

# MEETING SAFELY IN CHICAGO

When it comes to events and meetings, no city compares to Chicago. From multi-day concerts like Lollapalooza to some of the largest tradeshows in the world at McCormick Place to intimate meetings at our partner venues and hotels, Chicago has a long and successful track record of keeping visitors safe at events of all sizes. We know that public safety is top of mind for many people traveling for meetings and conventions, and we want to provide this assurance: **you can safely meet in Chicago.**



## THE FACTS ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY IN CHICAGO

The general depiction of crime in our city does not reflect reality. The truth is that violent crime occurs in Chicago at a rate lower than many other large American cities, and we continue to make meaningful progress. The Chicago Police Department's public safety efforts, which are rooted in flexibility and adjusting resources based on the real-time needs of each community across the city, drove year-over-year reductions of over 10% in both homicides and shootings in 2023. The Chicago Police Department (CPD) continues to review and analyze its resources citywide to protect all residents and visitors in our city.



## BUSINESS TRAVELERS AND TOURISTS HAVE RETURNED TO CHICAGO IN DROVES

In 2023, tens of millions of visitors came to Chicago to safely experience all that our world-class city has to offer. Our tourist attractions are thriving, our streets are full, and our meeting spaces are booked.

- In total, Chicago welcomed approximately 52 million visitors in 2023.
- Chicago hotel revenues in 2023 reached record levels at over \$2.5 billion, with over 11 million hotel rooms filled.
- Meetings and conventions in Chicago saw over 2.1 million attendees in 2023, a year-over-year increase of 28%.
- In June 2023, Chicago hotels saw their highest-ever weekend occupancy rate thanks to the confluence of major meetings at McCormick Place and mega concerts at Soldier Field.





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## ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

We recognize that safety is the top priority for event planners and attendees. The Central Business District, which includes McCormick Place and most hotels, is highly trafficked by residents, workers, and visitors, and is one of the safest areas of Chicago. Here are some steps Choose Chicago and our partners are taking to support your efforts:

1. CENTRAL CONTROL GROUP	2. AMBASSADOR PROGRAM	3. EVENT KNOWLEDGE	4. CPD ENGAGEMENT
<p>The Chicago Police Department has created a <b>Central Control Group</b> to specifically focus on safety in our central business district and downtown areas.</p>	<p>The City of Chicago has partnered with the Chicago Loop Alliance and Magnificent Mile Association to launch an <b>Ambassador Program</b>, with patrols that engage visitors, residents, and businesses in the Loop, along our iconic Michigan Avenue, and in nearby areas to deter illegal activity.</p>	<p>Choose Chicago and our partners at McCormick Place work closely together to ensure the <b>Chicago Police Department knows which events are in Chicago</b> so they can adjust resources where necessary, understand visitor traffic patterns, and plan accordingly.</p>	<p>Choose Chicago's Client Services team works directly with meeting clients to help them navigate the city and stands ready to answer any questions. We are also <b>happy to engage the Chicago Police Department</b> to speak with your team.</p>

## MEETING SAFELY AT MCCORMICK PLACE

Chicago is proud to have the largest convention center in North America, and we work tirelessly to ensure that exhibitors and delegates can safely attend meetings and conventions at McCormick Place. Choose Chicago, McCormick Place, and the Chicago Police Department work hand-in-hand to ensure safety at large events:

- McCormick Place staffs a central security command center and has expert, 24/7 security staff in all buildings.
- The Chicago Police Department has additional resources at the McCormick Place campus.
- McCormick Place has over 1,000 closed-circuit cameras that security staff monitor 24/7 along with a robust emergency communications system.
- For all large events, the Chicago Police Department works closely with Choose Chicago, McCormick Place and the event organizer to develop a security plan and share information regarding the days of the show, the hotels in the room block, shuttles, and any offsite events planned.

