Thank you for considering The School of the Art Institute of Chicago for your special event. The Ballroom offers a dramatic setting for any gathering. Formerly the exclusive dining room of the posh Illinois Athletic Club, the Ballroom embodies the classic elegance of the American Renaissance style, an eclectic blend of French, Baroque, and classical architectural elements.

A team of architects, designers, and preservationists, recently restored the room to its 1920’s grandeur. With rich décor embellished in burgundy, forest green, and gold, the Ballroom enwraps your guests in its warmth. Three ornate stained glass windows span the east wall, showcasing a view of Michigan Avenue and the north garden of the Art Institute museum. A sweeping staircase, similar to that of the Paris Opera House, is nestled in the center of the room. As your guests first ascend from the lobby, the room blossoms around them in a festive glow!

From intimate gatherings to jazzy cocktail parties, the room easily accommodates seasonal changes and client needs. Permanent bar structures are available on the main floor and balcony. State of the art audio-visual systems, theatrical lighting, and stage are integrated into the space, making it a perfect venue for corporate parties, weddings, lectures, and concerts.

Please contact our sales consultants at 312.345.3506 for event details and availability.

THE DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EVENTS     THE SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO
The Ballroom is available, daily, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 a.m. The following rates exclude holidays. Please note that the Ballroom is available to you only on the contracted rental day. The rental does not include use of the Ballroom for rehearsals. There are no additional rooms for Brides and Grooms to change on premises.

**RECEPTIONS/LECTURES & CONCERTS** {up to 3 hours}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of Group</th>
<th>Corporate/Private</th>
<th>Non-Profit Tax Exempt</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>up to 600 guests</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
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**DINNERS, WEDDINGS, PRIVATE PARTIES** {up to 6 hours}

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<tr>
<th>Size of Group</th>
<th>Wedding/Corporate/Private</th>
<th>Non-Profit Tax Exempt</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>up to 300 guests- Saturday</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday or Sunday</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
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**SPECIAL MONDAY THRU FRIDAY DAYTIME RATE** {($2,000 for up to 3 hours)

Event must take place Mon. thru Fri. between the hours of 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
**Non-for-profit rates apply only to those with tax-exempt status. Must provide tax exempt letter **

**ADDITIONAL TIME** $500 per hour

**THE RATES FOR EACH EVENT INCLUDE USE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- 300 chairs
- 30 72” round tables
- 20 36” round tables
- 10 8 ft banquet tables
- Full kitchen

**ADDITIONAL FEES:**

- Media Technician $50 per hour per technician
- Additional A/V equipment
- Mandatory Security $40 per hour per guard
- Baby Grand Piano $250.00 must remain on main floor of Ballroom

All liquor packages must be purchased from The School of The Art Institute of Chicago.

No liquor may be brought in from any other source. Please reference the liquor price list for details.
Upon entering the Ballroom of the School of the Art Institute’s 112 South Michigan building, one is literally transported in time. Outside are the bustle and frenzy of commuters and passers-by; inside unfold the serene majesty and grandeur of days gone by. A sweeping staircase, fashioned in the same style as the Paris Opera House, leads to an elegant two-story Ballroom designed in the American Renaissance style, an eclectic mix of French, Baroque, and classical idioms found in the great palaces of Europe.

Formerly the main dining room of the Illinois Athletic Club, an all-men’s club designed in 1908 by Barnett, Hays & Barnett, the Ballroom recently underwent a face-lift with the help of the School’s new Master of Historic Preservation program. Although the interior was remodeled in 1916 when Baroque-like balconies were added and again, in 1927 with the inclusion of a terrazzo tile dance floor, the Ballroom had lost its former elegance to subsequent renovations and to the forces of time.

The School purchased the building in 1992 and in May 1994, Garret Eakin, an architect and associate professor in the School’s interior architecture department, was commissioned to restore the Ballroom back to its 1927 decorative scheme. However, the impetus for the project came in the form of a Christmas gift from movie director John Hughes, who transformed the Ballroom into a department store for a remake of the classic film Miracle on 34th Street. According to Eakin, Hughes film provided the seed money for the project and the opportunity to conduct the $394,000 restoration.

The Ballroom is a living museum of virtually every faux finish technique of the 13th, 14th, and 15th centuries, including rag rolling or fratage, gold leafing, marbleizing, leathering, and graining. Twelve twenty-foot Ionic columns each made of faux verde antique marble with gold leaf capitals, cartouches, and original gray marble bases, command the interior. Seven hundred clear lamps and all of the original twenty-one chandeliers are suspended from the Ballrooms twenty-five-foot ceilings and illuminate the entire space with a theatrical glow. Overlooking Michigan Avenue, with a view of the north garden of the Art Institute, are three arched, art-glass windows in green and gold that complement the overall Midwestern harvest wheat color motif.

The entire restoration project was conceived as an integral part of the Historic Preservation program, a two-year degree program inaugurated in fall 1993. The curriculum covers the theoretical, historical, and practical aspects of protecting and restoring existing architectural structures and interiors to prepare students for professional careers in preservation and restoration. As historic preservation professionals, students learn to address buildings not only as works of art, but also as working structures directly influenced by complex cultural systems, legal issues, and physical forces. Guiding the program is a board of advisors who are outstanding practitioners in the field, including John Vinci, Wilbert Hasbrouck, Walker Johnson, Tim Samuelson, Elaine Harrington, and Robert Burley. Dan Kalec, professor or interior architecture, is the director of the program.

“architectural preservation is important to the culture of our country”

Students, as participants in the restoration process, were afforded practical, first-hand experience no textbook could offer, and lent additional skills and labor that proved invaluable. Graduate interns were recruited by Eakin to do important “detective work,” such as archival research and historic documentation of the Ballroom. Other students analyzed existing surfaces to help determine the room’s original color and finishes, while preservation architects provided students with a demonstration of industry techniques. Students also created measured drawings of the space, conducted tours, and assisted in presentations to help raise funds for the project.

Christmas came early this year, in the form of two prestigious awards from both the American Institute of Architecture and the Architecture and Design Society. The five-month restoration has also succeeded in preserving the integrity of the 1927 design, while achieving a balance that integrates the contemporary needs of the School with the room’s rich architectural traditions. The Ballroom is designed for lectures, symposia, special events, film and slide presentations, conferences, performances-and for the viewer’s experience and pleasure. The Ballroom restoration is also a testament to Eakin’s belief that “architectural preservation is important to the culture of our country.” “It gives authenticity to the past,” he states, “and hope to the future.”