

# CCCC 2016 Accessibility Guide



## Houston, TX

Photo Credit:chadmckenna.me

[ALT TEXT: The image shows a large brightly-colored mural with "Houston" in the center with the buildings of the Houston skyline above, and below are the words in vertical descending order: Inspired, Hip, Tasty, Funky, Savvy.]

## ***Welcome!***

Welcome to Houston! Houston is an expansive, diverse city with so much to do and experience. Our goal is to help you prepare for your visit and ensure as many people as possible get to experience this year's convention location.

We have attempted to address many accessibility issues that attendees should find useful during their trip to Houston for the 2016 CCCC. There may be questions or needs that have not been addressed here. Please feel free to contact us so that we may address your concerns individually.

Signed,  
*The Houston Team*

## **CONTACT PERSONNEL**

### **Chair of the Committee on Disability Issues in College Composition**



Stephanie Kerschbaum, [kersch@udel.edu](mailto:kersch@udel.edu)

### **Local Arrangements Chair**



Jen Wingard, [jwingard@central.uh.edu](mailto:jwingard@central.uh.edu)

### Local Accessibility Committee Co-Chairs



Casie C. Cobos  
[casiecobos@gmail.com](mailto:casiecobos@gmail.com)



Geneva Canino  
[geneva.canino@gmail.com](mailto:geneva.canino@gmail.com)

### Local Accessibility Committee Volunteer



Stephanie K. Wheeler  
[Stephanie.Wheeler@ucf.edu](mailto:Stephanie.Wheeler@ucf.edu)

### Sign Language Interpreters and CART



Anthony Verdeja



Tracy Villinski

### NCTE Accessibility Requests Points of Contact:

Amy Stark at NCTE at [astark@ncte.org](mailto:astark@ncte.org) or Nancy Johnson at NCTE at [NJohnson@ncte.org](mailto:NJohnson@ncte.org)

## Table of Contents

<i>Welcome!</i> .....	1
CONTACT PERSONNEL.....	1
Chair of the Committee on Disability Issues in College Composition.....	1
Local Arrangements Chair .....	1
Local Accessibility Committee Co-Chairs.....	2
Local Accessibility Committee Volunteer.....	2
Sign Language Interpreters and CART .....	2
NCTE Accessibility Requests Points of Contact:.....	2
AT THE CONFERENCE .....	5
Access Table .....	5
Sign Language Interpreters and CART .....	5
Quiet Room.....	6
Lactation Room.....	6
Family Room.....	6
Weather .....	6
ARRIVING IN HOUSTON .....	6
Houston George Bush Intercontinental Airport (Code: IAH) .....	7
Accessibility Services Available at Houston Intercontinental Airport.....	7
Houston William P. Hobby Airport (Code: HOU) .....	8
Accessibility Services Available at Houston Intercontinental Airport.....	8
TSA Help Line .....	9
GETTING TO YOUR HOTEL .....	10
<i>Taxis</i> .....	10
<i>SuperShuttle</i> .....	10
George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) to Downtown (Hilton Americas).....	10
William P. Hobby Houston Airport (HOU) to Downtown (Hilton Americas).....	11
<i>Car Rentals</i> .....	11
Houston Intercontinental Airport.....	11
Houston Hobby Airport.....	11
<i>Public Transportation</i> .....	11
Houston Intercontinental Airport.....	12
Houston Hobby Airport.....	12
<i>Courtesy Vans</i> .....	12
HOTELS .....	12
Conference Hotel: Hilton Americas - Houston.....	12
Overall Accessibility .....	13
Drop-Off, Pickup, and Building Access.....	13
Common Areas.....	14
Room Accessibility .....	15
SECOND CONFERENCE HOTEL: .....	16
Embassy Suites Houston-Downtown .....	16
THIRD CONFERENCE HOTEL:.....	16
Springhill Suites Houston Downtown/Convention Center .....	16

FOURTH CONFERENCE HOTEL:.....	17
Holiday Inn Houston Downtown .....	17
OTHER DOWNTOWN HOTELS.....	17
Four Seasons Hotel Houston .....	17
Holiday Inn Express & Suites .....	17
The Westin Downtown Houston .....	18
JW Marriott Houston Downtown .....	18
DoubleTree Suites .....	18
CONFERENCE ACTIVITY .....	19
Technology .....	19
Hilton Americas and Conference Center.....	19
Overall Accessibility .....	19
Building Access and Parking.....	20
Common Areas.....	20
Conference Rooms .....	24
George R. Brown Convention Center .....	27
Overall Accessibility .....	27
Building Access and Parking.....	27
Common Areas.....	28
Convention Center Amphitheater .....	30
Conference Rooms .....	32
OUT AND ABOUT IN HOUSTON .....	34
Parking and Transportation .....	34
Parking .....	34
Greenlink Downtown .....	34
METROLift .....	34
METRO Bus System.....	35
METRORail.....	35
Scooter and Wheelchair Rental .....	35
Restaurants.....	35
Nearest Drugstores .....	36
Activities .....	37
Free Fun and Relaxation .....	38
Additional Activity Links .....	39
Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings .....	39
Narcotics Anonymous Meetings .....	40
MAPS .....	41
THANKS .....	41

## AT THE CONFERENCE

The Committee on Disability Issues in College Composition and the local Accessibility Committee are committed to making the CCCC accessible for all attendees. If you need to request accommodations such as sign language interpreting or Computer Assisted Real Time Captioning (CART) that may require advance planning on the part of NCTE/CCCC staff, please contact Amy Stark at NCTE at [astark@ncte.org](mailto:astark@ncte.org) or Nancy Johnson at NCTE at [NJohnson@ncte.org](mailto:NJohnson@ncte.org). They can best meet your needs when notified prior to March 23, 2016.

While this guide focuses on many aspects of the physical locations of the conference and getting around the city of Houston, this commitment to making CCCC accessible for all attendees extends beyond that. Another dimension of access involves ensuring that presentations themselves are accessible to all conference attendees. Much more information about accessibility measures for presentations can be found at the Composing Access website (<http://composingaccess.net/>), which includes a number of documents and videos with ideas for how to enhance accessibility in conference presentations. We strongly encourage all conference attendees to review these suggestions in planning presentations in all formats.

If you know of a conference presenter who is not aware of the Composing Access website (<http://composingaccess.net/>), please share the site with them so that more CCCC presentations are accessible for all attendees.

### Access Table

The CCCC Access table will be located on the fourth floor of the Hilton Americas (conference hotel and center) between the Registration Desk and the escalators closest to the conference center. Volunteers will be available during regular conference hours to offer assistance with mobility and other access issues, including but not limited to helping to solve problems with space, sound, scent, or lighting; helping conference attendees navigate from session to session; and connecting attendees to resources.

Interaction or communication badges will be available at this table. Interaction badges are red, yellow, and green slips of paper that can be slid into CCCC plastic name badge holders. Red indicates that the person does not want to be approached at this time but responding to their approach would be fine. Yellow indicates that this person would not like to interact with people they don't know; if this person approaches you, interacting is fine. Green indicates that this person is open to conversation even if they do not know you and even if they may have trouble initiating.

### Sign Language Interpreters and CART

Sign Language Interpreters and CART will be coordinated by Anthony Verdeja, RID CI, CT, NIC and NAD IV, and Tracy Villinski, RID CI and CT. Tracy and Anthony have many years' experience coordinating professional teams of interpreters and CART providers, offering both ASL interpreting and transliteration services to academic conference participants. To request Sign Language Interpreters or CART services for the conference, please contact Amy Stark at NCTE at [astark@ncte.org](mailto:astark@ncte.org) or Nancy Johnson at NCTE at [NJohnson@ncte.org](mailto:NJohnson@ncte.org). To learn more



about sign language interpreters, check this website: <https://www.rid.org>. For information about CART, click on this link: <http://www.ncra.org/About/content.cfm?ItemNumber=10149>.

### **Quiet Room**

The Quiet Room will be located in the Hilton, Room 230. Quiet rooms are intended to provide a quiet, calm space where convention attendees can spend time away from the noise, lights, and other stimuli of conference spaces. The quiet rooms are not available for conversations or meetings.

For personal use on your earphones, ambient sound and other noise canceling can be found through MyNoise.net (free and available via web browser and app) and Sleep Pillow Sounds <http://www.clearskyapps.com/portfolio/sleep> (free trial version, sound mixes with the paid full version).

### **Lactation Room**

The lactation room is located in the Hilton, Room 432.

### **Family Room**

The Family Room is located on Level 4 in Grand Ballroom C of the Hilton. This room is for CCCC participants who bring children with them to the conference, but there are no childcare providers available in this room. There will be room for children to bring their own activities. Books, writing materials, and other materials will be provided. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

### **Weather**

The high temperature averages from mid-to-high 70s to low 80s in early April with some humidity. Nights can drop between low 60s and high 50s. Rain is always a possibility in Houston. As always, please be sure to check the weather before packing.

Sweaters or very light jackets will be good for inside the conference areas and late evenings since temperatures may vary.

## **ARRIVING IN HOUSTON**

Houston has two major airports: Houston George Bush Intercontinental Airport and Houston William P. Hobby Airport. For information about both Houston airports, please go to <http://www.fly2houston.com/>.

For current travel time and traffic conditions from either airport to the Hilton Americas and Conference Center or other Houston locations, please go to <http://www.fly2houston.com/houstontraffic>. More information on travel time to the Hilton Americas and Conference Center is provided below with the hotel information.

## Houston George Bush Intercontinental Airport (Code: IAH)

2800 N Terminal Rd  
Houston, TX 77032

Directions Using Google Maps

(<https://www.google.com/maps/place/George+Bush+Intercontinental+Airport>)

Airport Information: 281-230-3100

Airport Police: 281-230-6800

TDD: 281-230-3089

### Accessibility Services Available at Houston Intercontinental Airport

While Houston Intercontinental Airport is ADA compliant, the airport does not have a webpage with consolidated information about accessibility services. Please find information we have gathered below.

For a **map** of Houston Intercontinental Airport, please visit the following webpage:

<http://www.fly2houston.com/iah-Maps-And-Directions>.

**Wheelchair Assistance** is available from each airline's curbside or ticket counter locations. It is recommended that wheelchair service is booked in advance, though this service is still available at check-in without a reservation. To make a reservation, request wheelchair assistance when booking a ticket with your respective airline.

**Elevators** are located near entrances and exits to easy access to all areas, such as terminals, baggage claim, parking, and airside transfer level.

Several options for **Intra-Terminal Transportation** are available. An above-ground train connects Terminals B, C, D, E and the International Arrivals Building (IAB) for those with connecting flights in different terminals. An underground inter-terminal train outside of the secure zone connects all five terminals and the airport hotel which is available to all airport visitors. In addition to train service a bus-shuttle service is offered from Terminal A to Terminals B and C. This allows passengers needing to travel to/from Terminal A to access other terminals without having to leave the secure area.

All **public restrooms** are wheelchair accessible. "Companion restrooms" are also offered throughout the airport near multiple-stall restrooms and are equipped for users with disabilities. These restrooms are designated with the wheelchair accessible symbol.

