MERCY HOME FOR BOYS & GIRLS

LUX Gala

LIGHTING THE WAY TO BRIGHTER FUTURES

NOVEMBER 7, 2026

SINCE 1887 MERCY HOME FOR BOYS & GIRLS

Dahlquist PRODUCTIONS

PRODUCTION SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

LOAD-IN: LOWER LEVELS - COCKTAIL HOUR, DINNER
Use loading Dock:

LOAD-IN: UPPER LEVEL - DREAM EMPORIUM, CASINO, LUCID LOUNGE, VAULT, AFTER PARTY
Use loading Dock:

LOAD-OUT

- **Lower Level**
  - Use lower level loading dock
  - Can begin at 9:45PM once all guests depart from dinner
- **Upper Level**
  - Use upper level elevators to loading dock
  - Can begin striking at 12:15AM, goal to be complete by 2:30AM

VIP CONCIERGE STAFF

Cocktail Hour (5PM-7PM)

- 1 outside
- 2 at vip lounge
- 1 at dream wall
- 1 just past dream wall
- 1 at dinner entry
- All: Help usher guests into dinner starting at 6:40PM

Dinner (7PM-9PM)

- 7PM-7:30PM - usher guests to tables
- 7:15PM approx - Collect dream cards and bring them up to top of escalator and help attach to wall
- 7:45-8:45PM - break
- 845PM - into position for after celebration

After Celebration (8:45PM-12AM)

- 1 at bottom of escalator
- 1 at top of escalator
- 1 at VIP Vault entry
- 1 at champagne or surprise
- 1 at dream emporium entry
- 1 near casino entry

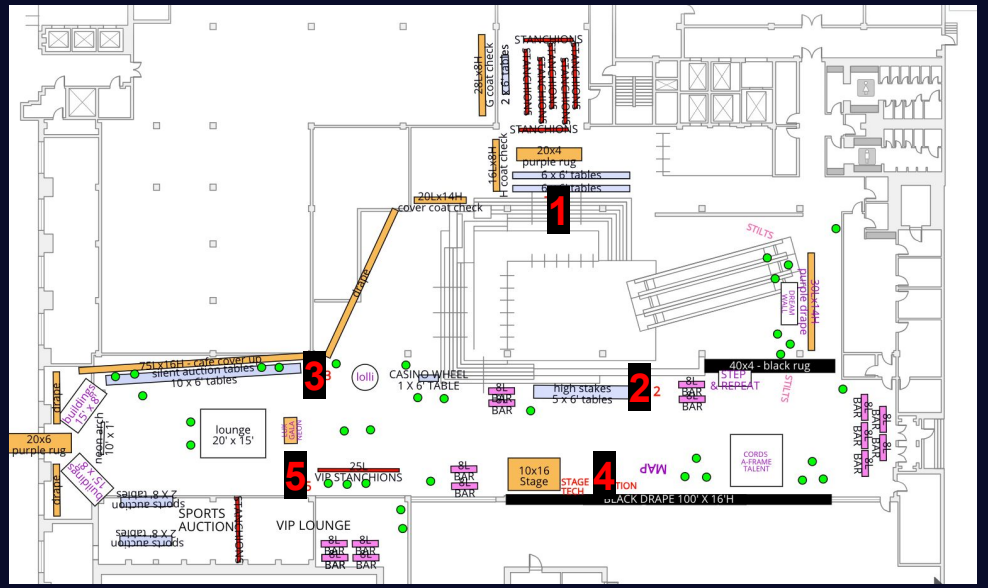
TV / CONTENT MAP

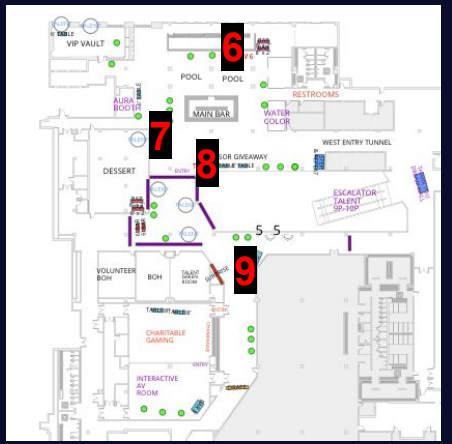
Cocktail Hour (5PM-7PM)

- TV 1 (registration):
- TV 2 (high stakes auction):
- TV 3 (silent auction):
- TV 4 (live auction):
- TV 5 (sports auction near VIP):

After Celebration (8:45PM-12AM)

- TV 6 (near pool tables):
- TV 7 (near dessert):
- TV 8 (sponsor):
- TV 9 (near casino):
-





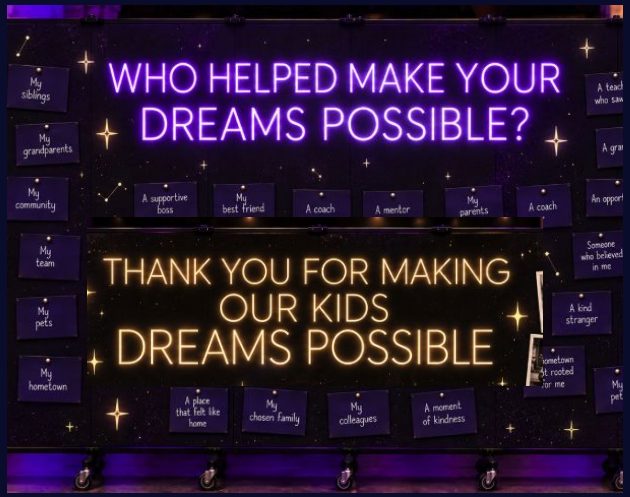
2026

CREATIVE DIRECTION & PRODUCTION PLANNING

LUX
GALA

TRANSITIONAL MESSAGING

COCKTAIL / POST-EVENT



DINNER



POST-CELEBRATION



CREATIVE SHOT LIST (MARK X RUDY)

LOWER LEVEL

- Dream Wall Interactive (will move from cocktail hour to after party during dinner)

UPPER LEVEL

- Watercolor portrait set-up (if avail)
- Aura photo booth (if avail)
- Dream Emporium entry
- Dessert Room
- Bar decor in Dream Emporium
- LED Diamond Cloud Hoop
- DJ booth close-up (detail only)
- Casino room (quick pan)
- Champagne phone
- Lucid Lounge entry (tease walkthrough)
- Instruments in Lucid Lounge

FULL TALENT LIST OVERVIEW

COCKTAIL HOUR
- Démodé (band on stage)
- Stilts 1
- Stilts 2
- Multicords A-Frame

