

## **Article #1 - 5 Unusual Wedding Venues in Cincinnati**

Today's contemporary brides all have one thing in common: they dread the ordinary. From the moment of the proposal to the exchange of the vows, they're on the lookout for unique opportunities to set their special day apart from the rest. Among the hundreds of decisions a bride-to-be will have to make in the course of her wedding planning, location is key. Choosing just the right place to profess their lifelong commitment—a venue that reflects the couple's individual personalities while accommodating their décor theme and guest volume—can be a daunting task.

Luckily, Queen City brides have an impressive array of choices for distinctive ceremony locales. For those who want something above and beyond the standard church or traditional hall, Cincinnati offers dozens of unconventional options, each with its own wholly unique ambiance, character, and history.

### **Cincinnati Art Museum**

Located on the outskirts of beautiful Eden Park, the Cincinnati Art Museum has served as one of the great architectural landmarks of the Queen City since its founding in the late 1800s. Its rich heritage, soaring ceilings, and more than 60,000 culture-rich exhibits infuse it with a sense of romance and possibility, making it a perfect venue for exchanging your vows. The serene, park-like setting surrounding the building is equally breathtaking during each of the four seasons. Inside, the majestic curving staircase has served as the trajectory for hundreds of brides who have capitalized on the museum's classic elegance. For more details on holding your ceremony at the Cincinnati Art Museum, contact them at 513-639-2955, or send an email to [special.events@cincyart.org](mailto:special.events@cincyart.org).

### **The Vinoklet Winery**

Acres of rolling vineyards provide a majestic backdrop for your wedding ceremony at the Vinoklet Winery in Cincinnati. The site of some of the most beautiful outdoor weddings in the city, Vinoklet also offers an on-site bed and breakfast for honeymooners and wedding parties. In addition to their own carefully fermented, award-winning wines, Vinoklet is renowned for their delicious homemade meals, making it a popular choice for wedding receptions. Their stately banquet room is available for a reasonable package

price. For more information, contact Richard Dudley (Director of Hospitality) at 513-385-9309.

### **Celebrations Riverboats**

Love the water? Exchange your vows aboard a romantic vessel from Celebrations Riverboats. Accommodating up to 400 guests, each private chartered cruise affords breathtaking views of the city of Cincinnati from the majestic Ohio River. After saying "I Do", head into the banquet area for a unique, festive reception. A courteous, experienced staff of event planners, captains, and crew attend to every detail to ensure your event goes off without a hitch. Amenities include a custom menu, elegant table decorations, china and flatware, musical entertainment, and more. To request more information, visit Celebrations Riverboats online at <http://www.celebrationriverboats.com/>.

### **Newport Aquarium**

For a truly unique wedding venue, consider this state-of-the-art facility located in Newport, Kentucky. Just minutes from downtown Cincinnati, this awe-inspiring indoor aquarium boasts some of the nation's most exotic species of sea life and marine animals. When you rent the aquarium for your wedding, the entire building will be reserved for you and up to 1,500 wedding guests. You'll exchange your vows against a backdrop of vivid colors, tranquil waters, and natural marine habitats, making it a great choice for nature lovers. Food and drink stations will be set up throughout the aquarium for easily accessible dining an arm's length from brilliantly colored fish.

To discuss your event details, call 859-815-1427, or visit [www.newportaquarium.com](http://www.newportaquarium.com).

### **Paul Brown Stadium**

One of the nation's premier sports arenas, Cincinnati's brand-new NFL stadium is located in the heart of downtown. In addition to hosting the Cincinnati Bengals during football season, the illustrious stadium can also serve as a unique backdrop for your wedding. Its luxury amenities include two atrium-style lounges, impressive architectural accents, and breathtaking views of the Cincinnati skyline and the majestic Ohio River. After the ceremony, guests can partake of the delicious catering services, fully stocked

bars, and cutting-edge audio and video technologies for non-stop entertainment. For more information, call 513-455-4830 or visit [www.bengals.com/stadium/events.asp](http://www.bengals.com/stadium/events.asp).

When choosing the site for your special day, don't be afraid to be discriminating. Take the time to select a Cincinnati wedding venue that meshes with your own individual style, and then add your own personal touches to make your ceremony a truly unforgettable experience.

