



Your partner in planning.



Greetings!

Welcome to the September edition of Suite Talk!

As the air turns crisp and the days grow shorter, fall brings a sense of renewal and fresh energy to the meetings and events world. September marks the beginning of one of the busiest seasons in our industry, and we're seeing some exciting trends shaping the way planners are designing experiences this year.

From shorter booking windows and flexible contracts to the growing demand for authentic local experiences and creative food & beverage offerings, it's clear that attendees are looking for events that feel both purposeful and memorable. The focus this season is on curating gatherings that inspire connection and leave a lasting impression—whether that's through unique venues, thoughtful design, or unexpected details that surprise and delight.

This month, we're also looking ahead to one of the industry's most anticipated gatherings—IMEX America. Our team will be on site, meeting with partners, exploring fresh ideas, and uncovering new opportunities to bring back to you.

If you'll be attending, let's set up a time to meet! [Click here](#) to book time with our team and discover how Strategic Site Selection can help make your next event smarter, smoother, and more successful.

And don't miss this issue's Hotels Feature section, where we shine a spotlight on properties that are setting new standards in service, style, and meeting innovation. These partners are helping us reimagine what's possible—and might just inspire your next event.

Let's make this season one of your most successful yet. Reach out to our team today to start planning your next event with confidence.



Mark Douglass Tours the Newly Renovated Omni Parker House, Boston



Strategic Site Selection's Global Account Director, Mark Douglass, recently explored the newly renovated Omni Parker House in Boston—an iconic property that has long been a favourite for meetings and events. After an extensive multi-million-dollar renovation that began in November 2024 and wrapped in August 2025, the hotel now boasts fully refreshed 551 guestrooms and suites, along with 23,000 square feet of versatile meeting space.

From its historic charm blended seamlessly with modern design to its state-of-the-art event facilities, the Omni Parker House continues to impress. Whether hosting an intimate board meeting or a large-scale conference, this property offers the perfect combination of elegance, functionality, and Bostonian character.

We love the Omni Parker House for its commitment to guest experience, flexibility, and its prime location in the heart of Boston—making every event unforgettable.

Planning an event in Boston? [Contact us today](#) to explore the Omni Parker House and secure the ideal space for your next meeting or conference.

Creating Events That Leave a Lasting Impression



From shorter booking windows and flexible contracts to the growing demand for authentic local experiences and inventive food & beverage offerings, attendees are seeking events that feel purposeful,

personal, and memorable.

This season, the focus is on curating gatherings that inspire genuine connection. The team at Sandbox Events has been helping our clients bring these ideas to life, combining strategic planning with local insight and hands-on expertise.

Here are just a few ways your next event could stand out:

- **Unique venues:** Host a corporate dinner in a historic warehouse or a boutique hotel with immersive, themed décor that reflects the destination's culture.
- **Creative F&B experiences:** Offer a craft cocktail session curated by a local mixologist or a farm-to-table tasting menu highlighting regional flavours.
- **Interactive experiences:** Engage attendees with guided city tours, cooking classes featuring local cuisine, or pop-up wellness sessions like morning rooftop yoga.
- **Thoughtful surprises:** Small touches like locally sourced coffee bars, personalized welcome gifts, or interactive décor can leave a lasting impression.

By integrating these elements, [Sandbox Events](#) ensures every gathering not only meets its objectives but also creates moments attendees remember long after the lights go down.

Ready to make your next event unforgettable? Connect with [Kristi Piukkala](#) at Sandbox Events to start planning a gathering that truly inspires connection and leaves a lasting impression.



Packing Light, Leading Boldly: Travel Lessons from Mark Dosman, CEO

The hum of a crowded airport, the scent of fresh coffee from a distant shop, the quiet of a sunrise over an unfamiliar skyline—these are the moments that shape our CEO Mark Dosman, far beyond the office. For Mark, travel is not merely a break from work; it is a masterclass in leadership, perspective, and personal growth.

Q: What's your philosophy when it comes to travel—do you plan meticulously or embrace spontaneity?

"I'm not much of a planner," Mark admits. "I tend to embrace spontaneity, right from preparing for the trip to packing. A lot of it happens last minute, and I just go with the flow." He laughs, adding, "You might wonder how I'm a planner—because I don't plan when I travel for personal reasons. But when it comes to business travel, I'm meticulous. I make sure my schedule works and everything's in order. Personal travel? That's when I really let go."

Q: How has traveling taught you about resilience and adaptability?

"I don't know if traveling itself has taught me resilience," he reflects. "Having kids and being self-employed probably did more for that. But I do approach travel like I approach life: control what you can, and go with the flow when you can't." It's an attitude that turns the unexpected—delayed flights, weather surprises, or itinerary hiccups—into opportunities to enjoy the moment rather than stress over it.

Q: Do you have a travel habit or ritual that helps you stay grounded or inspired?

Mark has learned to savour every experience. “As you get further down the line, you grow to appreciate nice experiences even more. I never take them for granted. I feel very fortunate to be in this industry and to have the opportunities we do. I’m grateful for every trip, every hotel stay, every little adventure.”

