

# site Chicago

Proudly Serving Illinois, Michigan & Wisconsin

Chapter News June 2022

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## ITI: Contribute Your Expert Opinion Today!

HOW WILL THE INCENTIVE TRAVEL INDUSTRY EVOLVE OVER THE NEXT NUMBER OF YEARS? CONTRIBUTE YOUR VIEW BY TAKING #INCENTIVEINDEX22

Incentive Travel Index

FICP IRF site Foundation OXFORD ECONOMICS

HTTPS://BIT.LY/3XQAE81

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We invite you to join SITE Chicago in defining the future of our Incentive Travel industry.

The 2022 edition of the Incentive Travel Index survey is LIVE, and your valuable input is needed. This survey will provide a historical snapshot of where the industry has come from, and a predictive hypothesis of where it's going. The entire industry needs to be represented, so your participation is invaluable. The Incentive Travel Index is a joint initiative of IRF, FICP and SITE Foundation in association with Oxford Economics

Please take the survey today using [this link](https://bit.ly/3XQAE81) and let your voice be heard.

## How Ready Are You for the Worst to Happen at an Event?



**BREAKING NEWS!** Block your calendar now to learn more about emergency preparedness, scenarios that our world is facing and how best to be prepared for the worst at an event. Plus take advantage of special (and heavily discounted) First Aid, CPR and AED training in our private educational event.

Join us at The Dalcy on August 8 for all or part of this powerful opportunity. Basic First Aid Training and CPR/AED training and certification will be held Noon to 5 PM, with the keynote and networking from 5 to 8 PM. Get more details and [register here today!](#)



I cannot believe it's June.

- June marks the end of Q2, which is one of the busiest quarters in our industry, but given 2022 – most likely some of our busiest in history.
- June is the beginning of summer, and we in the Midwest sure know how to celebrate with backyard barbeques, picnics at the beach, weekends camping, and family vacations.
- Lastly, June is the halfway point through my presidency with SITE Chicago.

I'm proud of what the chapter has accomplished in the last quarter. We've welcomed Wisconsin and Michigan with open arms to our region and held three fantastic spring networking events throughout. We've welcomed new members, thanks to our expansion, membership giveaways and Member-Get-A-Member campaign, and we have continued our great relationships with existing members.

Most importantly, I'm extremely proud of our board members & ambassadors who have dedicated their time and passion to our 2022 success. The chapter and I wouldn't be here without you. Thank you to you all (in no particular order).

- Alex Bakalis for merging creativity, logistics, and volunteerism flawlessly
- Celeste Kelley for crafting an incredible, sold-out, Young Leader event
- Lorraine Bellas for seeing into the future and supporting the chapter growth
- Lisa Crolius for constantly keeping our members up to date and championing our chapter growth
- Craig Dooley for his master craft in marketing, design & content
- Patti Elliott for her positive energy and motivation that raises the bar
- Nancy McFadyen for her incredible networking & selling skills superhero powers
- Diane Murray for her pulse on the past and open mind for the future
- Amie Devine for stepping into the dark and building the bright future of SITE in Wisconsin
- Amy Young for showing us how SITE can truly exist, show value and grow in Michigan
- And Lastly, Bonnie Coop who does everything in her power to stay involved no matter her distance or calendar and who will take the reins in 2023

Lastly, I want to thank each person who has attended our events so far in 2022. You have made an impact just by attending and can make a change by continuing your support throughout the year.

THANK YOU.



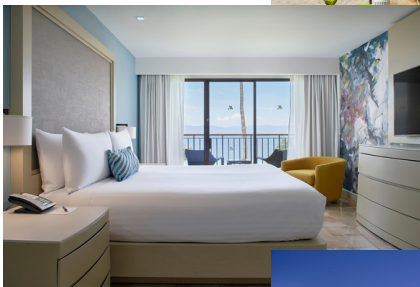
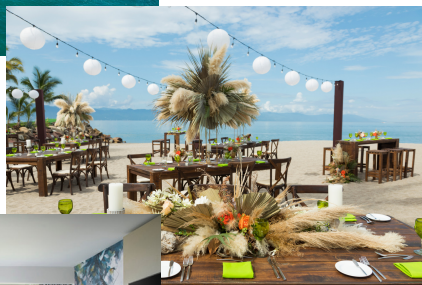
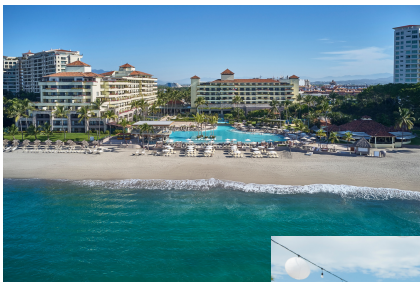
Rose Hippert, CIS, CITP  
President, SITE Chicago

# Sponsor Spotlight: Puerto Vallarta

The SITE Chicago board is traveling! We are headed to gorgeous Puerto Vallarta for our annual board meeting where we will discuss our strategies & processes, succession planning, and most importantly, gear up for 2023.

We are so thankful to the Marriott Puerto Vallarta Resort & Spa and Westin Resort & Spa Puerto Vallarta for hosting our board and ambassadors for this important meeting. We can't wait to come back to share our learnings and showcase these wonderful properties.

Are you looking for your next incentive destination? No need to look any further, Puerto Vallarta is top notch! Click on the [Marriott](#) and [Westin](#) logos below and enjoy the great videos from our friends.