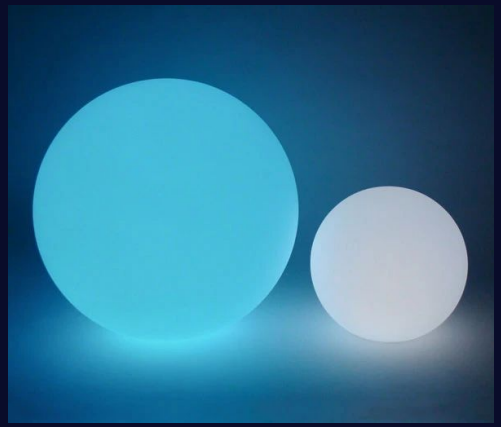
DINNER
- Tightwire

ESCALATOR TRANSITION
- Disco heads
- Card
- Cloud

AFTER CELEBRATION / DREAM EMPORIUM
- Disco head 1
- Cloud dancer
- Queen of hearts
- Flower dancer
- Infinity man
- Living tree
- Stilts
- 4 legged stilts
- Sword swallower
- Balancing chairs
- LED hoops
- Water Juggler
- Diamond acro frame
- Joe George Shadid (dessert room)
- Ryan Gac (DJ)
- The Heart of Chicago Soul Club (Vault DJs
- Simon Black (The Vault)
- Watercolor artist 1
- Watercolor artist 2
- Aura Booth
- Polaroid Photographer - Michaela
- Jimmy - odd audio
- Brandyn - plant audio
- Brad - interactive harp install
- Brandyn - CRT installation
- Brian Olivia - Touchdesigner interactive
- Fletcher - sound integration
- Jillian Kaye - decor design
- Kat Harvey - talent coordination
- Brian Herrera - map design

EXTERIOR ENTRY PLAN

- 1 Welcoming staff member
- Security near main entry to wayfind guests in right direction
- Lighting along pathway
- Light Orbs
- Outdoor music - from OPO

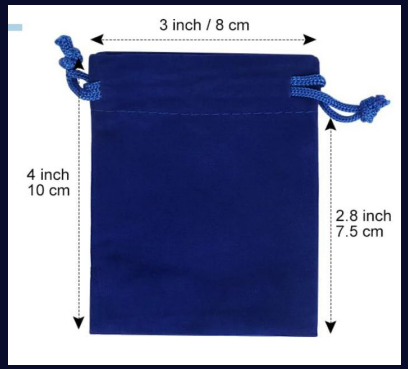


VIP PINS

Plan: Receive upon registration.
Design: Includes a back with numbering system for raffle.
Purpose: to indicate VIP members + to create a collectable takeaway year after year.
QTY: 400 of each - TBC



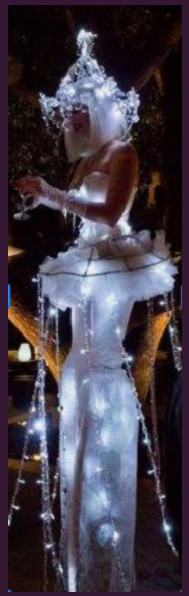




COCKTAIL HOUR: UNIQUE TALENT

- 2 x stilts
- Multicords A-Frame
- 1 x lollipop





STEP AND REPEAT WITH PHOTOGRAPHER



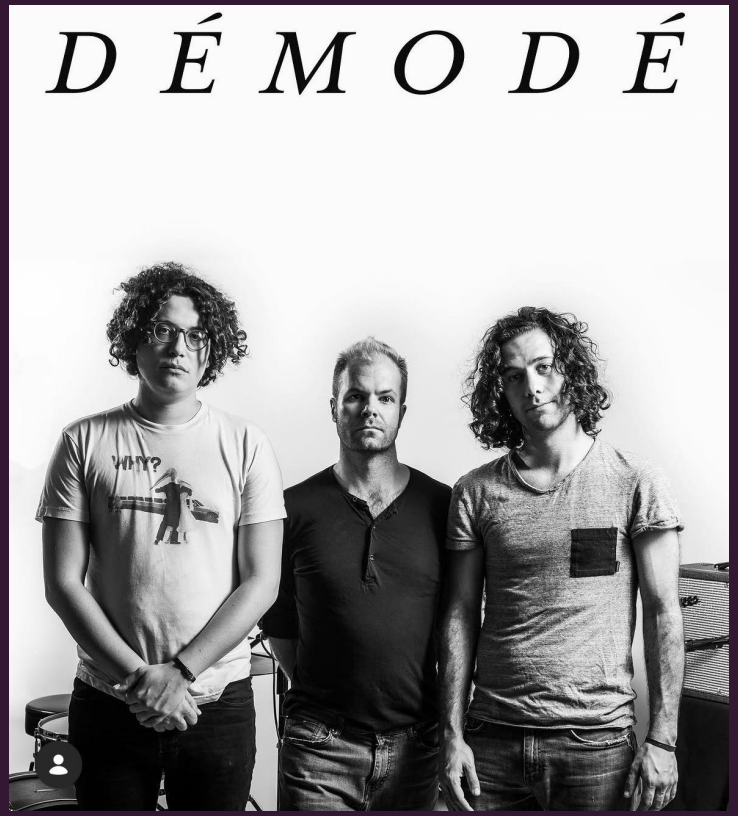
COCKTAIL STAGE MUSIC - DÉMODÉ

Cocktail Hour Stage - 5PM - 6:30PM

Démodé is an instrumental trio consisting of Chicago performers JG Shadid, Paul Grill, and Patrick Dinnen. Experimenting with film music, Spaghetti Western music, and unexpected pop/jazz arrangements, Démodé combines improvisation, composition, and a light-hearted Approach.

The sounds of Démodé can live alongside the chatter and bustle of an event, or they can take a center of attention, with a versatility in performance and dynamic.

Démodé appreciates your time and attention to instrumental music, however you see fit. Let's have fun.



“LUX GALA, WHERE DREAMS BECOME REALITY”

This year’s Lux Gala invites guests into a world where possibility is illuminated and dreams are made tangible. Rooted in Mercy Home’s mission to provide safety, support, and a pathway forward for Chicago’s youth, this year’s event follows a thematic extension of what happens when a community lights a path to a brighter future.

