

2008 ISES Minnesota Star Awards Recipient List

Best Catered Event:

“15th Wedding Anniversary Celebration”

D’Amico Catering

Celebrating their 15th wedding anniversary, this couple wanted an opulent and decadent event for themselves but also to share with their family and friends. Beginning with a caviar station and butler passed Dom Perignon, no detail was spared, from the culinary offerings, to the wine and spirits, to the décor, to the floral arrangements to the entertainment.

Best Use of Floral: “Springtime Soiree”

Patty Fleming

Festivities, Inc.

The purpose of this black-tie event was to thank corporate sponsors for participating in a tradeshow and was hosted by the tradeshow producers and staff. This event took place in a small ballroom of a hotel. The event décor featured a large baron’s table for 40 guests with extravagant floral, exquisitely textured lime green linens and creative use of “organic” styled design. Elements used in this event included grasses, willow branches, silver urns, mirrored ornate trays and 5’ tall candelabras. Over 150 glowing votive candles were used on the large table creating a stunning and captivating environment for all guests.

Best Event Design & Décor (Budget under \$25,000):“Hilton Fall Festival”

Pete Nelson

To create a unique and ever-changing themed environment for this client appreciation event the hotel ballroom was divided into four quadrants that were individually decorated and themed. Four unrelated themes were purposely chosen including ‘Evening on the Nile,’ ‘Lady Sings the Blues,’ ‘Canals of Venice,’ & ‘Sunset Tiki Lounge’ offering guests several places to visit and explore. Each themed quadrant included full décor enhancements, seating options, unique food stations and specialty lighting. Combining all four individual looks into one ballroom was a design challenge that resulted in an unbelievable experience for all the guests who attended this truly special event.

Best Event Design & Décor (Budget: \$25,001+):

“Be Amazing”

Susan Milteer and Scott DeLage

Event Lab

Creating an elegant, contemporary atmosphere, one of aesthetic beauty, spectacular energy and inspiration for guests was the charge by the chairs of anon-profit for the annual fundraiser. Understanding the goals - to bring center stage the message of need and call to action, the design team worked seamlessly with the event committees to infuse an energy never before seen at this event. Through sophisticated, whimsical yet impact décor, inspired messages and nationally recognized entertainment, guests were truly engaged, allowing the gala to reach its lofty financial goals while bringing both new and renewed awareness to this signature charity.

Best Use of Marketing/Graphic Design:

“Trend Wedding 2007”

Twin City Bridal Association

Looking to redefine by design testate of weddings in the upper Midwest, a local bridal association set forth on an ambitious task: to create, design, and produce one of the largest weddinggive-aways in the country. Partnering with local wedding service providers, the association created Trend Wedding 2007 – a vineyard wedding experience package worth \$150,000. In developing the style of our annual wedding give-away, we were challenged to create a dynamic look to the stationery components that we would use to brand the overall wedding event.

Best Event Photography/Videographer:

“Wedding Trade Show”

Matthew Coppersmith

Coppersmith Photography

We were asked to document a wedding tradeshow. The event was designed to showcase the latest trends and connect local wedding professionals to perspective couples. Featuring a theme entrance, lounge and reception, special sections targeted at brides and grooms and two fashion runways, the client needed to document both the scale of the event and all the design details to help sell to potential exhibitors and attract couples to future shows. We provided event photography allowing them to demonstrate the details of the event and showcase why this wedding tradeshow is the best in the country.

Best Rental Support:

“U.S. Pond Hockey Championships”

John Swanson

Skyway Event Services

The event took place in the dead of winter, where wind chill advisories set the backdrop and men and women alike could walk on water. The occasion to honor Minnesota’s hockey tradition was centered around a four division tournament that took place on one of Minnesota’s great lakes. Participants from 34 states and some parts of Canada traveled to Minneapolis, and as many as 350 teams of four people took turns taking center ice. Friends, family, community members and out-of-towners gathered beneath a 25x50 meter temporary warming house structure to support loved ones and celebrate the glory that is hockey.

Best Event Logistics (Rental or Production):

“Building Toward the Future”

Becky Harris, CSEP

Event Lab

For a company in the forefront of the memory celebration industry quite a memory was created frothier guests. This convention holdover six days had attendees come in two waves. A coffee shop set the entire span of the convention also housed their market place. A leadership “garden party” for approximately 1100 guests was held outside on the front lawn of the convention center. This event was held both the first night of the convention and repeated for the second group three days later. The final banquet, an elegant affair, also occurred two separate nights for two separate groups.

**Best Use of Entertainment:
“Speakeasy Spectacular!”**

Kevin Hall

Halls of Entertainment

This event was for an architectural firm that loves unique event spaces. The objective was to find a place that would be architecturally interesting and then develop a theme that would really enhance the event. It came together better than we ever imagined! We discovered a former police station with an art deco interior. So we proposed the “Speakeasy Spectacular” complete with flappers, gangsters, secret passwords, gambling and more.

