

THE FORUM | POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Forum: Conference & Event Venue at Columbia University

The Forum, the gateway to Columbia's Manhattanville campus, hosts academic conferences, meetings, symposia, and cultural events, providing an important new space where scholars and thought leaders from diverse fields can come together to share ideas, and where Columbia and the local community can engage with New York City and the world.

The Forum rental spaces include a conference auditorium, with a capacity of 438 people; an adjoining foyer, with a capacity of 176; and four meeting rooms ranging in size from a small conference room with a capacity of 10 people to a large meeting room that holds 55 people in a theater-style setup. Each of these rooms, with the exception of the foyer, includes state-of-the-art technology.

Located at the intersection of 125th Street and Broadway, The Forum's ground floor Atrium contains common tables and flexible spaces with free WiFi for studying and meetings, and is open to the public seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Throughout the year, The Forum hosts public programs in the Atrium. The Forum is closed on [University-designated holidays](#).

Policies and Procedures

The Forum abides by the [policies developed for University events](#), which are supplemented by policies specific to The Forum. Event sponsors should be familiar with and must agree to comply with these policies in order to host an event at The Forum. A summary of The Forum policies is below. Additional policy details and procedures particular to an event will be provided to event hosts.

THE ABCS OF THE FORUM POLICIES

Access to The Forum Venues

- The Forum's Atrium is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., seven days a week, except for [University-designated holidays](#). After hours, only designated personnel may access The Forum with identification card swipe access.
- Events at The Forum may start before or end after building hours by advance arrangement; in some cases, additional Public Safety coverage may be required.
- Offices at The Forum are open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Access to the elevator bank and the core of the building, including offices, meeting rooms, and the Auditorium, is restricted to authorized University personnel and approved visitors, including guests registered for events, and is controlled by Public Safety personnel assigned to the lobby security desk.
- Individuals visiting an office at The Forum should make arrangements with their host in advance concerning access to The Forum offices. Unescorted visitors must wear a designated visitor's badge.
- For access to events in The Forum Auditorium and meeting rooms, event sponsors must validate attendees in the designated event registration area in The Forum lobby and provide each guest with an event identifier (e.g., badge, nametag, wristband, lanyard), which will allow entry through the turnstiles.
 - Event identifiers must include the name of the event or event sponsor.
 - A sample or snapshot of the event identifier must be provided to The Forum staff at least two business days prior to the event.

Accessibility

Columbia University is committed to providing an accessible and welcoming environment for faculty, staff, students, and visitors, and encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities.

- The Forum and its events spaces are accessible. Persons with disabilities who anticipate needing accommodations or who have questions about physical access for an event at The Forum should contact theforum@columbia.edu in advance of the event to arrange the necessary accommodations.
- The entryways at 601 West 125th Street and 605 West 125th Street are accessible to wheelchairs. Elevators are available to transport guests to each venue floor, which include accessible meeting rooms and restrooms. There is an elevator to the Concourse level, where public, accessible restrooms and a water fountain are located.
- The Forum has a limited number of Assisted Listening Devices (ALD) available for use in the Auditorium and in meeting rooms 301, 315, and 316. A photo ID must be provided in exchange for an ALD. Event hosts should inform The Forum staff of their guests who may want to use an ALD.
- Help with access needs for persons with disabilities can be obtained from the Office of Disability Services, located on the first floor of Wien Hall or available by phone at 212-854-2388 Ext: 2378 (Voice/TDD).

