



Hi Kristi,!

Welcome to our holiday edition of the Strategic Site Selection Suite Talk newsletter!

As the seasons shift and we prepare to wrap up another incredible year, there's no slowing down at Strategic Site Selection or Sandbox Events! While Sandbox is busy orchestrating spectacular end-of-year celebrations, our Strategic Site Selection team is already laying the groundwork for 2025 and beyond.

In this edition, we're excited to reflect on our journey, share insights, and look forward to what's next. Here's a taste of what you'll find:

- **Incentive Travel Trends for 2025:** Discover the evolving strategies redefining business relationships and employee recognition.
- **Kristi's Hotel Hopping in Hawaii:** A tropical adventure filled with inspiration and insights.
- **This month's hotel feature:** Our Business Development Manager, Luisa Moro, had the delightful experience of staying at the iconic Westin Poinsett Hotel in Greenville. Known for its timeless charm and exceptional service, this historic gem made her visit truly memorable.
- **Throwback to Client Events:** A celebration of successful collaborations and impactful moments from this past year.
- **Year in Review Album:** A glimpse into some of the exciting and memorable highlights from this year, showcasing what both Strategic Site Selection and Sandbox Events Inc. have been up to!

Last but not least, we're here to ensure your events and meetings are not just successful but unforgettable. Ready to plan your next big project? Let's chat about how we can make it seamless and impactful while saving you time and money.

Cheers,

The Suite Talk Team



Reflecting on 2024: A Spotlight on Incentive Travel

As we close out 2024 and turn our focus to 2025, one topic remains at the forefront—**incentive travel**. With record burnout and rising employee turnover, incentive trips are set to become an even more essential business strategy in the coming year.

We spoke with our Director of Global Accounts, Helene Getty, one of our team experts on incentive travel, about her top picks for incentive travel destinations:

- **[Portugal](#)**: Perfect for its blend of seaside views, historical charm, rich culture, incredible cuisine, and great value. Plus, there are plenty of direct flights!
- **[Banff](#) or [Whistler](#)**: Ideal for mountain lovers. From outdoor adventures to serene spa experiences and gourmet meals, these Canadian gems never disappoint. If the U.S. is your focus, she recommends Montana for its stunning landscapes and outdoor allure.
- **[Cayman Islands](#)**: A top-tier tropical retreat offering pristine beaches, crystal-clear waters, and ultimate relaxation. Costa Rica also makes the list for its mix of relaxing beaches and exciting offsite activities. If budget is a concern, Mexico remains an unbeatable choice, boasting diverse coasts, great hotels, and exceptional value.

Incentive travel has evolved beyond simply rewarding loyalty. It's now a vital tool for fostering stronger business relationships, boosting employee engagement, and enhancing overall organizational growth. By offering unique destinations and tailored experiences, businesses can not only inspire their teams but also attract and retain top talent.

As the rules of incentive travel shift, it's clear that success lies in creating programs that combine strategic value with memorable, meaningful experiences. Let 2025 be the year your organization invests in travel as a cornerstone of its success!

Need help to level-up your 2024 incentive program? The team at Strategic Site Selection can help! Contact your SSS team member today or reach out to us at info@strategicsiteselection.com



Exploring the Beauty and Hospitality of Kā'anapali Beach, Maui

In November, Kristi Piukkala, our Director of Client Relations and Operations, had the incredible opportunity to immerse herself in the breathtaking beauty and vibrant culture of Hawaii. Her visit to Kā'anapali Beach on Maui's west shore left a lasting impression, with its three miles of pristine white sand, crystal-clear waters, and stunning sunsets. This former retreat for Hawaiian royalty is now a world-renowned destination offering unforgettable experiences.



While exploring the area, Kristi highlighted her top three hotel picks, each offering a unique standout feature:

[Hyatt Regency Maui](#)

- Known for its award-winning Drums of the Pacific Luau, this property pairs luxury with authentic Hawaiian cultural experiences.

[The Westin Kā'anapali Ocean Resort Villas](#)

- Perfect for extended stays, these villas combine spacious accommodations with wellness-focused

amenities, including a serene beachfront spa.

