

2016 Preview: 10 Most Anticipated New York Venues for Meetings and Events

The conference spaces, eateries, drinking spots, and more slated to open in New York for events and entertaining next year.



Rendering: Archpartners

By *Beth Kormanik* Posted December 28, 2015, 6:45 AM EST

NEW YORK Looking for a new venue to host your next event? Here are the most anticipated New York restaurants, corporate event venues, hotels, conference centers, and party rooms to open next year. These new and renovated New York venues will accommodate groups large or small for private and corporate events, conferences, meetings, weddings, business dinners, teambuilding activities, cocktail parties, and more.

1. Following a \$180 million gut renovation that closed the property for more than a year, the **InterContinental New York Barclay** is poised to reopen in the spring in time for its 90th anniversary. The luxury Midtown property will have 704 rooms including a Presidential Suite and a Penthouse Sky Suite that boasts a 1,500-square-foot outdoor terrace that overlooks the Chrysler building. Overall the hotel offers 15,000 square feet of meeting space, including two ballrooms.

2. After the Whitney Museum of American Art left its Upper East Side home for a new downtown location, the Metropolitan Museum of Art took over the space and will install modern and contemporary art programming for the next eight years. Called the **Met Breuer**—named for the building’s architect, Marcel Breuer—the space reopens March 18 and will feature exhibits and performances featuring art of the 20th and 21st centuries. For events, the lobby will be available for receptions of as many as 150 guests.

3. In April, the corporate conference center network Convene plans to open **Convene at 237 Park Avenue** near Grand Central Terminal. The venue, covering 29,800 square feet, will have seven technology-equipped meeting rooms and hold 150 people. One unusual amenity will be special stations for event planners that are located outside of the meeting rooms but have “looking-glass windows” for planners to keep tab on their programs.

4. **Four Seasons Hotel New York Downtown** will open this summer in a newly built skyscraper designed by Robert A.M. Stern Architects. Inside the 82-story tower will be the 185-room luxury hotel. A grand staircase will lead to 6,000 square feet of meeting space, which includes a 2,943-square-foot ballroom. The hotel’s restaurant will be Cut by Wolfgang Puck, the chef’s first New York City concept and the seventh location of the steak house. Other amenities include a spa and indoor pool.

5. The Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum on Long Island will undergo nearly \$230 million in renovations and reopen in December under the new name **Nassau Events Center**. The arena, which originally opened in 1972, most recently was home to the N.H.L.’s New York Islanders, who left in 2015 for Brooklyn. SHoP Architects is designing the facade, and Gensler will design the interiors. The surrounding area is also slated for development and will add a movie theater, restaurants, and other entertainment venues.

6. With its stunning nine-story atrium topped by a skylight, the **Beekman** is an architectural landmark in Lower Manhattan that originally opened in 1881. Its latest life will be as a 287-room hotel from Thompson Hotels with private residences and 4,700 square feet of meeting and event space. Slated to open by May, the property also is aiming to be a culinary destination with restaurants from chef Tom Colicchio and restaurateur Keith McNally. Gerner Kronick & Valcarcel, Architects is converting the building, with the goal of achieving LEED certification. Martin Brudnizki is designing the interiors.

7. After 30 years at its location adjacent to Union Square Park, **Union Square Café** closed in December will move just a few blocks northwest to a new home on 19th Street and Park Avenue South. Danny Meyer’s first restaurant has long been a destination restaurant for client entertaining and social events, and the new space (formerly occupied by City Crab) will have its first private dining room. It’s slated to reopen in the spring.

8. One of the latest upscale hotels to target Brooklyn is the **William Vale**, slated to open in Williamsburg in April. The 183-room will have indoor meeting space including the nearly 4,100-square-foot Vale Ballroom, as well as ample outdoor space. Outdoor events can take place at the rooftop pool and deck, which together can host receptions of 460 guests.

9. A live music venue called **Flash Factory** will take over the former Shadow nightclub spot in Chelsea. Occupying 10,000 square feet in Chelsea, the space underwent a gut renovation but still connects to the past with elements such as ceiling arches made from reclaimed wood from a church and a stained glass piece behind the DJ booth. The venue will also have a separate lounge. It opens in January.

10. The Martha Washington Hotel will be renovated and rebranded as the **Redbury New York** in early 2016. SBE will operate the 256-room hotel following a redesign by Dakota Development and Avenue Interiors, who helped create the look of Redbury hotels in Hollywood and South Beach. One part of the property will not change: the hotel’s restaurant, Marta pizzeria from Union Square Hospitality Group.