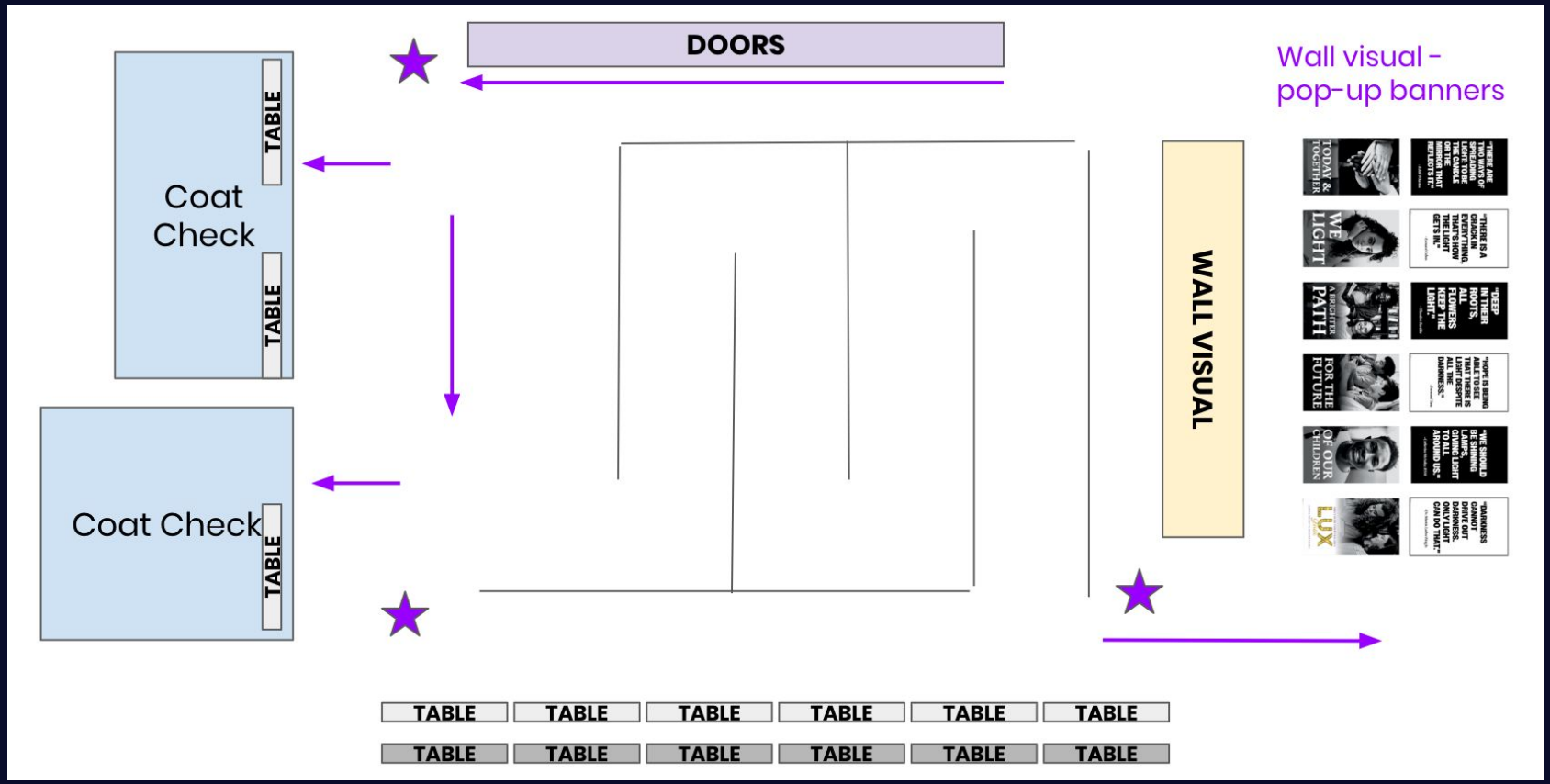
From the moment guests enter the historic halls of the Old Post Office, they become part of the experience itself; invited to reflect on and share the dreams that have shaped their own lives, while connecting to the futures they help make possible. The evening unfolds with meaningful touchpoints woven throughout. The night culminates into a further dream-driven after party, where guests are welcomed into a whimsical dream world that celebrates their generosity, imagination, and role in helping dreams become possible.

At its heart, this theme reflects Mercy Home’s impact: turning hope into action and aspiration into real futures. ***Every story shared and every gift made throughout the night helps to bring the dreams of Chicago’s youth into the future***.

GUEST ENTRY

LUX
GALA
2026

ENTRY LAYOUT

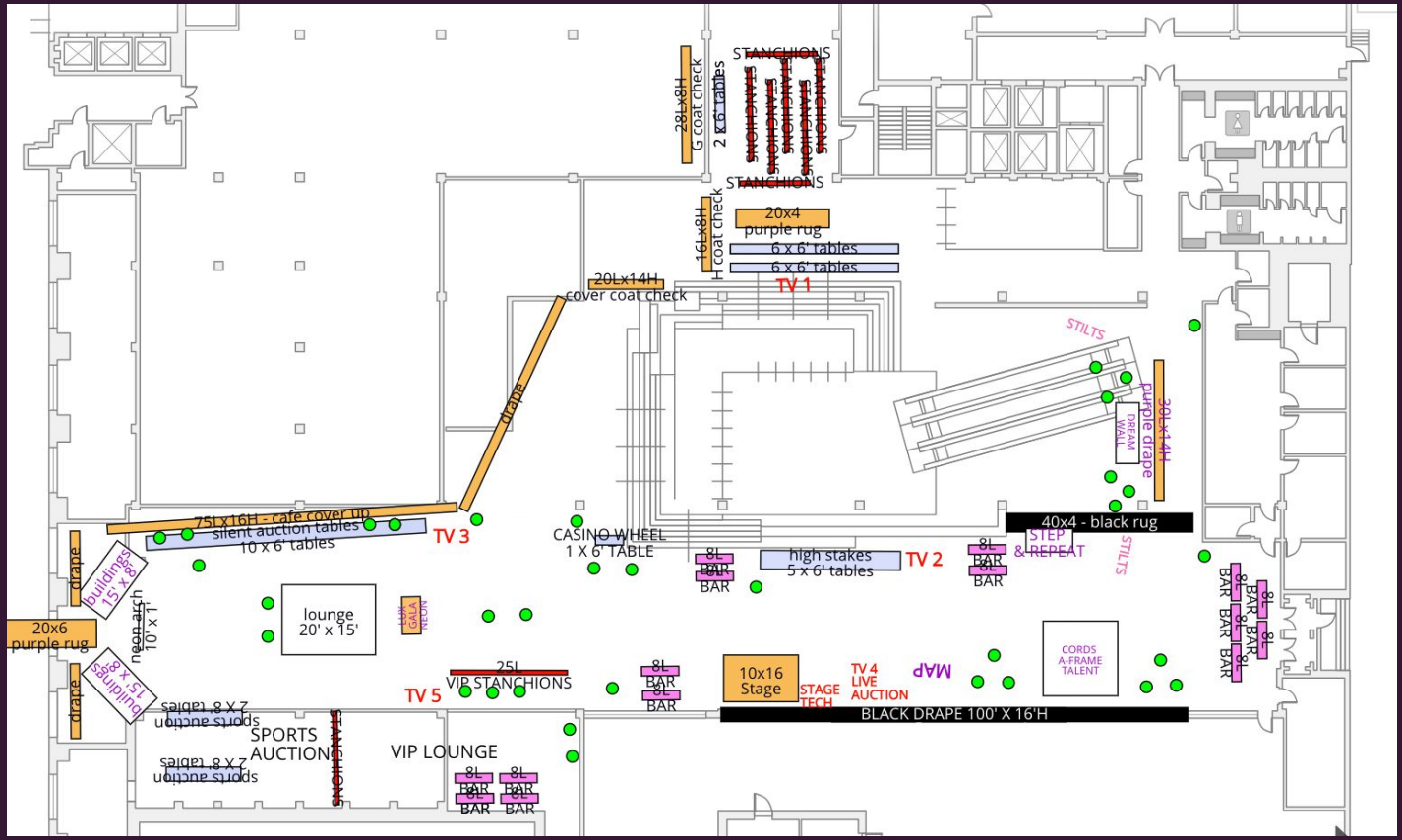


COCKTAIL HOUR

5PM - 6:30PM

LUX
GALA
2026

LOWER LEVEL LAYOUT – VERSION UPDATED 9/10



ENTRY MOMENT WITH DREAM WALL

- Accordion wall 13”x7’4”, spray painted gradients of dark purple, and gold shiny starts and pins added to it.
- 7’ neon sign positioned so its seen upon entry focal point after the escalators.
- Cards to write a prompt on in white marker.
- Highboy tables around for writing.