Relief areas for **service animals** are located outside of Terminals A, B, C, and D. Signage is provided. For assistance, please ask airport personnel.



**Public Access Videophones** (PAVs) with **Video Relay Service** (VRS) are located at Terminal A near gate 10; Terminal B on the ticketing level near the payphone; Terminal C near gates C43-C45; Terminal D near the currency exchange at gates D1-D6; Terminal E near gates E12 and E14; and Terminal E at FIS near International Arrivals on the North Side.

**TTY/TTD telephones** are provided throughout the airport and are marked with the internationally recognized TTY/TTD symbol. For further assistance, it is possible to contact the Texas Relay service from any telephone for directory assistance:

- 281-230-3000 (voice)
- 281-230-3089 (TTY)

Relay Texas offers phone communication services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf/Blind, or Speech Disabled. Through the Texas Relay Service, people who use specialized telephone equipment can communicate with people who use standard telephone equipment.

- Phone: 7-1-1
- Web: <http://www.relaytexas.com/english.html>

For **paging assistance**, the white airport telephones located throughout each terminal are available for use.

**Baggage carts** are available throughout the airport for a \$5.00 rental charge. These carts are not allowed on the Termalink.

## **Houston William P. Hobby Airport (Code: HOU)**

**7800 Airport Blvd  
Houston, TX 77061**

Directions Using Google Maps

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/William+P.+Hobby+Airport/>

Airport Information: 713-640-3000

Airport Police: 713-845-6800

TDD: 713-641-7781

### **Accessibility Services Available at Houston Intercontinental Airport**

While Houston Hobby Airport is ADA compliant, the airport does not have a webpage with consolidated information about accessibility services. Please find information we have gathered below.

For a **map** of Houston Hobby Airport, please visit the following webpage:

<http://www.fly2houston.com/hou-Maps-and-Directions>.

**Wheelchair Assistance** is available from each airline's curbside or ticket counter locations. It is recommended that wheelchair service is booked in advance, though this service is still available

at check-in without a reservation. To make a reservation, request wheelchair assistance when booking a ticket with your respective airline.

**Elevators** are located in the parking garage with access to baggage claim, on the ticketing and flight terminal level closest to the Southwest ticketing counter, and directly outside of the security checkpoint.

All **public restrooms** are wheelchair accessible. “Companion restrooms” are also offered throughout the airport and are equipped for users with disabilities. These restrooms are designated with the wheelchair accessible symbol.

Relief areas for **service animals** are on the east side of the baggage claim area and north of the passenger pickup area.

**Public Access Videophones** (PAVs) with **Video Relay Service** (VRS) are located on the first floor in the Central Lobby near the Information Booth, at the Central Baggage Claim near the ATM, and in the Central Concourse at Gates 24 and 47.

**TTY/TTD telephones** are provided throughout the airport and are marked with the internationally recognized TTY/TTD symbol. For further assistance, it is possible to contact the Texas Relay service from any telephone for directory assistance:

- 713-640-3000 (voice)
- 713-641-7781 (TTY)

Relay Texas offers phone communication services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf/Blind, or Speech Disabled. Through the Texas Relay Service, people who use specialized telephone equipment can communicate with people who use standard telephone equipment.

- Phone: 7-1-1
- Web: <http://www.relaytexas.com/english.html>

For **paging assistance**, black airport telephones located inside the main lobby and the white phones located in the Central Concourse are available for use.

## TSA Help Line

TSA has a “TSA Help Line” (<http://www.tsa.gov/travel/passenger-support>) to assist travelers planning to fly on any airline in the United States. TSA Cares is a help line to assist travelers with disabilities and medical conditions. TSA recommends that passengers call **72 hours ahead** of travel for information about what to expect during screening. Travelers may call TSA Cares toll free at **1-855-787-2227** prior to traveling with questions about screening policies, procedures and what to expect at the security checkpoint. TSA Cares will serve as an additional, dedicated resource specifically for passengers with disabilities, medical conditions or other circumstances or their loved ones who want to prepare for the screening process prior to flying.

Travelers may also request a Passenger Support Specialist ahead of time by calling the TSA Cares hotline at **1-855-787-2227**. The hours of operation for the TSA Cares Help Line are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 11 p.m. ET and weekends and holidays 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET. Travelers who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to contact TSA Cares or can e-mail [TSA-ContactCenter@tsa.dhs.gov](mailto:TSA-ContactCenter@tsa.dhs.gov). When a passenger with a disability or medical condition calls TSA Cares, a representative will provide assistance, either with information about screening that is relevant to the passenger's specific disability or medical condition, or the passenger may be referred to disability experts at TSA.

## GETTING TO YOUR HOTEL

Houston is notorious for traffic. Expected high traffic times in Houston are between 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., as well as 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. There may also be slight traffic during lunch in downtown Houston. You may also expect traffic build-up at other random times and around road construction.

Multiple options for ground transportation are available at both Houston airports.

### ***Taxis***

Taxis can be hailed through the Ground Transportation employees outside **Houston Intercontinental Airport** at each terminal on the lower level (outside of baggage claim). The flat rate to the conference hotel is \$53.50 for day fare (\$54.50 for night fare), and all taxis accept credit cards. Senior citizens receive a 10% discount. For a list of common destinations and flat rates from Houston Intercontinental Airport, please refer the following table at <http://www.fly2houston.com/iah-ground-transportation>.

Taxis can be hailed through the Ground Transportation employees outside of **Houston Hobby Airport** at Curb Zone 3 outside of baggage claim on the lower level. The flat rate to the conference hotel is \$26.50 for day fare (\$27.50 for night fare), and all taxis accept credit cards. Senior citizens receive a 10% discount. For a list of common destinations and flat rates from Houston Hobby, please refer the following table at <http://www.fly2houston.com/hou-ground-transportation>.

### ***SuperShuttle***

SuperShuttle offers vans with wheelchair lifts and provides service from both airports to the surrounding communities via shared vans and car services. SuperShuttle can be booked for a fixed fee in advance or on-site, and the cost is generally lower than taking a taxi to or from the airport. SuperShuttle desks are located in baggage claims at Houston Intercontinental Airport (IAH) and in the baggage claim area at Houston Hobby Airport (HOU). For more information or to book reservations, call 713-523-8888 or visit [www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com).

## **George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) to Downtown (Hilton Americas)**

*Shared Ride Service*

*Exclusive Van / Sedan / SUV Service*

First passenger: \$23  
 Each additional passenger: \$23  
 Max passengers: 10

First passenger: \$70 (starting at)  
 Each additional passenger: \$0  
 Max passengers: 3 (starting at)

### **William P. Hobby Houston Airport (HOU) to Downtown (Hilton Americas)**

#### *Shared Ride Service*

First passenger: \$19  
 Each additional passenger: \$19  
 Max passengers: 10

#### *Exclusive Van / Sedan / SUV Service*

First passenger: \$70 (starting at)  
 Each additional passenger: \$0  
 Max passengers: 3 (starting at)

### ***Car Rentals***

With advanced notice, most rental car companies will provide rental cars equipped with hand controls.

#### **Houston Intercontinental Airport**

Rental cars are available at the Houston Intercontinental Consolidated Rental Car Facility. The facility is about a five-minute drive via complimentary maroon and white shuttles marked "Rental Car Shuttle" found outside all baggage claim areas. More information about this facility can be found at <http://www.fly2houston.com/iahconsolidated>.

For a complete list of car companies available at Houston Intercontinental Airport, refer to the following webpage: <http://www.fly2houston.com/iah-rental-cars>.

#### **Houston Hobby Airport**

Rental car booths are located at the Houston Hobby Airport baggage claim. All car pick-ups are off campus via company-specific complimentary shuttles. For a complete list of car companies available at Houston Hobby Airport, refer to the following webpage: <http://www.fly2houston.com/hou-rental-cars>.

#### *Wheeler Van Rentals*

Wheeler's Van Rental offers accessible van rentals with pick-up at both Houston airports.

- Phone: 800-456-1271
- Web: <http://wheelersvanrentals.com/US/texas-wheelchair-van-rentals/>

### ***Public Transportation***

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas, or METRO, offers bus service at both airports. For more specific accessibility information about the METRO bus and rail system, please visit METRO's Accessibility page at <http://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/Accessibility.aspx>.

The METROLift is a complimentary, shared-ride service offered by the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County in accordance with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). “METROLift provides transportation for persons with disabilities who cannot board, ride or disembark from a METRO fixed-route bus, even if that bus is equipped with a wheelchair lift or ramp.” For more information on the METROLift, including different formats from the webpage and information on who is eligible for this service, please go to <http://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/METROLift.aspx>.

The Houston METRORail has no connections to either Houston airport. For specific information about connection points and schedules, please refer to the Houston METRO website: <http://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/SchedulesBusRail.aspx>.

### **Houston Intercontinental Airport**

The METRO service is available at the south side of Terminal C. The 102 Bush IAH Express stops at the downtown METRO station. For more specific travel information, please refer to the Houston METRO website: <http://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/SchedulesBusRail.aspx>.

### **Houston Hobby Airport**

The METRO service is available on the lower level outside of Baggage Claim at Curbzone 13. For more specific travel information, please refer to the Houston METRO website: <http://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/SchedulesBusRail.aspx>.

### ***Courtesy Vans***

Courtesy vans are operated by various hotels and motels in and around the Houston Area. There are courtesy telephones in the baggage claim areas to request pick-up for hotels and motels. However, the Hilton Americas (conference hotel) does not offer service with either airport.

## **HOTELS**

### **Conference Hotel: Hilton Americas - Houston**

1600 Lamar St, Houston, TX 77010  
(713) 739-8000

<http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/texas/hilton-americas-houston-HOUCVHH/index.html>

It is approximately 21 miles from Houston Intercontinental Airport (IAH) to the Hilton Americas and Conference Center, the George R. Brown Convention Center, and surrounding downtown hotels. Without traffic, it is a 30-minute drive. During high traffic times (expected or unexpected), you can expect a one-hour drive.

It is approximately 11 miles from Houston Hobby Airport (HOU) to downtown Houston, including the Hilton Americas, the George R. Brown Convention Center, and surrounding downtown

hotels. Without traffic, it is a 20-minute drive. During high traffic times (expected or unexpected), you can expect a one-hour drive.

Much of the conference will occur in the Hilton Americas and Conference Center, with the opening session, some panels, and selected activities taking place at the George R. Brown Convention Center. The Convention Center has direct access from the Hilton Americas by skywalk on both the second and third floors, as well as by street on the ground level. The current ground-level construction between the Convention Center and the Hilton Americas is expected to be completed by the spring. For this reason and as much as possible, we have placed hotel stay information within this Hotels section and conference specific information within the Conference section with some overlap.

### **Overall Accessibility**

The Hilton Americas is ADA compliant, including braille, visual signage compliancy, and TTY for guest use. There are accessible routes to meeting rooms, guest rooms, and hotel amenities such as restaurants, pool, and fitness center. The temperature differential between inside and outside is likely to be large in early April, when average temperature highs in Houston are in the high 70s and low 80s. High humidity and rain is possible.

Service animals are welcome. Discovery Green, a local private-city collaboration, is a park directly across the street from the hotel that has grass, as well as dog runs available.

