

# 2023 NASPE Annual Meeting Host Bid Proposal State of Colorado





The State of Colorado is honored to submit this proposal to host the 2023 NASPE Annual Meeting.

Denver, the mile-high city and the capital of Colorado, stands 5,280 feet above sea level. Its airport has one of the largest domestic flight networks in the U.S. and the city has a 140-mile long mountain panorama with 200 named peaks.

Denver's mix of stunning natural scenery, exciting attractions, and unique experiences makes it a ideal host city.

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# Fun Facts About Denver

- In Denver, golf balls go about 10% farther than they do at sea level.
  - The Denver Mint is the single largest producer of coins in the world. (You can tell if a coin is made in Denver by a 'D' mark.)
  - In Denver, it is unlawful to lend your vacuum cleaner to your neighbor.
  - Denver averages 300 days of sunshine each year and more annual hours of sun than San Diego or Miami Beach, Fla.
  - Famed music group Led Zeppelin played their first show in America at the Denver Auditorium Arena on Dec. 26, 1968.
  - There were originally three different towns with three different names where Denver stands today.
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# Attractions



# [Art Museum]

Founded in 1893, the [Denver Art Museum](#) (originally the Denver Artist's Club) is one of the largest art museums between the West Coast and Chicago. It features a global art collection with more than 70,000 works of art.



# [Breweries and Brewery Tours]

Denver has over 65 breweries. With some artfully crafting great German classics and others who are constantly innovating, there's a brewery for everyone in Denver.



Here are some of the best-rated breweries in the Denver area:

- [Black Project Spontaneous and Wild Ales](#)
- [Breckenridge Brewery](#)
- [Coors Brewery](#)
- [Denver Beer Co.](#)
- [Dry Dock Brewing Co.](#)
- [Great Divide Brewing Company](#)
- [New Belgium Brewing](#)
- [Odell Brewing Co.](#)
- [Prost Brewing](#)

# [Casa Bonita]

[Casa Bonita](#), a beloved Colorado landmark built in 1973, has a 30-foot waterfall and features cliff divers, puppet shows, and more. The restaurant rose to national fame after it was featured in the show, South Park. It will soon reopen with a menu created by award-winning chef, Dana Rodriguez.



# [Capitol Building]

Build in the 1980s the [Colorado State Capitol](#) is the only capitol building with a LEED® Gold certification in the nation.

Its construction is intentionally reminiscent of the U.S. Capitol but features white granite, copper, gold, Colorado rose onyx, and white yule marble from the Colorado mountains.

# [Celestial Seasonings]

With 105 tea varieties and 2.1 million visitors a year, the [Celestial Seasonings](#) is a can't miss attraction just outside of Denver. Visitors particularly enjoy the mint room.



# [Denver Botanic Gardens]

In the middle of the city sits our stunning [Denver Botanic Gardens](#). One of the nation's top 10 conservatories, it features 45 different gardens with 33,000 plants from all over the world.



# [Denver Zoo]

The [Denver Zoo](#) is the most popular paid attraction in the Denver metropolitan area. It sits on 84 acres and has more than 3,000 wild animal ambassadors and award-winning education and outreach teams.



# [Elitch Gardens]

Since 1890, [Elitch Gardens](#) has delighted Denverites with attractions and events. The amusement park has rides for all ages and a water park.

# [Meow Wolf]

One of three Meow Wolf installations across the U.S., Denver's Meow Wolf, [Convergence Station](#), is the largest in the country. It's a one-of-a-kind immersive art experience that, "transports participants of all ages into new dimensions of storytelling and creative exploration."



# [Pedestrian Mall]

Stretching a mile in downtown Denver, the [16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall](#) is a pedestrian-only area with stores, restaurants, and great people watching. Visitors can walk around or take the free mall shuttles.

# [Red Rocks Park and Amphitheater]

Just outside of Denver sits [Red Rocks Amphitheatre](#) and park, an uniquely beautiful open-air concert venue and hiking space.



# [RiNo Art District]

In north Denver, the [RiNo Art District](#) is a unique area filled with local art, and great restaurants and breweries. Their mission is to, “champion the arts and local entrepreneurialism by providing affordable creative space, supporting local artists and businesses, delivering education programming for all ages and backgrounds, and partnering with established neighborhoods to support connectivity and ensure their unique history.”

# [Sports Venues]

Denver is home to the Denver Broncos, Colorado Avalanche, Colorado Rockies, Denver Nuggets, and Colorado Rapids.

- [Ball Arena](#)
- [Coors Field](#)
- [Dick's Sporting Goods Park](#)
- [Empower Field at Mile High](#)



## [Union Station]

Featuring dining, shopping and the award-winning Crawford Hotel, [Union Station](#) is a gorgeous landmark in downtown Denver. It has 12 dining options and stunning architecture. At the very least, you should take a walk-through and grab a seat on a bench to people-watch.

