

ENTERTAINMENT

Note: The conference will not be providing transportation for any of the events listed below. Transportation is available with MetroRail for some of the events. For more information visit www.ridemetro.org

Theater District

Houston's downtown Theater District is second only to New York for the number of theater seats in a concentrated downtown area. It is also one of only five cities in the United States with permanent professional resident companies in all of the major performing arts disciplines of opera, ballet, music and theater.

Visit the following website below to learn more about Houston Theater District.

<https://www.visithoustontexas.com/listings/houston-theater-district/20304/>

You'll also find Bayou Place just around the corner which includes Sundance Cinemas, Revention Music Center, Hardrock Cafe and a variety of other restaurants. Family-favorite, Landry's Downtown Aquarium, is also located within a few blocks of each of the major theaters.

Museum District

The Houston Museum District is home to sixteen institutions, offering a range of museums, galleries, and art and cultural centers.

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- The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston is the largest art museum in America south of Chicago, west of Washington, D.C., and east of Los Angeles. Included in its extensive permanent collection are pieces by Renoir, Monet, Picasso, Georgia O'Keefe, Matisse and Rodin.
- The Houston Museum of Natural Science is a five-venue complex dedicated to the knowledge of natural science. It is home to the Cockrell Butterfly Center, Burke Baker Planetarium and the Wortham IMAX® Theatre.
- The Holocaust Museum Houston - Charged with educating students and the public about the dangers of prejudice and hatred in society, The Holocaust Museum Houston is dedicated to remembering the six million Jews and other innocent victims of the Holocaust and honoring the legacy of the survivors. Using the lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides, they teach the dangers of hatred, prejudice and apathy.

Visit the following websites to learn more: www.mfah.org, www.hmns.org and www.hmh.org

Sports Center

Home to the Astros baseball, Rockets basketball, Dynamo/Dash soccer and Texans football. Professional sports don't get much bigger than in Houston.

Baseball: Friday & Saturday, September 15th & 16th

- **Houston Astros vs Seattle Mariners** – For game time and ticket information visit www.houston.astros.mlb.com or call 1-877-927-8767.

Attractions

Sam Houston Race Park – Live thoroughbred racing will keep you on the edge of your seat at Sam Houston Race Park. Exciting live horse racing, eight bars, two restaurants and the best music under the stars. Find out why Sam Houston Race Park is the place to be for live entertainment! Racing is at 7:00 pm Thursday/Friday and at 5:00 pm on Saturday. For more details visit www.shrp.com or call 281-807-8700.

Kemah Boardwalk – A waterfront getaway just 20 miles from downtown Houston. In addition to the many restaurants, a major attraction is the 50,000-gallon aquarium that gives Aquarium Restaurant its name. Guests to the boardwalk also enjoy shopping, games and rides. For more information, check out www.kemahboardwalk.com

Galveston Island – South of Houston is Galveston, an island rich in history. The Strand Historic District is a twenty-six square block area of shopping, dining and art galleries. Within the Strand District, one will find Moody Mansion, Ashton Villa and the Bishop's Palace—opulent, historic Victorian homes of the late 1800's.

Also found on Galveston Island, Moody Gardens is an experience like no other. The Rainforest Pyramid is lush with exotic plants, birds and fish, while the Aquarium Pyramid will submerge visitors into the beauty of ocean life. Visit www.galveston.com to learn more about what the island has to offer.

Space Center Houston – is the official visitor's center of NASA's Johnson Space Center. Learn about the history and future of space exploration through the center's interactive exhibits. Learn more at www.spacecenter.org

Shopping Guide

Everything is bigger in Texas and shopping in Houston is no different. From chic boutiques to quaint gift shops, upscale department stores to bargain outlets; chances are you will find it here

Rice Village – One of the oldest shopping areas in town, Village Arcade in Rice Village is a great mix of classic stores and unique boutiques. Located near Rice University and the Texas Medical Center, the Village offers shoppers an eclectic experience. Get a sneak peek at ricevillageonline.com

The Galleria – is the number one shopping destination in Houston with more than 375 stores and restaurants, two hotels and an ice rink. Fashion icons such as Louis Vuitton, Gucci and Tiffany & Co. are showcased here next to everyday favorites like Gap and Macy's. Need a break? Take a seat and watch the ice skaters twirl. Visit simon.com/ mall to learn more about what you'll find (or won't find) in the Galleria.

Harwin Drive – Looking for basement bargains? Head over to Harwin Drive in West Houston. Warehouse stores sell leather goods (some real and some faux), jewelry, clothing and other accessories. The area is similar to New York's Orchard Street with must-have items at unbeatable prices.

Dining Guide

Houstonians eat out more than residents of any other city and it's no wonder why. Houston is home to more than 11,000 restaurants and some of the best can be found in the downtown scene.

For a listing of the best restaurants in Houston go to www.zagat.com/houston.