During Emergency Procedures, hotel security is notified of accessible room occupancy in case of emergency.

### **Drop-Off, Pickup, and Building Access**

The Hilton Americas does not offer a hotel-specific shuttle from either airport. The Hilton offers both self-service and valet parking. Van-accessible parking is available in the Hilton self-parking facility across the street. The self-service parking garage is across the street but connected to the hotel by a skywalk on the second floor, as well as a street-level crosswalk directly between the hotel and garage.

You can drop off your luggage in the front of the hotel for the valet to watch before self-parking. Self-parking in the Hilton garage is \$22 a night, and valet parking is \$34 a night. Parking across the street at Discovery Green Park is available for short amounts of time by meter.

There are two main ground-level entrances to the Hilton Americas. The first and front entrance is on Lamar Street. It has one, large slowly revolving door and two hinged doors on either side. Both are accessible through ramps and without steps.

The second and side entrance is on the Avenida de Las Americas. This is the entrance closest to the parking facility on the ground level. This entrance is close to the corner crosswalks both for the parking facility and the Convention Center.



## Common Areas

The lobby and first floor of the hotel is largely tiled and without carpet. These areas can be slippery when wet. During high traffic times (such as the conference), the lobby can be loud and feel crowded.

Most of the hotel is carpeted. Carpets are firm, a bit spongy, and not too deep of a pile. Guest rooms are all carpeted. Patterns vary.



[ALT TEXT: This image shows the swirling-wave pattern through most of the hotel hallways and conference hallways.]

**Wi-fi** access is available for free in all common areas.

Family, companion, and gender-neutral **restrooms**, are available on each floor of the Hilton Americas as part of the block of restrooms toward the end of each open area farthest away from the Convention Center.

The **hotel spa**, **exercise facilities**, and **pool** have accessible entrances. The spa's massage rooms are narrow. The exercise room includes both cardio machines and strength-training equipment. The indoor pool facility includes a heated lap pool, a whirlpool, a sauna or steam room, and a self-operated lift.

The Hilton Americas has several **restaurants** and **bars**, including one upscale casual restaurant (1600 Bar and Grille) and one casual restaurant (Pappasito's Cantina). Both offer vegetarian and gluten-free options. 1600 Bar and Grille also offers a vegan menu. Along with

the full-service restaurants, the hotel also offers room service, a lobby bar, and a newly opened Starbucks.

### **Room Accessibility**

The Hilton Americas has 32 accessible rooms: 14 with king-sized beds (1 at the executive level) and 18 with queen-sized beds (4 at the executive level). Twelve of the queen rooms have a roll-in shower. The counters and drawers are lowered in the main room. Each of these rooms is equipped with visual and/or tactile alerting devices. These rooms have separate strobe lights to indicate telephone calls and emergencies. The phone light is above the bed's headboard or the night stands, and the emergency strobe light is above the desk and mirror in the main portion of the room.

The Hilton Americas does not have any allergy-free floors. However, a request for allergy-free materials, as well as scent-free cleaning product use can be requested upon booking, and you should confirm the follow-through of your request the day before arrival.

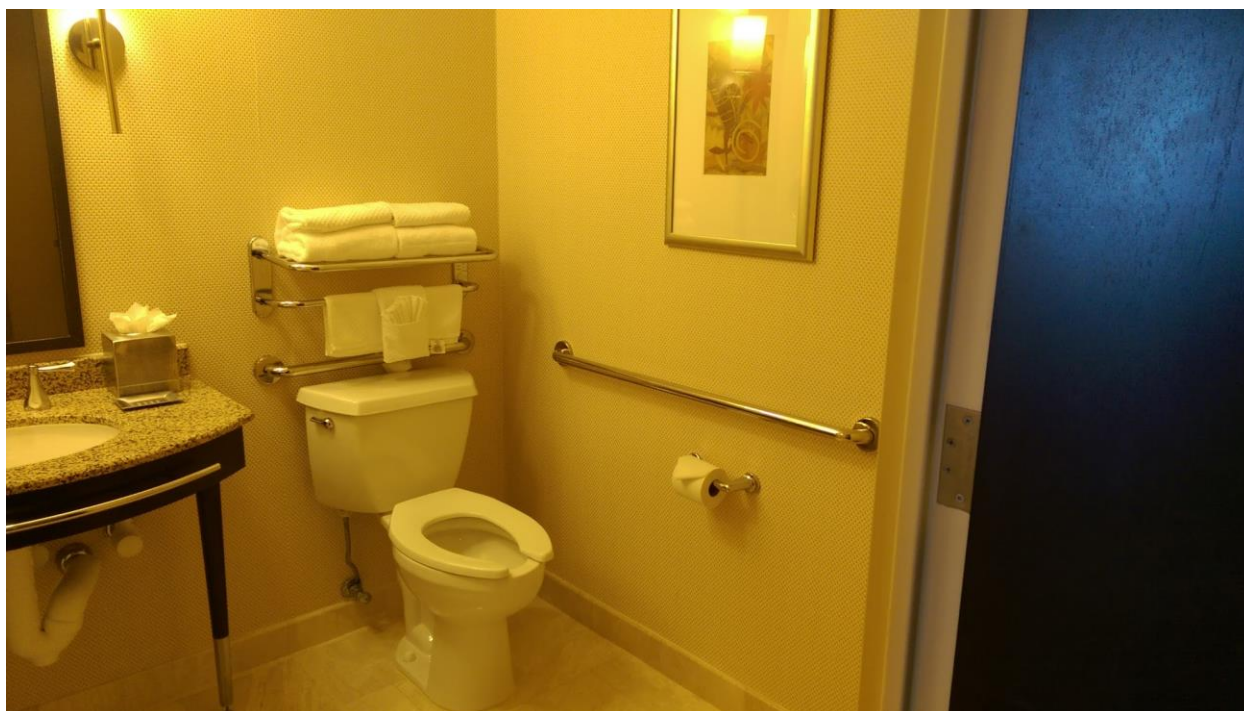
Most of the rooms have their own mini fridge, but you should confirm this upon booking and upon arrival. If you need a fan or microwave, the hotel has a limited number available upon request. The earlier you request these amenities, the better.

There are no washers and dryers available to guests. All laundry must go through the hotel's laundry service.



[ALT TEXT: This image shows a main bedroom area with a single queen-sized bed with a low bench at the foot of the bed. Two end tables with covered lamps sit on either side of the head of the bed. There is a cushioned chair in the corner of the far wall with a side table and lamp against the same wall. The carpet is a gray repeating “T” pattern.]





[ALT TEXT: This image shows a tile-floored bathroom in an accessible room with a toilet against the back wall and a handrail on the right. The towel rack is behind and directly above the toilet. The sink and mirror is on the left side and also has a handrail on the front of the sink fixture.]

For more views of different hotel rooms, please visit the [main hotel web page](#).

## SECOND CONFERENCE HOTEL:

### Embassy Suites Houston-Downtown

1515 Dallas Street, [Houston, TX 77010](#)

713-739-9100

0.1 mile, 2 minute walk (consistently "flat" terrain, according to google maps) to Hilton Americas Conference Hotel:

- Head southeast on Dallas St toward Crawford St
- Turn right: Hilton Americas will be on the left

## THIRD CONFERENCE HOTEL:

### Springhill Suites Houston Downtown/Convention Center

914 Dallas Street, Houston, TX 77002

888-236-2427

0.5 mile, 9 minute walk (consistently "flat" terrain, according to google maps) to Hilton Americas Conference Hotel:

- Head southeast on Dallas St toward Main St.
- Turn right onto Dallas St. (.5 mi)
- Turn right: Hilton Americas will be on the left

#### **FOURTH CONFERENCE HOTEL:**

##### **Holiday Inn Houston Downtown**

1616 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002

877-410-6681

0.7 miles, 14 minute walk (consistently "flat" terrain, according to google maps) to Hilton Americas Conference Hotel:

- Head northeast on Main St toward Leeland St (0.3 mi)
- Turn right onto Dallas St (0.4 mi)
- Turn right Hilton Americas will be on the left (7 ft)

#### **OTHER DOWNTOWN HOTELS**

##### **Four Seasons Hotel Houston**

1300 Lamar Street, [Houston, TX 77010-3017](#)

713-650-1300

0.3 miles, 5 minute walk (consistently "flat" terrain, according to google maps) to Hilton Americas Conference Hotel:

- Head southeast on Lamar St toward Austin St (0.2 mi)
- Turn right onto Crawford St (174 ft)
- Turn left onto Dallas St (335 ft)
- Turn right: Hilton Americas will be on the left (7 ft)

You can also take the 412 bus from Austin St @ Lamar St (1 min walk). Comes every 7 minutes. Take 412 towards Greenlink/Brown Convention Center. Ride 2 stops, and get off at Avenida De Las Americas @ Dallas St (Stop ID: 11185). Walk 2 minutes to hotel. Approximately a 2 minute bus ride.

##### **Holiday Inn Express & Suites**

1810 Bell Street, Houston, TX 77003

877-410-6681

0.3 miles, 6 minute walk (consistently "flat" terrain, according to google maps) to Hilton Americas Conference Hotel:

- Head northwest on Bell St toward Chenevert St (240 ft)
- Turn right onto Chenevert St (0.1 mi)
- Turn left onto Polk St (89 ft)
- Turn right onto Avenida De Las Americas (312 ft)
- Turn left onto Dallas St (246 ft)

- Turn left: Hilton Americas will be on the left

### **The Westin Downtown Houston**

1520 Texas Avenue, Houston, TX 77002

713-228-1520

0.5 miles, 9 minute walk (Consistently "flat" terrain, according to google maps) to Hilton Americas Conference Hotel:

- Head southeast on Texas St toward Crawford St (102 ft)
- Turn right onto Crawford St (0.2 mi)
- Continue onto White Promenade (0.1 mi)
- Continue onto Crawford St (174 ft)
- Turn left onto Dallas St (335 ft)
- Turn right: Hilton Americas will be on the left (7 ft)

### **JW Marriott Houston Downtown**

806 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002

713-237-1111

0.7 miles, 13 minute walk (consistently "flat" terrain, according to google maps) to Hilton Americas Conference Hotel:

- Head southwest on Main St toward Walker St (246 ft)
- Turn left onto Walker St (0.3 mi)
- Turn right onto Austin St (0.2 mi)
- Turn left onto Dallas St (0.2 mi)
- Turn right: Hilton Americas will be on the left (7 ft)

You also take the 040/041 bus from McKinney St @ Main St ("Towards Eastwood TC"). 4 minute walk from hotel. Bus comes every 15 minutes. 6 minute bus ride. Stop is Dallas St @ Crawford St.

### **DoubleTree Suites**

400 Dallas Street, Houston, TX 77002

713-759-0202

0.8 miles, 15 minute walk (consistently "flat" terrain, according to google maps) to Hilton Americas Conference Hotel:

- Head southeast on Dallas St toward Brazos St (0.8 mi)
- Turn right, Hilton Americas will be on the left (7 ft)

You can also take the 040 bus at Bagby @ Lamar st (1 min walk). Comes every 5 minutes. Get off at Dallas St @ Crawford St (Stop ID: 683). 1 min walk to the hotel.