## **Article #2 - 5 Ways to Plan a Celebrity-Caliber Wedding in Cincinnati**

When you've got glitz, glamour, and a guest list that reads like the "Who's Who" of Hollywood, you've got the ingredients for a celebrity wedding. We've all known the allure of high-profile nuptials. Plastered across the covers of today's hottest gossip magazines, the weddings of the rich and famous cater to the romantic fantasies entertained by most every bride-to-be.

The good news? You don't have to be a movie star or famous musician to incorporate touches of extravagance into your Cincinnati wedding. The Tri-state offers no shortage of surprisingly simple ways to infuse your celebration with exclusive appeal—without an astronomical budget.

### **Hire a Wedding Planner**

Regardless of size, planning a wedding can easily become a full-time job. To help you fully enjoy your special day, enlist a professional to attend to the hundreds of details that will inevitably rear their heads at the most inopportune moments. For a surprisingly reasonable price, you can secure the services of a wedding planner who will give your event the five-star treatment it deserves. You'll find several well-connected wedding professionals in the Greater Cincinnati area, including Viva Bella Weddings (513-470-3858 or [www.vivabellaevents.com](http://www.vivabellaevents.com)) and Soiree Contemporary Wedding Planning (513-490-3085 or [www.cincysoiree.com](http://www.cincysoiree.com)). Both allow you to choose from several tiers of service packages, or you can create your own custom plan.

### **Get the Cake**

You don't have to settle for a bland, ordinary wedding cake just because you're on a budget. The award-winning BonBonerie, a premier bakery and confectioner in the O'Bryonville business district of Cincinnati, has been crafting some of the area's most delectable and aesthetically pleasing wedding cakes since its inception in 1983. The preferred choice of many local celebrities, they pride themselves on using only the finest all-natural ingredients to ensure that each cake is as fun to taste as it is to behold. The BonBonerie regards each cake as a custom work of art, endowed with personal touches to reflect the bride's and groom's personalities. Find out why this fabulous bakery has been featured in *In Style*, *Gourmet*, and *Bon Appetit* magazines by scheduling your own personalized taste testing. Call the bakery at 513-321-3399 or visit their website at [www.bonbonerie.com](http://www.bonbonerie.com).

### **Get the Dress**

To feel like a celebrity on your wedding day, the right dress is a must. Surprisingly, you needn't shell out thousands of dollars to get your dream gown. Cincinnati offers a breadth of budget-conscious bridal boutiques whose proprietors believe you don't have to sacrifice value for magnificence. Located in historic Covington, Kentucky, Donna Salyers' Fabulous Bridal Boutique services hundreds of brides in the Greater Cincinnati area. Named "Best Wedding Dress Shop" by *Cincinnati* magazine, this top-rated gown shop pampers its patrons with individualized service, private dressing rooms, wedding party toasts and, of course, some of the most exquisite wedding dresses from today's most exclusive designers. To schedule your personalized dress consultation, call 859-291-9222 or visit [www.fabulous-bridal.com](http://www.fabulous-bridal.com).

### **Capture the Moment**

You don't have to be a movie star to see yourself glamorized on film. immortalize the day you've so carefully planned by hiring a skilled videographer to record the ceremony and reception, providing you with a lasting memento you'll enjoy over and over again throughout the years. The Greater Cincinnati area is home to a range of talented video professionals who can turn your wedding footage into a cinematic production, complete with music and special effects. Some of the city's most acclaimed companies include Glass Eye Video (513-236-6615 or [www.glasseyevideo.com](http://www.glasseyevideo.com)) and

Lifetime Video (513-231-0080 or [www.lifetime-video.com](http://www.lifetime-video.com)). Both utilize cutting-edge technologies to bring your special day onto the big screen.

### **Set it to Music**

Take your reception to the next level by employing unique musical entertainment above and beyond the standard DJ. For a touch of sophistication, consider a harpist or string band. Bonnie Strobhar, an Ohioan harpist who services the Greater Cincinnati area, has graced hundreds of local weddings with her ethereal music. Contact Bonnie at 937-376-4608 or visit [www.bonniestrobharharp.com](http://www.bonniestrobharharp.com). If you prefer a more multi-faceted musical medley, try the skilled string trios and quartets of String Celebrations, USA, specializing in jazz, show tunes, and classical music (513-281-4613 or [www.stringcelebrationsusa.com](http://www.stringcelebrationsusa.com)). Awarded “Best of the City” by *Cincinnati* magazine and acclaimed by the Cincinnati Enquirer, the Clyde Brown Band (513-821-4742, or [www.clydebrownproductions.com](http://www.clydebrownproductions.com)) gets the party started with their rhythmic R&B, funk, and soul selections.

