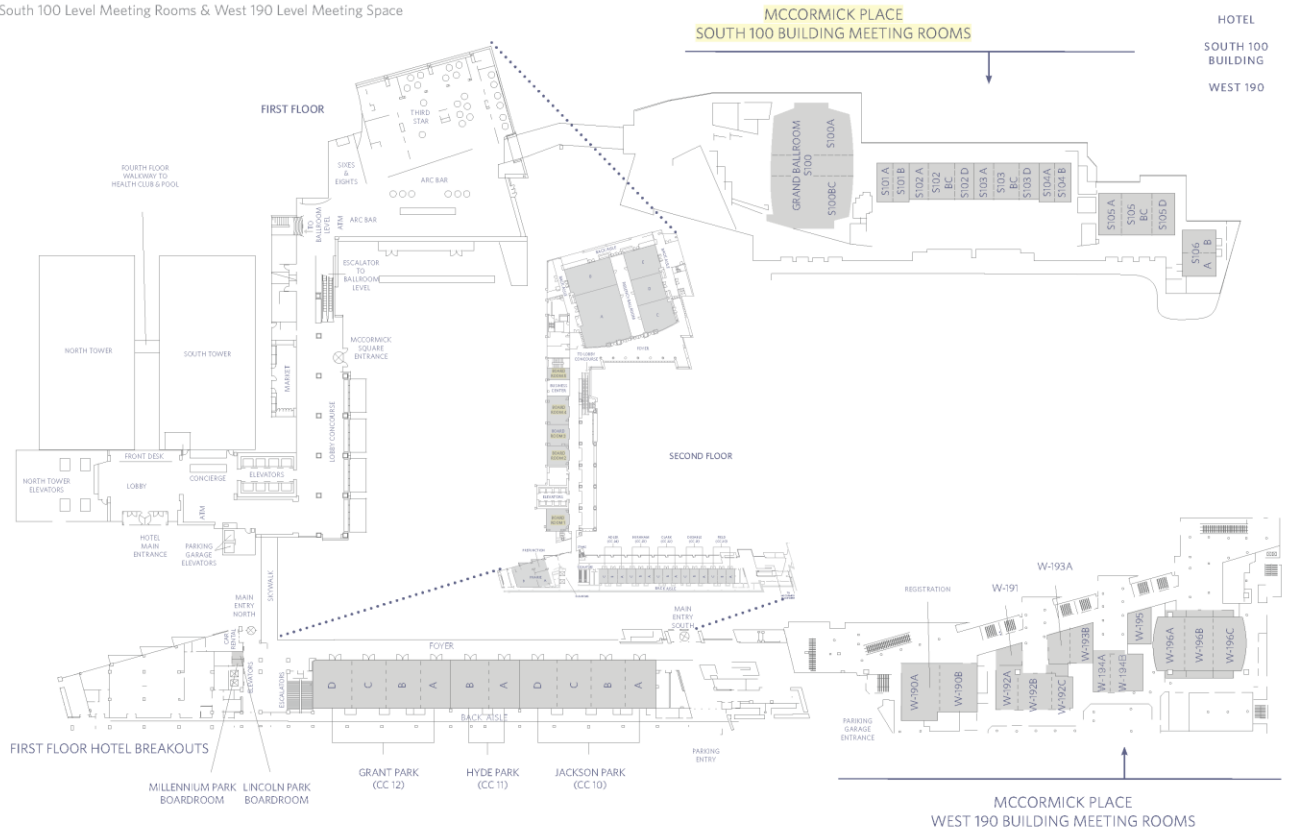
EVENT FLOORPLAN



EVENT FLOORPLAN

HOTEL MEETING SPACE

South 100 Level Meeting Rooms & West 190 Level Meeting Space

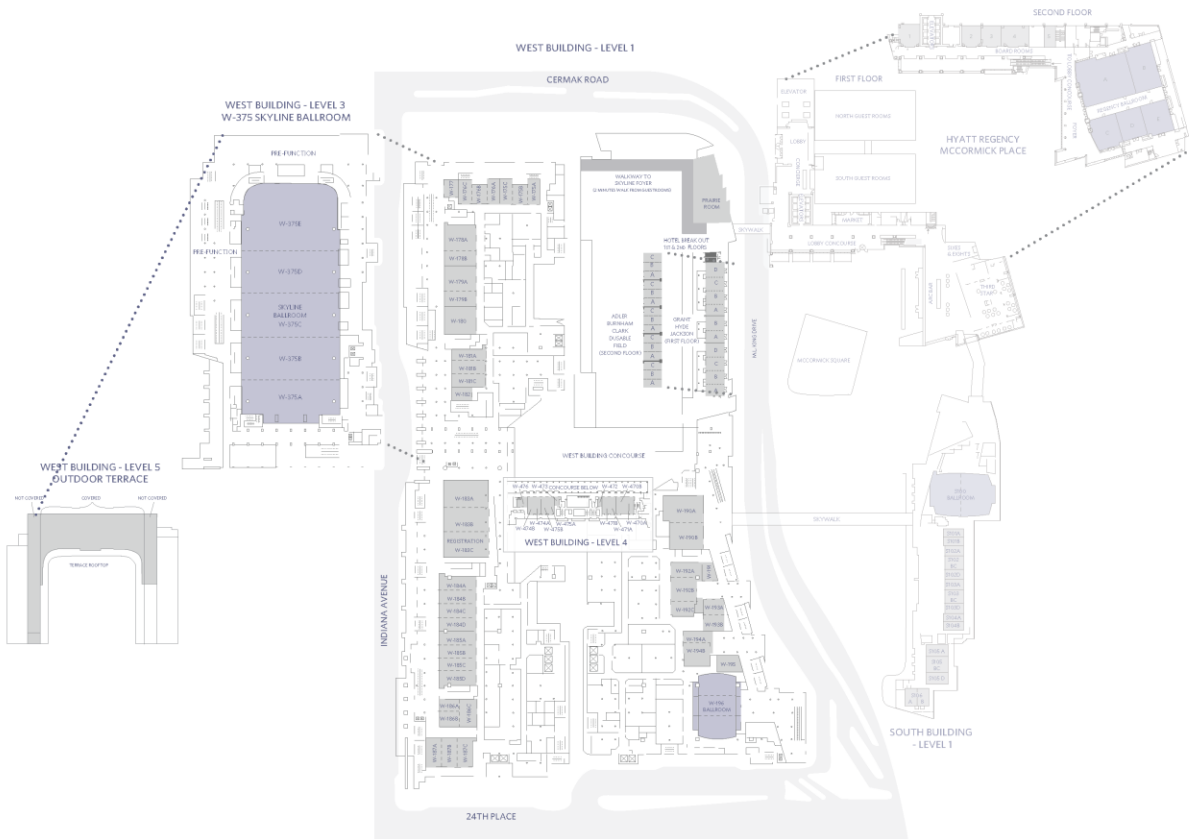


EVENT FLOORPLAN

HOTEL MEETING SPACE

West Building Meeting Rooms & Hotel Meeting Space

HOTEL
WEST BUILDING
SOUTH 100
BUILDING

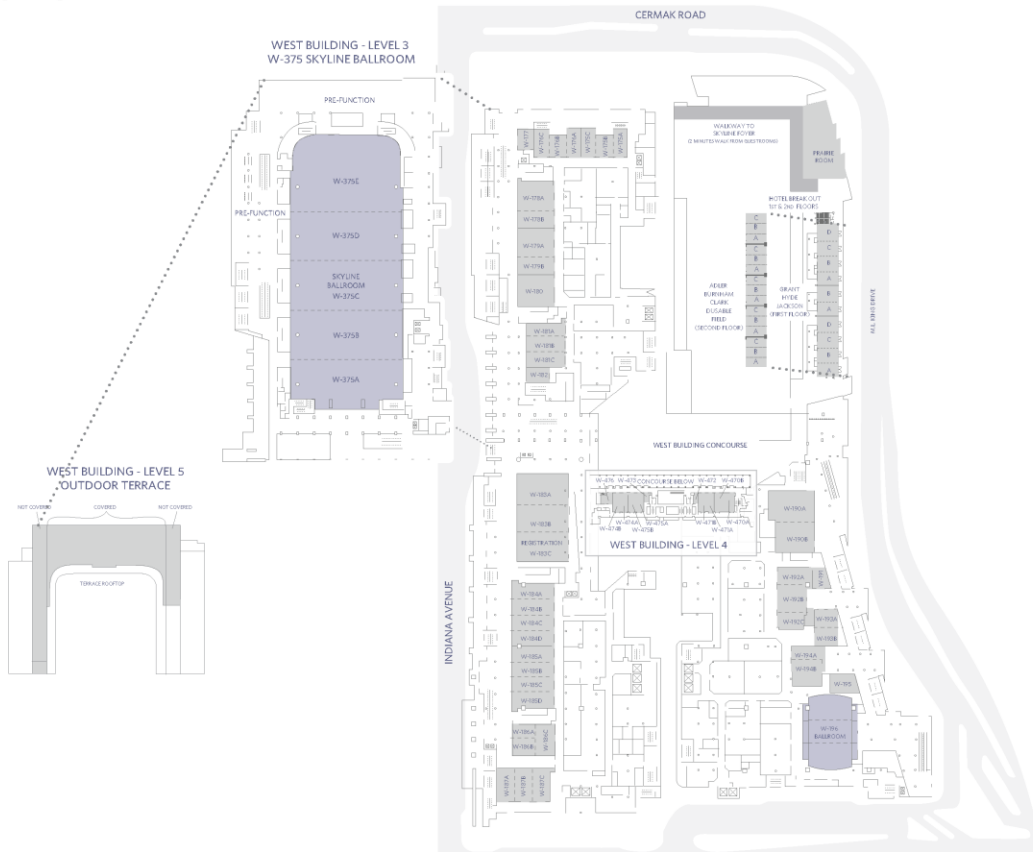


EVENT FLOORPLAN