# Meeting Venues

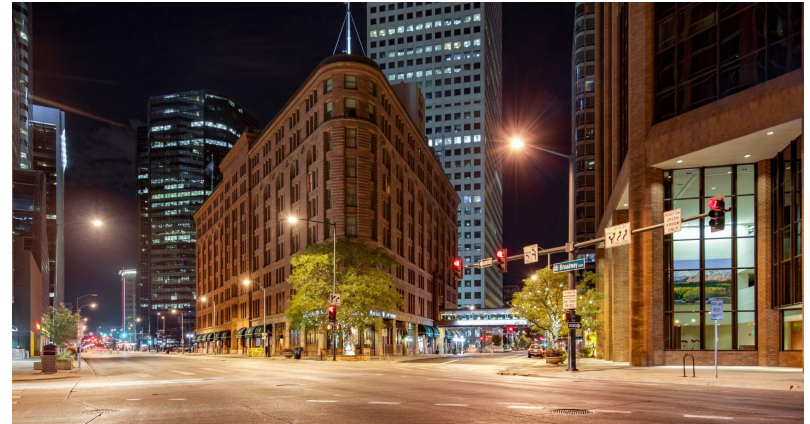


# [The Brown Palace Hotel and Spa]

A local landmark, [The Brown Palace Hotel and Spa](#) dates back to 1892 and is located in downtown Denver. You can reach the hotel using Uber/Lyft or Denver's light rail and bus systems.

The highlights:

- 31,470 square feet of event space
- 19 event rooms, 15 breakout rooms
- Six restaurants (on-site)
- Spa and fitness center (on-site)

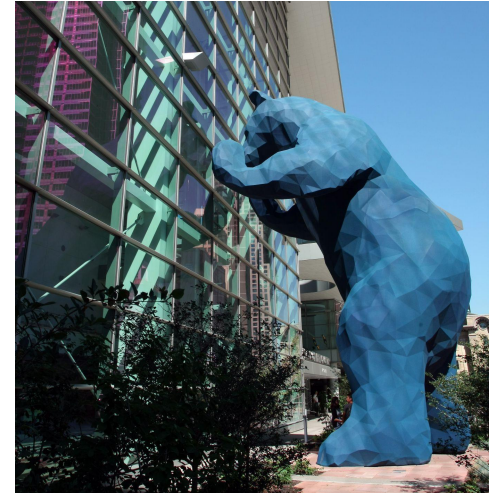


# [Colorado Convention Center]

The first thing you'll notice when walking up to the [Colorado Convention Center](#) is the 40-foot blue bear that greets visitors. Just steps away from a light rail station, this location is well-situated to make the most of Denver's light rail system.

The highlights:

- 584,000 square feet of exhibit space (on one level)
- 63 meeting rooms (on one level)
- On-site catering, guest services and AV provider
- Steps away from downtown restaurants
- Multiple hotels within a few blocks:
  - [Embassy Suites by Hilton](#)
  - [Le Méridien](#)
  - [Hyatt Regency](#)



# [History Colorado Center]

Located in downtown Denver, the [History Colorado Center](#) is a state-run museum with a clean, modern setting that educates visitors on the history of our state. Right across the street sits [The Art Hotel Denver](#), a hotel with over 165 rooms and 7,655 square feet of event space.

The highlights:

- Can accommodate 1,070 guests (max)
- Four event rooms
- One restaurant (and many restaurants just steps away)
- Large hotel with additional event space across the street



**HISTORY**  
**COLORADO**  
— CENTER —



# [Museum of Nature & Science]

Events at [The Denver Museum of Nature & Science](#) contribute to the mission to attract and serve diverse audiences by promoting the study, understanding, and enjoyment of the universe, nature, science, and human cultures.

The highlights:

- Eight event locations throughout the museum, including atriums, lounges, and a sky terrace
- Capacity ranges from 50 to 650 for dinners or strolling receptions
- Overlooks City Park's rose garden, Ferrell Lake, and City Park Boathouse
- Beautiful views of the Denver skyline and Rocky Mountains



# Transportation





According to the [Brookings Institution](#), Denver is the second most walkable metro area in the U.S.

And with Denver's light rail system, busses, rideshare and rental scooter options, you can easily navigate downtown without a car.

# [Denver International Airport]

The [Denver International Airport](#) (DEN, but referred to locally as DIA) has one of the largest domestic flight networks in the country and is the third-busiest airport in the U.S. It hosts over 20 airlines and has more than 170 shops, restaurants and services.

The airport is also home to a local landmark lovingly called Blucifer, a 32-foot tall mustang statue with glowing red eyes.



