

MEETING PLANNING 101

• All resources provided during this seminar are available at <u>www.nafwb.org/emerge</u>.

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MEETING PLANNING 101

•What we will cover today:

- •Goal Setting •Site/Venue Selection
- •Contract
- Budgeting
- •Staffing
- Logistics

Goal Settin

- •What's the point?
- •Purpose for your meeting
 - Education
 - •Business
 - •Worship
- Tradeshow

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Goal Setting

•Return on Investment (ROI)

•Clearly communicate goals

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Goal Setting

- •Things to consider
 - ·Locations of past meetings
 - •Attendance
 - Room block pick up
 - •Meeting rooms used

- •Things to consider •F&B Requirements •Exhibit Space Needs

 - •Special Event Needs

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•Aim High

...but be realistic

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Event Profile

- •Goals
- •Objectives
- •Who is coming? (Attendee Profile)

Goal Setting

Attendee Profile

- Geographic Location
- •Age/gender of attendees
- •Will they want to bring family?
- Interest and expectations
- Special Needs

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Goal Setting

Event Profile

- Preferred dates
- •Number & type of sleeping rooms
- •Range of acceptable rates
- Meeting space required

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Goal Setting

Event Profile

•Tentative programming schedule

- •Office/storage/registration needs
- •F&B requirements
- •A/V requirements

Goal Setting

Event Profile •List of wants and needs •Historical data

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Goal Setting

Request for Proposal (RFP)

What is my meeting worth?

•Key information about the group

•Overview of meeting (Event Profile)

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Goal Setting

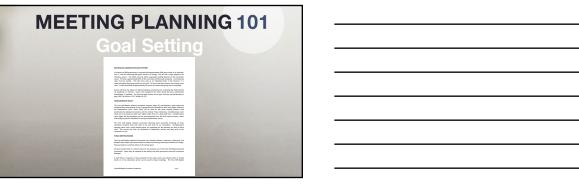
Request for Proposal

•History of previous meeting(s)

•Range of dates (w/ flexibility?)

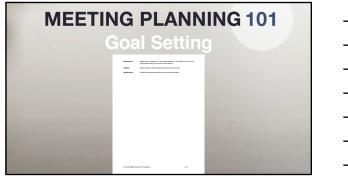
•Complete meeting specifications















MEETING PLANNING 101

- •Where to begin?
 - •Local CVB
 - Trade Publications
 - National Sales
 - Peer Referrals
 - •Web

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Site Selection

- •Types/locations of venues
 - •Metro area
 - Suburb
 - Airport area
 - Resort/Conference Center
- Hotel
- Convention Center

Site Selection

•Plan a site visit

- Consider all aspects
- •Customize your visit
- •See what can't be shown on paper

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Site Selection

- •During site visit have a check list
 - •Easy access via flight? Drive?
 - Local Transportation
 - •Parking options
 - Meeting space

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Site Selection

- During site visit
 - •Equipment included in set up
 - Labor union regulations
 - •Overlapping meetings/events

Site Selection

During site visit

•See all hotel room types

- Catering options
- •Upcoming renovation/remodeling
- Ask *lots* of questions

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Site Selection

- •Final selection
 - •Eliminate proposals that do not work
 - •Be logical, not emotional
 - •Site comparisons with checklist
 - First right of refusal / tentative hold

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Contract

- •Build a relationship
- •Communicate
- •Needs, wants, expectations
- •Must have, would like, can do without

Contract

Negotiable

- •Guest room rates
- Complimentary rooms
- •Parking
- •Commissions or rebates
- •Reservation procedures/policies

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Contract

Negotiable

- •Meeting room rental and set up fees
- •F&B prices
- •AV options
- Attrition
- Indemnification

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Contract

- •Non-negotiable
 - •Gratuities
 - Service Charge
- •Tax
- Insurance

Contract

- Terms & Conditions
 - •Event Details
 - Sleeping Rooms
 - Meeting space
 - •F&B Functions

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Contract

- Terms & Conditions
 - •Concessions
 - •Vendors exclusive or options
 - •Billing/payment methods
 - Cancellation clauses

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Contract

- •Terms & Conditions
 - Indemnification
 - Insurance
- Dispute resolution

Contract

Best Practices

•Honest, up-front approach •Trust/relationship building

- •GET IT IN WRITING
- •If you aren't sure—ASK! •Read what you sign—ALL OF IT!

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Budgeting

Most challenging aspect

•Most important planning factor

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Budgeting

- Goals/Objectives
 - Profit-oriented
 - •Break-even
 - •Charitable
- Lose money

- Budget Categories
 Indirect Costs

 - •Fixed Costs
 - Variable Costs

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- •Budget Challenges •Who writes it?

 - •Who determines priorites?
 - •What is missing?
 - •When is it prepared & approved?
 - •Who has authorization to change it?

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- •Budget Tips •Good projections
 - •Inflate it
 - · Find easy reductions/savings
 - Ask the venue

- •Budget Items Income •Registrations

 - •Guest tours
 - Ticketed events
 - Exhibit booths

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•Budget Items - Income •Sponsorships

- •Grants
- Ad sales
- Program proceedings

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•Budget Items - Expenses •Staffing costs •Overhead

- •Legal Fees
- Insurance

- •Budget Items Expenses •Site selection costs

 - Meeting space rental
 - •AV Services
 - Speakers

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- •Budget Items Expenses
 - •F&B costs
 - ·Board, other VIPs
 - Printing/publications
 - Promotion

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•Budget Items - Expenses •Equipment rental •Registration

- Production
- Photography/Videography

MEETING PLANNING 101 Budgeting •Budget Items - Expenses •Special Events •Awards

- Transportation
- And...
- MISCELLANEOUS

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Staffing

- •Paid Office Staff
 - Organizational chart
 - •Manage specific areas

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Staffing

Volunteers

- •Set forth guidelines
- •Recruit for Plan A

- •Learning/Internship Component •Incorporate college students

 - •Not just grunt workers
 - •Provide meaningful outcomes

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 Understand roles •Provide measures of thanks

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•Clear communication process •Set a timeline with the facility

- Information overload
- **•**PUT IT IN WRITING

ogistics

- •Set Up Sheet
 - •Name of Event
 - •Day/Date •Start/end time
 - •Start/end time
 - Location

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MEETING PLANNING 101 Logistics •Set Up Sheet •Set up of the room •Any F&B involved •AV Needs •Any other pertinent information



Logistics

- •Submit set up sheets well in advance
- •Venue will formulate BEOs
- •Create Event Specifications Guide

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Logistics

•Final pre-con meetings

- •Patterns
- Review BEOs
- Communication Process
- •Authorized decision makers

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