HOTEL MEETING SPACE
West Building Meeting Rooms

WEST BUILDING - LEVEL 1

WEST BUILDING



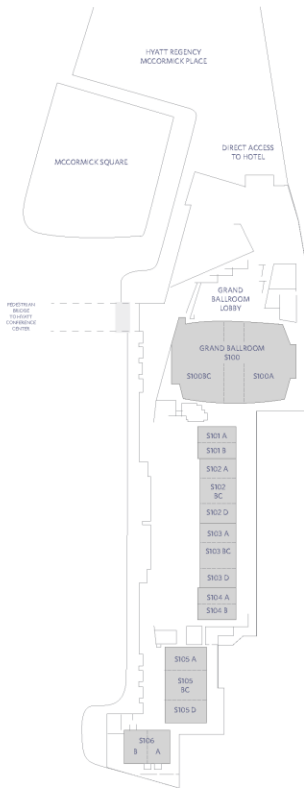
EVENT FLOORPLAN

HOTEL MEETING SPACE

South 100, 400, 500 Meeting Rooms & North 400 Meeting Room Level

SOUTH BUILDING

SOUTH BUILDING LEVEL 1



SOUTH BUILDING LEVEL 5



NORTH BUILDING LEVEL 4



SOUTH BUILDING LEVEL 4

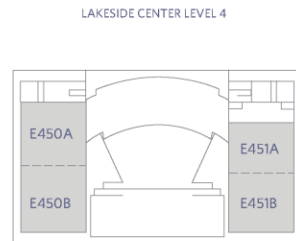
