

HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

FACILITY RENTAL INFORMATION

Choosing the High Desert Museum for your next event – wedding, conference, private cocktail party, birthday party or other affair – means that you have selected one of America’s most beautiful and unique venues, certain to make your occasion an unparalleled, memorable experience.

The Museum is not only an architectural jewel set on 135 pristine, forested acres, it also offers you and your guests exclusive, special experiences you will not find anywhere else. This includes:

- thrilling close-up encounters with magnificent wildlife – owls, hawks, falcons, the porcupine and other High Desert wildlife, accompanied by expert staff who can offer guests fascinating insight into each animal’s characteristics and background.
- appearances from the High Desert frontier’s most intriguing characters – pioneers, stagecoach drivers, buckaroos, homesteaders and other fascinating personalities from the 19th-century.
- private tours of one of this nationally recognized Museum’s signature exhibits, Spirit of the West, with expert Museum docents, and other exclusive experiences.

This premier attraction featuring the wildlife, cultural and living history of the High Desert offers more than 7,000 square feet of event space and can accommodate groups of 5 to 500.

Located just 10 minutes from downtown Bend, Oregon, it exudes the natural beauty of the Northwest.

Schnitzer Entrance Hall: Rustic elegance abounds with skylights and aspen-filled atriums where the Museum’s resident lynx and bobcat live, and which allow natural light to dapple the interior. A peaked, 16-foot Douglas fir-beamed ceiling rises above floors of inlaid Northwest slate. Bronze wildlife sculptures and rare Western artifacts including a 19th-century Western stagecoach are on display throughout the space, which can occupy up to 500 people and comfortably seat up to 350.

Hall of Plateau Indians: This intimate, yet dramatic space features floor-to-ceiling windows, offering lush views of mountain pines, shrubs, aspens and a trickling stream. A stunning tipi made of tule reeds at the entrance to the nationally renowned Native American exhibition *By Hand Through Memory* punctuates this uniquely beautiful space.

Other features distinguish the Museum from any other venue. Delight your guests – from young children to adults - with the chance to enjoy the entire Museum, inside and outdoors too. Paved nature trails wind beside a trickling stream accented with bronze wildlife sculptures and natural wood benches. They lead to fascinating outdoor natural and cultural history exhibits including the:

- Autzen Otter Exhibit – Meet the charming otter, Thomas, as he frolics in his pond, or enter inside the exhibit, and observe him underwater!
- 1880 Homestead Ranch – explore this authentic replica of a High Desert homestead and meet many of our seasonal living history staff.
- Donald M. Kerr Birds of Prey Center - Get eye-to-eye with a pair of bald eagles, owls, and other raptors of the desert sky.
- Dig! Crawl! Climb! – Kids, play like a spider on a giant web, crawl through a tunnel like a badger or dig for prehistoric fossils!

Indoors:

Wild Cat Atriums – Visit Ochoco, a bobcat, and Snowshoe, a lynx, in forested, glass atriums.

Desertarium – Observe Gila monsters, an endangered desert tortoise, snakes, lizards and other reptiles.

Spirit of the West: Explore a Northern Paiute rock shelter, 19th-century mine, the settlement town Silver City, a fur trader camp, the Oregon Trail, and a buckaroo bunkhouse. **By Hand Through Memory** – Discover Plateau Native American life and a renowned artifacts collection.

Brooks and Collins Galleries – changing exhibitions featuring regional art