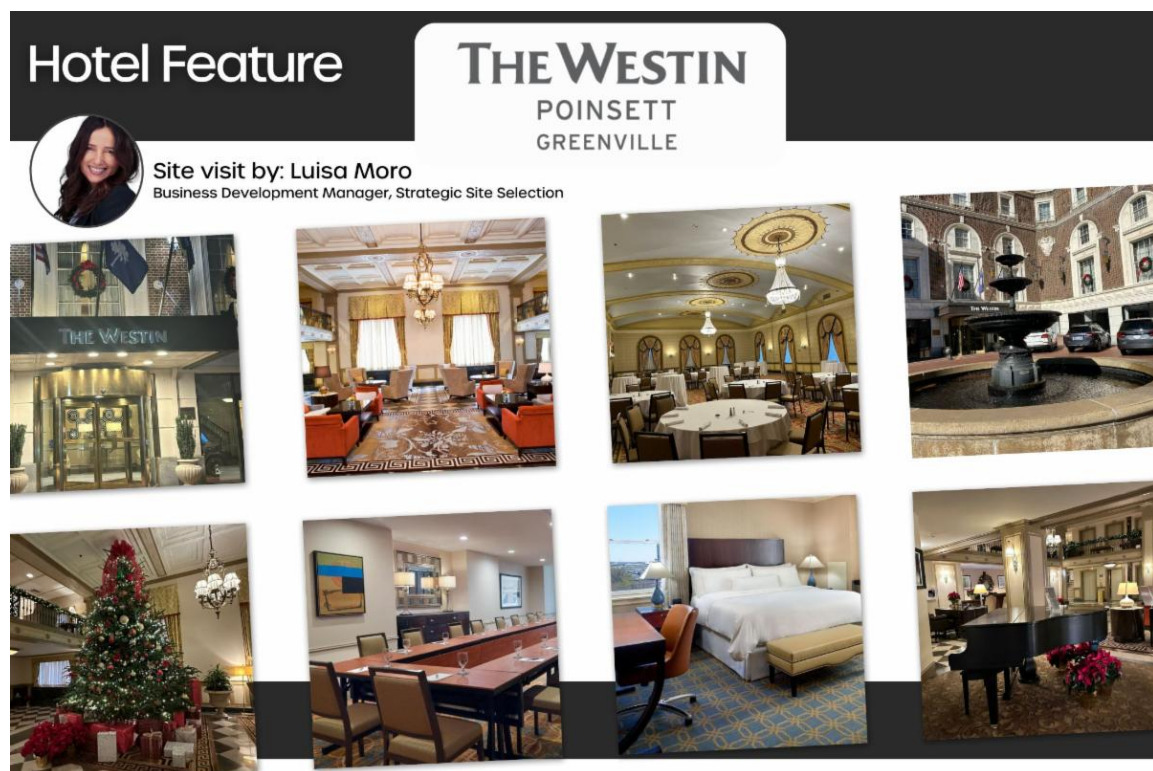
[Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa](#)

- Famous for hosting the daily cliff-diving ceremony at Pu'u Keka'a (Black Rock), where tradition meets natural wonder. It is one of Kā'anapali Beach's most iconic attractions, held nightly at sunset. A diver lights torches along Black Rock before leaping into the ocean—a tradition honoring Maui's revered King Kahekili.

For adventure seekers, Kā'anapali Skyline Eco Adventures offers exhilarating zipline tours with panoramic views of the coastline. The area also features two championship golf courses and Whalers Village, an open-air shopping complex with unique boutiques, exceptional dining, and a whaling museum.

Kā'anapali Beach is a prime location for conferences or events requiring multiple properties, thanks to its walkable layout and convenient hotel shuttles. With its unmatched combination of natural beauty, cultural heritage, and luxury accommodations, it's no surprise that Kā'anapali is a top choice for unforgettable group gatherings.

Thank you, Kristi, for sharing your experience with us—we can't wait to bring our clients next event to this paradise!



Exploring Greenville: Luisa's Journey at Connect Faith – Connect Southeast

Our Business Development Manager, Luisa Moro, recently represented Strategic Site Selection at the Connect Faith – Connect Southeast event in beautiful Greenville, South Carolina. This three-day event was a whirlwind of productivity and connection.

The meetings took place at the Greenville Convention Center, conveniently located just 10 minutes from the hotel, and offered an incredible platform to engage with industry leaders, suppliers, and buyers. Luisa took full advantage of this opportunity to strengthen partnerships and uncover new possibilities for our clients.

Luisa had the pleasure of staying at the Westin Poinsett Hotel, a standout in Greenville known for its exceptional service and inviting atmosphere. This historic hotel offers a perfect blend of classic charm and modern comfort, with beautifully restored architecture and impeccable attention to detail. Whether

attending an event or simply relaxing, guests enjoy outstanding care and a true Southern welcome, making it a top choice for both business travelers and leisure seekers.

Greenville itself was nothing short of enchanting. From its peaceful charm and scenic downtown waterfalls to its vibrant greenery and delicious Southern cuisine, it was a destination that perfectly balanced business with relaxation. Highlights included their iconic shrimp and grits and indulgent mac and cheese, which added a flavorful touch to an already memorable trip.

Thank you, Greenville, for hosting such a fantastic event and sharing your warmth and hospitality! Luisa returned with fresh ideas, meaningful connections, and a renewed appreciation for the destinations we explore to deliver exceptional experiences for our clients.