Address

- *The Forum main address as well as mailing address:*
Columbia University
601 West 125th Street
Mail Code 9802
New York, NY 10027
- *Accessible entryways:* Accessible entries are located at 601 and 605 West 125th Street, New York, NY, 10027
- *Event entrance:* 601 and 605 West 125th Street, New York, NY, 10027
- *Catering and large deliveries* (by prior arrangement): 602 West 129th Street, New York, NY, 10027
- *Small deliveries* (during business hours, 9-5): 605 West 125th Street, New York, NY, 10027

Advertising (see also **Posting Guidelines** and **Signage**)

- It is not permitted to distribute literature or marketing materials at The Forum that have not been authorized by The Forum administration. Email theforum@columbia.edu with requests to place marketing materials in our public spaces.
- All event marketing and promotions must adhere to the advertising guidelines outlined in the [Essential Policies for the Columbia Community](https://universitypolicies.columbia.edu/content/columbia-university-event-policy) (<https://universitypolicies.columbia.edu/content/columbia-university-event-policy>) as well as The Forum guidelines.
- Approved advertising will be placed at the below locations at The Forum's discretion:
 - Pamphlets and printed materials may be displayed on top of the waste and recycling cabinets in the east side of the Atrium.
 - Digital flyers may be uploaded to the Lobby digital screen.
- The Forum reserves the right to remove approved and unapproved materials at any time. Any materials remaining after the event or at time of removal will be recycled. If you would like to reclaim these materials, please specify this request in advance.

Alcohol

- Events at The Forum at which alcohol is served must abide by New York State law as well as Columbia University's [Policies on Alcohol and Drugs](https://universitypolicies.columbia.edu/content/alcohol-guidelines-undergraduate-student-events) (<https://universitypolicies.columbia.edu/content/alcohol-guidelines-undergraduate-student-events>).
- Event sponsors are responsible for ensuring their caterers have reviewed and are familiar with the Columbia University Policies on Alcohol and Drugs, and that the policies are enforced throughout the event.
- Event sponsors must submit a registration form for all events at which alcohol is to be served. The [registration form](https://eventmanagement.columbia.edu/content/alcohol-registration-form) (<https://eventmanagement.columbia.edu/content/alcohol-registration-form>) should be completed and submitted at least 14 days prior to the event in order to receive authorization by Columbia University Event Management (CUEM). If Proctors are required, based on CUEM's assessment of the event, the event sponsor will be responsible for the associated costs.
- The Forum does not have a permit to serve alcohol; therefore, in order to serve alcohol at an event at The Forum, the event sponsor or sponsor's caterer must file a One-Day Beer and Wine Permit application with the New York State Liquor Authority and pay for a permit to be issued for the event specified. It is advised that this application be submitted at least one month prior to the event.
- Permits for serving alcohol should be submitted to and received by The Forum Director of Events at least 14 days prior to the event or risk cancellation of the service of alcohol.
- Serving alcohol at an event at The Forum may require an additional Public Safety officer, the charge of which will be borne by the event sponsor.

Animals

Animals are not allowed in The Forum building with the exception of service animals, in accordance with [University guidelines](https://health.columbia.edu/services/service-and-assistance-animals) (<https://health.columbia.edu/services/service-and-assistance-animals>).

Atrium

The Atrium refers to the ground level of The Forum. It is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., seven days a week, with the exception of University-designated holidays.

- Free WiFi is available and community members are welcome to use the tables for studying, meetings, or visiting, remaining respectful of others using the space.
- The Community Table in the west side of Atrium may be reserved at no cost for an occasional group lunch or meeting. The Forum reserves the right to cancel reservations if this space is required for an event at The Forum. Email theforum@columbia.edu to inquire about reserving this table.
- The Alcove area in the west Atrium is used for community programming throughout the year, including regular showings of a short film on the history of Manhattanville.
- No animals, other than service animals, are allowed in the Atrium level.
- Bikes, scooters, skates, and skateboards should be walked, not ridden, in the Atrium.
- Thoughtfully use the recycling and refuse containers for your waste.
- Throughout the year, The Forum sponsors public programs in the Atrium; these events are advertised on the digital signage in the lobby and on the Columbia University events calendar.

- On limited occasions, areas of the Atrium may be designated for a private event. Inquiries about renting the Atrium for a private event should be sent to theforum@columbia.edu.

