

IACA Annual Conference- Detroit 2024



Great Lakes. Great Registries.

Insider's Guide to the 47th Annual IACA Conference

May 19 – 23, 2024 Detroit, Michigan

Preparing for the Conference

[2024 Conference Webpage](#): Check out the Coming Attractions and Conference Agenda. Coming Attractions gives descriptions of the sessions, and the agenda provides the dates and times of the sessions. On Wednesday there are concurrent sessions. If you are the only person from your jurisdiction, decide which session you will attend. If more than one person from your jurisdiction is attending, plan to divide and conquer.

New to IACA? If you are traveling alone or new to the conference, expect to hear from one of IACA's board members, who will be happy to answer any questions and to introduce you to other attendees.

Dress Code

For sessions and meetings, business casual attire is recommended. The evening events section of this document notes the dress code for each event.

Dressy: Dress pants, skirts, dresses, blouses, button downs, jackets.

Business Casual: Not as formal as dressy attire, but professional. Dress pants, skirts, dresses, blouses, button downs, polos, khakis.

Dressy Casual: Dressy but not formal. Summer dresses, skirts, short sleeved tops, button downs, polos, dress pants, khakis

Casual: Dress comfortably but keep things classy. T-shirts, jeans, shorts, sneakers, flip-flops.

Keep in mind this is a professional conference during sessions, evening events, and the hospitality suite.

Name Badges and Lanyards: Please wear your name badges to all meals, sessions, and evening events.

Transportation:

Airport to Downtown: [Detroit Air Xpress \(DAX\)](#) connects Downtown Detroit and Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW). DAX operates from 3:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day.

Detroit People Mover: [The Detroit People Mover](#) is a 3-mile elevated, automated people mover system. The Detroit People Mover is free and has limited stops in the downtown area. The Michigan Avenue station is one block from the Westin Book Cadillac hotel.

Weather for the Week: Detroit has unpredictable weather in May. Please anticipate weather from the low-50s in the evening to mid-70s during the day.

Packing Tips: Leave extra room in your suitcase for conference materials and swag. Make sure to pack a small umbrella and comfortable shoes. The hotel has an indoor swimming pool and jacuzzi hot tub, so you may want to pack a swimsuit.

Runners/Walkers: [The Detroit Riverfront](#), [Belle Isle](#), and [Woodward Avenue](#) are all nearby areas that runners, walkers, or explorers may be interested in experiencing.

Whova App: Take the IACA conference mobile by downloading the conference App. The App will include the conference agenda, session details, attendee list, partner information, evening event details, speaker bios, hotel map, and more. Get Whova from the App Store or Google Play.



Board of Directors: Feel free to reach out to a board member with any questions.

At the Conference

Upon Arrival: Stop by the registration table in the Woodward Prefunction area on the 2nd floor near the hotel check-in to pick up your name badge and conference bag.

Roll Call: One of IACA's most popular sessions! Roll Call kicks off the conference with invaluable information for all attendees. A representative from each jurisdiction should be prepared to introduce themselves as well as co-workers and announce their biggest accomplishments and most significant challenges over the last year, along with their top priority for the coming year. Have your presentation ready before the conference and be concise. Please limit your remarks to two minutes.

Plan to Attend the Annual Business Meeting: This meeting is held on Thursday at 9:00 a.m. This is your organization, and the Business Meeting is your chance to be heard. Attendance is limited to members and member staff.

Bringing Guests? Make sure they are registered for the conference, including meals.

Meals: With the exception of your free night on Wednesday, all meals are provided with registration. Meals are a great time to network and meet people from all over the world. There will be vegetarian, vegan, and gluten free options available at breakfast, lunch, and evening events.

IMPORTANT! Only sign up for the meals you plan to eat. This will help control conference costs.

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Evening Events

Sunday – Westin Book Cadillac Detroit Hotel: The Partners-Only Reception will be in the Italian Garden on the 4th floor from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

All attendees are invited to the President's Reception, which will be in the Venetian Ballroom on the 4th floor from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The President's Reception is intended to welcome you to the conference. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served. A band specializing in Motown music will welcome you to Detroit. Dressy Casual attire is recommended.

Monday – Highlands Detroit, Renaissance Center: Highlands Detroit is located in the global headquarters for General Motors at the top of the tallest building in Michigan and features scenic views of Detroit, Canada, and the Detroit River. Prepare to be transported back to the 1920s for a Great Gatsby themed evening that will begin with a cocktail hour where you can mix, mingle, and capture a memory from the event using the 360-degree video booth. Then we'll have a sit-down dinner and cocktails accompanied by music. The 2024 IACA Merit Awards and Tim Poulin Award will be presented at the event. We will need to take elevators to reach the event space. The elevator offers views of Canada and the Detroit River. If you prefer an internal elevator, please see one of the Board members directing you at this location. You are welcome to visit GM World in the building lobby before taking the elevators up to the event space. GM World showcases the latest GM vehicles and a curated, rotating display of historic vehicles. Dressy attire is recommended. We will take buses to this event.

Tuesday – Outdoor Adventure Center: Our event will take place in a historic building located on Detroit's riverfront. The Outdoor Adventure Center gives you a taste of Michigan's great outdoors in the heart of the city. Experience exciting outdoor adventures with hands-on activities, exhibits, simulators, and more. We will enjoy a casual dinner and drinks. Casual attire is recommended. We will take buses to this event.

Wednesday – It's Your Night! This is your opportunity to explore Detroit on your own. You may want to follow @visitdetroit on Instagram for ideas. Other resources for ideas: [Visit Detroit](#); [Detroit Travel Guide by Pure Michigan](#); [Detroit Travel Guide by Trip Advisor](#); and, [Detroit Travel Guide by Lonely Planet](#).

Thursday – The Yard at Corktown: The conference closes with a casual dinner and drinks at a unique entertainment center that features countless games, axe throwing, and indoor/outdoor activities. Casual attire is recommended. We will take buses to this event.

Hospitality Suite: Sunday through Wednesday (9:00-11:00 p.m. Sunday and Wednesday; 9:30-11:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday) in the Boulevard A room on the 2nd floor. The conference is all about making connections! The hospitality suite is a great place to network, make friends, and relax after the evening event. It is very informal, with drinks and snacks provided.

Partners: Be sure to introduce yourself to our partners and visit their tables on the 4th floor. They will provide you with valuable insight into many common issues. Without our partners, we would not be able to host this incredible conference.

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