

## Ask Natalie



**Question:**  
**Do galleries ever rent their spaces for private events?**

Arty space rentals are not as unusual as you might think. Indeed they can offer creative choices for your special event, and a number of gallerists agree that their spaces are creative and beautiful places for weddings, lectures, cocktail parties or charity events. A few galleries and art centers even have detailed rental brochures. Many museums offer event spaces as well.

Most of these unique spaces have limited capacities and/or restrictions. Some do not allow music, dancing or weddings. Only a few are receptive to hosting a showcase of artwork that is not regularly shown by the gallery. ( Those, typically, are vacant spaces or art centers.) Of course some galleries will not consider rentals at all.

The galleries that do welcome special events usually allow food, alcohol, and outside caterers for corporate, non-profit, or private parties. And a few have outdoor spaces and/or parking.

### **Other things to consider:**

**Capacities** differ tremendously, ranging from fewer than 25 people to as many as 2,500. Most are large enough to seat 40 or 50; others can accommodate 100 – 150 or even 450. (This can change based on the exhibit on view at the gallery at the time of the event.)

**Rental fees** can range from a few hundred dollars to as much as \$10,000. Some offer non-profit rates. There often are minimum/maximum hourly time limits, including set up/clean up, and it is likely that the event needs to take place outside of regular gallery hours. There also might be special fees, such as one-day event insurance, or a refundable security deposit.

But if you're flexible and love an arty atmosphere, your favorite gallery might be your ideal event space.

As a short-cut to finding the perfect spot, *Chicago Gallery News* keeps a list of galleries and facilities that offer arty space rentals. For a copy of the most up-to-date list: email *CGN* at [info@chicagogallerynews.com](mailto:info@chicagogallerynews.com) or please call 312-649-0064.

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