Audiovisual and Technical Services

- The Forum provides free WiFi throughout the building.
- The Forum has an in-house AV staff, who provide AV consultation in advance of each event and AV support during the event.
- The Forum's rental rates are inclusive of standard AV services. If your event requires additional AV services, staff, or equipment beyond what The Forum provides, you will be directed to a Forum-authorized vendor to provide an estimate for those additional services.
- Event sponsors should designate one person from their organization to serve as the point person, in advance of as well as during the event, to communicate with The Forum's AV staff about the technical and production aspects of the event.

Auditorium Guidelines

- In order to preserve the condition of The Forum Auditorium, food and beverages are not permitted in the Auditorium, with the exception of water in covered containers.
- Any items an event sponsor wants to bring into the Auditorium and/or add to the stage must be approved by The Forum production staff in advance and must be non-flammable, proof of which must be provided to the Associate Director of Production and Technical Services prior to the event.
- Nothing may be screwed into or attached to the stage area. Any taping to the Auditorium floor must be done by The Forum technical staff following in-house protocols.
- Production equipment or additional set pieces that may damage the floor must be set on protective materials provided by the event sponsor in consultation with The Forum production staff. Anything that may damage the Auditorium furniture, equipment, podium, backdrop, or ventilation system is not permitted.
- Reserved seating signs on Auditorium seats must follow The Forum specifications or will be removed. (See **Reserved Seating**.)
- Candles, flash pots, smoke machines and other similar items are not allowed in the Auditorium.
- All props, set pieces, banners, signage, and other objects brought for use on the Auditorium stage as part of an event production must be removed at the end of the event. Any remaining items will be removed and appropriately disposed. Exceptions to this rule are issued in writing to the event sponsor from the Associate Director of Production and Technical Services, or designee, specifying time and date of pick-up.
- Unless there is written permission from the Associate Director of Production and Technical Services, or designee, no one other than The Forum staff is permitted to operate equipment in The Forum Auditorium, including video, sound and lighting equipment. In addition, no outside technical equipment may be brought in for use in the Auditorium without review and written permission by the Associate Director of Production and Technical Services.
- Any outside contractors or vendors operating equipment in the Auditorium or elsewhere in the building must provide a Certificate of Insurance (COI) listing Columbia University as the certificate holder.
- All deliveries for events in The Forum Auditorium should enter through the entrance at 602 West 129th Street; exceptions should be reviewed and affirmed in writing by the

Director of Operations. Arrangements for delivery and unloading of AV equipment must be coordinated with the Associate Director of Production and Technology.

- Digital signage in The Forum's Foyer outside the Auditorium may be customized for events in the Foyer and the Auditorium. Signage for these monitors must be reviewed and approved in advance by The Forum administration.

Balloons

In our efforts to promote sustainability and the health and well-being of our planet, The Forum has a no balloon policy. The Forum staff will happily provide suggestions for balloon alternatives.

Banners and Step and Repeat Backdrop

Any banners or step and repeat backdrops to be used by event sponsors in The Forum, as well as their size and placement, must be reviewed and approved in advance by The Forum Director of Events. Banners and backdrops should be professional and appropriate to the event, the venue, and the audience.

Bicycles

The Forum maintains a bike room for use by tenants who commute with bicycles and whose bikes are registered through Columbia University's Office of Public Safety. For more information, visit the [Columbia Transportation website](#).

Cancellations

Cancellations of events are subject to a cancellation fee, depending on the date on which the cancellation is communicated in writing to The Forum. Event sponsors should refer to their signed event agreement for cancellation deadlines and associated fees.

