



Mingei International Museum

Special Events at Mingei

Located in the heart of Balboa Park, Mingei International Museum celebrates human creativity through folk art, craft, and design.

From balconies overlooking Balboa Park to an intimate Courtyard, the Museum offers a wide variety of environments for a unique experience.

Mingei's award-winning building, designed by architect Jennifer Luce of LUCE et studio, offers three levels of breathtaking architectural surprises and commissioned artworks. Make your important gatherings or special moments shine in incredible event spaces within this historic building.



Spaces of Inspiration, Beauty, and Impact

Upper level **Terraces** overlook the historic Plaza de Panama with beautiful views of the California Tower, House of Hospitality, Botanical Building, and Spreckels Organ Pavillion.

Host performances, lectures, receptions, and dinners in the **Theater** with an impressive 40' glass door that opens to an amphitheater and a view of Palm Canyon.

The **Founders Gallery** and **Frances Hamilton White Art Library** feature stunning Nakashima tables and chairs for small gatherings, lectures, and workshops.

A stunning **Commons** space and **Courtyard** accommodate large groups and events.

Our Events team is ready to work with you to create an unforgettable event. With versatile spaces on three levels, we can help create a gathering according to your needs.

Host Your Memorable Moments at Mingei



Elegant Catering and On-Site Restaurant

Housed within Mingei International Museum's ground floor Commons is Urban Kitchen Group's (Cucina restaurants, Michelin Bib Gourmand award winner 2019) full-service restaurant and bar, **ARTIFACT at Mingei**. The Museum's primary food and beverage catering is overseen by Urban Kitchen Group and owner Tracy Borkum.

The restaurant can also be booked in its entirety.

EVENT CONTACTS

Sue Preis
mingei.org/events
events@mingei.org

ARTIFACT at Mingei

ARTIFACT is also home to Urban Kitchen Catering at Mingei, which is the Museum's preferred caterer and exclusive on-site bar service. Clients must contract with Urban Kitchen Catering at Mingei for bar service if alcohol will be served at their event. Certain areas of the Museum have food and beverage restrictions due to art on display.



Event Spaces

MAC Commons + Neeley Courtyard (Entry Level)

This spacious, open area with ample natural light flowing into the space from multiple, large glass doors gives guests glimpses of the Plaza de Panama and Alcazar Garden outside. The Museum's Entry Level is home to a significant art installation of permanent collection objects, a restaurant, a bar, and an outdoor courtyard which can be utilized for your event.

Public Museum Hours

SAT-WED 10am • 5pm / **THU-FRI** 10am • 8pm

COMBINED CAPACITY

315 Reception / 220 Seated Dinner

PRICING

\$6500 / 4 hour minimum

MAC Commons Only

In this beautiful and sophisticated reception space finished with stunning materials, light flows from multiple large glass doors, giving guests glimpses of the Plaza de Panama and Alcazar Garden outside.

CAPACITY 170 Reception / 140 Seated Dinner

PRICING \$3500 / 4 hour minimum

Neeley Courtyard Only

The outdoor Courtyard is floored with manitoba stone and makes a picture perfect backdrop provided by the mid-century wall sculpture, ***Variations on a Gold Theme*** by Ellamarie and Jackson Woolley. The area can accommodate presentations, ceremonies, projected films, receptions, and seated meals. The space is open to the public during Museum and restaurant hours but can be utilized privately or in conjunction with restaurant operations.

CAPACITY

148 Reception / 80 Seated Dinner

PRICING

\$3500 / 4 hour minimum



*Exclusive use of the Commons and Courtyard clear of restaurant operations for private events is periodically available. Requests requiring the closure of ARTIFACT at Mingei must be approved 60 days in advance, and only a limited number are available per year.



Wedding Ceremony in Neeley Courtyard
The Shalom Imaginative

Reception in Margaret A. Cargill (MAC) Commons
Xing Photo Studio







Reception in Margaret A. Cargill (MAC) Commons
Joy Portinga Photography

Event Spaces

La Atalaya Theater (Lower Level)

Mingei's flexible Theater includes a retractable 40-foot glass wall opening to an adjoining amphitheater with views of historic Palm Canyon. Featured in the space is a commissioned artwork by British-born Dutch designer, Petra Blaisse. Her work, ***Sessions***, is a billowing felt and organza curtain runs along the wall of the Theater or in front of the glass doors, inspired by Balboa Park's jacaranda trees. This adaptable space is equipped with radiant flooring, movable seating, and AV capabilities to accommodate presentations, performances, meetings, receptions, and seated dinners. A grand piano is also available for use.

CAPACITY

165 Reception / 115 Performance Seating /
100 Buffet-style seated dinner

PRICING

\$3500 / 4 hour minimum





Exhibition Reception in La Atayala Theater



San Diego Design Week Conference in La Atayala Theater



Event Spaces

Smoyer-Dickinson Terrace (Exhibitions Level)

The Smoyer-Dickinson Terrace (North Terrace) reveals breathtaking views of the Plaza de Panama and California Tower—a stunning space for smaller gatherings. Enjoy a unique setting for an exclusive open air gathering, cocktail party, or dinner overlooking historic Balboa Park.