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# Our Wisconsin Network is Buzzing!

Amie Devine

The energy and buzz at the May 25 Milwaukee Spring Networking event was electric! We couldn't stop smiling watching everyone chatting and engaging with each other. SITE Chicago's vision to embrace WI and MI into our chapter is spot on, and this event made it clear that after the last 2 years, the incentive industry and the importance of rewarding people with travel is back!

We heard many great comments about how SITE makes you feel at home at their events, and everyone is part of this group. SITE Chicago supported the local mission to build WI by providing a complimentary membership as a raffle prize, and we are so excited to share that JoAnna Coulon of Sunseeker Resort won this great prize. Welcome, JoAnna!

As we build WI, we would love your help. Our next event will be this fall, and we are open to its location. Please reach out to Amie Devine (adevine@hybridgroupevents.com) to get involved today.



# Building Up Michigan

Amy Young

SITE Chicago was in Grand Rapids, Michigan June 14 for a powerful networking event of more than 40 people, of which 25 were qualified incentive travel buyers. There were so many hugs throughout the evening as suppliers, planners and old friends reconnected for the first time since the Covid pandemic.

Many of our first time SITE attendees were overheard saying "everyone here is so nice" (SITE Chicago has that reputation!). Donations of baseball hats were accepted in support of a local homeless shelter, and more than \$1,500 was raised through raffles in support of Michigan Cares for Tourism. Michigan really felt the love from SITE Chicago -- and the feeling was mutual!



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# Summer Networking in Chicago

Alex Bakalis

We had a great time at our Chicago networking event at Recess on June 8. From delicious food, tasty drinks, awesome raffle prizes, a VIP bra gifting experience, blackjack table and everything in between, the group had a ton of fun. Along with all our amazing sponsors listed below, we want to give a special shoutout to Essential Bodywear for our VIP bra fitting and gifting experience. To learn more about bringing Essential Bodywear to your events and trips, visit [www.essentialbodywear.com](http://www.essentialbodywear.com).



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# Membership in SITE Chicago

Lisa Crolius

Our chapter is booming and our calendar is filled with activities, networking and opportunities to support our peers, our community and the incentive travel industry throughout the year. It has never been a better time to be part of SITE and our local Chicago chapter, proudly serving Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin.

To all of our members, congratulations on investing in your career and your industry, and thank you for being a part of SITE Chicago!

If anyone you know is interested in learning more about who we are, what we do and the benefits that membership brings, please refer them immediately to Lisa Crolius ([lisa.crolius@westin-cayman.com](mailto:lisa.crolius@westin-cayman.com)).



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# Young Leaders Host the Grand Slam!

Celeste Kelley

We are so excited to host our first-ever Young Leaders' Cubs Rooftop Event, the Grand Slam! The game is on August 19 at 1:20 pm at Wrigley Stadium between the Brewers and the Cubs.

If you are a buyer and are interested in attending the game and hosted by a supplier, please [complete this form](#). You do not need to be a young leader; however, it is a benefit as this is a young leader's hosted event.



**Hosted Buyers Register Now!**

Society for  
Incentive  
Travel  
Excellence

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# Your CSR Impact on Community & Chapter

Diane Murray

As we quickly approach the middle of this year, SITE Chicago's CSR work is off to a great start. Through your generous donations and raffle ticket purchases, you have provided relief to hospitality industry workers in Ukraine and Poland, given 100+ baseball hats to the homeless, contributed personal hygiene products to those in need and supported two 2022 membership scholarships. We may be known as the "Second City", but that couldn't be farther from the truth – we are second to none. You all have been awesome!

THANK YOU! We couldn't do this without your heartfelt support. More CSR programs to come for the 2nd half of the year!



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# Upcoming Events

The second half of 2022 is gearing up to be just as exciting as the first half, with networking, educational and social events to connect, educate and entertain. Check out the SITE Chicago website and social media as we launch registration for these event and keep up to date with everything we are doing and how you can be involved.

Emergency Preparedness Education Event  
August 8, Noon – 8 PM  
The Dalcy, 302 N Green St, Chicago  
[Save the Date and look out for more details!](#)



The Grand Slam, Powered by Young Leaders  
Aug 19, 12:00 PM CDT  
Wrigley Field Rooftop, Chicago  
[Hosted Buyers Register Now](#)



2nd Annual Roadshow  
November 7-9, 6 PM  
Illinois >> Wisconsin >>> Michigan  
*Interested in having a booth?*  
[Email sitechicagosponsorship@gmail.com](mailto:sitechicagosponsorship@gmail.com)



8th Annual Holly Trolley  
November 29, 4 PM – 10 PM, Chicago  
Registration to open in October  
Interested in sponsorship?  
[Email sitechicagosponsorship@gmail.com](mailto:sitechicagosponsorship@gmail.com)



**EARLY OPPORTUNITY: Partner with SITE Chicago for our annual Holly Trolley event and reach more than 120+ attendees at this can't-miss annual event on November 29!**

VENUE: Spotlight your incredible venue as one of the 3 available trolley stops for the night  
GIFTING: Put one of you incredible gifts in the hands of our industry colleagues and buyers  
RAFFLE: Donate an item, a stay, or a package that would make a lucky winner feel special

Multiple sponsor options available, but they will go quick. [Email us now](#) to learn more about the benefits of being a sponsor for this festive night.

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