The garden maintains an extensive and exquisite collection of the flora native to California, and is an incomparable venue for private events of all kinds. With numerous versatile venues, find the perfect setting for your event. Get to know this hidden gem in SoCal!
What we're about

CalBG is the largest botanic garden dedicated exclusively to California's native plants. Founded in 1927, the garden encompasses 86 acres nestled in the San Gabriel Mountain foothills in the city of Claremont.

A private, non-profit organization, the garden is dedicated to the appreciation, enjoyment, understanding and thoughtful utilization of our natural heritage.

What you'll find

The garden is an oasis a world away from our SoCal bustle. Birds and other wildlife call the garden home year-round. You'll find natural vistas, and a delightful intersection of structures and permanent and temporary artworks.

All of this is set against masterfully designed nature-scapes designed to display California's wild and wonderful array of plant communities.

Our mission

Advancing knowledge, conservation, and appreciation of California native plants

Our vision

A world where California's native plant diversity is conserved, thriving, and celebrated

calbg.org
The venues

With more than 80 inspiring acres to explore, this magical place features shaded, intimate settings to expansive venues on a grand scale. Deciding which venue to use will depend on which one has the best “feel” for you, and your event requirements.

Good to know: Rates are based on the number of guests you will have, and if your event will be on a weekend or weekday date. The following rate ranges are for events taking place in 2024.

Four hours of event time and tram service are included.

The Lewis Family Forest Pavilion

The newest star in the garden's array of venues, the Forest Pavilion features organic, flowing lines, lush plantings, and natural colors and textures. Built-in lighting, a brand-new dressing room and new restrooms add up to a comfortable and convenient event.

Capacity range: 50 - 250
Price range, Fri - Sun: $2600 - 3700
Price range, Mon - Thur: $2080 - $2960

Outdoor Gallery

This open-air venue is surrounded by fragrant sage plants, and features a soaring shade structure. Wooden partitions create a private, sheltered feeling. A favorite spot for cocktail receptions, ceremonies, and dinner receptions.

Capacity range: 25 - 150
Price range, Fri - Sun: $2600 - 3150
Price range, Mon - Thur: 2080 - 2520

calbg.org
California Courtyard

This spacious open-air location offers exceptional views of the surrounding garden landscapes. The space is easily accessible, with restrooms located in the adjacent administration building. This venue can accommodate a large canopy.

Capacity range: 25 - 300  
Price range, Fri - Sun: $2600 - 3700  
Price range, Mon - Thur: $2080 - 2960

Cultivar Garden
Large Gazebo

Our most popular ceremony venue, this space features a serene reflecting pool and flowing fountain. With a mountain view and surrounded by mature oaks and nearby redwood grove, you will feel immersed in nature.

Capacity range: 25 - 150  
Price range, Fri - Sun: $2600 - 3150  
Price range, Mon - Thur: $2080 - 2520

More space

Planning a ceremony in addition to your reception? Perhaps your cocktail hour at one venue, then reception at another? You may want to use more than one Garden venue for your event. The rental cost to add one hour of event time at a second venue is just $300.
Intimate venues

One of the many intimate venues at the garden may be perfect for your event. If you are planning a small gathering, intimate wedding, or brief cocktail reception, be sure to ask about these intimate settings.

**Lantz Outdoor Classroom**
This versatile covered structure can be transformed for any occasion, whether a formal event or casual gathering. Space can be converted from an open-sided ramada to an intimate private event space with roll-down canvas walls. Capacity: up to 100
Rate range, Fri - Sun: $2600 - 2875 Rate range, Mon - Thur: $2080 - 2300

**Cultivar Garden 'Small Gazebo'**
Covered by native California grape vines, the small gazebo is an ideal location for an intimate event, vow renewal, or small wedding ceremony. Capacity range: up to 20
Rate, Fri - Sun: $2600 Rate, Mon - Thur: $2080

**Johnson's Memorial Oval**
Craftsman- style shade structure, flagstone pathways, and a naturalistic dry streambed setting. Size approximately 10'x20'. Capacity range: up to 60
Rate range, Fri - Sun: $2600 - 2875 Rate range, Mon - Thur: $2080 - 2300

**Thorne Council Ring**
Located at the north end of Indian Hill Mesa, this forested area is ideal for intimate ceremonies or gatherings. Trailside seating for 10 plus additional standing space. Capacity range: up to 20
Rate, Fri - Sun: $2600 Rate, Mon - Thur: $2080