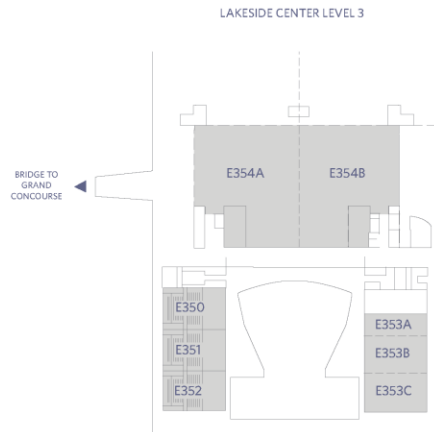
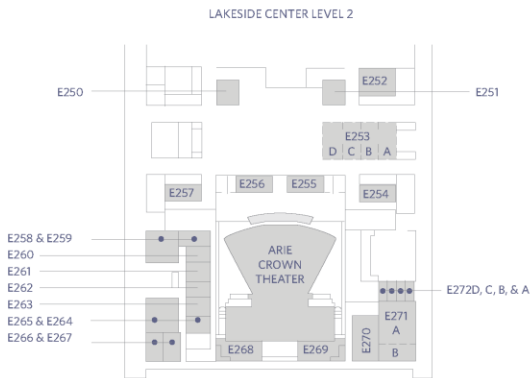


EVENT FLOORPLAN

HOTEL MEETING SPACE

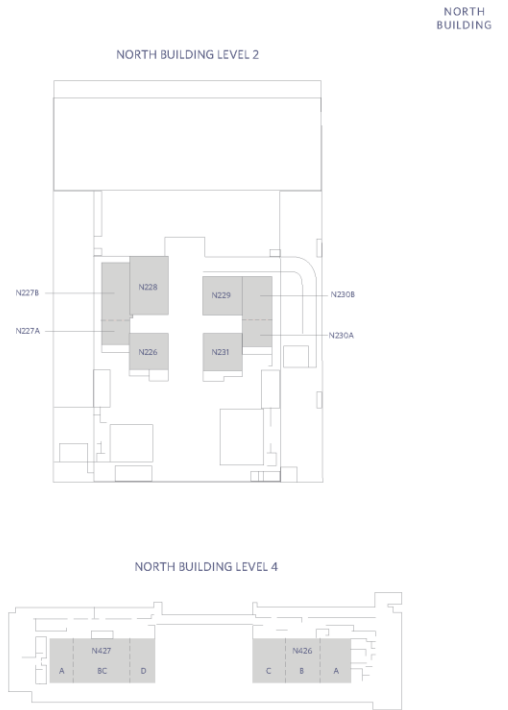
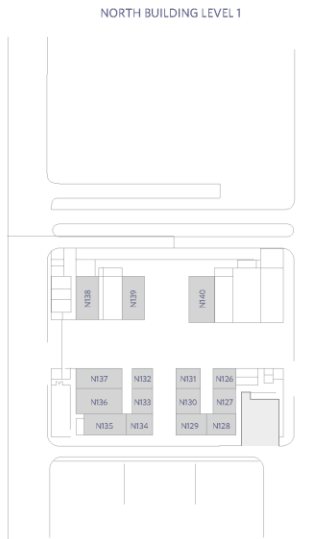
Lakeside Building Meeting Rooms; Including Arie Crown Theater

LAKESIDE BUILDING



EVENT FLOORPLAN

HOTEL MEETING SPACE North Building Meeting Rooms



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