

TAMPA BAY

CONVENTION DISTRICT



VISIT

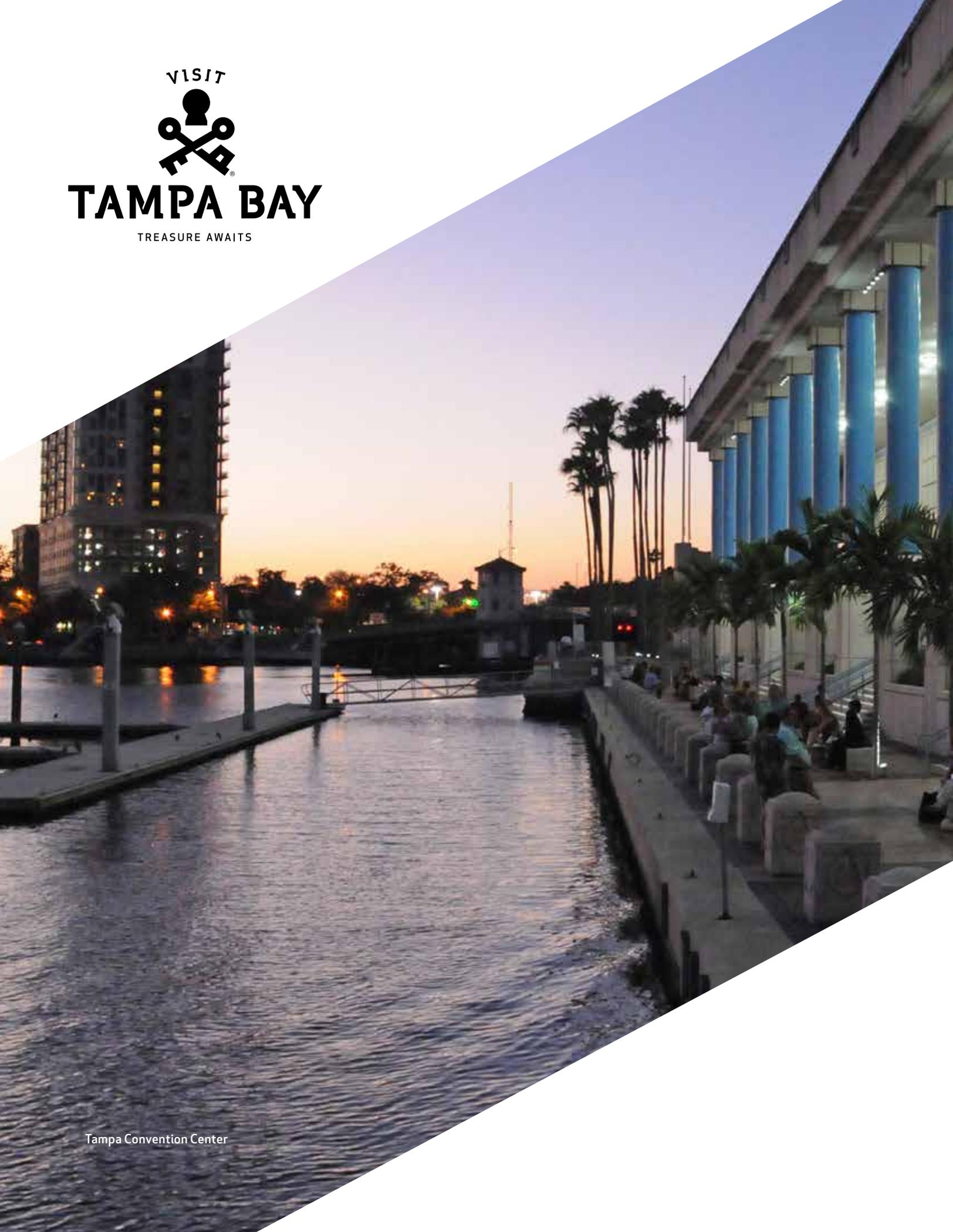


TAMPA BAY

TREASURE AWAITS

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Tampa Convention Center



MAP YOUR ADVENTURE

Tampa's Convention District holds a fortune of attractions just waiting to be explored.