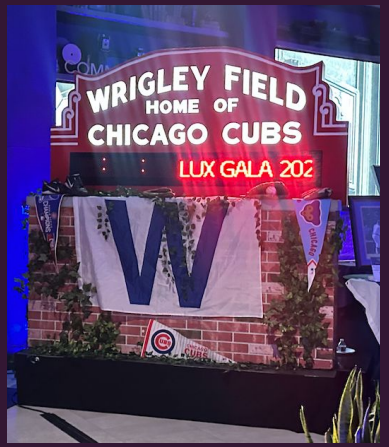






DECOR


LIGHTING A PATH
TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE


WRIGLEY FIELD
HOME OF
CHICAGO CUBS
LUX GALA 202
W


PULLED CHICKEN &


LUX
Gala

VIP LOUNGE

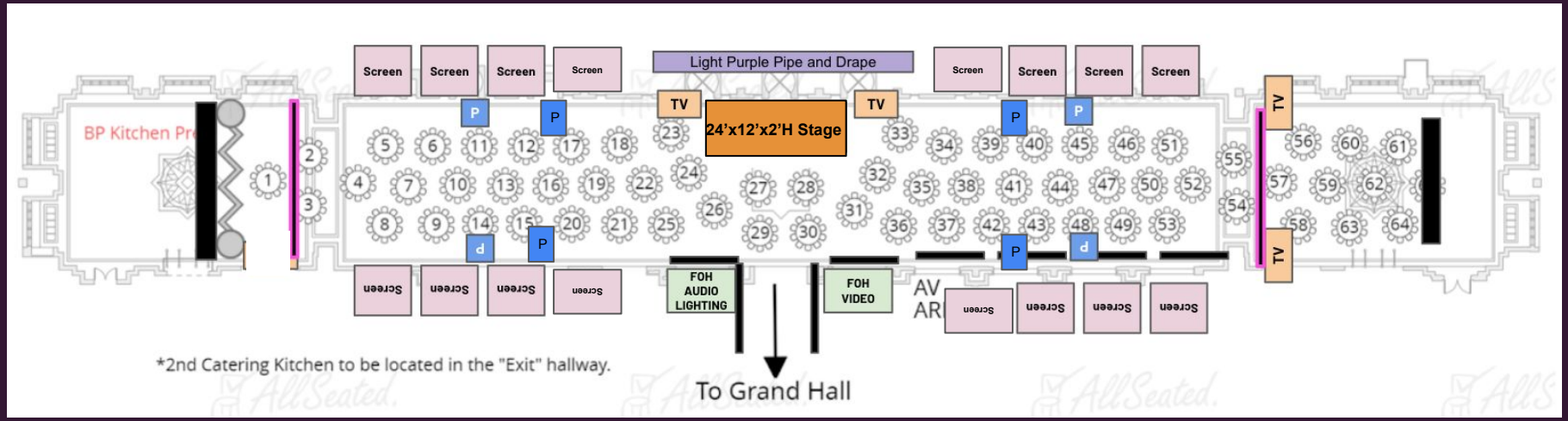
- 3 concierge guests stationed at VIP Lounge
- Food: Limelight providing bites
- Beverage: bar located in VIP

DINNER

7PM - 9PM

LUX
GALA
2026

DINNER LAYOUT



2026 table layout

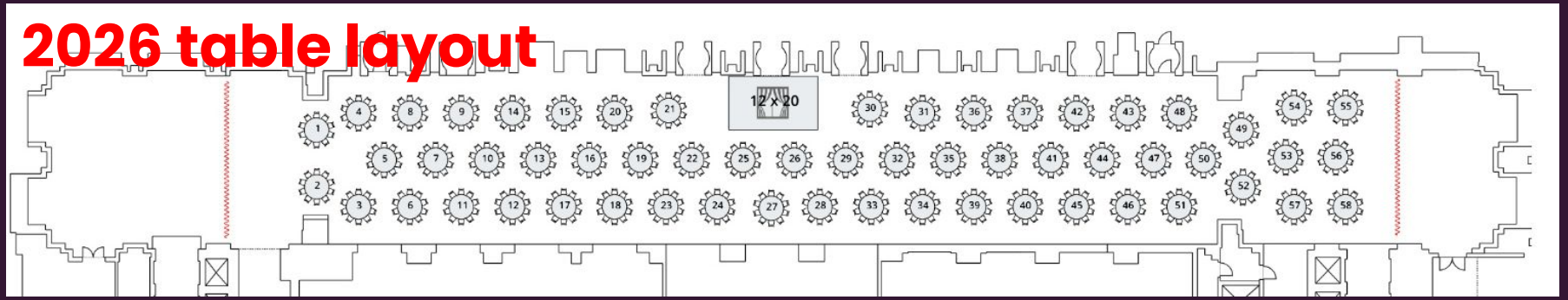


TABLE CENTERPIECES





“A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality.” — Yoko Ono

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” — Eleanor Roosevelt

“All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.” — Walt Disney

“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.” — C. S. Lewis

“Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly.” — Langston Hughes

“Dreams are the touchstones of our character.” — Henry David Thoreau

“Dream no small dreams for they have no power to move the hearts of men.” — Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

DINNER STAGE TALENT

Talent: TIGHTWIRE 20’W
6:30PM-6:55PM



DREAM WALL CARDS / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES

- A guests come up the stairs, they will see the second iteration of the wall as a thank you with nods to photos of kids and inspiration quotes.
- Guests will be prompted by a speaker to write on the cards and then they will be picked up and brought to the upstairs wall to pin up.
- After that they will be collected and passed off to Mercy Home to hang them during the tree lighting celebration.