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Many of the conference panels, as well as the Access Table, Registration, Taking Action Workshops, the Exhibit Hall, the Local Committee Table, and poster sessions, will be housed in the Hilton Americas and Conference Center. The George R. Brown Convention Center will host the opening session, some panels, and many activities, including Digital Pedagogy Posters, the Action Hub, and Action@the George.

The Convention Center has direct access from the Hilton Americas by skywalk on both the second and third floors. The third-floor skywalk will have whiteboards and other spaces for attendees to contribute ideas and feedback. While these skywalks are wide, the second-floor skywalk will allow the most movement of the two skywalks.

The current ground-level construction between the Convention Center and the Hilton Americas is expected to be completed by the spring, but in case it is not, the skywalks are highly recommended.

### Technology

Your requested technology devices (including projector and Internet access) should be available in your presentation room. You should provide your own dongles and other connection devices. Local Technology Committee members should be available for last-minute help should you encounter problems.

Many but not all rooms will have microphones. Presenters are encouraged to use the microphone even if you feel it is not needed.

## Hilton Americas and Conference Center

1600 Lamar St, Houston, TX 77010  
(713) 739-8000

### Overall Accessibility

The Hilton Americas Conference Center is ADA compliant, including braille and visual signage compliant. Braille signage in the Conference Center areas are on the inside frame of the elevators and usually on the glass number signs outside of each doorway. Volunteers at the Access Table are also available for assistance in finding areas, places, and rooms throughout the conference.

The Hilton Americas Conference Center utilizes Texas Relay Service (1-800-955-8771) to meet the needs of all TTY users. The indoor temperature is typically held at 72 - 73 degrees; this may be different from outdoor temperature. All Hilton Americas Conference events and activities will take place on floors 2 - 4.



Service animals are welcome. Discovery Green, a local private-city collaboration, is a park directly across the street from the hotel that has grass, as well as dog runs available.

### **Building Access and Parking**

There are two main ground-level **entrances** to the Hilton Americas. The first and front entrance is on Lamar Street. It has one, large slowly revolving door and two hinged doors on either side. The second and side entrance is on the Avenida de Las Americas. This is the entrance closest to the parking facility on the ground level. This entrance is close to the corner crosswalks both for the parking facility and the Convention Center. For images, please see pictures in above Hotels section.

The Hilton Americas Conference Center offers both self-service and valet **parking**. Van-accessible parking is available in the Hilton self-parking facility across the street. The self-service parking garage is across the street but connected to the hotel by a skywalk on the second floor, which leads directly to the conference area on the second floor. There is also a street-level crosswalk directly between the hotel and garage.

Parking across the street at Discovery Green is metered and temporary. For more parking options throughout the downtown area, please refer to the “Out and About” section later in this document. Typically, outdoor parking areas are less expensive, but keep in mind that not all parking areas (outside or inside) allow for overnight parking.

### **Common Areas**

Wi-fi access is available for free in all common areas.

Carpets throughout the Hilton Americas Conference Center are firm, a bit spongy, and not too deep of a pile. Patterns vary, with some prints more busy than others.



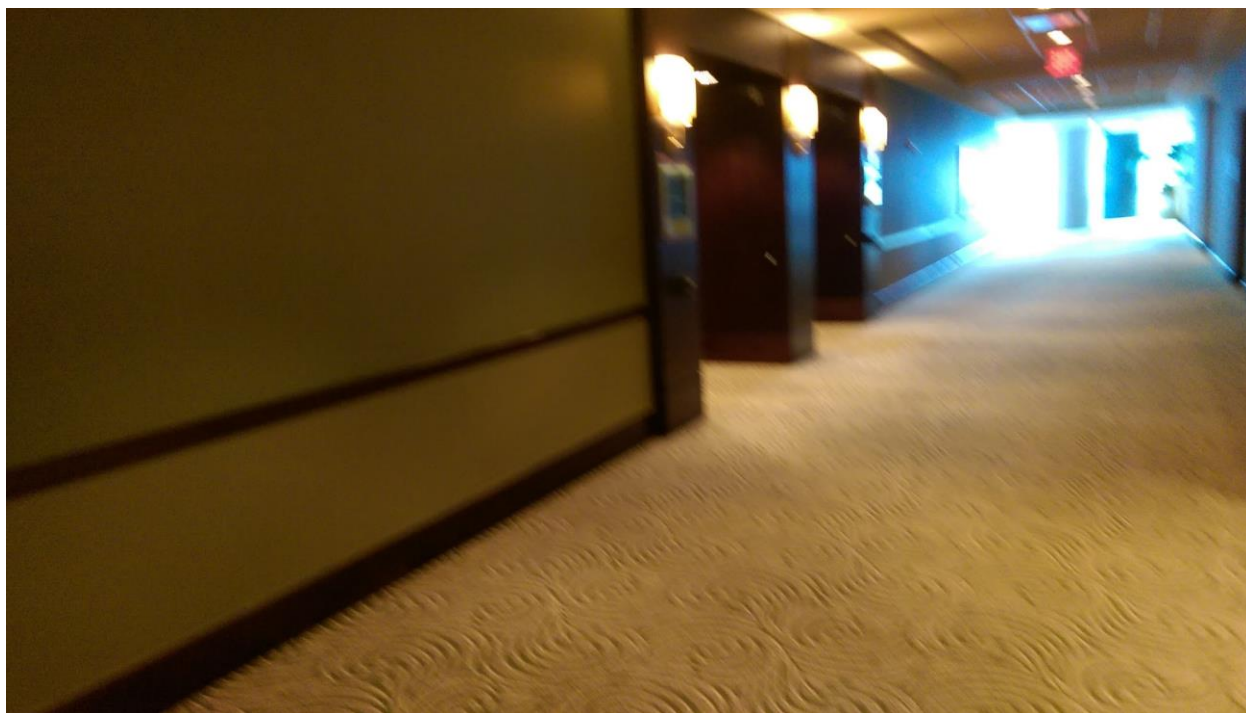
[ALT TEXT: This image shows a close-up of carpeting in many of the Hilton Americas Conference Center rooms. It is a pattern of large leaves in red, green, and gold. The outlines and veins of the leaves are curves and wiggly lines.]

The large, open thoroughfares on the second, third, and fourth floors look like the picture below. All of three of these floors connected by escalator, stairs, and elevators. These areas on the second and third floors connect to the skywalks for access to the George R. Brown Convention Center. This area in the fourth floor will hold Registration, poster entries, the Access Table, and the Local Committee Table. NCTE/CCCC plan to create charging stations on the second floor of the Hilton Americas Conference Center in the open area between the conference rooms and the large window facing Discovery Green.



[ALT TEXT: This image shows the main open areas on the second, third, and fourth floors of the Hilton Americas Conference Center. The main thoroughfare is tall and wide with recessed lighting, as well as natural light from the floor to ceiling windows in the left of the image. Dark wooden beams lean slightly forward over the walkway, held up by white horizontal beams. There are large potted palm plants next to the windows. The carpet down the center of this area consists of large brightly colored circular patterns with differing patterns inside each circular shape. The carpeted area on the right in this picture and under the lowered portion of the ceiling is green with swirling patterns with closer view available below. This image directs your focus to the escalators at the end of the hallway and on the second and third floors.]





[ALT TEXT: This image shows a hallway veering off the main thoroughfare. These halls have lowered lighting on sconces hung on door frames. There are beige walls with dark wood accents, and green and white swirl-patterned carpeting.]



[ALT TEXT: This is a close-up of green and white swirl pattern in the hallways and the sides of the main thoroughfares as seen two images above this one.]

Family, companion, and gender-neutral **restrooms**, are available on each floor of the Hilton Americas as part of the block of restrooms toward the end of each open area farthest away from the Convention Center.

### Conference Rooms

Conference rooms consist of several types of rooms: four hard-wall rooms, rooms split by thick partitions that may allow some noise from the next room, and either full or partial ballrooms partitioned with moveable walls.

The **Quiet Room** will be located in the Hilton Room 230. Quiet rooms are intended to provide a quiet, calm space where convention attendees can spend time away from the noise, lights, and other stimuli of conference spaces. The curtains can be closed. The quiet room is not available for conversations or meetings.

The room below is currently configured for a small conference meeting; NCTE is expected to change the configuration of the room to lend for more comfort, including small round tables, chairs, and two to three bean bag chairs for added comfort.



[ALT TEXT: This image shows the same leaf-patterned carpets as seen in other images. Walls are dark wood paneling. There is a mix of recessed lighting, wall-mounted lamps, and natural lighting from the curtained window. These curtains can be closed. There is an oval table in the center, surrounded by moveable, red-cushioned chairs that swivel. A large mirror hangs over a storage cabinet against the wall on the left.]

Below are examples of conference rooms. Conference rooms may have round tables, rectangular tables, or rows of chairs. We have requested extra room between any tables and



around rows of chairs. We have also requested floor-level presentation tables. We will be participating in a pre-conference walk-through to verify these requests, as well as to verify accessibility ramps for all raised tables in larger conference rooms.

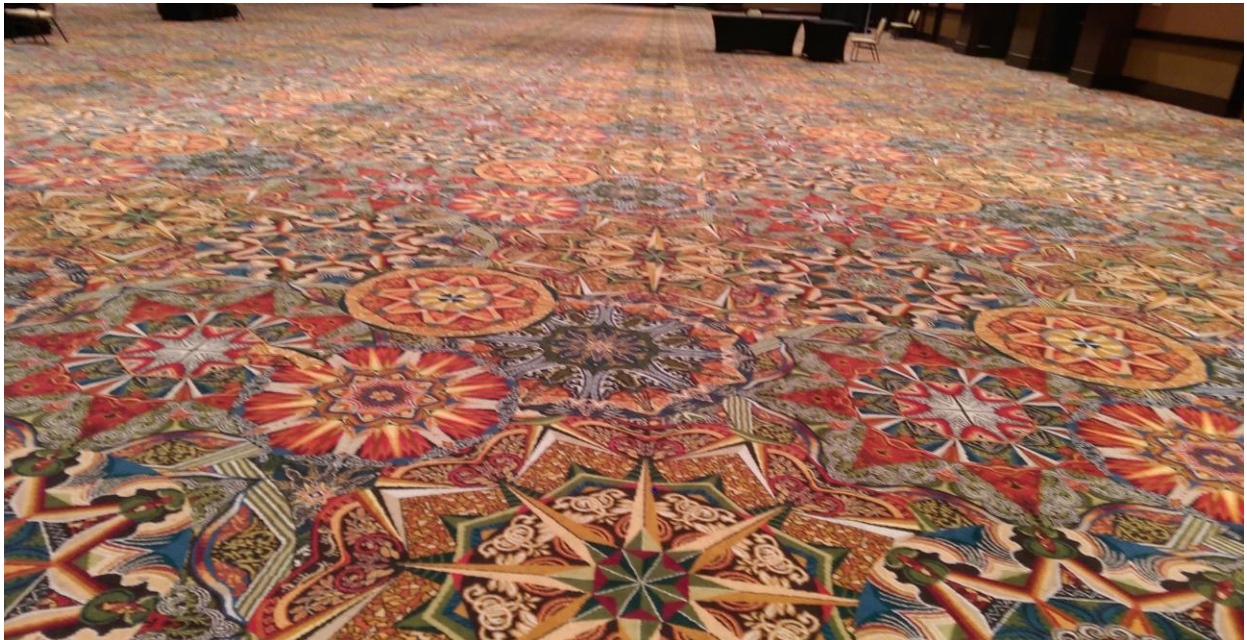


[ALT TEXT: The image is a room with recessed lighting and natural lighting from the window. There are curtains, which can be closed, over the windows. There are two long, covered, rectangular tables adjacent to each other in the middle of the room and beige papered walls. The middle of the carpet is the leaf pattern seen in the previous picture with a wide yellow-gold border with a print around the edges of the room.]