Anchored by the 600,000-square-foot **Tampa Convention Center**, the walkable downtown is surrounded by glistening waterfront. The **Tampa Riverwalk** connects the vibrant strand of cultural gems north to the **Tampa Museum of Art** and east to **The Florida Aquarium**. Between lies more than 3,000 rooms in a unique, memorable district overflowing with possibilities.

If your attendees want to salsa the night away in historic **Ybor City**, ponder the latest art exhibit, or dine out at a world-class restaurant like **Bern's Steak House**—they can find it all within a cannon shot from the convention center. Highlights of the district include **Channelside**, **Amalie Arena**, **The Florida Aquarium**, **Curtis Hixon Park**, **Straz Center for the Performing Arts** and an array of beautiful hotels.

Tampa Riverwalk provides ideal access for taking over the countless cultural, sports and entertainment treasures. The 2.4-mile jaunt is also perfect for a morning jog or a sunset stroll.



TAMPA CONVENTION CENTER

Floor-to-ceiling windows offer an amazing view of the Hillsborough River, Seddon Channel and the Jose Gaspar, the tri-masted star of Tampa's yearly Gasparilla festival.

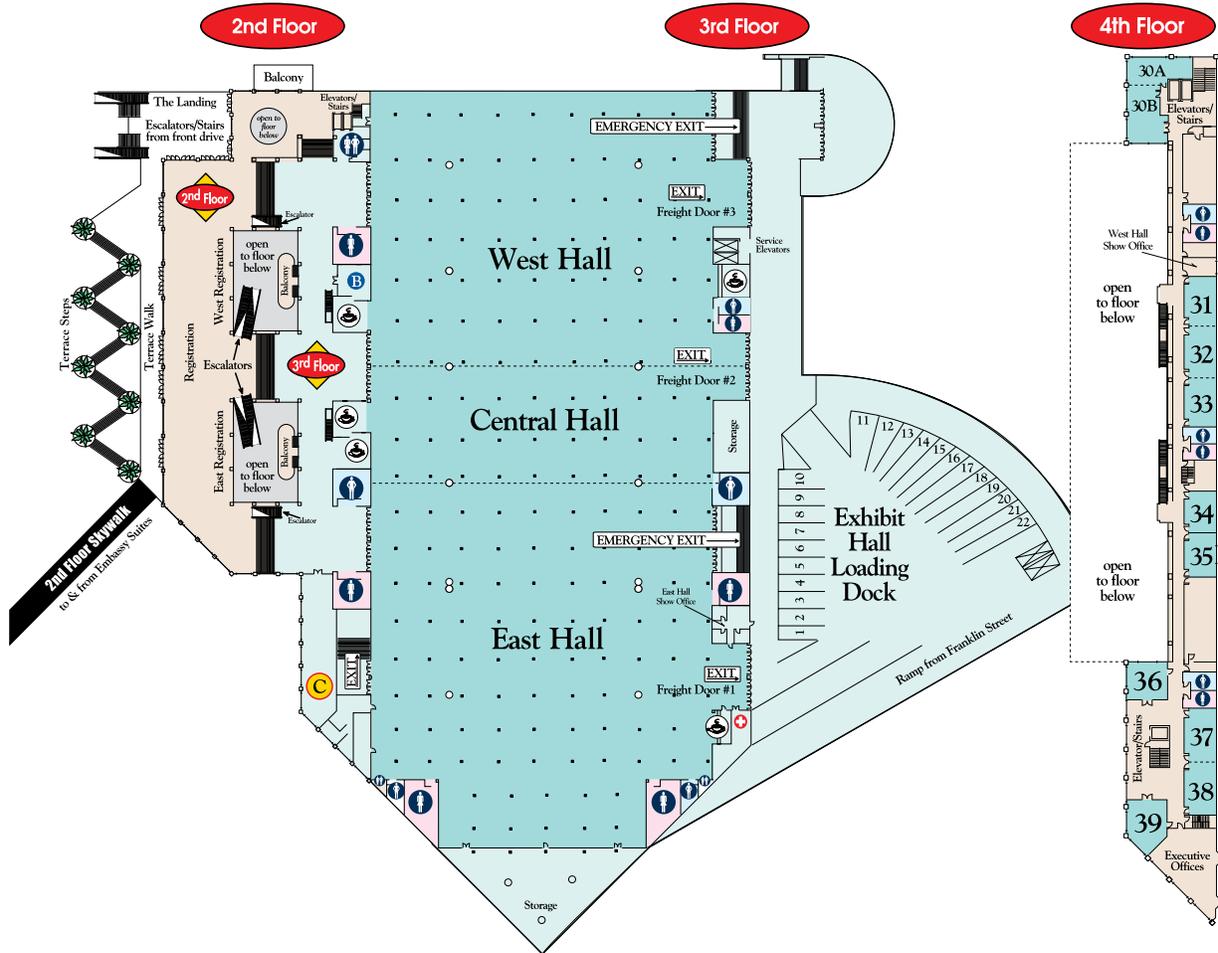
A \$25 million technological upgrade recently added miles of new fiber-optic communication lines and hundreds of new wi-fi antennas. The convention