Cincinnati may be far from Hollywood, but the city’s exclusive assortment of premier wedding vendors and exclusive bridal boutiques make it easy to achieve red-carpet glamour on your special day. A few carefully applied details can help to turn your wedding into a five-star event.

## **Article #3 - Top Bridal Shows in Cincinnati**

Love them or hate them, they’ve become a fundamental component of wedding planning. Bridal shows are now a fixture in any major city, including Cincinnati. While they may seem overwhelming at first, with their near-dizzying array of vendors, promotions, and sales pitches, they serve as an indispensable tool for the myriad of decisions that will need to be made during the process. There simply isn’t a better way to compare the offerings of different companies and services to ensure value and quality on your special day.

The Greater Cincinnati area offers several well-orchestrated, beneficial bridal shows at various venues throughout the year. Each is designed to help

budget-conscious, astute brides-to-be achieve the wedding of their dreams while saving time and money.

### **Your Wedding Mafia Cocktail Party**

Held each June at the lavish Newport Syndicate, this contemporary wedding event provides a refreshingly modern alternative to the conventional bridal show of old. Instead of bombarding you with hundreds of unrelated options, a team of elite wedding vendors present five cohesive and unique themes for your special day. Attendants are automatically eligible to win an array of fabulous prizes, including complimentary wedding services. You'll have the opportunity to sample DJ music, gourmet wedding cakes, designer gowns, and more. After the show, join the wedding professionals for an exclusive party at the Syndicate bar. For tickets or more information, email [info@yourweddingmafia.com](mailto:info@yourweddingmafia.com) or visit [www.yourweddingmafia.com](http://www.yourweddingmafia.com).

### **Your Bridal Show & Sale**

Held each June at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center, this comprehensive bridal show brings hundreds of Cincinnati's top wedding vendors together under one roof. You'll have the chance to browse exquisite gowns, sample some of the area's tastiest cakes, view photography samples, preview gorgeous bouquets, and more—all while helping to fight breast cancer by raising funds for the Susan G. Komen For The Cure organization. Two high-glamour fashion shows and an exciting bridal sale top off this can't-miss event. For information on how to pre-register for free tickets, visit [www.yourbridalshow.com](http://www.yourbridalshow.com) or call 513-231-3052.

### **Cincinnati Bridal Expo**

Each October, hundreds of local brides-to-be flock to the luxurious Manor House Banquet Center for the Cincinnati Bridal Expo. At this sumptuous venue, dozens of the city's finest wedding vendors gather to showcase their wares and services. During two fashion shows, models exhibit the latest fashions in wedding gowns, bridesmaid dresses, and tuxedos from David's Bridal & Tux. Exciting giveaways and promotions make the \$8 admission worth every penny. For more information, visit [www.cincinnatibridalexpo.com](http://www.cincinnatibridalexpo.com).

### **Bridalrama**

Considered the premier bridal show of Greater Cincinnati, Bridalrama is held each summer at the Cincinnati Convention Center in the heart of downtown. Endorsed by some of the most prominent vendors in the industry, including Bridal & Formal, Macy's, and Skeffington's Formal Wear, the event is a conglomeration of hundreds of wedding professionals showcasing the hottest trends of the year. Preview the season's cutting-edge bridal fashions during two high-energy fashion shows. For more information on Bridalrama, call 1-888-323-2966 or visit [www.bridalrama.net](http://www.bridalrama.net).

Don't go blindly into the wedding planning process. Pulling off the smooth, splendid event you've always dreamed of takes hours of dogged research and careful preparations. Cincinnati's comprehensive bridal shows strive to make the monumental task easy and fun. From gowns to photographers to bouquets, you'll find all of the necessary information and options under one roof.



## **Article #4 - 5 Unique Wedding Reception Venues in Cincinnati**

With the conclusion of the vows, the kiss, and the presentation of the newly married couple, the fun is just beginning. After the ceremony, the wedding reception gives the bride and groom the chance to enjoy their first evening as husband and wife among their cherished family and friends. When planning what will most likely be the most special celebration of your life, the selection of the reception venue will be one of the biggest decisions you'll make.