Catering (see also **Food and Drink)**

- *Catering Vendors:* The Forum event staff can provide referrals to approved local and full-service caterers, who have current Department of Health (DOH) certifications as well as a certificate of insurance (COI) on file at The Forum.
 - Event sponsors may use their preferred catering services as long as the DOH certificate and COI have been received by The Forum at least one month prior to the event. The Forum Director of Events must review and approve the vendor for service at The Forum.
 - Caterers who have not provided service for an event at The Forum may be required to attend a pre-event walk-through to review The Forum's catering facilities and policies.
- *Catering Fee:* The Forum has a catering fee for events over 30 people and/or which require use of The Forum Building Pantry or Room 209 (staging and coffee urn area)..
- *Self-catering:* Individuals or organizations who wish to self-cater their meeting are bound by the same catering protocols, including the alcohol policy and catering fee for events over 30 people.
- *Catering Protocols:* Event sponsors should review catering protocols for The Forum with their caterers.
- The Forum is a linen-free building. With the exception of cloth napkins, catering and related furniture rentals should be arranged with this in mind.
- The Event sponsor and their caterer may be required to participate in a pre-event walk-through with The Forum's event staff.

- All outside catering equipment including china, glass, silverware, and tables must be delivered and picked up on the same day as the event.
- The Forum does not provide hand trucks or dollies.
- Event sponsors or caterers should immediately notify The Forum event lead of any spills so that Facilities can be alerted.
- All food and drink must be removed from the premises or disposed of at the end of the event in designated waste bins; the caterer or event sponsor is responsible for seeing that this is done. Failure to comply may result in an additional charge to the event sponsor.
- No overnight storage of food or drink is allowed.
- Caterers using The Forum Building Pantry or Room 209 for staging are required to clean the facility before leaving the building. Any clean-up required as a result of not following this policy will be at the expense of the event sponsor.
- The Forum is committed to sustainability practices that are good for the health and well-being of our community and our earth. We encourage the use of dishware that is reusable, recyclable, or compostable and the use of locally and organically sourced ingredients that are ethically produced.

Charity Drive Boxes

- The Forum will consider special requests to host charity drives in the Atrium sponsored by Columbia departments or units; email your request with details to theforum@columbia.edu.
- Charity drive sponsors must comply with The Forum guidelines for placement, look, and maintenance of charity drive boxes. Relevant signage on the boxes, which must be approved by The Forum administration, must include name, purpose and date of the drive as well as the name and contact information for the sponsoring organization.
- Boxes for collections are not overseen or intended to be watched by Public Safety or The Forum staff.
- Charity drives can run for a maximum of six weeks.

Changing Tables

Changing tables are located in the men's and women's restrooms on the Concourse level and the 2nd floor.

Coat Check

- *Self-Checking*: Upon request, The Forum can provide two coat racks to accommodate approximately 60 guests. Rental of additional coat racks must be arranged by the event sponsor in consultation with The Forum event manager. The Forum is not responsible for items that are self-checked.
- *Facilitated Coat Check*: Facilitated coat check is provided by University Facilities by arrangement at a fixed rate, based on one coat checker per 100 guests in fall and winter, and one coat checker per 150 guests in spring and summer. There is a four-hour minimum and coat checkers must be present one hour prior to event and one hour after event. If more than two coat racks are needed, there will be a charge for the rental of additional coat racks.

Commercial Activity

No commercial activity is allowed within The Forum without explicit, written permission from The Forum administration.

Copying and Printing

The Forum does not provide photocopying, faxing, design, or printing services for events. We will gladly provide a list of nearby locations that offer business services.

Custodial and Facilities Services

Standard venue rental fees include basic custodial services. Additional charges may apply if special setups are requested or significant cleaning is required after an event.

Damages

Occupants, event sponsors, and users are responsible for ensuring that no damage occurs to The Forum facilities. Repair of damages to facilities or equipment may be charged to the responsible parties.