ESCALATOR TRANSITION

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ESCALATOR TRANSITION TALENT

- Disco Ball heads (Valeria Rosero)
- Casino Cards
- Dream Clouds





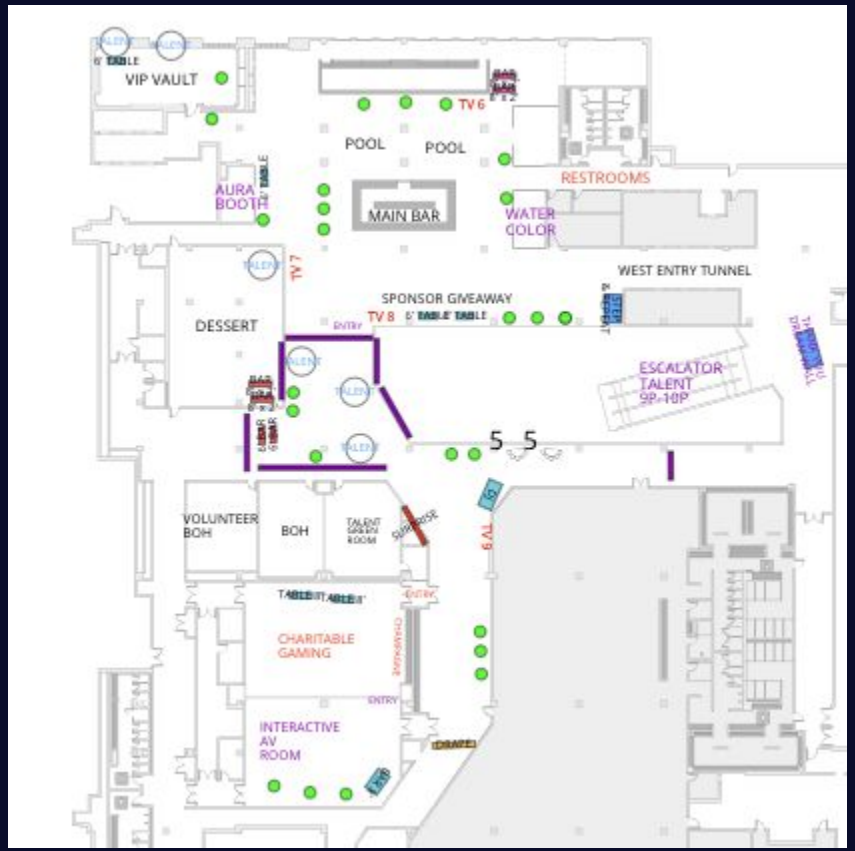


THE AFTER PARTY

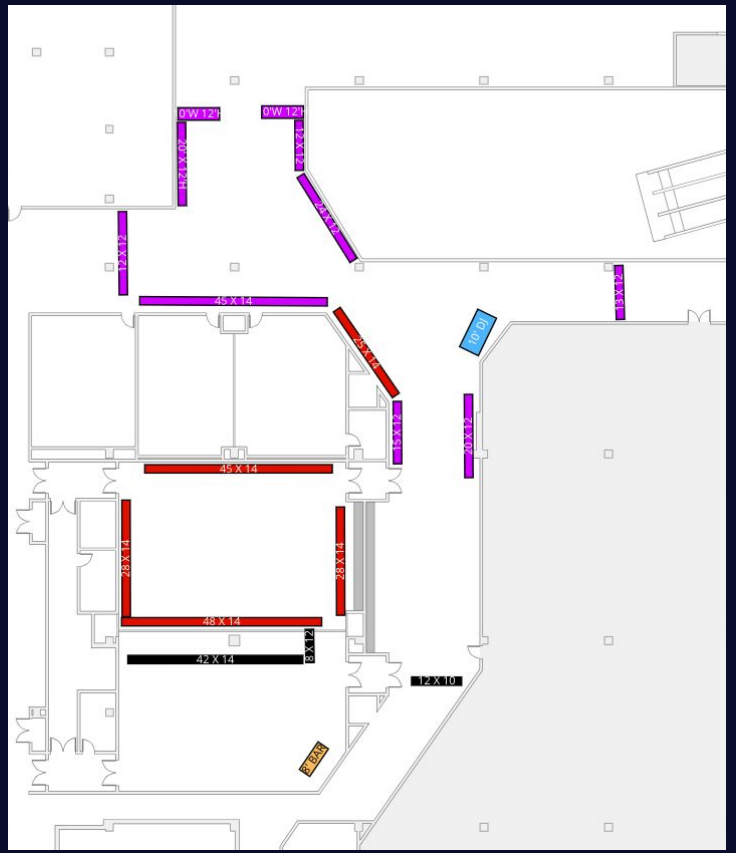
9 PM – 12 AM

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UPPER LEVEL LAYOUT



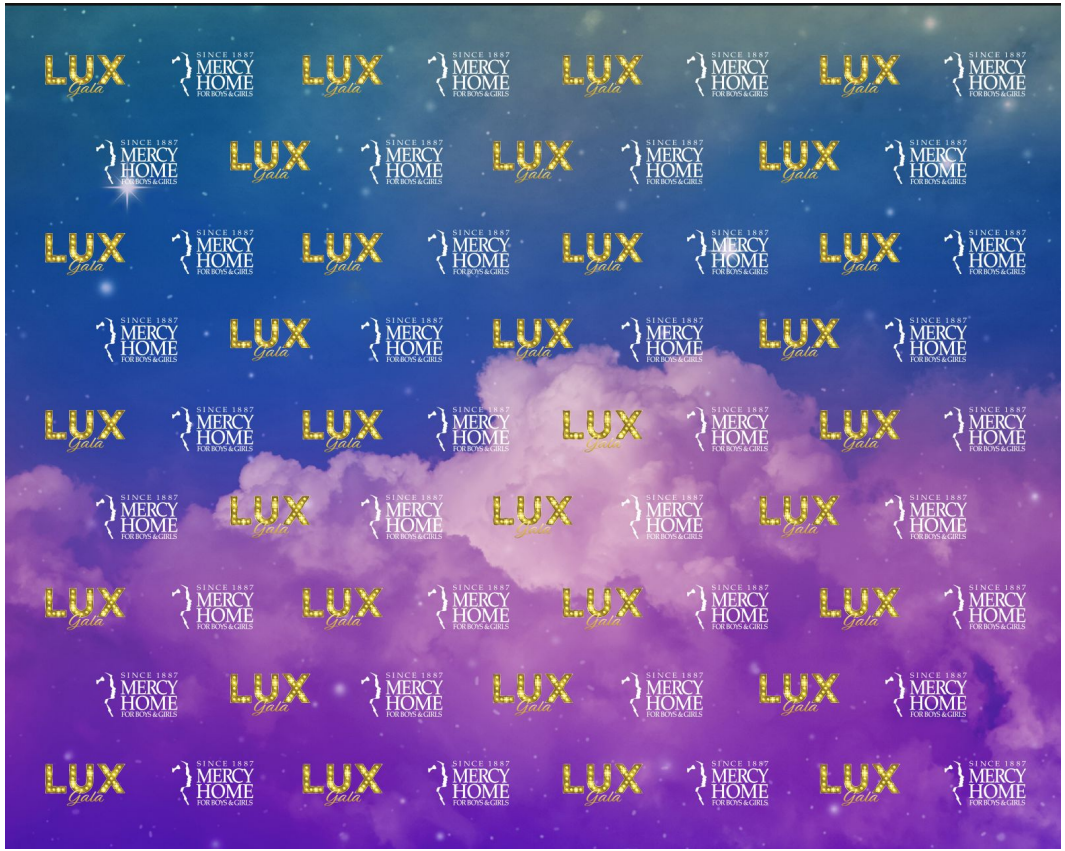
Final drape layout



THE PRINTED MAP



STEP AND REPEAT – FINAL



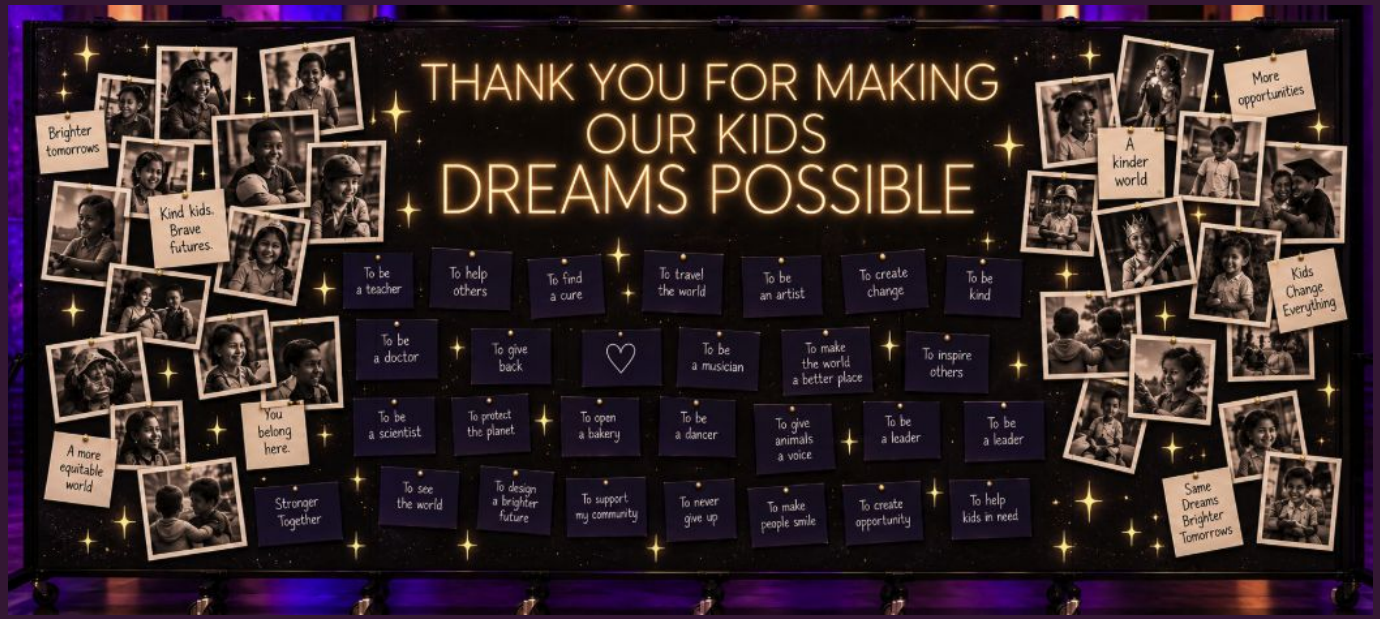
POLAROID PHOTOGRAPHER

- MICHAELLA DEVETTER
- UP TO 300 PHOTOS
- HIGH BOY TABLE TO LAY THEM ON
- CAN ADD FUN SIGNATURES, RHINESTONES, ETC



THANK YOU
DREAM WALL PT.2

- A guests come up the escalators, they will see the second iteration of the wall as a thank you with nods to photos of kids and inspiration quotes.



AURA LIGHT PHOTO BOOTH



INTERACTIVE GIVEAWAY - WATERCOLOR PORTRAITS



Kristine



Kaitlyn

RING FOR SURPRISE!

1. Attach board to horizontal pipe.
2. Add white tape indicator on the inside so person knows where to put their hand through.
3. Mute door bell a little bit with tape.
4. Place items in bins etc. for person to use.
5. Place glove in there.











DESSERT ROOM – TALENT

JOE SHADID - Confirmed - synth drum ambient music.

Curator and owner for the Red Room in Chicago - a place where up and coming musicians gather to celebrate new projects

JG Shadid is an EMMY NOMINATED composer, producer, multi-instrumentalist, and educator. He has been featured in The New York Times, People Magazine and Consequence of Sound, topped the iTunes charts for his original composition for acclaimed documentary The Pedal Movie, and received an Emmy nomination for his original score for the documentary series Seeing Brave.