CAPACITY 55 Reception / 40 Seated Dinner
PRICING \$2000



Prebys Terrace (Exhibitions Level)

Opposite the Smoyer-Dickinson Terrace and through the Terrace Gallery is the more intimate Prebys Terrace (South Terrace). Similar views of the Plaza de Panama and Organ Pavilion are an unforgettable backdrop and the perfect host for a dinner, reception, or very special meeting.

CAPACITY 25 Reception / 16 Seated Dinner
PRICING \$1500





Event Spaces



Founders Gallery (Exhibitions Level)

The Founders Gallery is home to the Museum’s iconic Nakashima table complemented by commissioned works of art by artist Christina Kim, founder of eco-conscious Los Angeles design house dosa. Kim has created a pair of diaphanous window screens, each an abstraction of a George Nakashima drawing. The screens, Nakashima table, and a stunning 25 foot door, inspired by a Japanese shoji screen, make the space an intimate and inspiring setting for meetings.

CAPACITY 38 / Seating around Nakashima Table for 24
PRICING \$250 / hour



Library (Exhibitions Level)

The Frances Hamilton White Art Library offers a backdrop of iconic floor-to-ceiling Vitsoe shelving housing Mingei’s unique collection of art publications and reference materials. Housing the Museum’s second Nakashima table while also featuring optional access to the beautiful North Terrace, this space is an excellent choice for a small meeting before gathering outside on the Terrace to enjoy the view and refreshments. Food and beverage are not allowed within the library.

CAPACITY 13 / Seating around Nakashima Table for 6
PRICING \$150 / hour

Lecture in Frances Hamilton White Art Library



Wedding License Signing in Founders Gallery
Joy Portinga Photography

Policies and Procedures

HOLD YOUR DATE

Upon initial request, from phone or email inquiry, the Museum will hold your reservation for 14 days as a tentative hold. Within that time frame, a site visit may be scheduled and the reservation may be held for an additional seven days.

EVENT HOURS

Events taking place in the Commons or Terraces are allowed during limited open Museum hours with advance permission. Set up is permitted during open hours with Museum staff supervision. All events must end by 11pm, including break down/clean up, or additional fees may apply. Other rules and restrictions related to set up and break down vary by space.

SECURITY

Although the Museum provides building security during public hours, rental events may require extended hours. This service is included in rental fees. If additional guards are requested or the Museum deems it necessary to have additional security staff, the user may be billed beyond the rental fee.

MAINTENANCE

Most events require in-house maintenance staff to handle facility needs and cleaning after events. This service is included in rental fees. If additional assistance is deemed necessary, prior arrangements should be contracted and made through the special events office.

PARKING

Parking in Balboa Park is open and free to the public. Valet parking services may be contracted with ACE parking, with a valet kiosk located across from the Museum on the Plaza de Panama between the Prado restaurant and the Japanese Friendship Garden.

CATERING AND BAR SERVICE

Urban Kitchen Catering at Mingei is the primary caterer and exclusive bar service for rental events. Additional preferred catering vendors are available upon request. Certain areas of the Museum have food and beverage restrictions due to art or other items on display.

Policies and Procedures

CATERING

While we encourage the utilization of Urban Kitchen Catering at Mingei for your catering needs for ease of event logistics, additional preferred catering vendors are available upon request.

AMENITIES AND RENTALS

The Museum has a limited supply of furnishings and equipment available to rent upon request. Rentals contracted through other vendors must have a valid business license and be able to provide liability insurance to the Museum.

DECORATION

Decorations may not be fixed to the Museum walls, floors, ceilings, or exhibition pedestals/cases, and signs/decor may not be fixed to the building exterior without prior approval from staff. Potted plants are not allowed inside the Museum. However, floral arrangements provided by vendors are permitted.

CLEANUP

Rental items and decorations must be removed immediately following the event unless other arrangements have been made. The Museum is not responsible for any materials, rentals, or decorations left behind. Additional fees may apply if substantial mess or items are left behind.

INSURANCE

All rental clients and subcontracted vendors must provide liability insurance in the amount of \$1 million aggregate and \$2 million per occurrence and must name Mingei International Museum as additional insured. Copies of the insurance documents must be received at least 30 days in advance of the contracted event.

SMOKING

Smoking is not permitted on Museum property or anywhere within Balboa Park.

ACCESSIBILITY

All spaces within the Museum are ADA accessible.

Policies and Procedures

SOUND ORDINANCE

Sound ordinances may apply for outdoor space rentals.
Contact the special events office with your specific needs.

STAFFING

Museum staff will be on site during your event to assist with event logistics. Staff is not responsible for setting up, tearing down, moving materials, or assisting contracted vendors during the event. Day-of Coordinators are required for all weddings and large scale events. Please ensure that vendors have ample staff scheduled for your event.

RENTAL FEES

Please contact the Special Events Department for a quote for your unique event needs. Email events@mingei.org or call (619) 331-3565.

EVENT CONTACTS

Sue Preis

mingei.org/events

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