Decorations

- The use of temporary decorations in meeting or event rooms and public spaces must be approved by The Forum event staff in advance of the event. Decorations should be made from non-combustible materials.
- No decorations may be placed on or attached to the walls, windows, or doors of The Forum.
- Balloons are not permitted in The Forum.
- Decorations that do not adhere to these guidelines or have not been approved will be removed.
- Any damages caused by the use of decorations may result in charges to the event sponsor.

Deliveries

- Regular deliveries by carriers such as USPS, UPS, FedEx, etc. should use the 605 West 125th Street entrance and check in at the Public Safety desk. Public Safety will notify the recipient, who may then authorize the delivery person to bring the package to its final destination or the recipient will meet the delivery person in the lobby. Public Safety is unable to accept mail or packages.
- All major deliveries requiring a hand truck or similar device must be made through the delivery entrance at 602 West 129th Street during normal business hours (9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.) unless an arrangement has been made for deliveries to occur at another time. Deliveries should include the name of the person at The Forum for whom the delivery is intended.
- Deliveries may be delayed or refused if not approved in advance and if there is no member of The Forum staff (or other building tenant) associated with the delivery.
- Personal, handheld deliveries such as flowers, take-out food, small packages, etc., may be announced but not received by staff at the Public Safety desk.

Directions

- The main entrance to The Forum is at 601 West 125th Street on the northwest corner of 125th and Broadway. There are additional entryways at 605 West 125th Street, 3207 Broadway, and 625 West 125th Street.
- The closest subway stop is the ① line at 125th and Broadway. The M4, M104, and Bx15 buses also stop nearby.
- The Columbia [Intercampus Shuttle](#) has nearby stops.

Elevator Padding

When large or significant amounts of furniture and equipment are being moved between floors, the elevator with padding must be used.

Event Advertising, Invitations and Publicity (see also **Press Access and **Filming at The Forum**)**

Event sponsors are responsible for publicizing the events they are hosting at The Forum. Announcements, invitations, posters, and press releases regarding any events at The Forum must be reviewed by The Forum administration in advance of sending or printing. This is to ensure appropriate branding and correct information about The Forum. Drafts of these materials should be sent via email to theforum@columbia.edu. Any invited press or media guests should be approved in accordance with the guidelines set forth by The University's Office of Communications and Public Affairs. The Forum, in consultation with the event sponsor, can also use its channels to publicize events.

Event Registration and Access

All events will be provided with a designated registration area in the Atrium of The Forum. Event sponsors are responsible for handling advance and day-of registration for their events and providing the following:

- An event identifier (e.g., badge, nametag, wristband, lanyard) for each guest to access the secure area of The Forum, including the Auditorium; event identifiers must be branded with the name or sponsor of the event. As The Forum is a member of Columbia's Sustainable Leaders Network, dedicated to implementing sustainability practices in our venue, The Forum staff will guide event sponsors in choosing identifiers that are environmentally sustainable.
- A snapshot or sample of the event identifier and the total number of guests registered must be sent via email to theforum@columbia.edu at least 2 business days prior to the event.
- Staff to manage the registration desk the day of the event. Staffers, who should wear an event nametag designating their role, must arrive one hour before the event and remain at the registration desk at least 30 minutes after the start of the event. With prior agreement from The Forum's Director of Events, Audience Services Associates (ASAs) may be hired to staff guest check-in. (See also **Event Temporary Staff**.)

Filming at The Forum

Please review Columbia University policies regarding filming (<https://news.columbia.edu/press-room>).

- All commercial and documentary productions are subject to location and support fees, based on the scope of work. To submit a request for a commercial filming, for-profit photography, or a film shoot, please visit [Columbia University Events Management system](#).
- To submit a request for journalistic news media photography or film shoots, documentaries, or filming for student projects, email theforum@columbia.edu at least two weeks prior to the desired shoot date. The email message should include the following information: name, title, sponsoring department or organization, desired date(s), time and location of shoot, time duration of shoot, brief description of the project, crew size, and any special requests.