[ALT TEXT: The image shows a conference room with the same leaf-patterned, yellow-gold bordered carpet shown in previous photographs. Round tables with chairs around them sit around the room. There is recessed lighting in the ceilings and recessed lighting from a sculptured light fixture in the recessed ceiling.]



[ALT TEXT: This is a close-up image of the carpet of Lanier B Ballroom, part of the Main Exhibition Hall. It is a bright, multicolored pattern of ornately detailed circular and star-like patterns overlapping one another. It is complementary to the middle of the main thoroughfares.]

## **George R. Brown Convention Center**

1001 Avenida de las Americas

Houston, Texas 77010

<http://www.houstonconventionctr.com/>

The opening session, some panels, and the Taking Action sessions will be held in the Convention Center across the street from the Hilton Americas Hotel and Conference Center.

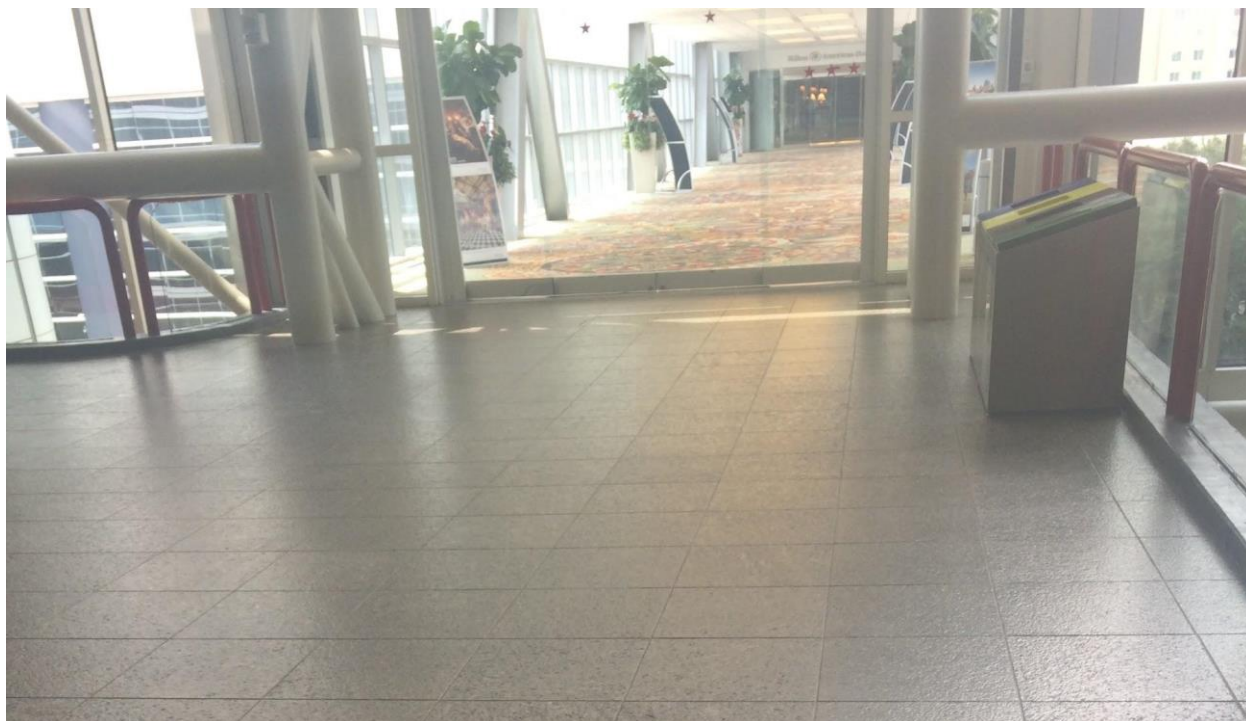
### **Overall Accessibility**

The George R. Brown Convention Center is ADA compliant, including braille and visual signage compliant. Volunteers at the Access Table (located on the fourth floor of the Hilton Americas Conference Center) are also available for assistance in finding areas, places, and rooms throughout the conference areas. The indoor temperature is typically held at 72 - 73 degrees; this may be different from outdoor temperature. All Convention Center events and activities will take place on floors 2 - 3.

Service animals are welcome. Discovery Green, a local private-city collaboration, is a park directly across the street from the Convention Center that has grass, as well as dog runs available.

### **Building Access and Parking**

There is a skywalk on both the second and third floors between the Hilton Americas and the Convention Center. It is approximately 0.2 miles from the farthest common area in the Hilton to the common area of the Convention Center.



[ALT TEXT: This image is of the Skywalk from the Convention Center to the Hilton Americas. The doors are automatic sliding doors on both ends. The floor leading into the entrance to the Skywalk is tile that may be slippery if wet. The inside floor of the Skywalk is carpeted, and the walls are made up of windows. Unseen and to the left of the Skywalk are two elevators.]

There are several ground-level entrances to the Convention Center. Most of these entrances are in the front of the building facing Discovery Green Park on the Avenida de Las Americas. There are several crosswalks between the parking facility and the Convention Center, the Hilton Americas and the Convention Center, and Discovery Green Park and the Convention Center.

The self-service Convention Center **parking** facility also serves as the Hilton Americas parking facility. Van-accessible parking is available. It is across the street but connected to the Convention Center by a skywalk on the second floor. There is also a street-level crosswalk directly between the Convention Center and the garage. The Hilton Americas Conference Center is directly across the street from the Convention Center and offers valet parking.

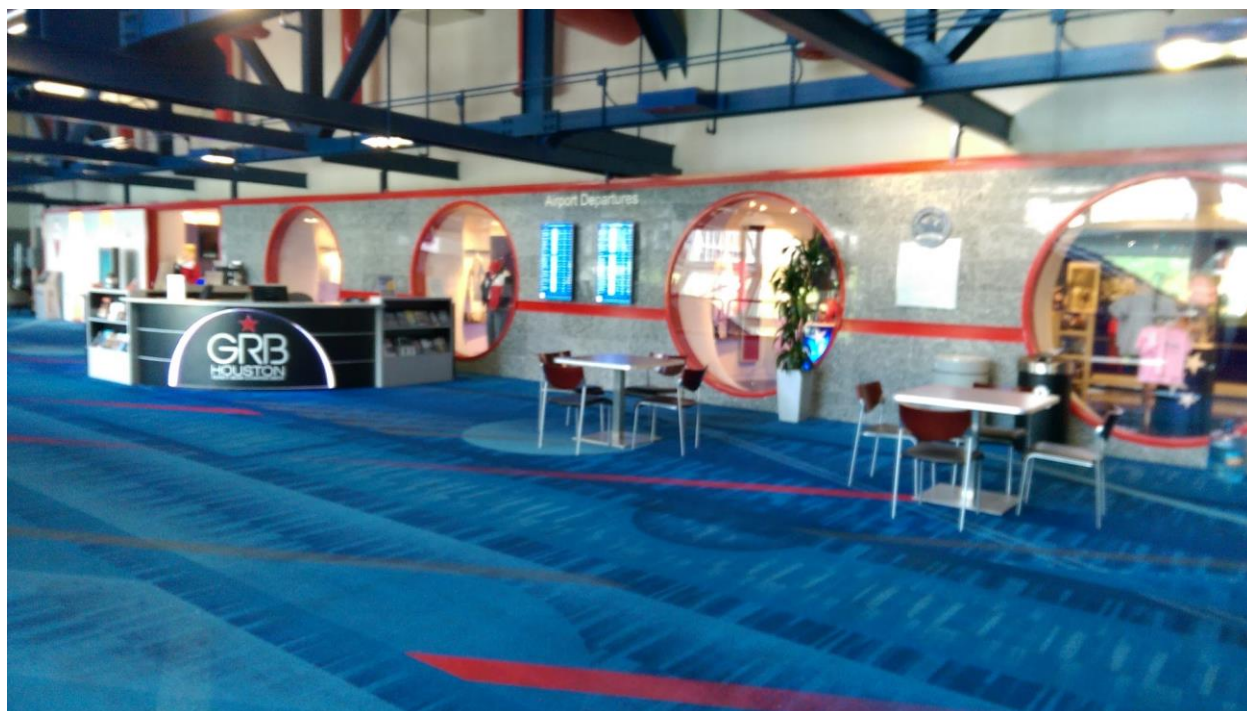
Parking across the street at Discovery Green is metered and temporary. For more parking options throughout the downtown area, please refer to the “Out and About” section later in this document. Typically, outdoor parking areas are less expensive, but keep in mind that not all parking areas (outside or inside) allow for overnight parking.

### **Common Areas**

The Convention Center has a red and blue theme running throughout, overhead fluorescent lighting, and high ceilings. Immediately after emerging, there are escalators to your left and elevators to your right.



Free WiFi is available in all public areas of the Convention Center.



