

TO: ASHE Members
FROM: Molly Sarubbi, Chair, ASHE Site Selection Committee
November 16, 2019

Subject: Annual Meeting Site Selection Report [2021-2025]

On behalf of my fellow committee members, and in close consultation with Dr. Jason P. Guilbeau, Executive Director of ASHE, I am excited to share the forthcoming conference locations with the ASHE community. We hope our selections help contribute to the ongoing sense of community building and professional development of our peers. Thank you to the ASHE Board of Directors for their support in this selection and their continued leadership.

The following list of cities and hotels were approved by the Board of Directors on June 7, 2019.

2021

San Juan, Puerto Rico
Sheraton Puerto Rico Hotel & Casino
November 4-6
Estimated group rate: \$209.00

Offers opportunity to leverage membership as economic stimulus to the area, cultural diversity, and networking with PR institutions and community at large.

2022

Las Vegas, Nevada
Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino
November 17-19
Estimated group rate: \$149.00

Site boasts large, private conference space separate from casino floor, while offering unique meeting room options, and nearby attractions and amenities.

2023

Minneapolis, Minnesota
Hilton Minneapolis
November 16-18
Estimated group rate: \$149.00

Hotel site offers affordable rates and proximity to dining and shopping options, the airport, and regional universities. The ASHE conference has not been held in MN since the early-90's.

2024

Indianapolis, Indiana
Indianapolis Marriott Downtown/Springhill Suites by Marriott
November 21-23
Estimated group rate: \$209.00/\$184.00

Nice meeting space in downtown area with many dining options and attractions. Also easily accessible to public transportation, institutions, national organizations, and foundations for networking opportunities.

2025

Denver, Colorado
Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel
November 13-15
Estimated group rate: \$214.00

This site is located in downtown Denver close to trendy dining options and city attractions. Hotel will undergo a site-wide renovation resulting in additional meeting and on-site dining spaces, and new guest rooms.

Committee Members

Dr. Molly Sarubbi (Chair), Senior Project Manager, Education Commission of the States
Dr. Cristóbal (Criss) Salinas, Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership and Research
Methodology, Florida Atlantic University
Sacha Sharp, Doctoral Candidate, Educational Leadership & Policy Studies, Indiana University
& Associate Director of Career Development And Cultural Inclusion, Indiana University
School of Medicine
Dr. Jason P. Guilbeau, ASHE Executive Director (ex-officio, non-voting member)

Site Selection Process

Initial bids were received from 50 hotels across 11 cities. Following initial responses, and reviews for capacity and general location, the final list of potential sites was narrowed to 6 options. The ASHE Executive Director and one member of the site selection committee conducted in-person inspections of each site. Consensus was developed among the group, along with advice from ASHE Legal Counsel and other ASHE partners (listed below) in finalizing the aforementioned recommendations based on the following criteria:

Diversity & Inclusion. Equity is a core value of ASHE. As such, the association will not enter into contractual relationships with conference or meeting facilities, where there has been demonstrated intent or practiced insensitivity to principles of non-discrimination and inclusion. Furthermore, states with travel bans (AL, KS, KY, MI, NC, OK, SC, SD, TN, TX <https://www.oag.ca.gov/ab1887/faqs>), recent union boycotts, pending lawsuits, ‘restrictional’ states (<https://bit.ly/2VEhCCy>) with discriminatory practices towards undocumented or LGBTQ communities, and other groups were ineligible. Priority was given to sites with broad representation and inclusive accommodations such as all-gender restrooms, differently-abled accessibility options, nursing mother space, and representations of racial and ethnic diversity.

Geographical preference. Site location should rotate among major geographic regions of the country with priority given to sites close to airports and offering ample public transportation options. Additional consideration was given to locations with proximity to institutions, multiple hotel, dining, outdoor, and attraction options. A preliminary review of flight estimates was conducted to source potential airfare costs for ASHE members. Lastly, consideration was given to not repeat any city site contracted within 5 years of previous ASHE meetings.

Affordability. In keeping graduate students particularly in mind, every effort was given to prioritize sites with affordable travel and hotel accommodations rates. The goal was to maintain room rates around \$200.00. Additional consideration was given to alternate between more expensive sites over the next five years. Final selections were also required to offer a variety of affordable dining options within the hotel and/or nearby.

Hotel & Meeting Space Accommodations. Recommended sites not only had to be able to accommodate our meeting and guest room needs, but offer additional amenities such as ample and supportive work space, outdoor accessibility, food & beverage options, natural lighting, diverse room set up options, renovated aesthetics, and broad guest services such as a business center, gym, pool, room service, on-site parking, and concierge support.

Dates. All efforts were made to adhere to previous ASHE Annual conference calendars with priority given to sites that offered availability for the 3rd week of November.

Special thank you to the following ASHE colleagues and partners for their guidance during this process: ASHE Land Acknowledgement Work Group, ASHE Legal Counsel, ASHE Presidential Commission on Undocumented Individuals, Experient/ESN, and all staff and employees of visited site locations.