

site Chicago

Proudly Serving Illinois, Michigan & Wisconsin

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GRAND SLAM 2025: We Knocked It Out of the Park Again

On Friday, August 1st, SITE Chicago hosted our 4th Annual Grand Slam event at the iconic Wrigley Rooftops—and it was a hit! With the Chicago Cubs edging out the Baltimore Orioles in a thrilling 1–0 victory, attendees enjoyed an unforgettable afternoon of baseball, networking, and celebration, followed by an afterparty at X-Golf.

We welcomed 215 hospitality professionals from across the region, creating a vibrant atmosphere filled with meaningful connections. This incredible turnout wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of our supplier sponsors and the dedicated team who helped bring the event to life.

Raffles & Prizes

Thanks to our amazing sponsors, we sold out earlier than ever and hosted our largest crowd to date. Attendees also participated in **six** exciting “red box” raffles and **three** grand prize drawings, which included: **a desert retreat for two to Tucson, Arizona inclusive of airfare, three nights at Atlantis Bahamas with airfare provided by United Airlines and a three-night stay at the Four Seasons Hotel Buenos Aires, with airfare provided by Copa Airlines.** Congratulations to all our lucky winners!

The After Party

The celebration continued after the game at X-Golf Wrigleyville, where we toasted the Cubs’ win with light bites and sweet treats provided by **Paramount Events**. Special thanks to **Hilton Luxury Brands** for sponsoring this fun-filled afterparty.

We’re so grateful to everyone who joined us and helped make this year’s Grand Slam a success. We can’t wait to see you back at the Rooftops next summer!

A Gifting Experience by Joycoast

Guests were treated to a unique gifting experience sponsored by Joycoast, a Chicago-based company known for its nature-inspired wooden watches, sunglasses, rings, and more. Each attendee had the chance to select their favorite pair of sunglasses to take home or a stylish wallet....a stylish and memorable touch!

Huge Thanks to Our Sponsors





Catching Up With SITE Chicago's Young Leaders

Last August, SITE Chicago's Young Leaders hosted the chapter's first-ever Young Leaders Co-Workday, which drew nearly 30 attendees to Convene's Fulton Market location and aimed to give the chapter's young leaders, many of which have remote-work lifestyles, the opportunity to connect with other industry professionals who may be in similar situations, and to experience what it's like to work in a collaborative, co-working environment.

Positive attendee feedback, and SITE Chicago's Young Leaders' strong relationship with Convene, led to the opportunity for the two to partner once again for a second Co-Workday event on June 9. Again, nearly 30 young leaders attended the event, which took place at Convene's 311 W. Monroe St. location this time and featured three optional breakout sessions, a gifting experience with event sponsor, evo3 marketing, and a networking happy hour.

Each breakout at SITE Chicago's Young Leaders Co-Workday was designed with the future of incentives in mind, from how to better work with and understand tomorrow's talent to trends in gifting that goes beyond. Sessions included:

- "The XYZ's of Networking," which explored the various communication preferences of each generation in the workforce right now, and how to best network with each generation to make a positive, lasting impression
- A Young Leader Panel Discussion and Q&A, moderated by Meetings Today's Taylor Smith and featuring panelists Morgan

McCracken, Meeting Event Manager, Maritz; Matt Brolley, Account Executive, NHS Global Events, and Aidan Korte, Senior Event Coordinator, Deloitte

- "Strategic Gifting for Impact," about elevating the event experience and motivating with "surprise and delight," led by event sponsor evo3 marketing

They still have more in store! Be sure to keep an eye out for future notes from SITE Chicago's Young Leaders as they prepare to wrap up another successful year with exciting events yet to come and even more chances to network and connect.



SITE Chicago Turned Up the Heat this Summer

WISCONSIN FLAMINGLE

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for SITE Chicago's Wisconsin Flamingle on June 17! We mixed, mingled, and made meaningful connections with our incredible local incentive travel community.

From a lively raffle to a luxurious gifting experience by Magnolia Bath & Soap Company, and mouthwatering bites and sips courtesy of Old Republic Surety Company.

It was truly a summer networking night to remember!



SUMMER EDUCATION

SITE Chicago's Summer Education Event brought fresh perspectives, real conversations, and valuable takeaways.

Huge thanks to our sponsors for making it all possible — your support helps us continue delivering high-impact programming.

And shoutout to our amazing panelists for a candid discussion on "Deal or No Deal" — covering negotiation tactics, contracting trends, and how we can be better partners in a changing landscape.



[CLICK HERE](#)

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Dana Weaver, a respected leader and former two-term President of SITE Chicago, is facing a significant health challenge and could use the support of our community. After courageously and quietly overcoming bladder cancer, Dana experienced a serious car accident on August 11.

During his evaluation in the emergency room, doctors discovered several lesions on his brain.

Following a biopsy on August 20, Dana was diagnosed with Primary Central Nervous System (CNS) Lymphoma—a rare and aggressive form of cancer that will require intensive treatment over the next five to six months.

Dana is currently receiving exceptional care at Carle Foundation Hospital in Champaign, Illinois, where his medical team has acted swiftly to diagnose and begin treatment.

True to his character, Dana continues to demonstrate remarkable strength and resilience—along with his signature sense of humor that has always uplifted those around him.

With Dana's blessing, a private Facebook group has been created to provide updates on his journey and, most importantly, to surround him with positivity. The greatest gift we can offer right now is our unwavering support—through messages of encouragement, joyful photos, and stories that celebrate the incredible impact Dana has had on our lives.

Joining the page and sharing your support will mean so much to him. Feel free to forward this message to SITE colleagues and others in the travel industry who know Dana and invite them to be part of his support circle.

Dana has always placed immense value on friendship and community, especially within the SITE family and the broader travel industry. Now, it's our turn to rally around him with the same love, strength, and encouragement he has so generously shared with others.



Dana's Care Companions Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/192viJff29/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

⚾ Meet Traveling Will – SITE Chicago’s Biggest Fan!

From the dugouts of imagination to the grandstands of SITE Chicago, Traveling Will is no ordinary baseball fan. He’s a spirited little guy with a big heart for networking, learning, and having a ball (pun intended)!

Legend has it, Will was stitched together from the threads of teamwork and community spirit, and ever since, he’s been on a mission to hit a home run at every SITE Chicago event.

Will’s globe-trotting adventure continues with our SITE community—and he’s just getting started! Keep your eyes peeled... you never know where he’ll pop up next: Austria, Italy, Aruba... or somewhere totally unexpected!

Follow along and see where Will’s travels take him next!

if you would like to take him on your next trip or for more information contact the membership committee at membership@sitechicago.org



Discover What's Next

SITE Chicago's Fall & Winter Lineup

WISCONSIN: SEPTEMBER 17TH

Join your Wisconsin Incentive travel community for an evening of cocktails & conversation on Wednesday, September 17th from 4-6 pm. Blu, located on 23rd floor at Pfister Hotel.

[Click here for registration](#)



MICHIGAN: OCTOBER 22ND

Sip, mingle and make connections with your Michigan Incentive travel community on Wednesday, October 22nd from 5-7 pm at the rooftop of the Godfrey Hotel.



FALL EDUCATION: OCTOBER 20TH

This isn't your average Monday! Come connect with peers, exchange insights, and enjoy a cozy evening of learning and networking on Monday October 20th from 4:30-7:30pm at Union League Club of Chicago. Education meets autumn vibes—don't miss it!



11TH ANNUAL HOLLY TROLLEY

Gather with your community for the biggest night of the year filled with holiday magic, cheerful vibes, and unforgettable memories on Tuesday, December 2nd. More information to come!

