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SPOTLIGHT

Commissioned by President George Washington and constructed in 1796, the Montauk Lighthouse is located at the tip of eastern Long Island.



NEW YORK

MEETING NEW BEGINNINGS

By Linda Hayes

For many associations, a new year brings with it plenty of opportunities for growth. And a gathering in the Empire State might just be the place to map out a fresh course for the future. After all, New York is a state that has long embodied success, innovation and inspiration.

Attendees tend to see the bigger picture in New York and planners will relish all the options, from the spectacular to the elegantly simple.

NEW YORK CITY: TRENDSETTING

More than 1 million square feet of event space, world-renowned attractions and five ever-burgeoning boroughs combine to offer endlessly diverse agendas and diversions in the "city that never sleeps." New York City also boasts the nation's most active hotel-development pipeline, with 107,000 hotel rooms currently available and a total inventory of more than 188,000 expected by the end of 2019.

"As one of the world's most anticipated destinations to hold a meeting in 2017, the 'new' New York City will offer meeting planners dynamic new venues and incentives," said Jerry Cito, NYC & Company's senior vice-president of convention development. "Investments in new Lower Manhattan hotels, a 1.2 million-square-foot expansion of the Javits Center on Manhattan's West Side and infrastructure upgrades at both LaGuardia and JFK airports will ensure that New York City is ready to welcome even more world-class meetings, conventions and events in the years to come."

In June, New York City will be the host city partner of the 2017 Education Conference of the Professional Convention Management Association, expected to draw more than 600 meeting planners and suppliers. "New York City is a perfect destination for PCMA's diverse global audience," said Deborah Sexton, the organization's president and CEO. "The Marriott Marquis' Times Square location and flexible event space will ensure that our 2017 Education Conference participants have an optimal education and networking experience."

In Manhattan, the silver LEED-certified Jacob K. Javits Center is on the cusp of a \$1 billion expansion project that will enlarge it by 1.2 million

Lower Manhattan continues to blossom, adding new restaurants, attractions, shops and hotels with meeting space.

square feet, amounting to a fivefold increase in meeting-room space. Currently, the Javits Center features 840,000 square feet of exhibit space on four levels, including the column-free, 80,000-square-foot Javits North; kitchens that can prepare simultaneous meals for up to 10,000 attendees; a 45,000-square-foot, glass-enclosed pavilion; and high-speed wireless service throughout the facility that can serve up to 70,000 at the same time.

Lower Manhattan continues to experience an exciting renaissance with new hotels, shops, celebrity chef-owned restaurants and attractions. "Lower Manhattan's remarkable revitalization over the last 15 years is a cornerstone of the 'new' New York City," said Fred Dixon, president and CEO of NYC & Company.

Highlights include the new One World Trade Center, home to One World Observatory, with private event space for up to 300; the National September 11 Memorial & Museum; and, at the South Street Seaport, the new IFC Theater. Further enhancing the neighborhood's transportation infrastructure is the new, Santiago Calatrava-designed World Trade Center Transportation Hub, completed last year with connection to 11 subway lines, PATH trains to New Jersey, the Battery Park City Ferry Terminal, Brookfield Place and the World Trade Center complex.

Many attendees will want to visit the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration on Ellis Island, and the Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island. Both islands can accommodate private events of up to 1,200 and are served by ferry service to and from Battery Park.

A variety of new hotels with meeting space means increased choices for planners in Lower Manhattan. The Beekman, a Thompson Hotel, opened in August and September saw the opening of the