center's stacked design offers gorgeous views steps from the water.

Flexible, open spaces easily transform for a variety of needs, such as gatherings and networking. It'll be a breeze for your busy attendees to stay in contact with family and friends and enjoy every minute of their visit.



SECOND - THIRD FLOORS



Inside, the convention center is flexible enough to accommodate groups from 25 to 25,000. The bounty of meeting space options includes:

- 200,000-square-foot exhibit hall
- 36,000-square-foot ballroom
- 39 additional meeting rooms, 10 with waterfront views
- 84,000 square feet of pre-function space
- 450-space parking garage, plus 5,000 more spaces within four blocks



SINGING OUR PRAISES

Industry accolades have piled up recently for the Tampa Convention Center. In 2012, *Associations Magazine* honored it with its Inner Circle Award. It was listed among the Top 25

Planners' Choice Award honorees by *MeetingNews Magazine*. It served as media operations hub for both the 2012 Republican National Convention and the 2009 Super Bowl.

The staff's five-star philosophy will make all your attendees feel like they've struck it rich. Our executive chef and the culinary crew will conquer attendees' palates with creative, custom menus, frequently drawing on locally sourced produce and sustainable products.

The convention center also offers casual dining treasures. **Bay Bistro** is a full-service restaurant with outdoor seating and delicious offerings. **Taste of Ybor** gives diners a sampling of what they'll find in Tampa's Latin Quarter a streetcar ride away, including the world-famous Cuban sandwich—founded by Tampa's cigar workers a century ago. **The Exhibit Hall** has four cafes and serves pizza, burgers and salads if you need something quick.

Outside the convention center's front doors, **The Sail** is a 360-degree open-air bar with live music on the weekends and beautiful views of the water every day. What better way to conclude a productive day than networking along the water with sunset views.

The convention center ranks in the 84th percentile for energy efficiency compared to similarly sized competitors. Cleaning crews use Green Seal products. The convention center uses LED lighting inside and outside, recycles 1,000 cubic yards of waste a year and offers biodegradable/compostable containers for meetings.

The attention to detail, service and resort-like atmosphere will provide every incentive to return.



WHY TAMPA

CONVENTION CENTER?

The Tampa Convention Center is ready to take your meeting to new heights, especially if you've been shy about trying a bigger venue.

BUILDING

The compact floor plan is modeled on a resort, making it easy to navigate. Space is flexible and can handle groups from 25 to 25,000.

SERVICE

The convention center is a non-union, hospitable, service-oriented facility. Highly-trained employees accommodate guests' every need, from registration to airport shuttles upon check-out.

LOCATION

The convention center is in the heart of Tampa. The Tampa Riverwalk passes within a few feet of the front doors. The TECO Historic Streetcar stops just outside the door on its way to Ybor City and venues in between. Hotels are an easy walk away.

FOOD

The culinary team can handle anything from a pre-convention breakfast to a black-tie gala. Bay Bistro and The Sail offer convenient casual options.

FIRST TIMERS

Whether your event is small or large, your needs can be accommodated easily from beginning to end by the convention center's service and booking options. Compact design allows seamless meeting transitions, which makes the facility perfect for first-time events.