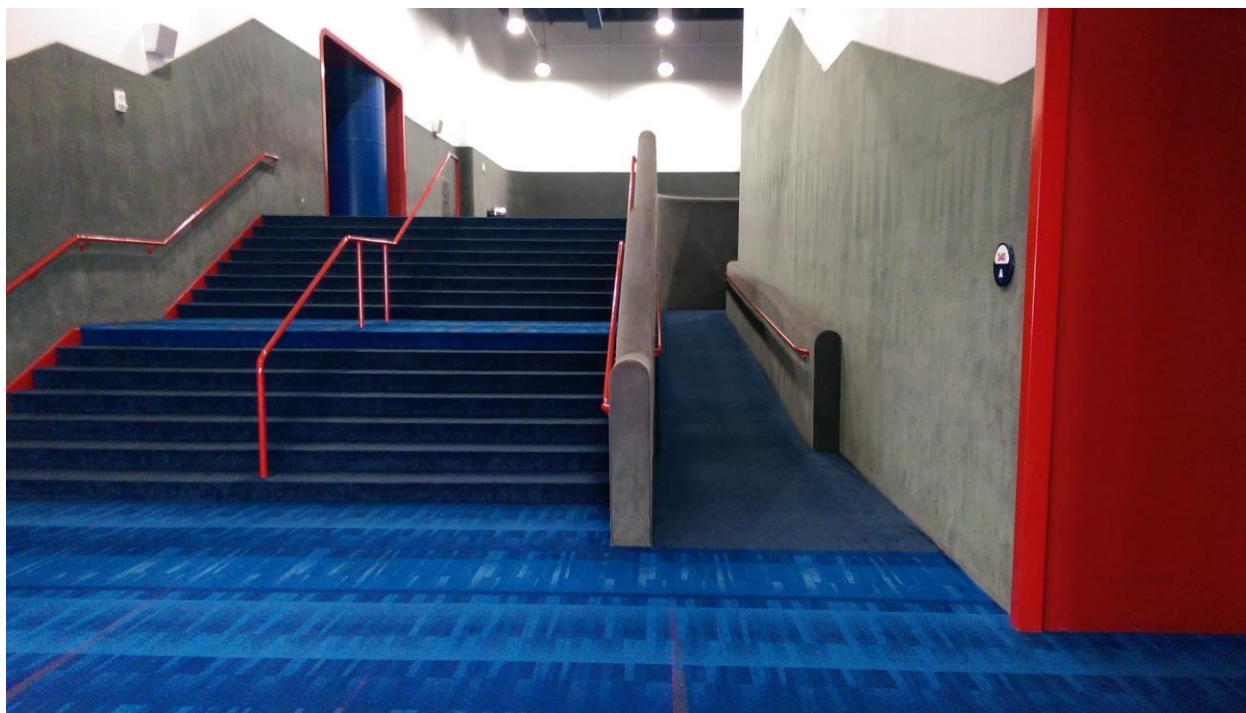
[ALT TEXT: This image shows the second floor after emerging from the skywalk connected to the Hilton Americas. There is predominately blue carpet with occasional lines of red and gold. Gray walls with red accents along circular windows and doors. Black circular help desk to the left of a seating area with “GRB Houston” on the front. Small cafe-style tables with moveable chairs are also set up along the back wall.]



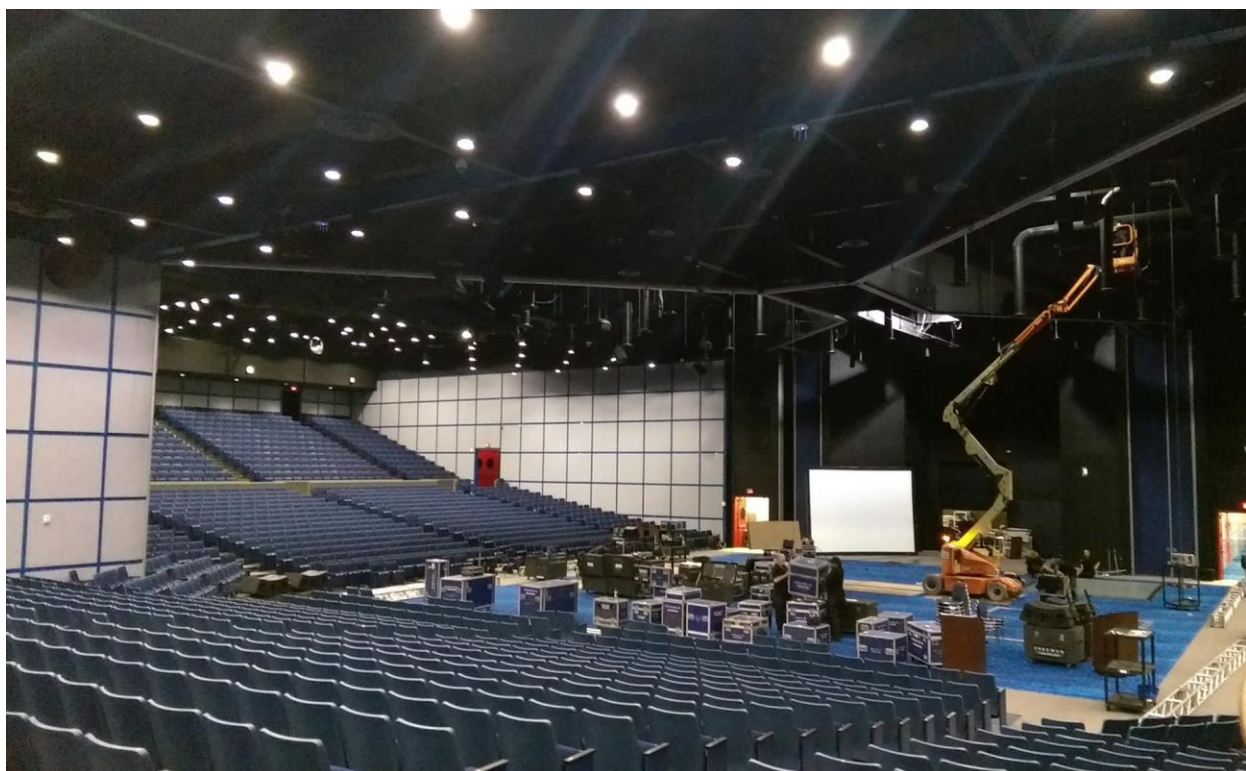
[ALT TEXT: This image is of the third floor lobby beside the escalator. The front wall of the Convention Center shown on the right of this pictures is made up of large windows overlooking Discovery Green Park. There is red railing and clear plexiglass between the balcony and the escalators, which are barely visible on the right side of this picture. Red non-moveable benches are along the railing and plexiglass . In the back of this image, elevators banks are visible and are next to the skywalk connecting both parts of the conference centers.]

### **Convention Center Amphitheater**

The CCCC Opening Session takes place in the George R. Brown Convention Center's Amphitheater. The seats in the theater are non-moveable, flip-down, and blue-materialled. The floor and stairs of the theater are beige carpets. The three pictures below show the entrance, room, and accessibility spaces for seating.

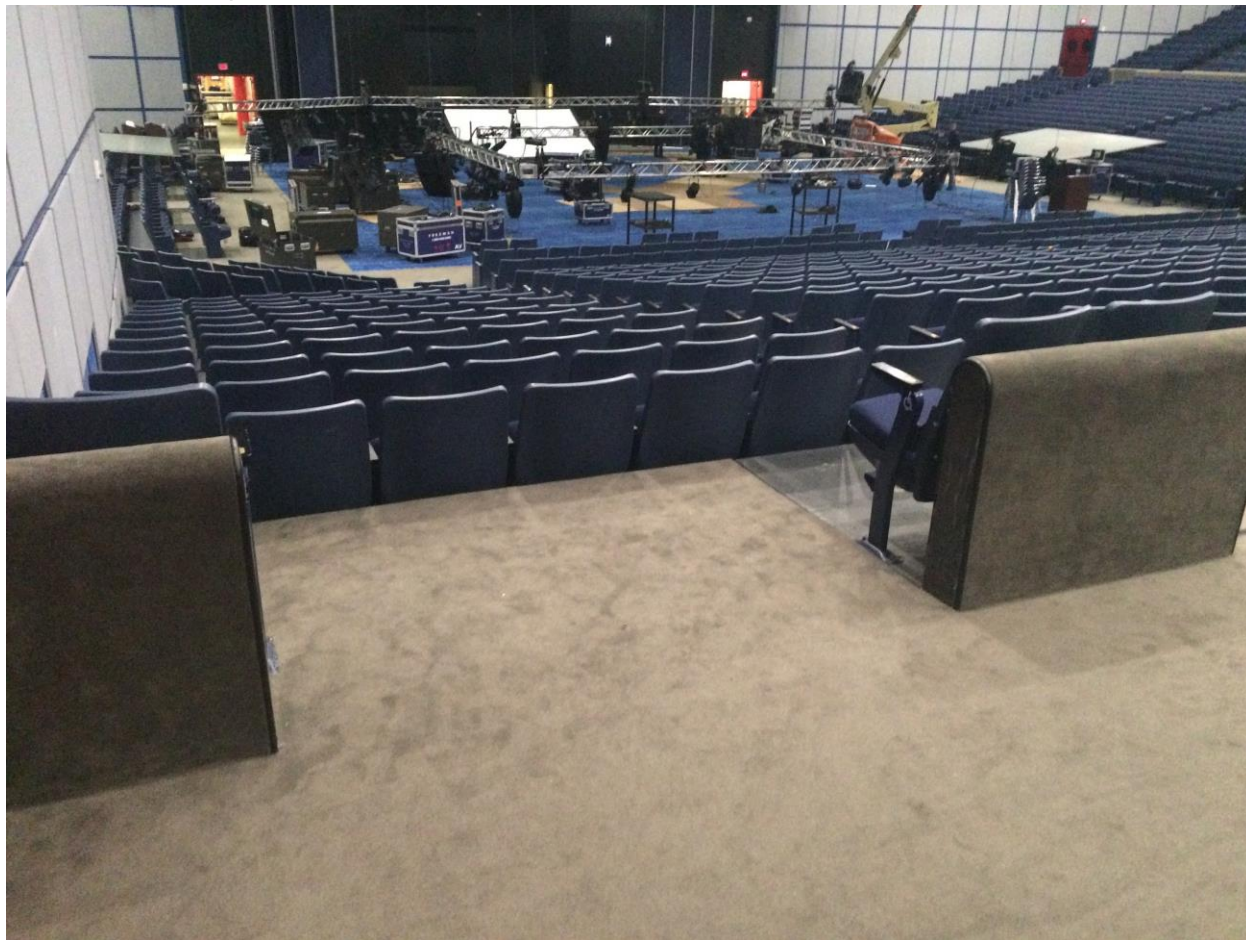


[ALT TEXT: This is image is of the third-floor entryway to a stadium-style theater. On the left side of the image is wide set of stairs with red handrails on the sides and middle. On the right, is a narrow ramp with red railing on both sides that winds around at a medium angle leading to the second level. Both the stairs and the ramp are carpeted. These ramps are ONLY accessible from the main hall next to the stairs.]





