

Tourism Organizations

Convention and Visitors Bureaus (CVBs) act as a community's official "destination management companies" for meetings, conventions, and other events. CVBs are sometimes referred to as "**tourist boards**" or "**tourism offices**".

The International Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus (IACVB), a professional organization with over 1,100 member bureaus in 30 countries, says some of the specific services CVBs can offer the meeting planner are:

- On-site logistics and registration
- Developing pre- and post-conference activities, spouse tours, and special events
- Assisting with site inspections and site selection
- Providing speakers
- Assisting in the coordination of local transportation

IACVB has more information about the industry, while the **Official Travel Guide** lets you find a CVB near you.

International Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus
<http://www.iacvb.org>

OfficialTravelGuide.com <http://www.officialtravelguide.com>

Convention Centers

Convention centers usually have in-house event planners to deal with all the trade-shows, conventions, and other events they might handle each year.

The McCormick Place Convention Complex in Chicago, Illinois, hosts the Chicago Auto Show, the National Hardware Show, and the National Restaurant Association Show. Eugene Hardison is the McCormick Place's assistant director of event excellence. According to Hardison, working for a convention center (like other positions in the hospitality industry) is a bit different from being a planner for a company or association since he and his division work with other event planners to assist them in running a smooth event.

The following organizations offer the opportunity to network and keep up on industry news. The Convention Industry Council website also offers links to

other industry associations.

Association of Convention Operations Management

<http://www.acomonline.org/acom.asp>

Convention Industry Council <http://www.conventionindustry.org>

You can find local convention centers through your convention and visitors bureau (see above) or simply type the name of your city and “convention center” or “conference center” into a search engine such as Google.com. The International Association of Conference Centers lists a number of facilities at its website:

International Association of Conference Centers

<http://www.iacconline.com>

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