VENUE	GUEST ROOMS	FUNCTION SPACE
NEW YORK CITY		
New York Hilton/Midtown	1,981	151,084
Millennium/Broadway	625	110,000
New York Marriott Marquis	1,901	101,450
Shenston New York Hotel & Towers	1,781	60,000
Waldorf-Astoria/New York	1,416	60,000
Grand Hyatt/New York	1,306	60,000
Hilton Garden Inn/Statens Island	148	51,264
New York Marriott at Brooklyn Bridge	665	44,542
Westin New York at Times Square	873	34,000
Conrad/New York	463	30,068
New York's Hotel Pennsylvania	1,705	30,000
Roosevelt Hotel	1,015	30,000
Hudson New York	831	28,718
Wyndham New Yorker Hotel	1,025	25,177
New York Palace	900	24,000
Crosby Plaza/Times Square	770	23,500
Plaza Hotel	282	20,352
Plaza/New York	189	18,000
New York Marriott/East Side	646	17,000
New York LaGuardia Airport Marriott	438	15,245
St. Regis/New York	238	15,200
Westin/New York—Grand Central	774	15,000
Park Central New York	761	15,000
InterContinental/New York—Barclay	685	13,900
New York Marriott/Downtown	497	13,809
Ritz-Carlton/New York—Battery Park	298	13,000
DoubleTree by Hilton/Metropolitan	764	12,000
Trump SoHo	391	12,000
JW Marriott/Essex House	511	11,600
Hotel 50 Bowery	229	11,000
Affinia/Manhattan	618	10,000
Four Seasons/New York	368	9,580
W/New York	688	8,800
Hyatt Centric Times Square	487	7,000
Four Seasons/Downtown	189	6,815
The Beekman, a Thompson Hotel	287	4,000
LONG ISLAND		
East Wind Long Island Conf. Center	50	54,000
Hilton Long Island	304	54,705
Long Island Marriott Hotel & Center	615	27,000
Upsky Long Island	209	25,971
Garden City Hotel	280	25,000
Glen Cove Mansion, Hotel & Center	187	25,000
Melville Marriott	389	21,000
Inn at Fox Hollow	145	18,000
FUNCTION SPACE IS SHOWN IN SQUARE FEET		



Located in downtown Syracuse, Columbus Circle is the site of many events, including the city's annual Arts & Crafts Festival.

VENUE	GUEST ROOMS / FUNCTION SPACE
LONG ISLAND	
Hyatt Place East End & Event Center	100 18,875
Hyatt Regency Long Island	358 17,000
Clarion Hotel & Conference Center	289 12,000
Allegria Hotel	143 12,000
Danforth Hotel & Marina	86 12,000
Best Western Mill River Manor	100 11,620
Onaka Castle Hotel	32 11,000
Montauk Yacht Club	103 10,750
Marriott Residence Inn Plainville	170 10,500
Homewood Suites Carle Place	150 4,100
Courtyard by Marriott/Wesbury	145 2,200
NEW ROCHELLE	
Radisson New Rochelle	129 6,400
HUDSON VALLEY	
Doral Arrowood Hotel & Conf. Center	373 33,000
Hilton/Westchester	445 30,000
Honor's Haven Resort & Spa	235 30,000
Tarrytown House Estate & Center	212 30,000
Bear Mountain Inn	63 30,000
Neville Grande Resort & Country Club	432 27,000
Westchester Marriott	444 26,000
DoubleTree by Hilton/Tarrytown	247 25,000
Renaissance Westchester Hotel	347 18,500
Thayer Hotel/West Point	151 17,085
Crowne Plaza/Westchester County	402 17,000
Hilton Rye Town	446 15,000
IBM Learning Center	182 15,000
Royal Regency	92 12,000
Ritz-Carlton/Westchester	146 10,175
Mohawk Mountain House	259 10,000
COOPERSTOWN	
Otesaga Resort Hotel	136 12,592
ALBANY	
Hilton/Albany	386 22,000
Radisson/Albany	312 21,000
Desmond Hotel & Conference Center	323 19,000
Albany Marriott	356 16,000
Renaissance/Albany	204 8,050
Holiday Inn Express & Suites	130 3,500
SARATOGA SPRINGS	
Saratoga Hilton at City Center	242 48,000
LAKE GEORGE REGION	
Sagamore Resort	381 62,000
Silver Bay YMCA	328 26,000
Fort William Henry Resort & Conf. Ctr.	193 16,500

FUNCTION SPACE IS SHOWN IN SQUARE FEET

189-room Four Seasons/New York Downtown, which is just a block from the World Trade Center. A few blocks south, the new AKA/Wall Street has 132 furnished apartments, and in Chinatown, Jole de Vivre Hotels is set to open the 229-room Hotel 90 Bowery in March with more than 11,000 square feet of indoor-outdoor event space.

