

In-Person Event - Detailed Schedule



[Alt Text: Image features a navy, yellow, pink, and blue mosaic pattern with a navy text box. Text reads: “2023 Annual Celebration” with the theme “Driving Change and Reimagining Possibilities”]

In-Person Event

Annual Celebration Schedule and Program Flow

Below is the schedule for the event, which includes what you can expect from that portion of the evening.

5:00 p.m. | Doors open at The Depot

Attendees can begin entering The Depot for the Annual Celebration. Four entryways lead into the venue. Three are off the surface parking lot between the Renaissance Hotel and The Depot. The fourth entrance is on Third Avenue South and leads into the lobby of the Renaissance Hotel.

5:00 p.m. | Reception in the Great Northern Room

Attendees will need to check in upon arrival. The check-in table will be located outside of the Great Northern space. With hundreds of attendees expected to attend, the check-in table usually has lines, especially closer to the beginning of dinner at 6:00 p.m. To check-in, you will only need to let the volunteers at the check-in table know your name. When they find your name on the list, they will give you a packet that will include your name tag(s). You will also have an option to put a credit card on file should you want to take part in bidding or to make a donation. Once you're checked-in, the volunteers will direct you to the reception area.

After checking in, attendees can gather in the Great Northern room, the Conservatory, the Luce Line room (Quiet Room), and the Prefunction space (hallways located outside the Pavilion). There are beverage bars in the Great Northern room and the Conservatory, and both spaces will have high and low cocktail tables. Attendees can stand or sit on chairs or benches in the Prefunction hallways.

If you brought a coat and didn't want to have it with you during the event, you can take this time to visit the Southern Pacific room, where there will be volunteers running a complimentary coat check. You can keep your coat with them and pick it up as you leave the celebration later in the evening.

The Reception areas can get crowded and loud as more attendees arrive closer to 6:00 p.m. There are usually lines at the bars in the Great Northern room and the Conservatory. Attendees are generally mingling with each other throughout the spaces. Depot staff, Lifeworks volunteers, and Lifeworks staff will be moving throughout the space before the Pavilion opens for dinner. The number of people and crowd noise can be overwhelming for some, so we will have the Quiet Room

open in the Luce Line room for anyone to use if they want to be away from the action. This room will be open throughout the evening.

6:00 p.m. | Dinner and Welcome in the Pavilion

The doors to the Pavilion will open, and attendees will begin moving from the Reception areas. This can cause some congestion in the hallways leading to the Pavilion as most attendees will start finding their tables for dinner shortly after the doors open. A loud train whistle sound will play over the speakers and a flash of lights will also signal that dinner is beginning.

The Pavilion is a large event space with high ceilings and large projector screens and will be filled with large tables that seat 10 people each. Once you find your assigned table, dinner will be served (which you selected at registration). While most attendees are seated during this time, there will still be attendees moving between tables.

The Pavilion can be quite loud during dinner as Depot staff move between tables, people order from the bar inside the Pavilion, plates, glasses, and cutlery clank, and attendees talk with one another. The Pavilion will be well-lit but will not be bright with lighting.

7:00 p.m. | Program begins

The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. Multiple people will speak on a stage in the center of the room along the windows facing Washington Avenue. Between people speaking, including our guest speaker, Sheletta Brundidge, and our emcee for the evening, A.J. Hilton, videos will be played on the large projector screens above and to the side of the main stage. Videos will include closed captioning. An ASL interpreter will be on the main stage and present for the entirety of the program. Crowd noise is quieter to silent while people speak on stage during the program and typically gets louder when attendees applaud between speakers or after videos conclude.

During the program will be a live auction and fundraising giving moment, which usually begins around 8:00 p.m. An auctioneer will present auction items from the stage and in the audience. Attendees can bid using cards at their table, and Lifeworks staff will be moving quickly through the space to collect bids. After the auction will be the giving moment. Attendees will again use their bid cards to donate to Lifeworks. The crowd noise during the auction and giving moment will be louder, with guests applauding and cheering while the auctioneer announces items and donations.

The program will conclude with a grand total of all funds raised for the Annual Celebration and thanks from the emcee.

9:00 p.m. | Program ends

After the event's conclusion, attendees will begin filing out of the Pavilion to leave or gather their coats or other belongings at the coat check in the Southern Pacific room. Like the time between Reception and dinner, the Pavilion and hallways outside can get congested. Some attendees stay longer in the Pavilion to converse with others or sit at the tables.