TECHNOLOGY

Recent upgrades to wi-fi and internet capability provide massive amounts of bandwidth. Internet security level is capable of hosting some of the U.S. Government's most secure gatherings.

ATMOSPHERE

The well-designed interior is easy to navigate. The waterfront site provides gorgeous views, great natural light and quiet moments away from the hustle inside.



TAMPA MUSEUM OF ART

At the northern edge of the convention district, Tampa's thoroughly modern museum is a work of art itself. After sunset, its perforated metal skin glows from within with swashes of shifting colors. The museum hosts series of visiting exhibits from around the world in addition to its

own collection of antiquities, modern and contemporary art. The museum's event space can host about 1,200 people. Its 42-foot-deep covered patio offers sweeping views of **Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park**, the **Hillsborough River** and the iconic **University of Tampa** minarets.

CURTIS HIXON

WATERFRONT PARK

Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park covers 8 acres in the heart of downtown and presents engaging views of Tampa from any angle. Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park is available for rent and hosts a variety of festivals, including live music, alcohol and vendors. The park hosted the 2012 Republican

National Convention and the International Indian Film Academy's Awards in 2013. You, too, can commandeer our waterfront and turn this Tampa gem into your group's own private island.

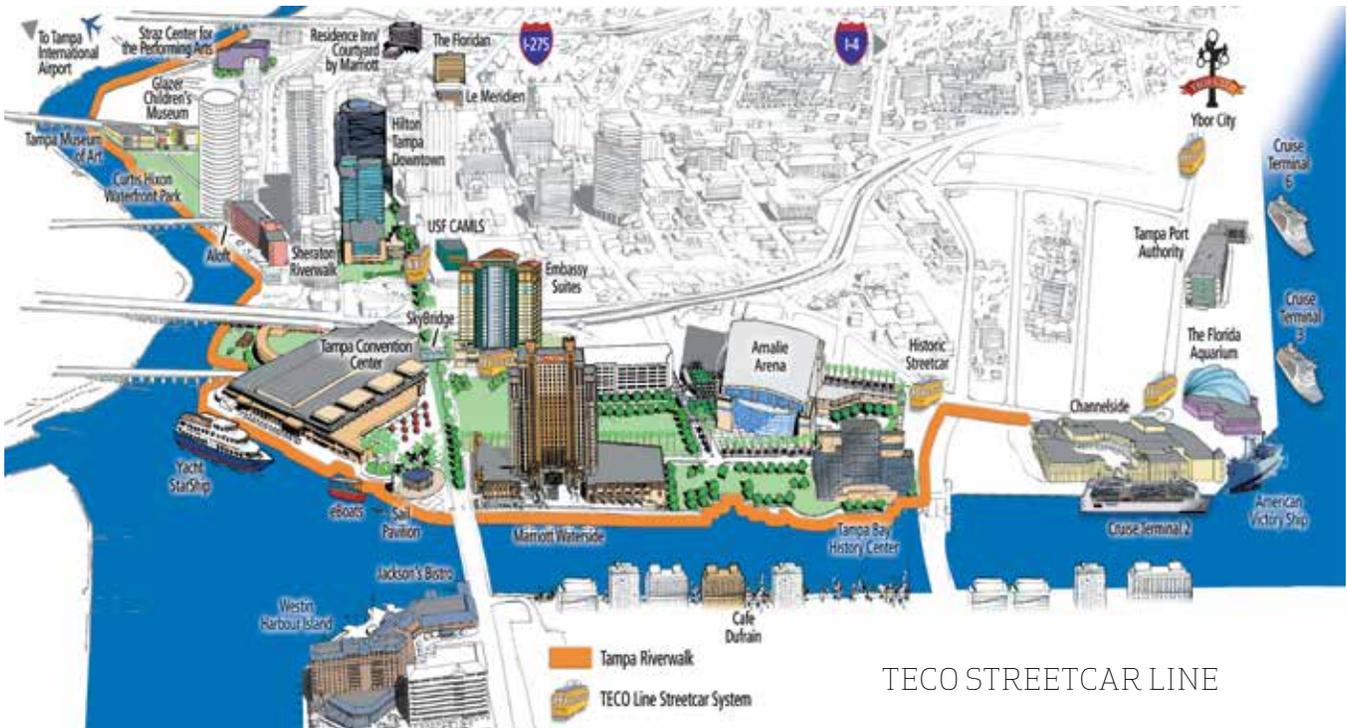




TECO HISTORIC STREETCAR

For more than a decade, Tampa's TECO Historic Streetcar has ridden the rails through the heart of the convention district, linking **USF CAMLS** and the **Tampa Convention Center** with **Amalie Arena**, **Channelside**, **The Florida Aquarium** and the nightlife of **Ybor City**.

