National foundation and grantee convening planners

Special D Events is more than an experienced meeting planner—we are a strategic convening partner grounded in research. Our team understands the unique role convenings play in philanthropy because we have invested in studying what makes them successful.

WHY ORGANIZATIONS CHOOSE US

Many meeting planners can coordinate venues, registration and logistics. Few have studied the science and strategy behind successful convenings.

As part of a year-long engagement funded by a major U.S. foundation, our team researched and documented convening best practices from leading philanthropic organizations, nonprofit networks and community engagement initiatives. We explored how convenings can:

- Foster authentic stakeholder engagement
- Build trust among diverse participants
- Strengthen grantee relationships
- Encourage peer learning and knowledge exchange
- Support collaborative problem solving
- Create space for community voices
- Generate actionable outcomes
- Sustain momentum long after the event concludes

This knowledge informs every foundation meeting, grantee convening and stakeholder gathering we produce.

SERVICES

- Convening strategy and project management
- Site selection and contract negotiation
- Budget development and financial management
- Registration management
- Abstract management
- Speaker management
- Mobile apps and attendee communications
- Logistics (vendor management)
- On-site conference staffing
- Post-event evaluation and reporting

KEY FACTS

- 30+ years' experience
- Woman-owned
- Experience in all 50 states
- Long term client relationships (25+ years)

Contact

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"The support that you've provided has been nothing short of wizardry, and I am so appreciative of the thought partnership."

Shanell W.
Woodhward Hines Educational Foundation