Above all, today's modern brides focus on individuality. The traditional reception halls of old are giving way to uncommon, character-rich venues that ensure a truly unique event. Fortunately, Cincinnati offers no shortage of exceptional reception sites that will infuse your wedding celebration with the exclusivity you crave.

When planning a wedding reception in Cincinnati, you don't have to settle for ordinary. The Tri-state area offers a range of distinctive venues. Rich in



history, character, and aesthetics, each locale ensures the individuality your event demands.

### **20<sup>th</sup> Century Theater**

For those seeking something above and beyond the traditional reception hall, the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Theater provides a high-character, culture-rich alternative. Built in 1941 in the heart of Oakley, the historic building boasts Neoclassic-inspired architecture and thoughtful design elements that make it one of the city's most majestic locales. Accommodating anywhere from 100 to 400 guests, the theater's spacious banquet room is outfitted with a private bar, jukebox, and live entertainment or DJs. Professional party planners will help you design a custom menu to be prepared by the resident chef and presented by a skilled, courteous serving staff. For those seeking extra sophistication for their wedding reception, such luxury touches as ice sculptures and valet parking are available. For more information, call 513-731-8000 or visit [www.the20thcenturytheater.com](http://www.the20thcenturytheater.com).

### **Verdin Bell & Clock Museum**

Captivate guests with a grand event at the Verdin Bell & Clock Museum, located on Reading Road in the heart of downtown Cincinnati. Originally constructed as a church in 1850, the historic building that houses the present-day museum had been empty since 1975. Six years later, the venerable Verdin Company purchased the rundown structure and converted it into the stunning landmark it is today, complete with soaring vaulted ceilings, marble floors, and hand-painted murals. In addition to housing a unique exhibit of antique bell- and clock-related items, the Bell Event Centre's spacious ballroom hosts an array of private events throughout the year, including wedding receptions. For each event, the Verdin staff designs a custom package based on the specific needs of the bride and groom. For more information, call 513-852-2787 or visit [www.belleventcentre.com](http://www.belleventcentre.com).

### **National Underground Railroad Freedom Center**

This state-of-the-art facility has quickly become a prominent cultural fixture in downtown Cincinnati. Located on the banks of the majestic Ohio River, the center was opened in 2004 as a commemoration of the fight against American slavery. Each exhibit is a testament to the civil struggles and personal turmoil that were endured in order to achieve the freedoms our citizens enjoy today. The Freedom Center is available for private events,



including wedding receptions. Guests will delight in the venue's spectacular river views, Italian stone and marble, impressive architectural details, and luxurious dining spaces. To learn more about hosting your event at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, call 513-333-7574 or visit [www.freedomcenter.org](http://www.freedomcenter.org).

### **Taft Museum of Art**

For brides and grooms seeking to add a cultural element to their special celebration, Cincinnati's Taft Museum of Art is a prime venue. For the past 75 years, the museum has exhibited hundreds of priceless works by such renowned artists as Rembrandt and Whistler. The elegant architecture, historic gardens, and sheltered outdoor terrace make it a prime space for wedding receptions. Full-service catering and spacious entertainment areas ensure comfort and enjoyment for your event. The indoor Luther Hall boasts cutting-edge audio and video technologies and accommodates up to 150 guests, while the tented brick terrace with adjoining garden serves as a picturesque, versatile venue for warm-weather receptions of up to 300. To learn more, call 513-684-4523 or email [facilityrentals@taftmuseum.org](mailto:facilityrentals@taftmuseum.org).

### **Music Hall**

You'll be hard-pressed to find a reception locale with more history or heritage than Music Hall. Home to some of the city's finest cultural performances, Music Hall offers a wholly unique venue with dramatic architecture, generously sized ballrooms, and exquisite décor. Originally built in 1878, this Cincinnati landmark has undergone extensive renovations to make it the breathtaking landmark it is today. The Music Hall Ballroom offers a whopping 20,000 square feet of gathering space. Upstairs, the equally well-appointed Corbett Tower accommodates up to 300 guests, boasting such functional amenities as a full kitchen and bar, audio and video capabilities, and a spacious dance floor. On-site professional party planners can assist you with every detail. For more information on hosting your event at Music Hall, call 513-744-3242 or visit [www.cincinnatiarts.org](http://www.cincinnatiarts.org).