Guidelines for the Use of Fleishman Commons for a Special Event

The Fleishman Commons is Sanford’s “living room.” Located in the center of the Sanford Building, the atrium is a meeting spot for students, faculty and staff; a dining room for the adjacent Saladelia Café; and a high-traffic thoroughfare for the students entering and exiting classrooms 03, 04, 05, 07 and 09.

As an event venue, Fleishman Commons can seat 64 guests on the floor with an additional 80 in the 10 “pods” along the staircases. Due to technical and lighting constraints, the use of visual digital presentations is prohibited. The lobby on the first floor is often used for a pre- or post-event receptions.

The use of the Fleishman Commons as an event space is relies on the topic being a good match for the Sanford community and is also dependent on the class schedule and on other events already scheduled in the adjacent classrooms. The three adjacent classrooms may sometimes accommodate additional seating through the set-up of a simulcast, requiring ushers and an overflow seating plan.

The events and resources coordinator works with individual event planners to coordinate the services and resources for events in the Commons including contracting movers, ushers, AV services, and after-hours door access.

The Sanford School as a Co-Sponsor

All events presented in the Fleishman Commons must be co-sponsored by the Sanford School which requires collaboration with the Sanford communications office on the following: a media release, a marketing and promotion purchase plan, promotional or public relations piece approvals. The Sanford School of Public Policy will be listed as a co-sponsor, with our logo on the promotional materials. We provide the stage, backdrop, chairs and podium.

We welcome invitations to partner with groups from around the university on events in our buildings. Because events in the Commons and sometimes also of adjacent classrooms, the school has adopted the following criteria in order to ensure that events in this space are high quality and are a good match for our community.

☐ The event must have thematic or topical connection to Sanford School of Public Policy’s research expertise and/or curriculum and must have a Sanford faculty sponsor or host.
☐ The budget must include at least $2500 for event production expenses (e.g. stage, movers, pipe and drape, housekeeping, hired ushers, parking and AV support.)
☐ There must also be sufficient funding for professional promotion, such as graphic design, ad buys, poster and more (estimated around $1,500.) The promotion plan must be developed in collaboration with the communications office.
☐ For non-Sanford and non-Duke requestors, space rental fees will apply. A quote will be outlined and shared prior to the approved 25Live confirmation.

Fleishman Commons Event Requests

All requests to the Communications & Events Manager should be in writing and address the criteria listed above. Please include a program agenda and fund code.

Logistics must be arranged through Marialana Weitzel, Sanford’s Events and Resources Coordinator, who will ensure the facility is reserved and arranged for your program. To ensure a successful event, begin your planning by meeting with her at Sanford to run through promotion, crowd-control, program, and logistics. For more information, contact the communications and events manager, Mary Lindsley, or the events and resources coordinator Marialana Weitzel.