The iconic and historical Hilton Chicago and Palmer House hotels, located in Chicago, Illinois, recently served as the host hotels for HelmsBriscoe's 2017 Annual Business Conference. Boasting exceptional service, amazing locations, and a plethora of meeting space, both hotels were instrumental in supporting HelmsBriscoe to deliver a successful annual conference while celebrating the company's 25th anniversary. Offering easy access from coast to coast with two airports and nearly 3,000 inbound flights per day, both properties have something special to offer your attendees, no matter what type of event you are planning!

HILTON CHICAGO

Named as the #14 hotel on USA TODAY’s 20 Top Hotels in Chicago list, the Hilton Chicago recently celebrated their 90th anniversary. Their location puts you on Michigan Avenue along the Cultural Mile, directly across from Grant Park and steps to countless Wabash Corridor art installations. In addition, the hotel is within walking distance of numerous attractions, including Millennium Park, the Art Institute of Chicago, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Buckingham Fountain, Adler Planetarium, Shedd Aquarium, Soldier Field, Buddy Guy Legend’s, Lake Michigan and beach.

Hilton Chicago has a long history of creating events that make a lasting impression. The hotel was designed specifically for successful gatherings, whether an essential board meeting, corporate sales rally, big product rollout, or the annual convention that drives your organization.
Hotel Highlights

- All guest room accommodations have been fully renovated
- 1,544 guest rooms, including 204 executive-level accommodations and business class upgrades
- 13 renovated hospitality suites ranging from 800 - 1,400 square feet
- The Conrad Hilton Suite, the largest suite in the Midwest, recently received a $1.8 million renovation
- All suites provide stunning views of Lake Michigan and the city skyline landscape
- Largest hotel fitness center in Chicago, featuring indoor running/jogging tracks, indoor pool, synergy 360 machine, cardio and strength training equipment, plus the adjacent deck to relax and unwind with sunshine
- 518 guest room accommodations combining two beds and two bathrooms

Successful Meetings

- All meeting space will be fully renovated following the new flooring being added to the Grand Ballroom
- More than 234,000 square feet of meeting space available
- Ballrooms range between 10,080 - 21,996 square feet
- Stevens Meeting Center features four event spaces, offering more than 115,000 square feet, including a registration area and registration office
- Distinguished executive boardrooms between 260 - 697 square feet
- Smaller salons and breakout space ranging from 960 – 2,976 square feet
- Office space between 228 – 697 square feet
- Elevator bank of 14 separate cabs, which expedite the transition between meeting rooms for a seamless experience
- 50 unique event spaces to select from
- Unique corporate team-building breakouts, such as baking apple pies alongside the culinary team in the pastry shop
- Ability to provide full hotel branding take-overs and digital mapping

What’s New

- Currently holding the top spot for fastest and largest internet bandwidth out of more than 170 Chicago hotels
- Third floor meeting event area completed its renovation of new flooring, wall coverings, lighting and space configurations, blending classic and cool design with a color palette inspired by Lake Michigan
- Salon C has completed its renovation, which can now provide six separate flexible space
configurations, featuring HufCor movable walls – the best of the best as it relates to noise cancelation

- Continental Ballroom completed its renovation, bringing contemporary touches with cool blue and grey hues complemented by lighting that provides the best balance of illumination. The reception area can double as both registration and reception
- The deck, located adjacent to the pool at the fitness center, will receive a makeover in preparation for the summer season – a perfect spot to soak up the sunshine and Chicago skyline

Sip & Savor

No matter what type of culinary experience you are seeking, there is something for you at Hilton Chicago. Sip and savor at Kitty O’Sheas, 720 South Bar + Grill, or venture to Herb N’Kitchen for fresh, healthy gourmet market selections for a little picnic in Grant Park.

Kitty O’Sheas is celebrating 30 years of service and offers more than 40 different bourbon options. Featuring its own tap-to-pint blend, Kitty’s Red, a classic Amber Irish Ale, which pairs wonderfully with the signature corned beef and live, weekly Authentic Irish performances. Kitty O’Sheas’ Executive Chef, Mario Garcia, cultivates his own rooftop garden and apiary, as well as an urban Chicago farm plot, which is geared towards the development of inner-city youth. Chef Garcia was recently recognized by the American Culinary Federation Chefs and Culinary Professionals of Chicagoland – Chef of the Year as well the 2017 Bacon Feast – Golden Rasher Award.