- Any production crew shooting at The Forum will need to submit a Certificate of Insurance in advance and coordinate with the Associate Director of Production and Technology to ensure compliance with all University and Forum policies and protocols.
- Individuals or crews using cameras must be accompanied by an assigned communications officer or other designated University escort at all times.

Fire Safety

- Columbia University's Office of Fire Safety, following New York City fire codes, advises The Forum administration on event safety, including such matters as room occupancy, assembly permits, and clearance of egress routes.
- In consultation with Fire Safety, open flames, such as votive candles and stenos are permitted at catered events with prior arrangement with The Forum event staff and the approval of Fire Safety.

Food and Drink (see also **Catering)**

- All plans for food and drink at a Forum event must be reviewed and approved by The Forum event lead at least two weeks prior to the event.
- The serving of alcohol in conjunction with an event requires the following of appropriate University protocols, including filing of required licenses and permits (see **Alcohol**).
- Additional charges may apply if significant cleaning is required after an event serving food and drink.
- Food and drink are not allowed in The Forum Auditorium, with the exception of water in covered containers.
- The removal or disposal of any food and drink left over from an event is the responsibility of the event sponsor or their designated caterer.
- No food or drink may be stored or left overnight at The Forum.

Furniture, Furniture Rentals, and Room Setup

- Furniture and venue maintenance at The Forum is provided by Columbia University Facilities.
- Use of event and meeting space at The Forum includes setup and breakdown with conference tables and chairs and other furnishings within The Forum's inventory. Event sponsors can arrange for the rental of additional furniture, in consultation with the Director of Events.
- The Forum provides a range of room setup options and will work with event sponsors to tailor the room setup to their needs. Room setups must be finalized no later than 14 business days in advance of the event. Additional Facilities charges may apply if special setups are requested.
- Event sponsors should not rearrange Forum furniture without consultation of The Forum event manager.
- Tables and chairs should never be placed directly next to walls or windows at The Forum, and should never block or hinder entrances, exits, or passageways.
- Rental of furniture not included in The Forum inventory will be arranged and paid for by the event sponsor and must be approved in writing by The Forum staff in advance of the event. Keep in mind that The Forum is a linen-free building when ordering tables. ACE Party & Tent Rental is a preferred and approved Columbia University's rental furniture vendor.
- Delivery of all furniture rentals must be coordinated with The Forum Operations staff and Facilities. Additional Facilities setup charges may apply, as determined by Facilities.

Information Technology

The Forum's use of IT, including and especially when associated with our events, is guided by Columbia University IT (CUIT) policies designed to protect the University's computer systems, networks, data, and other information resources. <https://cuit.columbia.edu/columbia-it-policies-strategies>

In-Kind Space Requests

The West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC) administers applications for in-kind space requests at Columbia University, including The Forum. Criteria for consideration for in-kind space is as follows: 1) Nonprofit organizations in West Harlem - MCD9; or 2) Non-charter public school in West Harlem - MCD9. Applications for space are solicited by WHDC twice a year. For more information, please contact the West Harlem Development Corporation: <https://westharlemdc.org>; 423 West 127th Street, Suite A, New York, NY 10027; 646-476-3394.

Lactation Room

- The Forum has a Columbia-supported Lactation Room to support nursing mothers. The Lactation Room includes a breast-pump but does not have a refrigerator.
- The Lactation Room, which is located in the women's restroom on the 2nd Floor, is accessible to students, faculty and staff based at The Forum as well as to event and meeting attendees, by prior arrangement.
- Non-Columbia affiliates visiting The Forum for a meeting or event should contact theforum@columbia.edu or 212-853-6786 for access to the lactation room.
- Columbia affiliates should contact the Office of Work/Life at 212-854-8019 to request access to campus-wide lactation rooms via Columbia ID card swipe access.