Client Events





Wrapping Up 2024 with Style and Gratitude

As we reflect on the past year, we're filled with gratitude for the meaningful connections and partnerships we've cultivated. To close out an incredible 2024, our CEO Mark Dosman and Global Account Directors Jodi McCulloch, and Tanya Faurot hosted our much-anticipated SSS annual Holiday Lunch at Vancouver's Glowbal Restaurant Group. The venue was transformed into a stunning oasis, setting the stage for a remarkable afternoon celebrating with our cherished West Coast clients.

The event was a labour of love, with thoughtful details making every moment memorable. The venue was stunningly transformed, offering the perfect backdrop for a day of connection and celebration. From the welcoming ambiance to the exquisite dishes prepared by Glowbal's exceptional culinary team, the day was a true feast for the senses. Mark even stepped in behind the scenes, embodying the spirit of teamwork and commitment that defines SSS.

Special thanks to the Glowbal team for their impeccable hospitality and to our incredible clients who joined us. Your presence and insights turned a festive gathering into a celebration of collaboration and shared success.

Here's to closing the chapter on 2024 with gratitude and looking ahead to 2025 with excitement for the opportunities and milestones yet to come. Cheers to another year of exceptional partnerships and success!



2025 Ottawa Meet Week

Feb 24-28, 2025

Ottawa Meet Week is a four-day roller coaster consisting



of events hosted by the Canadian Society of Association Executives (CSAE), Meeting Professionals International (Ottawa Chapter), the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA Canada East Chapter), Destination Direct Canada and REVEAL Social. Click link below for updates and news.

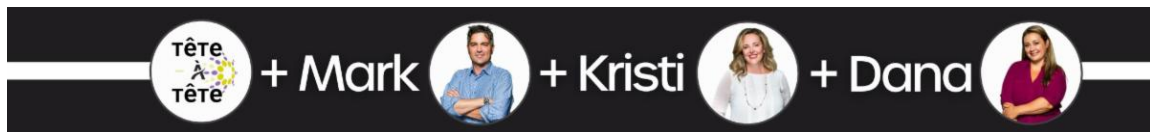
[Ottawa Meet Week](#)



2025 CSAE Tête-à-Tête

Feb 26, 2025

Save the date for the highly anticipated Tête-à-Tête 2025, hosted by CSAE's Ottawa-Gatineau network. We are excited to announce the return of this premier event on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at the EY Centre in Ottawa. Tête-à-Tête will once again unite leaders from associations, not-for-profits, and government agencies nationwide. Explore the heart of the association community and meet a diverse range of exhibitors offering innovative products and services tailored to meet your organizational goals. Don't miss out on the networking opportunities and valuable insights that Tête-à-Tête 2025 has to offer!



The International and Canadian Meeting Industry recognizes Ottawa Meet Week as a must-attend annual event! It's a fantastic opportunity to connect with new partners, reunite with old friends, and see familiar faces. Representing our team this year are Mark, Kristi, and Dana, who are looking forward to meeting with you.

To make the most of this busy week, feel free to reach out and book a time with us in advance. Let's ensure we connect and maximize the opportunities this amazing event has to offer!

...it's been a great year!

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW DIGITAL ALBUM



your partner in planning.

2024 has been an incredible year for us at Strategic Site Selection and Sandbox Events! We've had the privilege of working with amazing clients, supportive partners, and wonderful friends across the industry. From exploring new sites and attending FAM visits to hosting exciting events like Last Call and many more for our exciting clients, it's been a whirlwind of productivity and growth.

We've made countless memories, and now we're excited to share the highlights with you. Take a trip down memory lane by checking out our album filled with this year's unforgettable moments. Click the image to see what we've been up to!

Nice Words From Nice People

CLIENT REVIEWS

As your trusted partner in planning, we value your support and are grateful for your feedback. If you've had a positive experience with Strategic Site Selection and/or Sandbox Events, please drop us a line at the email below.

Thank you for your partnership and please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need assistance with a new program.

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I don't know where to start but I am so happy with my experience with SSS. I know this is because of the incredible experience I have had working with Joyce and Renee. They are both so kind, understanding and helpful. No matter what the question is they are quick to respond and always provide additional support. Due to being on matt leave, I was not the easiest to reach but they worked with my schedule and were just amazing!

We so look forward to working with SSS on all future trips & events.

Emma C.

“

Throughout the Connected Vancouver Roadshow, Amanda's performance was stellar. Her communication was clear, timely, and responsive, reflecting her understanding of client needs. She adeptly turned the vision into reality, exceeding expectations with her attention to detail and problem-solving skills. Amanda was also a delight to work with - warm and approachable, making the experience enjoyable and stress-free. Her dedication and charm make her a fantastic partner. Thanks, Amanda!

Emma M.

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