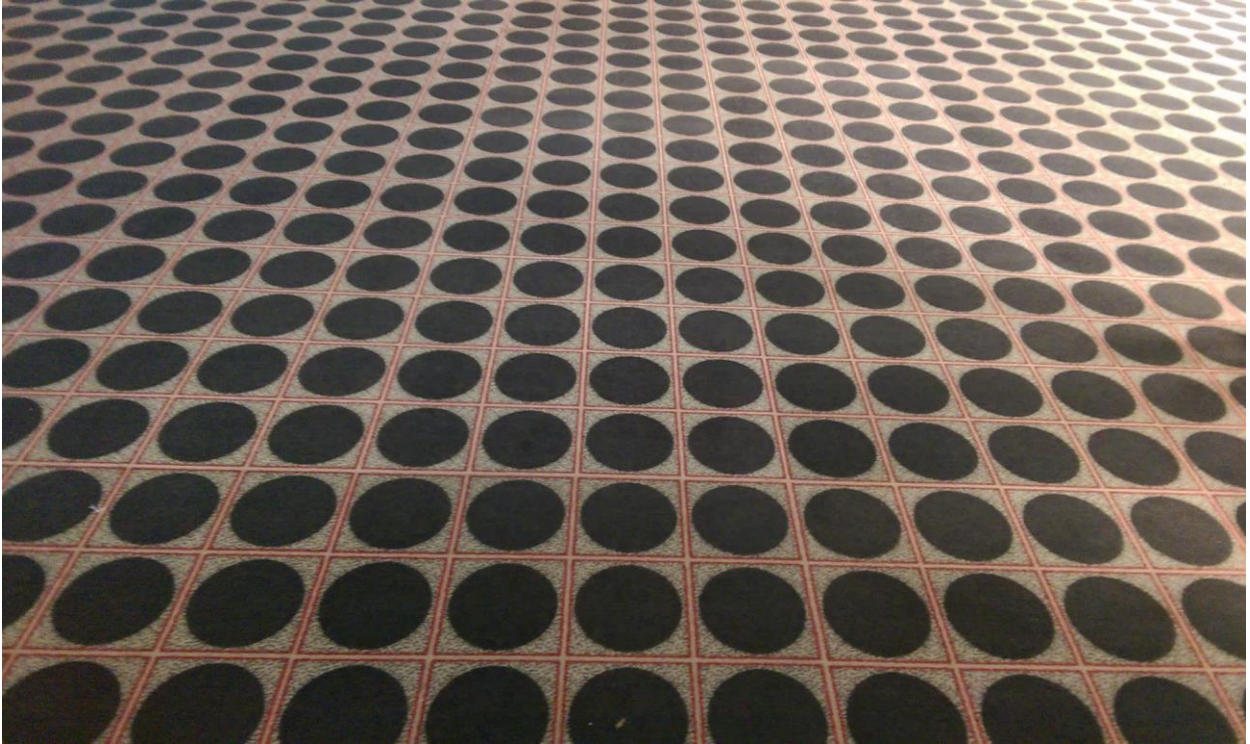
[ALT TEXT: This image is of a large amphitheater with blue stadium-like seating. The seating faces the stage, which is an open, flat area, at the bottom of the seating and steps where the CCCC opening session speakers will present. In this picture, there is a lot of construction equipment, including a mechanized lift, that will not be there during the conference. A large white and blue square motif on the walls.]



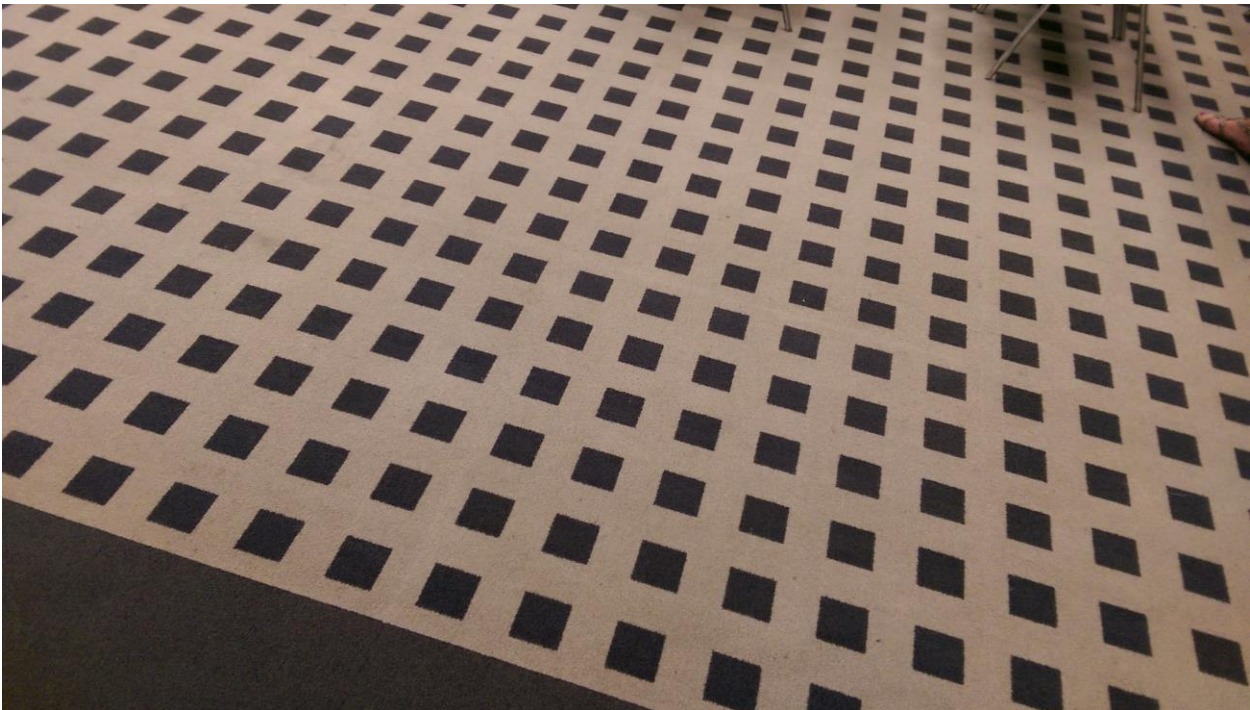
[ALT TEXT: This image is another view of the same theater. It shows the open spaces for accessible seating. The floor is beige carpet. There are three sections of these, all in the middle section of the theater].

### **Conference Rooms**

Most conference rooms in the Convention Center have beige walls; large, square, fluorescent lights inserted into the ceiling; and short carpets of various designs.



[ALT TEXT: This image shows the carpet in Room 340. The carpet is a repeating motif of grey circles inside of beige squares outlined in double red lines.]



[ALT TEXT: This is an image of the carpet in Room 341. The carpet has a pattern of repeated black squares on a beige background, with a border of black around the edge of the room.]



## OUT AND ABOUT IN HOUSTON

### Parking and Transportation

Parking in downtown Houston can be frustrating and expensive. While the city describes most of downtown as “walkable,” this may not be an option for all conference-goers, and construction sometimes obstructs the travelability of the area. The city of Houston is spread out but also hosts a variety of attractions, ventures, and food outside of the downtown area. There are multiple options for transportation, including taxis, bus systems, and a light rail system.

### Parking

There are metered parking spaces, paid lots, and parking garages (including a garage attached by a skywalk to both the Hilton Americas and the Convention Center). Most parking meters use meters that can take bills and debit/credit cards.

- A map of paid lots for downtown Houston can be found at [http://downtownhouston.org/site\\_media/uploads/attachments/2014-09-29/140915\\_Downtown\\_Rates\\_and\\_Map.pdf](http://downtownhouston.org/site_media/uploads/attachments/2014-09-29/140915_Downtown_Rates_and_Map.pdf)
- Nearby, there is parking in the Theatre District: [http://downtownhouston.org/site\\_media/uploads/attachments/2010-04-22/tdparkingmap.pdf](http://downtownhouston.org/site_media/uploads/attachments/2010-04-22/tdparkingmap.pdf)

### Greenlink Downtown

Greenlink is a **free** and ADA-compliant downtown bus route that runs Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. - 6:30p.m. Buses run a span of 2.5 miles and connect to the major METRO bus system.

- Greenlink Map: [http://www.downtownhouston.org/site\\_media/uploads/attachments/2012-05-01/Greenlink\\_Map\\_Stops.jpg](http://www.downtownhouston.org/site_media/uploads/attachments/2012-05-01/Greenlink_Map_Stops.jpg)
- HopStop Transit Scheduler: [https://houston.hopstop.com/schedules\\_search?id=ksiNqovofL](https://houston.hopstop.com/schedules_search?id=ksiNqovofL)

### METROLift

The METROLift is a curb-to-curb “complementary paratransit service offered by the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County in accordance with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). METROLift provides transportation for persons with disabilities who cannot board, ride or disembark from a METRO fixed-route bus, even if that bus is equipped with a wheelchair lift or ramp.” For more information on the METROLift, including different formats from the webpage and information on who is eligible for this service, please go to <http://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/METROLift.aspx>. You can also call 713-652-8016 to get in contact with a Travel Trainer who will assist you.

## METRO Bus System

Houston METRO's bus service runs along city streets and into surrounding areas and suburbs. Local buses make stops at nearly every other corner along the designated route. Cost is \$1.25 one way. Please find the bus route at <http://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/Bus.aspx>.

## METRORail

METRO's light-rail network features 23 miles of fast and efficient light-rail service to some of the region's most popular destinations:

[Red Line](#) (North Line) - Travels from NRG Park to the Texas Medical Center, Museum District, Downtown, Northline and numerous stops in between.

[Green Line](#) (East End Line) - Travels along Harrisburg from the Magnolia Transit Center through the Historic East End to a variety of downtown and entertainment and business destinations.

[Purple Line](#) (Southeast) - Travels from downtown along Capitol and Rusk to popular destinations such as Texas Southern University and the University of Houston. Cost to ride is \$1.25 each way.

Please find routes at <http://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/Rail.aspx>.

## Scooter and Wheelchair Rental

- Scootaround (888-441-7575): Nationwide scooter rental company, serving the country's top metropolitan areas, including Houston, TX. Find more information at <http://www.scootaround.com/>.
- Special Needs at Sea (800-513-4515): leading global provider of wheelchair, scooter, oxygen and other special needs equipment rentals. A one-week advance notice is required, and there are a variety of rental options available with various pricing. Online orders are available at <http://www.specialneedsatsea.com/>.
- CareVacations (877-478-7827): Wheelchair Rentals, Power Mobility Scooters, and more available. Pricing subject to rental item, city of use, and length of rental. Pick up and delivery included. Find more information at <https://www.carevacations.com/>.
- Accessible Vans of America (885-286-1248): Wheelchair accessible van rentals. 24-hour emergency roadside assistance included. Rental prices vary. Find more information at <http://accessiblevans-px.rtrk.com/wheelchair-vans-rental-houston-tx.php>

## Restaurants

The CCCC Hospitality Committee has gathered information on a number of restaurants and cafés available throughout Houston based on the city's major neighborhoods. You can find this information, which includes some dietary information, on the [4C hospitality website](http://4chouston.com/restaurants/) (<http://4chouston.com/restaurants/>).

The following are some restaurants and cafes near the conference area:

- 1600 Bar and Grille (Houston Americas)
- Houston Americas Lobby Bar

- Pappasito's Cantina (Houston Americas)
- Starbucks (Houston Americas)
- The Lake House (Discovery Green)
- The Grove (Discovery Green)
- Phoenicia Specialty Foods (restaurant and specialty groceries)
- The Shops at Houston Center (variety of affordable, fast-food, and sit-down options)
- Pappas Bros
- House of Blues
- Andalucia Tapas Restaurant and Bar
- McCormick and Schmick's Seafood
- Ill Forks Steakhouse
- Cafe Benne
- Mia Bella

There are many other restaurants within a one-mile radius of the conference hotel (many on Main Street or within a couple of blocks) both inside and outside of downtown and reachable by the METRORail.

You can find a list of vegan and vegetarian restaurants at the Happy Cow online guide: [http://www.happycow.net/north\\_america/usa/texas/houston/](http://www.happycow.net/north_america/usa/texas/houston/). The Houston Press has also published a list of Houston's best vegan-friendly options (although not all restaurants on this list are vegan only): <http://www.houstonpress.com/restaurants/rest-of-the-best-10-best-vegan-friendly-restaurants-in-houston-6434204>.

You can find gluten-free options at Houston Gluten Free Friendly Listings: (<http://www.findmeglutenfree.com/us/tx/houston>).