Linen-Free Building

The Forum is a linen-free building. This policy is in place relevant to sustainability as well as aesthetic principles at The Forum. To this end, tablecloths are not permitted for events; this includes branded tablecloths for the registration table. The Forum event staff will offer alternatives and guide event sponsors to furniture rentals that align with our principles of sustainability and aesthetics.

Lost and Found

Any unclaimed property found at The Forum should be handed over to the Public Safety desk in The Forum lobby. Found items will be turned over to Columbia's Manhattanville Public Safety Operations desk (212.853.3301). A lost item database is maintained by Public Safety. For more information about how to check on a lost item see <https://publicsafety.columbia.edu/content/lost-and-found>.

Media (see **Press** and also **Filming at The Forum**)

Office Supplies

The Forum does not provide office supplies for events. Event sponsors should come prepared with notepads, pencils, pens, etc., as needed, relevant to the needs of their event. The Forum can provide a list of nearby office supply stores to event sponsors if supplies are needed on the day of the event.

Parking

The Forum staff can provide a list of parking garages in the neighborhood upon request.

Posting Guidelines

No flyers, posters, or printed materials may be affixed to any surfaces in The Forum; exceptions are required for government safety posters, which must be reviewed and approved by The Forum administration pertinent to where and how such signage is posted. (See also **Advertising and Signage**.)

Press Access (see also **Event Advertising, Invitations and Publicity and Filming at The Forum**)

- Requests for news media coverage of an event at The Forum should be directed to the event sponsor and to the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) at Columbia University <https://news.columbia.edu/press-room>. Written approvals from the event sponsor and OPA should be obtained and provided to The Forum Event Lead in order to move forward with media coverage; the Event Lead will coordinate logistics with Forum staff, including the production team, to ensure the University and Forum policies and protocols are followed.
- Student groups who wish to allow external media access to campus events should first consult their group adviser or the dean of students of their school and participate in the advance [event review process](#).
- Media attending events must remain seated in a Forum-designated section unless permission is given to move elsewhere.

Public Programming

Many events at The Forum sponsored by Columbia departments, schools, and institutes are open to the public; some events require registration. Check the Columbia University [Events Calendar](#) for upcoming events: <https://events.columbia.edu/cal/main/showEventList.rdo>. In addition, The Forum sponsors programs for the broader community in collaboration with Columbia and community partners. If you have ideas for public programming at The Forum, please email theforum@columbia.edu.

Public Safety for Events

- Security at The Forum is provided by Columbia University Public Safety. The presence of three Public Safety Officers in the building is included in the standard event rental cost. Additional Public Safety Officer(s) may be required if one or more of the following circumstances applies:
 - The event starts before or after building hours (8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.)
 - Alcohol is being served
 - The size or nature of the event warrants additional Public Safety
- Determination of the need for additional Public Safety Officers is made in consultation with the Department of Public Safety and The Forum's Director of Operations and Director of Events, and will be communicated to the event sponsor along with the additional costs to be incurred.
- The Forum, in consultation with Public Safety and Fire Safety, reserves the right to require an event review for special events. Such event reviews, normally conducted 10 days to 2 weeks prior to the event, include the event sponsor, members of The Forum staff, and representatives from Columbia Public Safety and Facilities and Operations staff. Event reviews may result in modifications to event setup to ensure safety for all attending events at The Forum.

Reserved Seating (see also **Ticketing**)

- Requests for reserved seating in the Auditorium for a specific event should be communicated to The Forum event lead at least 48 hours in advance of the event.
- The Forum has specific guidelines for reserved seating and signs that event sponsors are expected to follow. Reserved seating signs that do not follow this protocol will be removed.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located on the Concourse level and 2nd and 3rd floors of The Forum.

Rules of University Conduct

Events at The Forum are guided by [Columbia University's Rules of University Conduct \(https://universitypolicies.columbia.edu/#/conduct\)](https://universitypolicies.columbia.edu/#/conduct).