Shadid's music ranges from cinematic songwriter folk, to minimalist piano, to ambient/experimental soundscape, to neo-classical composition. This, alongside his passion for music education and his work with Reverb has earned him notoriety on the internet with millions of views, as well as taking him to Istanbul, Turkey, where he taught a music program to Syrian Refugee children through the KARAM FOUNDATION.

He has toured all over the U.S. Europe, UK, and Japan and is a pillar of the Chicago music community as co-founder/curator of DIY listening venue - The Red Room, and owner/proprietor of Gentle Bear Studio - both located in Chicago's Bucktown neighborhood. Shadid has released 4 records in the last 3 years in a variety of disciplines. His piece STRING QUARTET NO. 1 "NOVA DECO" had its world premier in 2024, and his latest album "The Art of Speaking Softly" was released via the StormChasers LTD label in July 2025.




VIP
VAULT
OPEN FROM 9PM TIL MIDNIGHT
LUX
GALA
2026

VIP VAULT TALENT

- **UNIQUE TALENT:** From *The Hand and the Eye* mentalist expert - Simon Black doing intermittent performances.
- **MUSIC:** Chicago's very own Soul Club Vinyl DJ Set by the Heart Of Chicago Soul Club!

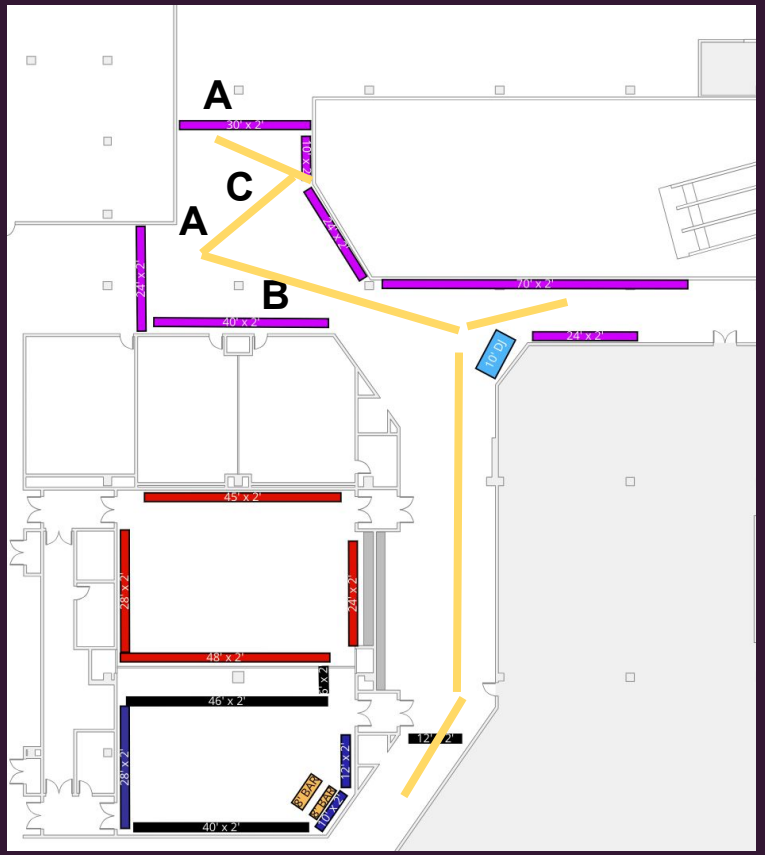


DREAM EMPORIUM

LOCATED WITHIN THE AFTER PARTY

LUX
GALA
2026

TALENT PLACEMENT



A - Stilts

B - Performing talent area

Roaming talent path

C - LED Diamond Cloud

DREAM EMPORIUM ENTRY POINT – UPDATED 9/8

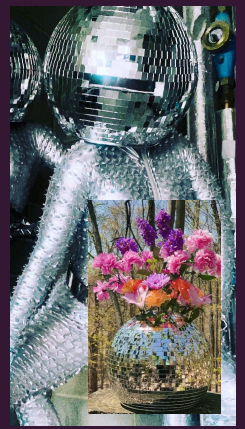


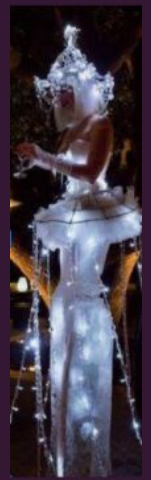
DREAM EMPORIUM: UNIQUE ROAMING TALENT

Plan: Various talent roaming the space at different times.

- Cards, flower, cloud dreamer, disco suit, infinity man, living tree, stilts



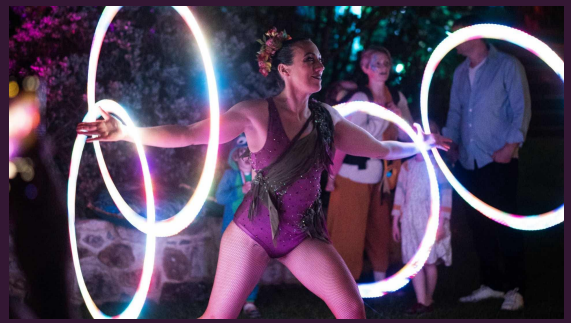

DREAM EMPORIUM: UNIQUE PERFORMING TALENT

Plan: Various talent Performing in the space at different times.