Elsewhere in Manhattan, accommodation options continue to emerge as well. In Times Square, what was formerly a Hyatt is now the Hyatt Centric/Times Square. The Westin/New York completed a \$39 million renovation last year. The Time Hotel also benefited from a multimillion-dollar remake and now offers four new meeting spaces. And Hotel Shocord has opened two suites that can be used for events.

In Midtown, the Lexington New York City completed a \$50 million renovation last fall, which included the conversion of the hotel's restaurant into an event space and foyer called the Swing Room. Just down the avenue, the Grand Hyatt/New York has introduced 12 Grand Loft Suites featuring workspaces. On Fifth Avenue, Langham Place, New York, recently renovated its 7,500-square-foot Gallery at Langham Place. And the recently renovated Park South Hotel has enhanced its offerings to include catering by James Beard Award-winning chef Tim Cushman. Additional updates include a newly completed rooftop, modernized rooms and an updated lobby and public areas.

The boroughs continue to boom, too. In Williamburg, Brooklyn, just over the East River from Manhattan, the William Vale Hotel opened last year. It's just a half-mile from the Brooklyn Expo Center in Greenpoint, which offers 28,000 square feet of space. In Prospect Heights, the Barclays Center regularly hosts sports and concerts in its 19,000-seat arena, but many a group has

booked its 7,700-seat Cushman & Wakefield Theater. Other venues include the Brooklyn Museum, which can host up to 880 people, and the adjacent, 52-acre Brooklyn Botanic Garden, with an atrium for up to 130 and glass-walled Palm House for up to 275.

On the east side of the Brooklyn Bridge, the 85-acre Brooklyn Bridge Park continues to expand; this year, the Pier 5 uplands is scheduled for completion, when it will offer 145,000 square feet of new parkland, including terraced lawns and a grove with a flexible seating area. Work has also begun on Pier 3, which is being converted into a central lawn and a multipurpose events area; it is expected to open in 2018. The park is also home to the restored Jane's Carousel, which can host events of up to 150.

Many attendees fly into LaGuardia Airport in Queens. In Flushing Meadows, the U.S. Tennis Association Billie Jean King National Tennis Center debuted an 8,125-seat Grandstand at the U.S. Open in August. In addition, Arthur Ashe Stadium has a new retractable roof above. The center is available for customized group events.

Staten Island may be the least-populated of New York City's five boroughs but come 2017, it will boast something quite big: the 630-foot-tall New York Wheel, the tallest observational Ferris wheel in the nation. The project is expected to open in early 2018 in St. George, and each of its 36 pods will be able to accommodate up to 40 people for the 38-minute ride.

LONG ISLAND AND THE HUDSON VALLEY: GROWING OPPORTUNITIES

On Long Island, the Long Island Convention & Visitor Bureau & Sports Commission has been rebranded Discover Long Island. The organization promotes Nassau and Suffolk counties for tourism, meetings and conventions, trade shows, sporting events and related activities. Highly anticipated is the reopening of the Nassau Veterans

Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale on April 5. The arena is wrapping up a 20-month, \$261 million renovation and will offer seating for up to 14,500.

In historic Port Jefferson Village, the Danfords Hotel, Marina & Spa is undergoing renovations scheduled for completion early this year that include the creation of a larger ballroom space. In Westbury, the Courtyard by Marriott has opened with meeting space for groups of up to 100. And in Wading River, the 26-acre East Wind development (which includes an inn that caters to groups) recently opened the Ghoppers at East End.

In New Paltz, just 90 miles north of New York City, the Mohawk Mountain House recently unveiled Grove Lodge, the landmark resort's first new accommodations in more than 100 years. Built next to a fern grove on the northeast side of the 1,200-acre property, the lodge features six guest rooms and a 1,000-square-foot Great Room, all with custom furniture designed by local craftsmen.

The 20-acre Emerson Resort & Spa, nestled in the Catskills hamlet of Mount Tremper, completed a multi-million-dollar update last year of guest accommodations and public areas. In addition, the property features the new, 50-seat Woodnotes Grille (which offers locally sourced food and opens onto a deck) and a transformed spa.