Q: What advice would you give other professionals about incorporating travel into their personal growth journey?

“Honestly, I’d tell myself—and anyone else—to try new things, explore more, and experience different opportunities,” he says. “It’s easy to fall into the habit of going back to the same places because you know them, and there’s nothing wrong with that if you enjoy it. For example, my family and I have skied at Whistler and stayed at the Fairmont there multiple times because we love it and have created great memories. At the same time, it’s important to step out and try something new. You never know what might surprise you or what you might learn.”

As he packs his bag for the next journey, Mark carries more than clothes and essentials—he carries lessons from every airport, hotel lobby, and experience. Leadership, he demonstrates, is not just about guiding a company; it’s about embracing the unknown, learning from every path, and leading boldly wherever the journey takes you.



HOTEL SPOTLIGHT

Three Exciting Hotel Openings



New York, USA | Lima, Peru | Madrid, Spain

Three Exciting Hotel Openings to Watch

The global meetings and events landscape continues to evolve with exciting new hotel openings that blend cutting-edge design, flexible event spaces, and unforgettable guest experiences. Over the next several months, properties in North America, Europe, and South America are raising the bar for planners seeking fresh, memorable venues. Here are three openings that we’re especially excited about.

Holiday Inn Manhattan – Financial District — New York, USA

Towering above downtown New York, the newly opened Holiday Inn Manhattan–Financial District makes a bold statement as the world’s tallest Holiday Inn. Its prime location places guests steps from Wall Street, One World Trade, and the cultural energy of Lower Manhattan.

The hotel offers contemporary meeting amenities, with versatile spaces ideal for business gatherings, incentive groups, and private events. Seamless connections to transit hubs and nearby attractions ensure ease for attendees traveling locally or internationally.

Why we love it: A landmark IHG property in the heart of Manhattan, combining prestige, accessibility, and modern design at a competitive value in one of the world's most dynamic meeting markets.

Nobu Hotel Madrid — Madrid, Spain

The much-anticipated Nobu Hotel Madrid has arrived, bringing the brand's celebrated blend of sleek luxury and world-class dining to Spain's capital. With 139 stylish guestrooms and suites, the property reflects Nobu's signature modern aesthetic and refined hospitality.

Planners will find boutique meeting and event spaces perfect for high-level board meetings, private dinners, or intimate celebrations. The centerpiece, of course, is the Nobu Restaurant, where groups can enjoy unforgettable culinary experiences that double as one-of-a-kind event moments.

Why we love it: A fusion of five-star accommodations and a globally renowned dining experience, Nobu Madrid offers both business functionality and lifestyle appeal—ideal for incentive groups and international meetings with built-in wow factor.

The Westin Lima Hotel & Convention Center — Lima, Peru

Already making waves in South America, the Westin Lima Hotel & Convention Center stands as one of the region's premier meeting destinations. Located in Lima's financial hub of San Isidro, the hotel offers 301 modern guestrooms paired with one of the largest and most advanced convention centers in Peru.

With over 27,000 sq. ft. of event space, including the stunning pillarless Limatambo Ballroom (capacity of 1,600 guests), planners will find endless flexibility for conferences, exhibitions, or gala events. Natural light, soaring ceilings, and state-of-the-art AV technology elevate every gathering.

Why we love it: As Peru's largest convention hotel, the Westin Lima blends scale, sophistication, and destination appeal, offering unmatched opportunities for impactful meetings in a vibrant cultural setting.



Industry Events *See you There!*

Are you planning on attending any of these events? Let us know!
We're excited about the opportunity to reconnect with you.



IMEX America - Oct 7-9

Where the global meetings and events industry converges in a standout Las Vegas setting, to meet, learn and do business at our industry's leading and largest trade show, for North America's largest meetings industry trade show.



OPERATIONS & GROWTH



OUR TEAM IS GROWING,

and we've got some amazing opportunities waiting for the right people. If you're ready to bring your talent, passion, and fresh ideas, we'd love to meet you.

Are you ready for your next big move in the meetings and events industry? We're thrilled to share that we have three exciting roles open for driven, relationship-focused professionals who are passionate about the meetings and events industry. If you're ready to grow your career, contribute to a dynamic team, and make a meaningful impact, we want to connect with you!

We're currently looking for:

Director, Global Accounts – [Apply here](#)

Director, Business Development – [Apply here](#)

Marketing Communications Coordinator - [Apply here](#)

At Strategic Site Selection, we're in the business of creating connections and unforgettable experiences. If you thrive in a collaborative, forward-thinking environment, this could be the perfect next step for you.

Know someone who'd be a great fit? Don't keep it to yourself—pass it along!



NICE WORDS FROM NICE PEOPLE

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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My biggest shout out and kudos to you all! My goodness...wherever do I begin?

You are such a joy to work with, and I heard nothing but positive feedback for all of you. You are an incredibly amazing team who I feel so, so fortunate to work with day in and day out. Please take a bow and a very strong pat on your shoulders...you truly hit the meetings last week out of the park!

~Patricia~

“

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 mat 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~

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