



Private Event Rental Information

Thank you for inquiring about the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum for your special event! SBMM is committed to preserving and celebrating the unique coastal and maritime history of the Santa Barbara Channel and our rich connections with the sea.

Below is more information to assist you with your planning process.

Rates

Space	Capacity	Event Time Block	Rental Rate
Full Museum Rental Includes access to main floor, mezzanine, upper patio (after 5:00 p.m.) and Crow's Nest (after 4:30 p.m.). If capacity is greater than indicated here, please inquire about pricing.	(150 seated) / (250 standing)	All day (8:00 a.m. to 11:55 p.m.) or six hour time block (5:00 to 11:55 p.m.) Event breakdown begins at 11:00 p.m.	Monday through Wednesday: \$8,500 Thursday through Sunday: \$12,500 After 5:00 p.m.: \$4,000
Upper Patio Request to remove patio furniture can be discussed with SBMM staff. No amplified music/sound. Only acoustic music or soft background music allowed. No dancing.	(35 seated) / (50 standing)	Six-hour time block (only from 5:00 to 11:00 p.m.)	\$1,750
Crow's Nest No amplified music/sound. Only acoustic music or soft background music allowed. No dancing. Requests to entirely remove outdoor furniture an additional \$400.	(12 seated) / (35 standing)	Six-hour time block (only from 4:30 to 11:00 p.m.)	\$1000
Munger Theater	(60 theater-style seating/standing)	Six-hour time block (from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.)	\$750

- All rentals require SBMM Navigators Circle membership, which costs \$1,000 for a one-year membership. [Learn more about becoming a member.](#)
- A security deposit of \$1,000 is required. The deposit will be refunded if there are no accidents during the event. An additional \$1,000 non-refundable event deposit charge is required to hold the location and date (which goes toward the total event rental fee).

List of Items for Rental

Items	Count
8-ft tables	8
6-ft tables	4
Cocktail tables (high or low)	8
60-inch round tables	15
Black folding chairs	150
Padded armchairs (inside)	75
Bar mats	3
Carpets	2
Umbrellas	6
Trash cans	7
Recycling cans	6
Benches (inside)	6
A/V (only inside the museum)	

Catering and Alcohol

Guests may bring their own food or hire any caterer of their choice, provided the caterer adheres to SBMM's catering policies and provides proof of insurance. A preferred vendor list is available upon request. Guests are welcome to bring their own alcohol; however, insurance may be required depending on the details. There is no corkage fee.

Catering Policies

1. Nothing can be brought into the museum until it is closed to the public unless discussed with the operations manager.
2. Exhibits must be moved by museum staff members (Facility Assistants).
3. **Set-up of an event and break down, as well as clean-up, is the responsibility of the caterer. SBMM facility assistants will assist but should not be considered event staff.**
4. **Before leaving SBMM, caterer must walk through the museum with the SBMM staff lead to make sure everything has been cleaned and all policies were followed.**
5. Caterer and staff must not approach neighboring restaurants to borrow anything or use their facilities in any way.
6. All trash and recycling must be bagged, tied, and taken out to the far dumpsters outside. If caterer or staff need help locating the dumpsters, a facility assistant will assist you.
7. **If the Community Room is used, tables and chairs must be thoroughly cleaned and wiped down. Floor should be swept and mopped, if necessary. All trash must be removed and NOT left in the trash cans inside. SBMM Staff can show caterer where the community room is located.**
8. Parking for caterers and staff is in the City Waterfront parking lots. One catering vehicle may be parked in the alley behind the museum (spot marked SBMM) during events if requested.
9. Doors to loading dock must be kept closed as much as possible during an event unless directed otherwise by a museum staff member or facility assistant.
10. Caterers and staff are allowed to use the restrooms outside the Community Room door. SBMM staff can show where they're located.

FAQ

Caterer & Bartending

Caterers are responsible for the setup and breakdown of museum tables and chairs, as well as any other food or beverage items brought into the museum. A Santa Barbara County licensed and insured catering company with workers compensation is required for any event with food. A licensed, insured bartending company with workers' compensation insurance is required for any event with alcohol. SBMM will not allow an unlicensed and uninsured professional caterer/bartender to provide services for events. No open-flame or performance food stations are allowed in low-ceiling museum areas (Historic Path, Children's Gallery, Commercial Diving Area). The Client is responsible for any and all damage done to the Museum related to food and/or beverage. All food and beverage must remain on Museum property.

Rented Items

Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the museum prior to event, all catering, rentals, decor, and any other items not expressly provided for herein will be provided by the Client. The Client's vendors shall be solely responsible for the setup and break down of all tables, chairs, and decorative items.

Fourth Floor Crow's Nest

The Fourth Floor Crow's Nest is available for set up and event use after 4:30 p.m. For full museum rentals guests may access the Fourth Floor until Sunset. The Fourth Floor is limited to a maximum of 35 guests at one time.

Patio Furniture

All museum patio furniture will remain in place, and client may use same at no additional charge. If client wants patio furniture moved or removed, it shall require approval from museum and Dart Coffee in writing and additional fees may apply; the long marble table is not applicable and remains fixed in place.

Prohibited Items

Only blue painters' tape and/or plastic zip ties may be used to secure decorations onto interior museum mezzanine railings. At no time are decorations permitted on any Museum exhibits. Cut flowers are allowed, but not soil or sand. The following decorations or party favors are not allowed either inside or outside the museum: open flame candles (allowed on patio only), glitter, confetti, rice, birdseed, balloons, thumbtacks, nails, glue, clear tape, fog machines, dry ice, live potted plants, popcorn machines, bamboo, woodchips, or cocoa shells.

Parking

The Harbor offers 90-minute parking lots and two main ticketed lots, which cannot be validated. A paid valet parking area is also available on select days. A designated parking space near the museum can be arranged for a caterer at an additional cost of \$40.

Contact



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Operations Manager

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SBMM thanks you for cooperating with these policies and welcomes those who follow them back to the museum for additional events. We encourage and appreciate feedback on how to best ensure events run efficiently.