GREATER ALBANY: FORWARD FOCUS

Along the banks of the Hudson River in Upstate New York, the capital city of Albany appeals to groups for many reasons: its lobbying power, a number of historic and legislative sites and top-notch entertainment and shopping. This year, the city will celebrate the bicentennial of the Erie Canal construction with special cruises and cultural tours.

In March, the 159,000-square-foot Albany Capital Center is scheduled to open downtown with space for up to 5,000 attendees. It will be connected via enclosed walkway to the recently reno-

Cornell University in Ithaca offers a highly regarded hotel management program with its own on-campus hotel.

vated Renaissance/Albany, and next winter a walkway will open connecting it to the Empire State Plaza and the Times Union Center, the latter of which is undergoing a \$19.6 million update scheduled to finish this fall.

Cultural options include the Albany Museum of Art, the Albany Institute of History & Art, the New York State Museum, the Capital Repertory Theatre and the Egg Center for the Performing Arts, all with a variety of spaces. Additionally, 90 State Events and Cornerstone at the Plaza can accommodate up to 400 and 250 people, respectively. Or for large conventions, the Washington Avenue Armory can host up to 4,300.

The New York State Council of School Superintendents holds its Winter Institute & Lobby Day in downtown Albany each year. "Albany is a great choice for us because our members park their cars once and easily walk from hotels to the conference, local restaurants, the State Education Department, and the Legislature for Lobby Day," said Theresa Wutzer Moore, its associate director. "They can reconnect with colleagues formally at the institute and informally throughout the downtown area."

This year's event will be held, in large part, at the Hilton/Albany and in 2018 at the Albany Capital Center. "We look forward to the opening of the new Albany Capital Center so we can expand our Marketplace of Ideas with strategic partners and offer focused training and education in a state-of-the-art facility," she said.

ROCHESTER, NIAGARA FALLS & BUFFALO: IMPROVING THE EXPERIENCE

On the southern shore of Lake Ontario, Rochester draws groups with its affordability, wide-ranging culinary scene, year-round festivals, shopping



VENUE	GUEST ROOMS / FUNCTION SPACE
LAKE PLACID	
Crowne Plaza Resort & Golf Club	245 30,000
High Peaks Resort	177 10,000
SYRACUSE	
Syracuse-Liverpool Hotel Complex	520 30,000
Crowne Plaza/Syracuse	279 12,500
DoubleTree by Hilton/Syracuse	250 12,000
Genesee Grande Hotel	160 11,500
Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel	235 9,000
VERONA	
Turning Stone Resort & Casino	700 80,000
FINGER LAKES REGION	
Hope Lake Lodge & Conference Ctr.	106 19,000
Bahurst Castle	47 9,800
ITHACA	
Stater Hotel	153 19,000
Cornell University Hotel & Center	227 10,340
Ramada Ithaca Executive Center	120 8,907
CORNING	
Radisson Hotel	177 8,000
BINGHAMTON	
Binghamton Riverwalk	204 20,000
Holiday Inn/Downtown	237 15,358
ROCHESTER	
Radisson Rochester Riverside	490 30,000
Rochester Hyatt Regency	334 21,000
Holiday Inn Rochester Downtown	217 12,000
Woodcliff Hotel & Spa	236 8,035
The Strathairn	155 7,200
Rochester-Airport Marriott	210 5,592
NIAGARA FALLS	
Seneca Niagara Casino & Hotel	604 35,000
Sheraton at the Falls	392 14,117
Days Inn at the Falls	168 9,000
Four Points by Sheraton	141 8,400
GRAND ISLAND	
Holiday Inn	261 26,548
BUFFALO	
Adam's Mark/Bufalo-Niagara	496 72,000
Byblos Niagara	261 26,548
Hyatt Regency/Bufalo	396 23,000
Bufalo Niagara Marriott	356 12,000
Ramada Hotel/Amherst	120 12,000
The Westin Buffalo	116 4,428
THOUSAND ISLANDS REGION	
Best Western Carriage House	160 10,000

FUNCTION SPACE IS SHOWN IN SQUARE FEET