- LED hula hoop, balancing chairs, sword swallower, water juggler









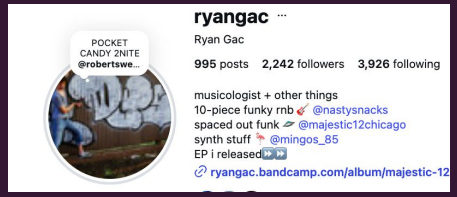
DREAM EMPORIUM: UNIQUE APPARATUS TALENT

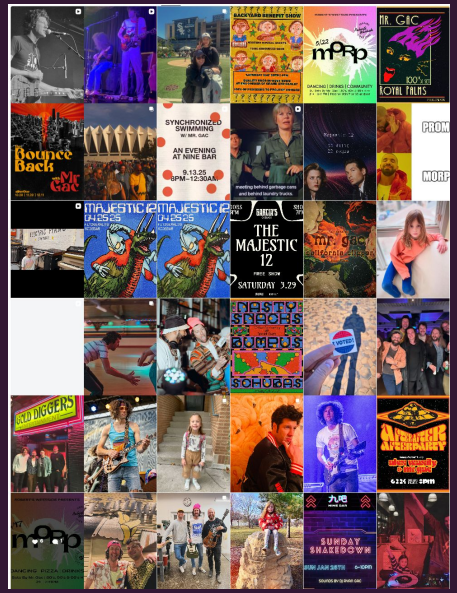
Plan: Various talent Performing in the space at different times.

- Cords A-Frame, Diamond Cloud LED Frame



AFTER PARTY DJ [9PM-12AM]









DJ BOOTH DESIGN



BAR DESIGN



RING FOR SURPRISE!

1. Attach board to horizontal pipe.
2. Add white tape indicator on the inside so person knows where to put their hand through.
3. Mute door bell a little bit with tape.
4. Place items in bins etc. for person to use.
5. Place glove in there.











Postcard box! Believe in a dream

Plan: Postcard writing station - highboy table, pens
Emily to send them out the following week









DECOR










LUX
GALA
2026
FUTURES &
FORTUNES
CHARITABLE GAMING
TAKE A CHANCE. CHANGE A FUTURE.

TABLE INVENTORY (Chas)

Nine (9) Blackjack: 6’8”L x 3’8”W
One (1) Roulette: 8’3”L x 4’11”W
Two (2) Craps: 10’3”L x 4’10”W

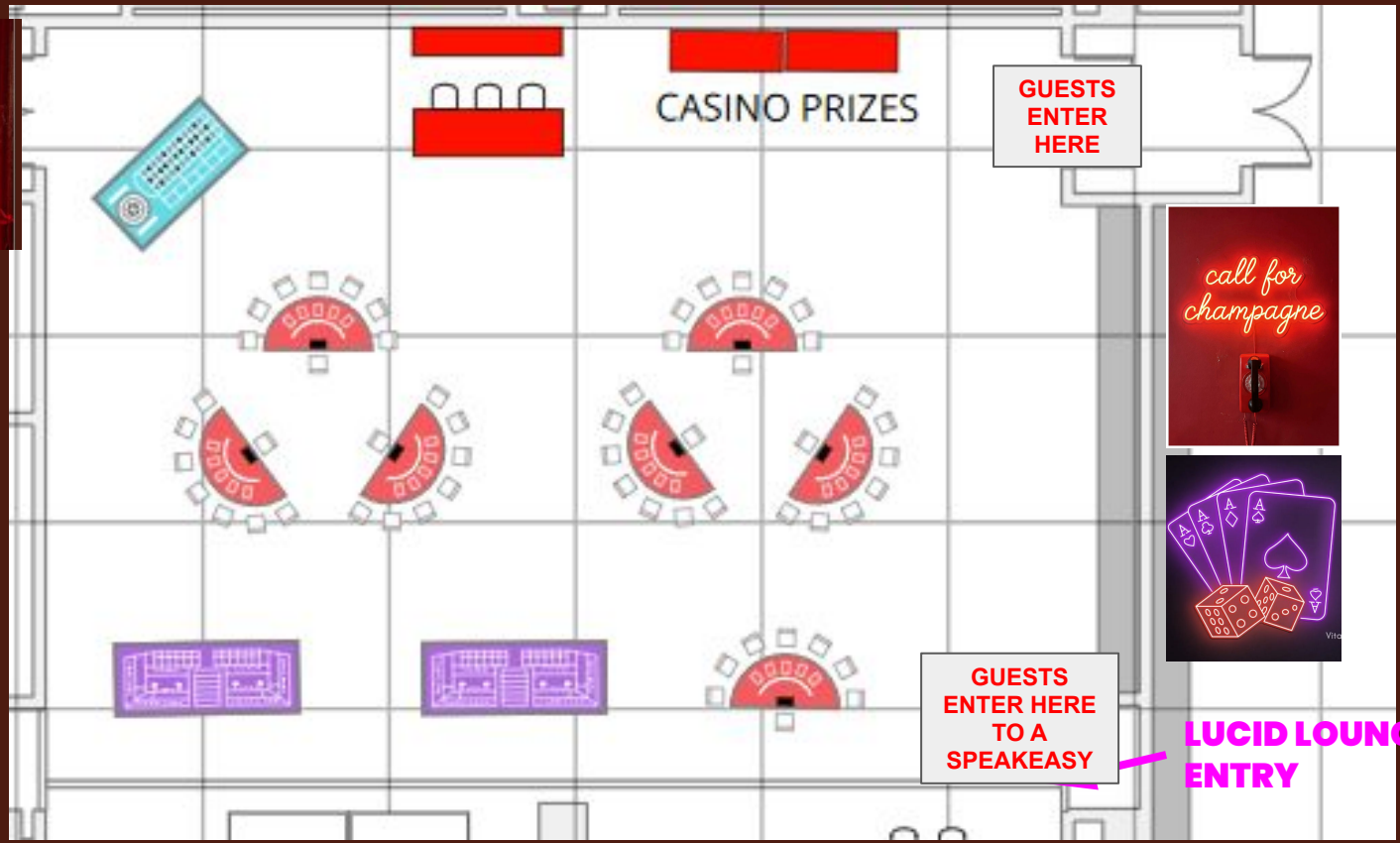
In addition, we’ll need:

One (1) 6’ Table for the Wheel (downstairs)
One (1) 8’ Table for the Casino Bank Front
One (1) 8’ Skinny Table (96”x18”) for the Casino Bank Back
Two (2) 8’ Tables for the Casino Prizes



ROOM LAYOUT




CASINO PRIZES
GUESTS ENTER HERE
call for champagne
GUESTS ENTER HERE TO A SPEAKEASY
LUCID LOUNGE ENTRY

CASINO ROOM DECOR









DRAPE USAGE IN CASINO





We'll incorporate the space's screen and projector into the environment with looped videos diffused through a sheer curtain.

Video ideas:

- Liquid Gold
- Ink in Water
- Cloudscape
- Nebula / Etc

CHAMPAGNE SERVICE

- The existing alcove will be concealed with red drapery.
- In front of the drape, a scenic phone and neon sign will hang. Guests will pick up the decorative phone to “call for champagne…” suddenly, a hand emerges from behind the scenes.
- A staff volunteer will be used to cue the champagne from the “server” behind the curtain.