Shipping and Storage Policies

Shipping

- Arrangements for shipping items to The Forum must follow The Forum shipping, receiving, and storage protocols.
- The Forum at Columbia University is not responsible for items shipped or mailed to The Forum for a particular event.
- The event sponsor or designee is responsible for the unpacking and packing, removal, and return shipment of all event materials.
- The event sponsor or designee is responsible for proper disposal, if not removal of, all packing materials by the designated end time in the event agreement.

Storage

- The Forum has limited capacity for temporary storage of conference materials and equipment. Depending on the amount and length of storage needed, storage fees may be assessed.
- Requests for storage must be made to forumops@columbia.edu at least two weeks before the event and are subject to space availability.
- The Forum is not responsible for items stored at the request of event sponsors or their vendors.

Signage (see also **Advertising and Posting Guidelines**)

- The Forum carefully monitors signage in the building relevant to our sustainability goals and aesthetic principles.
- The Forum has style guidelines and specifications for signage, including digital signage, which should be followed by event sponsors.
- No signs may be posted on walls, doors, or windows at The Forum.
- Any signs posted at The Forum must be reviewed and approved in advance by The Forum administration.
- The Forum lobby digital signage is reserved for announcements relevant to The Forum and other Columbia events. Inquiries to include announcements in the rotation should be addressed by email to theforum@columbia.edu.
- Digital signage in lobby of the Auditorium and in the Foyer may be customized for events in this area. Event sponsors are provided with specifications for this digital signage. Signage for these monitors must be reviewed and approved at least three days in advance of the event by The Forum administration.

Smoking is Prohibited

Columbia University prohibits smoking and the use of electronic cigarettes in any indoor area, and in all University vehicles. Smoking is also prohibited outdoors within 20 feet of all University buildings and in outdoor seating areas.

(<https://universitypolicies.columbia.edu/content/smoking-policy>)

Sponsorship

- Sponsorship of events must be clearly designated in the application for event space at The Forum. Co-sponsorship is welcome, however, events must have one designated event coordinator.
- Columbia University faculty and staff may not reserve space on behalf of another Columbia school or organization or an outside organization without appropriate and approved co-sponsorship.

Student Organizations

The Forum is pleased to be considered as a venue for academic events, performances, and professional conferences hosted by recognized Columbia student groups and organizations. Student organizations must go through the Event Management System portal to request space at The Forum.

Tabling

- Tabling in The Forum's Atrium will be considered upon request and normally will be limited to Columbia departments. Requests should be addressed by email to theforum@columbia.edu.
- Tabling requires advance arrangement and written permission concerning the date, time, and place of the tabling.
- The Forum is a linen-free building and thus no table linens may be used for tabling.
- Signage relevant to the tabling must be reviewed and approved by The Forum staff at least two business days in advance of the event.

Ticketing

Seats in The Forum Auditorium are numbered. If you plan to have designated seating, please discuss your ticketing plans with The Forum event manager. (See also **Reserved Seating**.)

Weapons

- [University policy](#) and state law, New York Penal Law Section 265.01(3), prohibit possession of firearms on campus without the University's written authorization from the Vice President of Public Safety.
- The Forum follows [Columbia University's policy on Workplace Violence](#): "No one within the University community shall have in their possession a firearm (including imitations that may be perceived to be real) or other dangerous weapons, instruments or materials that can be used to inflict bodily harm on an individual or damage to University property unless they have prior approval by the Vice President of Public Safety."

Website

The Forum website, theforum.columbia.edu, includes a virtual tour as well as information about events, facilities, venue booking, staff, and services in the area, as well as press about The Forum's architecture, awards, and programs.

Wheeled Devices

- Bicycles, skateboards, scooters, roller skates, roller blades and similar devices with wheels are not to be used inside The Forum.
- Housing bins, dollies, carts and other devices used for moving items should be maneuvered with care and, ideally, should have non-marking wheels and rubber bumper guards.

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Questions? Clarifications?
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