**Percy Everett Garden**
Located in the East Alluvial Gardens, this beautiful and shady hillside site is ideal for intimate ceremonies or gatherings. Capacity range: up to 50
Rate, Fri - Sun: $2600 Rate, Mon - Thur: $2080

**Reflecting Pond**
This peaceful setting is located in the heart of Indian Hill Mesa, featuring a small, vegetated pond, sculpture, and elevated platform surrounded by tall trees. Capacity range: up to 20
Rate, Fri - Sun: $2600 Rate, Mon - Thur: $2080

**Benjamin Pond**
A beautiful hillside pond setting that faces the evening sunset. Platform at water’s edge provides space for limited seating plus additional standing space. ADA accessible. Capacity range: up to 10
Rate, Fri - Sun: $2600 Rate, Mon - Thur: $2080
Venue services

Selecting your event venue will check many items off your planning to-do list. Here are some of the things that the garden assist with once you book your event date with us.

Included in facility rental: Time and space at your chosen venue or venues, security and tram service. Events with catering service (such as weddings, birthdays, or galas), have up to four hours of event time, with one additional hour for set up and one additional hour for clean up. Non-catered events, such as ceremony-only, or brief meetings have up to two hours of event time, with one additional hour for set up and one additional hour for clean up. Please note that ceremony areas must be cleared by 1:00 PM on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Additional time for your event may be arranged in advance for an additional fee.

Event rentals: The basic furnishings of your event include items such as tables, chairs, linens, and dance floor, all of which will need to be rented and brought in to your chosen venue. You may opt for additional rentals such as specialty furniture, canopies, heaters, red carpets, specialty lighting and more. Your rentals will be delivered to your venue, set-up, and picked up.

Catering: California Botanic Garden has a short list of caterers permitted to provide catering and event services. Catering service includes provision of food and beverages, bar service, and event staffing. The total catering cost will be based on your total guest count, menu, service style and selected catering package. Approved caterers:
  - As You Like It Events & Catering, www.asyoulikeitevents.net, 951-737-8025
  - Gourmet Gourmet Catering, Inc., www.gggourmetgourmet.com, 909-920-6400
We encourage you to contact our caterers directly to discuss menu and service options.

Coordinating with your vendors: You are welcome to hire some wedding or event vendors directly, such as photographer, DJ/MC, videographer, musicians, florist, bakery, or photo booth. We will be in touch with all your vendors well in advance of your event date to make sure they know all the ins-and-outs of working here at the garden. We will coordinate with your vendors to schedule their access for your event.

Design and layout: We will assist you with designing and finalizing your event layout based on your timeline, activities, guest needs and event specifics.

Timeline: Crafting your timeline goes hand-in-hand with creating a successful event. We will work with you to make sure your timeline meets your needs.

Tram & accessibility: tram service is available for your event for guests that may have difficulty walking. Several venues and trails provide ADA access as well. The tram will take guests directly from the parking area kiosk to your chosen venue.

Signage: in addition to permanent directional signage, the garden has several metal signs available for your use if you wish to display temporary signs for your event.

Complimentary guest access & parking: Your guests will not be charged an entrance fee to come to your event. We also know your guests may want to explore a bit as they make their way to your venue within the garden. We encourage you to let guests know they can come into the garden up to half an hour prior to your event start time.

Weddings: Weddings typically will need a bit more support. We provide the following for you, if needed:
complimentary hour for ceremony rehearsal, changing room prior to ceremony, final venue walk-through (1 month ahead), security during your reception.
Availability: Your first step in firming up your event plans is checking your date at the garden! When you get in touch, we can check available dates for you.

Venue tour: Set a time to meet at the garden to tour the venues you are interested in. We will want to hear about your plans, answer questions, and can make suggestions about what would work best for your event. A typical venue tour takes about an hour, and involves a bit of walking, so wear comfortable shoes. If a member of your group might have difficulty walking, please let us know in advance so that we can have a tram available for you.

Wedding planning: A planner - either “day-of” or a full service personal planner - is required for your wedding at the garden. You may hire your own planner, or we would be happy to recommend an experienced planner for you if you like.

Caterer packages: Catering can be a large part of your event budget, especially for weddings or other important social gatherings. We suggest getting in touch with one of the garden's caterers to get a good idea of the total cost for your event.

Reserve your date: Once you are ready to move forward with your event here, we will prepare a contract for you. Once we send this to you, we will put a soft hold on your date. As soon as we receive your approval and reservation fee, we will officially reserve your date at the garden.