



Some places just have it. They're the kind of jaw-dropping destinations that dazzle attendees and make meetings memorable. For our annual roundup of destinations that WOW, *ConventionSouth* presents 18 impressive ideas for planners to consider, from down-home fun to high-end luxury.

CITY MUSEUM
St. Louis, Mo.

Everything about the unique, eclectic City Museum in downtown St. Louis is a WOW. From the main floor's colorful mermaid mosaics to the rooftop Ferris wheel, the venue is a weirdly wonderful immersive art experience.

A slide spirals visitors down 10 floors, while a school bus dangles over the edge of the roof under the watchful eye of a 3,000-pound praying mantis sculpted by the museum's founder Bob Cassilly. The first floor features an ocean theme and a 5,000-gallon aquarium. The second floor offers a stunning marble bar and enormous bank vault doors. Above that lies a captivating mix of salvaged architectural pieces, including a section of the cornice from the old Chicago Stock Exchange building.

The fantastical space is a mixture of playground, funhouse, surrealistic pavilion, and architectural marvel constructed mainly from found and repurposed objects. It's 600,000 square feet of whimsy with miles of tunnels, slides, climbers, bridges, castles, and secret passages to explore. And that's just inside—outside, a massive climbing sculpture includes two planes, one of which once belonged to singer Wayne Newton.

City Museum has spaces to host as many as 400 people, and the rental includes free admission.