The entertainment included comedy, lounge singers, Charleston Stage Show, gambling, candid pictures, dancing, con-artists and the wildest interactive dance party ever! The crowning touch was the hysterical men’s Charleston Dance contest!

**Best Technical Production:
“Passion for the River”**

**Becky Harris, CSEP, Event Lab
and Tim McVean, AVEX**

The association’s founder had a passion for the Mississippi and this annual gala’s theme served as a tribute to his love for the river. To carry out this riverboat theme a civic center ballroom was transformed into an elegant night of nostalgia. Eight screens above the stage in a mosaic pattern entranced the audience as they were transported back to the grandeur of the 19th century steamboats. This gala was a dining and entertainment experience like one would enjoy by the honoree and his wife in the early 1920’s.

**Best Social Event Planning (Budget under \$25,000):
“Touhey/Stahl Wedding Celebration”**

Kate Touhey Stahl, CSEP

This event-planner bride created a memorable experience for her guests through vibrant colors and attention to detail. Using the keywords of “simple elegance,” the bride used specialty linens and amazing floral designs to set the tone of a high-end wedding on a limited budget. The selection of unique venues—that were also handicapped accessible—gave guests an opportunity to get out of the typical hotel ballroom. Specific guidelines for all wedding participants helped everything to run smoothly. And the entire event was planned within a six-month timeframe!

**Best Social Event Planning (Budget: \$25,001+):
“Get in the Mood”**

**Missy Francisco Carlson
SMDC Health System**

A health system hosts 2,000 guests at their New Year’s Eve Extravaganza. The theme was “Get in the Mood” and was a play on words that related to the décor element of color. Each room at the party had a different feel or mood, so each room was designated a color that related.

A hot *1970/80’s band* was featured in the spicy Red Room, an *Orchestra* was showcased in the calm Blue Room playing big band music, a *stand-up comic* and *dueling pianos* shared the stage in the jovial Green Room, and a passionate Purple Room hosted *dance lessons*.

Best Corporate or Non-Profit Event Planning (Budget under\$75,000):

Launch 2007 – Minneapolis-St. Paul

Ryan Hanson

Menttium Corporation

This corporate, half-day launch event experience was created for participants entering into a year-long professional mentoring program in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The launch event served as an introduction for participants to one another and the program they were about to begin. The client wished for an event which was effective in both purpose and production, on brand message and also on budget. Being financially intelligent yet innovative in our planning and use of décor, lighting and linen, we effectively created bold statements to illuminate the client's message and ignite the meaning of the meeting for their guests.

Best Corporate or Non-Profit Event Planning (Budget:\$75,001+):

"A Jet Set Evening"

Becky Harris

Event Lab

The notion of "Hanger Party" took on an elegant new meaning when an airport hangar was transformed into stylish affair for this foundation's 25th anniversary. "An Evening with the Jet Set" was divided into three "flights" representing the past, present and future. Flight #1982, the cocktail hour, reflected the nostalgia of the 1980's, when the foundation was formed. Guests were then escorted through a parked VIP airplane and landed into the dinner Flight #2007, a silver anniversary setting. After dinner, the Flight #2032 Sky Lounge was revealed highlighting the next 25 years of the foundation's bright future.

Best Public Event Planning:

"Wedding Fair – October 2007"

Twin City Bridal Association

Looking to redefine the traditional bridal show, a local design team turned 100,000 square feet of blank space into the ultimate shopping experience for 2,000 brides. These brides with entourage in tow don't want to walk a tradeshow floor. They dream of a boutique bridal experience, personalized to them. These savvy shoppers are seeking an experience, not a sales pitch. Understanding this mindset meant that to make magic for our guests we needed to design something more show than trade. From the entrance to the exit, visual stimulation needed to be the rule of the day.

ISES Team Effort: "sciparty"

Cookie Coleman, Cookie ColemanCollaborative; **Char Mason**, CharMason & Associates; **Todd Pinzuti**, Bungalo Six; **Elly Carlson**, WildsideCaterers

Sciparty was created to commemorate a major metropolitan museum's centennial year with a gala event. The evening featured a custom menu and recipes using 100-year old Lakota Squash which was seeded and grown for the occasion. Science luminaries appeared on video and in-person, national entertainment and seldom-seen treasures from the museum's vaults brought the museum and its mission to life. Custom décor and an unusual seating arrangement accommodated a sold-out ballroom. A collaboration of ISES event-producers, ISES caterers and ISES décor and floral specialists created a winning formula which exceeded fundraising goals and continues to garner plaudits from attendees.