# Airlines at DIA

- Aeromexico
- Air Canada
- Air France
- Alaska Airlines
- Allegiant
- American Airlines
- Boutique Air
- British Airways
- Cayman Airways
- Copa Airlines
- Delta Air Lines
- Denver Air Connection
- Edelweiss
- Frontier Airlines
- Icelandair
- JetBlue Airways
- Lufthansa
- Southern Airways Express
- Southwest Airlines
- Spirit Airlines
- Sun Country Airlines
- Unites Airlines
- Volaris
- WestJet

# [Light Rail and Bus Systems]

Denver's RTD train and bus systems are accessible by purchasing a ticket at kiosks near the stations, on buses or virtually using the RTD Tickets app. Riders can purchase individual rides, ticket packs, passes for three hours, day passes, and a pass that includes the line to the airport.

Active duty members of the U.S. military ride all RTD services for free as do children five years or younger (with a fare-paying adult, limit three children per adult)

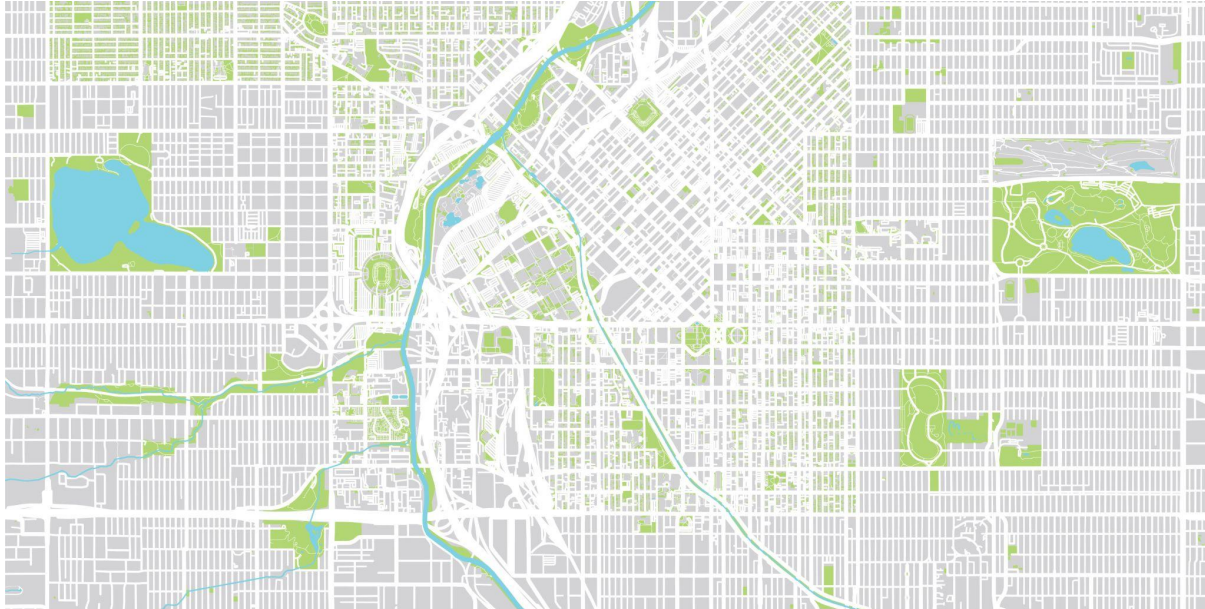
Discounted tickets are available to:

- All seniors 65 and up
- Individuals with disabilities
- Medicare recipients
- Youth (six - 19)
- Participants in RTD's LiVE Program (an income-based fare discount)



# [Rideshare/Taxi Services/Scooter/Bike Rentals]

Downtown Denver has multiple fee-based options to help you get around. We have [Lyft](#), [Uber](#) and [Lime](#). Bike tours are also available through companies like [Mile High Bike Tours](#).



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# On-Site Support

As a NASPE member for over 20 years, the State of Colorado is well suited to host and support the 2023 annual meeting.

In 2021, NASPE presented the Rooney Award: Leadership to John Bartley, Deputy Director of the State of Colorado Division of Human Resources, for his work creating a statewide Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion program.

The State has 10-15 employees available to help with preparations and 10 employees that can provide on-site support during the conference.

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# Thank You

Thank you for considering Denver as a host for the 2023 NASPE Annual Meeting. Our beautiful and quirky city is an unforgettable experience that we'd like to share with NASPE members.

If selected, Lynne Steketee, Chief Human Resources Officer will serve as the host state chair on the NASPE Executive Committee and Meetings Committee.

If you have any questions, please contact John Bartley at [john.bartley@state.co.us](mailto:john.bartley@state.co.us).

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