Your attendees can hop aboard one of the 11 streetcars at **Greco Plaza**, located steps from the convention center, for a car-free and care-free air-conditioned trip to dinner, dancing or adventure. The streetcar makes getting there part of the fun.



TECO STREETCAR LINE



AMALIE ARENA

Home of the National Hockey League's **Tampa Bay Lightning**, Amalie Arena (formerly Tampa Bay Times Forum) underwent a \$40 million overhaul before hosting the 2012 Republican National Convention. The 20,000-seat arena boasts an 11,000-square-foot party deck, theater-quality lighting and a 105-rank digital pipe organ.

It stands two blocks from the **Tampa Convention Center** and about the same distance from Channelside. For the convenience of arena-goers, the **TECO Historic Streetcar** even has an Amalie Arena stop on Old Water Street between the Forum and Cotanchobee Fort Brooke Park.



TAMPA BAY HISTORY CENTER

This modern building captures 12,000 years of Tampa Bay history, from the Native Americans who first called the sparkling bay home through Spanish explorers, railroad barons and immigrant cigar makers. Your attendees can dine here at the **Columbia Café**, a branch of Ybor

City's **Columbia Restaurant**, Florida's oldest restaurant. The history center's flexible event space offers turn-key audiovisual systems and allows guests to mingle surrounded by the centuries seen by one of Florida's most diverse and unique cities.

CHANNELSIDE

AND PORT TAMPA BAY

Whether your attendees are searching for dining or fun, they'll find what they're seeking in Channelside. The upscale complex just east of the **Amalie Arena** is a self-contained entertainment venue. It's the perfect place for a memorable meal, a stroll along the waterfront, or for bowling a few frames to let off some post-meeting energy.

The waterfront location and eclectic mix of activities keeps visitors busy well into the night. Just outside the gates of Channelside, the **Port of Tampa** cruise ship terminal is the home port for ships from **Carnival Cruise Line**, **Holland America**, **Royal Caribbean** and **Norwegian Cruise Lines**.





THE FLORIDA AQUARIUM

More than 20,000 denizens of Davey Jones' Locker lie just past the glass at The Florida Aquarium. Winner of the 2011 Event Site of the Year from Event Solutions, the aquarium has become one of Tampa's marquee attractions. It boasts 200,000 square feet of space and enormous window-walls that turn its **500,000-gallon Coral Reef Tank** into a bold backdrop for any event. The aquarium

staff can also treat your attendees to strolling dinners that let them wander through the aquarium's collection of sea creatures large and small. If all those fish make you long for the sea, take over The Florida Aquarium's **Bay Spirit II** catamaran for a cruise of Tampa Bay. The Bay Spirit II can carry up to 130 people and is available for day or night events.

YBOR CITY

Tampa's Latin Quarter, Ybor City is one of only three historic districts in the United States and home to the **Columbia Restaurant**, the oldest continually operated restaurant in Florida. Here, your attendees can discover Tampa's cigar-making history. They can also unlock the diverse immigrant cultures that fueled the cigar industry. That legacy remains on display in the **Italian Club**, **Centro Cubano** and **Centro Asturiano** – all founded by immigrants and now maintained by their descendants. Today, Ybor

City is the heart of Tampa's dining and nightlife, with everything from brewpubs to the **Improv Comedy Club** to authentic Cuban restaurants and music venues such as the **Ritz Ybor**. Visitors can stop in for a cigar and café con leche with the locals or make their own fun at the Centro Ybor entertainment complex. And the best part: no need to drive. All of Ybor City's attractions are accessible by hopping the TECO Historic Streetcar.



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