The History

- In 1942, the United States Army purchased the hotel for a mere $6 million as barracks and classrooms for the Army Air Force during WWII
- Queen Elizabeth II attended a gala in her honor in the Grand Ballroom, and the Imperial Suites were also constructed in anticipation of her arrival
- In 1960, the hotel was the largest convention facility in the world
- The Conrad Hilton Suite was the Christmas scene backdrop in the movie Home Alone II
- The Boulevard Room was once a supper club complete with an ice rink and performances
- Elizabeth Taylor was married to Nick Hilton in the Imperial Suites
- At one time, the hotel had a 27-chair barber shop, pharmacy, candy shop, five-lane bowling alley, 1,200-seat movie theatre, and an 18-hole miniature golf course atop the hotel, aptly named the High-Ho Golf Club
PALMER HOUSE

The hip and historic Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel, is celebrating 145 years of service excellence as the longest-operating hotel in America. Ranked #2 on USA TODAY’s Top Chicago Hotels list and located in Chicago’s Loop, the Palmer House is surrounded with a mix of business and leisure activities, giving you the ultimate location to work hard and play hard. Leisurably wander through Millennium Park, peruse the Art Institute of Chicago, take in a show in the theatre district, and dine at many top Michelin-rated restaurants.

Live Here, If Only for a Night

- 1,641 guest rooms, including 177 executive rooms and 53 suites – 11 of which are Presidential in style
- Digital key is available to all guests checking into the Palmer House
- HCN Navigator Tablets - all guestrooms feature these tablets with a removable keyboard which can be used throughout the hotel for internet surfing or ordering room service
- Replenish your mind, body and soul at the Palmer House fitness center, the spa, or with a relaxing dip in the indoor pool and recreation facility
- 600 guest rooms accommodations combining two beds and two bathrooms
- Customization of group experience exclusive to the hotel, including the History is Hott tour and the Magic Parlour
- Spa at the Palmer House offers a full menu of wellness and treatment options, as well as expedited services for those on-the-go
- Sixth floor received a full renovation, complete with new décor elements, digital enhancements, and a custom registration and office center complementing the anchoring Adams Room and Monroe Room
- Seventh floor received a full renovation, complete with new flooring, wall coverings, illumination, tech enrichments, art work and furniture among its inviting collaborative community spaces

Above All, Connect

Set the stage for your attendees with an unforgettable arrival experience to the crown gem and heart of the house, the Grand Lobby, featuring ceiling frescos of 21 Greek mythological panels rivaling those of the Sistine Chapel. Having completed a top-to-bottom, $215 million restoration, your event - large or small – will be transformed into one that's both talked about and remembered.
All meeting space has been fully renovated
- Four ballrooms, 77 breakout rooms and an exhibit hall totaling more than 130,000 square feet
- Third-floor salon configurable into 12 separate event spaces
- 16,909 square feet of exhibit space with ceiling-to-floor windows, providing views of State Street

**What’s Cooking**

Executive Chef Mathew Wiltzius is cooking up a new burger concept, Potter’s — Chicago Burger Bar. But this isn't just any burger bar in the city — this menu draws inspiration from Chicago's many neighborhoods, and each option uses locally grown ingredients from the hotel's rooftop garden and a quarter-pound patty. Offerings also include the "box o' fries" and a variety of milkshakes, which can also be spiked. In addition, with the Palmer House being famous for creating the brownie, it’s only appropriate that the new concept puts a unique spin on the Palmer House’s signature brownie with the "Brownie Burger," featuring a doughnut bun with apricot marshmallow and a side of churro fries with vanilla sauce and raspberry coulis.

Voted a top new Chicago restaurant, Potter’s - Chicago Burger Bar, along with fine dining at Lockwood Bar and Restaurant, offer culinary experiences your attendees will not want to miss.

**The History**

- The longest continually operating hotel in America
- The first Palmer House was built in 1871 and fell victim, just 13 days later, to the Great Chicago Fire
- When the hotel re-opened in 1873, Potter Palmer had the hotel engineered to be fire-proof
- The hotel was the first to incorporate the light bulb, the vertical steam powered railroad (elevator) and the telephone
- Mark Twain was the master of ceremonies of a dinner reception that was held in honor of Ulysses S. Grant in the Grand Ballroom, and the beer stein he toasted with is on public display in the hotel’s History and Archive Museum

With unforgettable dining experiences, vast meeting space, unique history, and close proximity to all Chicago has to offer, the Hilton Chicago and the Palmer House have something for business and leisure visitors alike. To discover all the fantastic features and services these impressive hotels can offer to your meeting attendees, contact your HelmsBriscoe Associate today!