LUX
GALA
2026

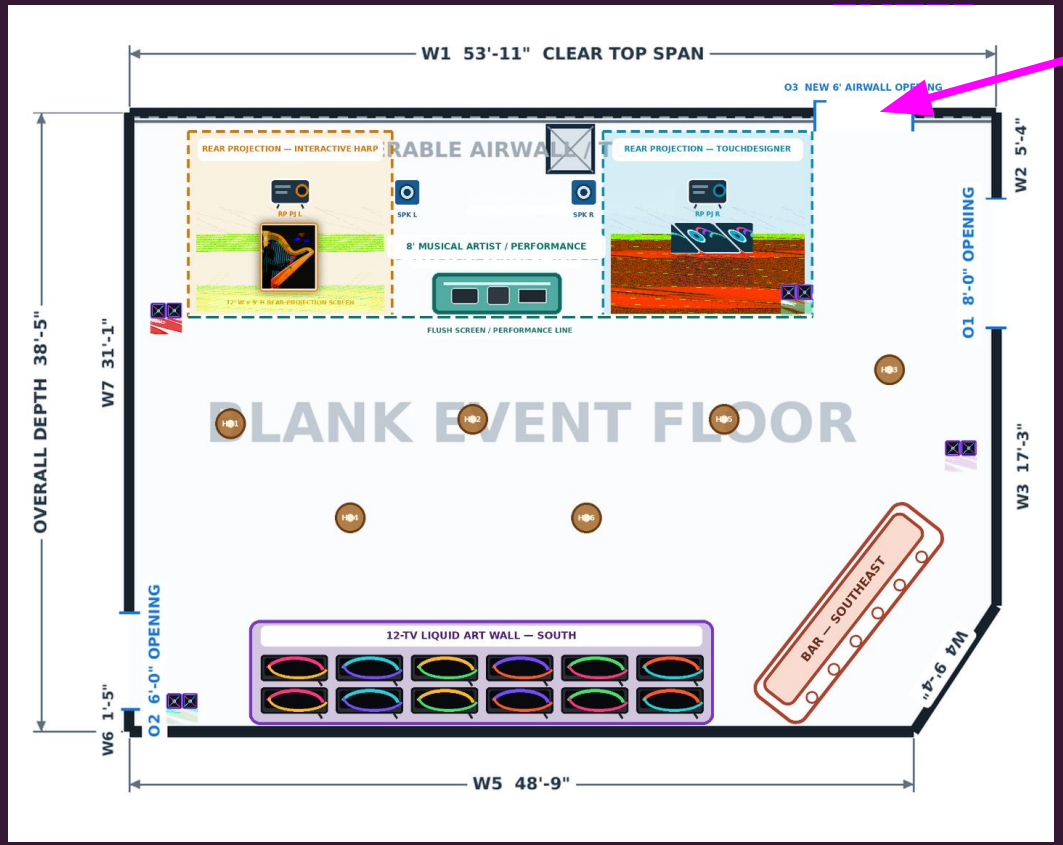
THE LUCID LOUNGE

An immersive speakeasy
of sound, light & discovery.

Tucked behind a door in the casino,
step into a world where reality fades
and your senses lead the way.



ROOM LAYOUT – WIP





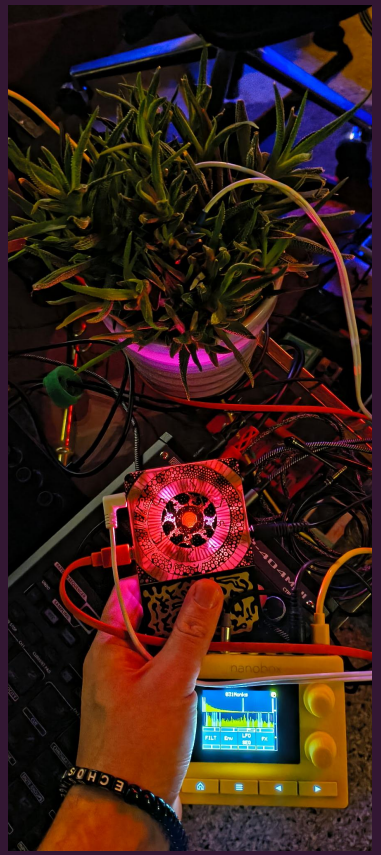
ENTRY TO LUCID LOUNGE







DECOR / INSTRUMENTS



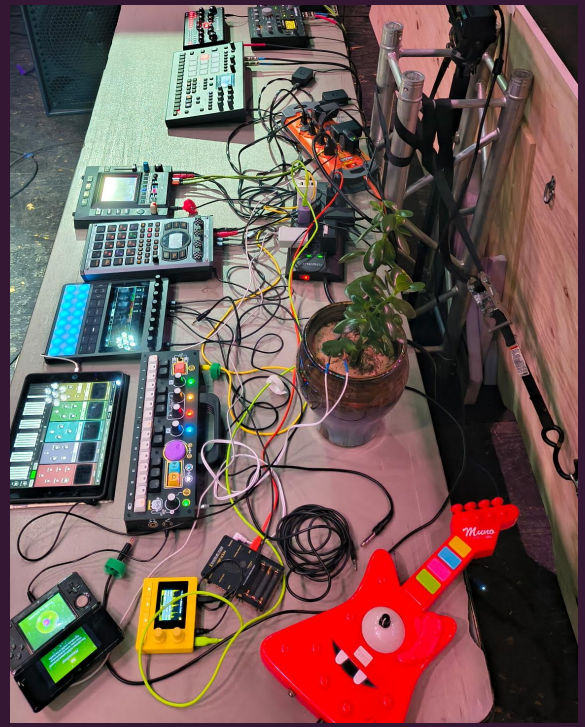












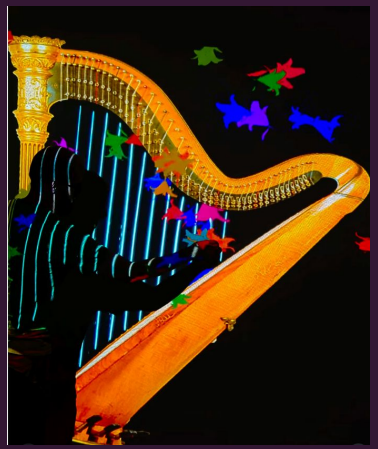
FEATURED TALENT / INSTALLATIONS

- Jimmy
  - Musical Performance
- Brandyn
  - Musical Plant Performance
- Brad
  - Interactive Harp Installation
- Brandyn
  - CRT installation
- Brian Olivia
  - TouchDesigner interactive installation
- TBA
  - Liquid Lights (on CRT)\
- Fletcher
  - Sound integration

EXPERIENTIAL SCHEDULE

- 9PM-10PM - Ambient plant Music by Zpacely
- 10PM-12AM - Lo-fi Ambient Beats by Jimmy
- All night - Hydrosonic Liquid Light Show
- All night - Interactive digital harp played by guests






LIQUID LIGHT SHOW





INSTALLATION INSPO






SINCE 1887
MERCY HOME
FOR BOYS & GIRLS
LUX
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2026
LIGHTING THE WAY TO BRIGHTER FUTURES
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026

ENTRY PROPS



