

ARTFUL VENUES

From halls hung with works by the masters to minimalist spaces that shine on their own, these five new or revamped shrines to the arts are bound to make any wedding picture-perfect. **TEXT BY NIKKI RIDGWAY**



↑ Faena Forum

Miami
Opened at the end of 2016, Faena Forum is the hip new jewel in the Miami Beach Faena District's crown. The event space celebrates art, sculpture, dance, theater, carnival, and, occasionally, an unforgettable wedding. The forum can be configured to fit any size group, but for the most intimate ceremony, get married in the circle-shaped, rose-gold amphitheater, where you'll be surrounded (literally) by loved ones. Catering is done in-house, with support from the restaurants at next-door Faena Hotel—another art-filled spot where guests can sleep in Alan Faena-designed rooms and admire Damien Hirst's gilded mammoth sculpture on the beachfront grounds. **Top Tip:** Serve the rose-hued Faena Spritz (made with vodka, Perrier-Jouët Grand Brut, rose water, and hibiscus) for a pretty, fizzy signature cocktail.

THE DETAILS: Price for venue rental upon request, faena.com/miami-beach/venue/faena-forum.



↓ The Contemporary Austin

Austin, Texas
A modern-art museum in two parts, the Contemporary Austin offers weddings at both its Laguna Gloria site (which feels romantic and old-worldly) and the revamped Jones Center in downtown Austin, which underwent a \$3 million renovation in 2016. For storybook romance, opt for Laguna Gloria's Italian-style villa and formal gardens, with seating for 150 guests and views across Lake Austin. Or be one of the first couples to marry on the new roof deck of the Jones Center. With panoramic views of the city, it's an elegant backdrop for a modern, urban ceremony.

Top Tip: Host your after-party and have guests stay at Austin's newest hotel, South Congress, less than two miles from the Jones Center.

THE DETAILS: Venue rental from \$1,780, thecontemporaryaustin.org.

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Philadelphia
The "Rocky" pose atop the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art has long been a must-get shot for Philly couples. Now the museum offers the chance for couples to marry or have receptions there, too. The vast Great Stair Hall offers the grandest gatherings for groups of up to 300, with soaring ceilings and Augustus

Saint-Gaudens's 14-foot *Diana* statue front and center. For something less formal, the art deco Perelman Building has a private terrace and a skylighted atrium that doubles as a dance floor, while the separate Rodin Museum is best for small ceremonies, set up for alfresco dinners for up to 60 guests surrounded by sculptures by the French master. **Top tip:** For a local sweet treat, exclusive caterers Starr Events can organize an ice cream stand from Philly favorites Little Baby's Ice Cream.

THE DETAILS: Weddings and receptions from \$7,500, philmuseum.org.



↑ National Blues Museum

St. Louis
New to the Gateway City, this 23,000-square-foot ode to blues music—and St. Louis's role in it—is ideal for music-loving couples. For groups of up to 100, combine vows and cocktail hour in the long street-side gallery space, then move to the light-flooded Lumière Place Legends Room for food by local grill masters like Sugarfire Smokehouse. And for the music? The museum staff is happy to recommend St. Louis blues group favorites like Marsha Evans and the Coalition and Boo Boo Davis. **Top tip:** For the ultimate memento of



the day, record your own blues album in the museum's studio.

THE DETAILS: Venue rental from \$3,000, nationalbluesmuseum.org.

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

San Francisco
Say "I do" in the presence of Warhol, Flavin, and Matisse at SFMOMA—still the hottest culture ticket in the Bay Area since reopening in May 2016 after a three-year expansion. The six event spaces are available for evening celebrations, whether you want a huge banquet (400 for dinner) overlooking Richard Serra's *Sequence* in the Schwab Hall, or cocktail hour in the indoor/outdoor Sculpture Garden. Don't miss a couple's portrait by the Calder sculptures and group shots at the spectacular 30-foot-tall living wall on the Sculpture Terrace. **Top tip:** Treat your guests to a private viewing of the gallery floors—available for an extra fee—until 10 P.M.

THE DETAILS: Venue rental from \$14,000, sfmoma.org.



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