## Nearest Drugstores

**CVS** (.5 miles from Hilton Americas)

917 Main St.

Houston, TX 77002

713-982-5527

Open: M-F 8:30 am - 6:00 pm, closed Sat and Sun

**Walgreens at St. Joseph Medical Center** (.7 miles from Hilton Americas)

1315 St. Joseph Parkway, Suite 100

Houston, TX 77002

713-658-0022

Store Open: M-F 6:00 am - 9:00 pm, Sat 8:00 am - 5 pm, Sun 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Pharmacy Open: M-F 7:00 am - 6:00 pm, Sat 9:00 - 5:00 pm, closed Sun

## Activities

- **Discovery Green** (1500 McKinney St.): Small and lively park adjacent to George R. Brown Convention Center. Contains a small lake, walking paths, a playground, a dog run, water features, two restaurants, and various lawns and picnic areas. The free yoga and cardio classes held near the stage in the middle of the park should begin in March. For more information, please visit: <http://www.discoverygreen.com/>.
- **Downtown Tunnel System**: Underground tunnel system connecting much of downtown Houston; includes lunchtime eateries, small shops, and cafés (one entrance is a few blocks from George R. Brown Convention Center). During lunch (around 11:45 - 1:15), the tunnels can be very crowded and movement in some smaller hallways is very fast. There are some elevators, escalators, and ramps, but some areas may be blocked off due to construction. Click here for a tunnel map: [http://www.downtownhouston.org/site\\_media/uploads/attachments/2012-06-15/2012\\_Above\\_Below\\_Map.pdf](http://www.downtownhouston.org/site_media/uploads/attachments/2012-06-15/2012_Above_Below_Map.pdf).
- **Hermann Park** (6001 Fannin St.): A sprawling park with many things to do. Hermann is located at the south end of the Museum District and the north end of the Houston Medical Center. There you will find the Miller Outdoor Theatre, The Houston Zoo, a lake with pedal boats, places to play and golf, and a calming Japanese Garden. This park can be reached by taking the Purple Line METRORail near the Convention Center and changing to the Red Line. On the Red Line, get off at the Museum District Station, the Hermann Park / Rice University Station, or the Memorial Hermann Hospital / Houston Zoo Station. For more information on the park, please visit: <http://hermannpark.com/>.
- **Museum District**: holds a number of art and history museums, clustered closely together. Located within the same area as Hermann Park. Visit the site for current exhibitions and a map of the “walkable zones”: <http://houmuse.com/explore/>.
- **The Downtown Aquarium** (410 Bagby St, Houston, TX 77002): A fun location to visit for a warm day. The Aquarium holds over 200 species of aquatic life, five themed aquatic areas, and a habitat for white tigers. The Shark Voyage train ride allows visitors to view the shark tank from below. In addition, the Aquarium has several carnival rides, an outdoor sprinkler area, and a restaurant and bar. For more information, please visit: <http://www.aquariumrestaurants.com/downtownaquariumhouston/>.
- **Space Center Houston** (1601 Nasa Parkway, Houston, TX): One of Houston’s top attractions, the Space Center includes a huge number of space artifacts and a wide range of exhibits such as the NASA Tram Tour, Living In Space, and the Starship Gallery. Save \$3 on tickets online: <http://spacecenter.org/>

A **Houston CityPass** can be purchased to enjoy five major attractions at a discount, including: the Space Center, the Downtown Aquarium, the Houston Museum of Natural Science, and a choice of the Houston Zoo or the Fine Arts Museum and the Children’s Museum or the Kemah Boardwalk. For more information, please visit: <http://www.viator.com/tours/Houston/Houston-CityPass/d5186-2640HOU/>



Additional attractions and outdoor activities can be found at [the Hospitality Committee Website \(http://4chouston.com/\)](http://4chouston.com/).

Visit the [Downtown Houston Calendar \(http://downtownhouston.org/calendar/\)](http://downtownhouston.org/calendar/) for updates on close-by events and activities.

## Free Fun and Relaxation

Of course, strolling through Houston's parks is free, but there are also other things you can do on a budget to improve your conference experience.

**Miller Outdoor Theatre** at Hermann Park offers a wide variety of performances, including music, dance, Shakespeare, and musical theatre -- all entirely free. You must arrive early to get seating close to the stage (1705 seats, 20 wheelchair spaces), but there is also space on the hill above the theatre on which people bring blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy the show. For a schedule of events and information, please visit: <http://milleroutdoortheatre.com/>.

**The Houston Zoo** offers a free day on the first Tuesday of every month from September to May. If you plan on coming to the conference early, the afternoon of April 5th could be your day for a free view of the sprawling gorilla center (the newest exhibit) . The zoo provides rentals for push wheelchairs (\$6) and motorized scooters with (\$35) and without shade (\$25) (<http://www.houstonzoo.org/plan-your-visit/guest-services/>). If free Tuesday isn't in your plans, you can still attend when your schedule permits, for the full \$16, or with other possible discounts (<http://www.houstonzoo.org/plan-your-visit/buy-tickets/>).

Among **Discovery Green's** other activities, there are often free classes provided for physical activity, including pilates, yoga, parkour, and Zumba. Since the park is adjacent to the Convention Center, this location is ideal for release and relaxation in between conference activities. However, the park does not provide free mats, and you must bring your own or buy one at the park. Check the calendar for class times and other scheduled events: <http://www.discoverygreen.com/ebevents>

The **Museum District** offers [free days \(http://houmuse.com/free-admission-times/\)](http://houmuse.com/free-admission-times/) for many of its most popular museums, and there is a list of museums that are always free. The Natural Science Museum states that they are accessible. The Fine Arts Museum offers multiple programs for visitors with disabilities: <http://www.mfah.org/programs-for-visitors-with-disabilities/>. The Children's Museum offers a variety of information presentation, light and sound reduction materials at the Information Booth, and Sensory Friendly days <http://www.cmhouston.org/accessibility>.

Roll around Downtown, Discovery Green, or The Museum District with **free downloadable walking tours**. The Downtown and Museum District tours are longer, so self-pacing will be needed, and tours are audio only. Not friendly for Deaf or hard-of-hearing visitors. Download here: <http://www.visithoustontexas.com/listings/Audio-Walking-Tours/20912/494/>

Houston also offers a **variety of poetry readings** (<http://4chouston.com/literary-houston/>), from local poets as well as from students of The University of Houston's Creative Writing Program. The Gulf Coast and Poison Pen readings series are hosted in Rudyard's Pub and at Poison Girl, respectively, and are open to person's over 21 only. Poison Girl is accessible, one floor and flat. While the first floor of Rudyard's is accessible, the stage area where music and readings are held is on the second floor, accessible only by a narrow staircase.

Please find more tips for free (or discount) at the official Houston Visitors' site:  
<http://www.visithoustontexas.com/coupons-and-discounts/>.

### Additional Activity Links

- Official Visitors' Site For Houston - <http://www.visithoustontexas.com/>
- City Of Houston Visitors' Guide - <http://www.houstontx.gov/visitors/>
- Trip Advisor Guide To Houston - [http://www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g56003-Houston\\_Texas-Vacations.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g56003-Houston_Texas-Vacations.html)

### Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

The following is a list of regularly scheduled AA meetings during the Wednesday through Saturday conference time frame. At press time, these meeting dates and times were current, but please confirm with the central office listed below to confirm before attending in April.

The Intergroup Office is located in the Northwest part of Houston, near the junction of Hwy 290 with the 610 Loop, at 4140 Directors Row, Suites D & E, Houston, Texas, 77092. Intergroup's telephone number, (713) 686-6300, is answered 24 hours a day by a recovered alcoholic.

Office Email: [intergroup@aahouston.org](mailto:intergroup@aahouston.org)

Find updated meeting times at their website: <http://www.aahouston.org/>

<a href="#">St. Joseph Hospital</a> 1404 St. Joseph Parkway Behavioral Health Building Houston, TX. 77002 US (about .22 miles from conference location)	Thursday and Friday 7:00pm Saturday 10:30am
<a href="#">Christ Church Cathedral's Mcgehee Conference Room</a> 1117 Texas Avenue Houston, TX. 77002 US (about .22 miles from conference location)	Thursdays 12:00pm
<a href="#">Men's Center</a> 3809 Main St. Houston, TX. 77002 US Telephone: 713-524-3682 (about .22 miles from conference location)	Wednesday and Friday 6:30am, 9:30am, 12:15pm, 3:15pm, 7:00pm, 8:15pm Thursday 6:30am, 9:30am, 12:15pm,

	3:15pm, 8:00pm Saturday 3:00pm, 7:00pm
<a href="#">Midtown Terrace Cafeteria</a> 4640 Main St. Houston, TX. 77002 US (about .22 miles from conference location)	Step Study Friday 7:00pm
<a href="#">New Beginnings Group</a> 2421 Truxillo St. Houston, TX. 77004 US (about 1.86 miles from conference location)	Wednesday 7:00pm Friday 7:30pm Saturday 11:30am
Coming Home Group <a href="#">Parole Office</a> 2410 Hamilton St. Houston, TX. 77004 US Telephone: 713-650-8429 (about 1.86 miles from conference locations)	Wednesday 6:00pm

### Narcotics Anonymous Meetings

The Houston Area Committee of Narcotics Anonymous can be found at 2305 McGowen Street (corner of McGowen and Dowling), Houston, TX, 77004. The NA local help line is (713) 661-4200. At press time, these meeting dates and times were current, but please confirm with the main office listed above to confirm before attending in April. For a full schedule of area meetings, please visit the NA main site: <http://hascona.com/meeting-schedule.html>.

Alive and Kicking Group 2305 McGowen Street (corner of McGowen and Dowling) Houston TX, 77004 (about 1.78 miles from convention center)	Wednesday 12:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm Thursday 12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:45pm Friday 12:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:45pm Saturday 12:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:45pm
The Sooner the Better 401 Branard Street (corner of Branard and Garrott 1st Floor) Houston, TX 77006 (about 2.3 miles from convention center)	Wednesday 6:30pm Thursday/Friday 8:00pm
Steps to Serenity 401 Branard Street (corner of Branard and Garrott 1st Floor) Houston, TX 77006 (about 2.3 miles from convention center)	Sunday 6:30pm

Mixed Nuts 5200 Fannin Street, Room 302 Houston, TX 77004 (about 3.14 miles from convention center)	Thursday 8:00pm
--	-----------------

## MAPS

George R. Brown Convention Center Level One Map:

[http://www.houstonconventionctr.com/Portals/0/images/GRBlevel-03-060315\\_r002.png](http://www.houstonconventionctr.com/Portals/0/images/GRBlevel-03-060315_r002.png)

George R. Brown Facility Video Tour:

<http://houstonconventionctr.com/GRBvr/GRB.html>

Map of Houston Neighborhoods <http://www.visithoustontexas.com/travel-tools/houston-neighborhoods/>

## THANKS

*Much thanks to the previous committees, whose hard work made this document possible. A special thank you to last year's committee, who created the template that this document is modeled after:*

**2015 Local Accessibility Committee:** Lauren Cagle and Ella Browning

**2015 Local Accessibility Committee Volunteers** Erin Trauth, Dan Richards, Stephanie Phillips, and Zachary (Zac) Dixon