2026-2027

BRIDGES EVENT SPACE BROCHURE

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VENUE HISTORY

Bridges Event Space is located in the basement of The Refectory Building (beneath The Phoenix Crafthouse & Grill). The Refectory Building is one of the five original buildings on McMaster's campus, and was first opened in 1930. In its early days, the building served as a dining hall for students, and the basement contained the boiler that provided heat to campus buildings.

In 1968, the lower levels of The Refectory Building were transformed into "The Rathskellar", a bar owned and operated by the McMaster Students' Union (MSU) until 2001. The venue then sat vacant for a few years before being converted into a vegetarian eatery called "Bridges Cafe" in 2005, overseen by McMaster Hospitality Services. In 2022, Bridges Cafe permanently closed, and Bridges Cafe transitioned into an event space managed by MSU.

Bridges Event Space now exists as an affordable campus event space, catering to clubs and student organizations. The space boasts ample seating, performance space, and is full of historical charm that is hard to match.

Fun Fact: In 2007, five buildings on campus were given "heritage status", including The Refectory Building!

References
The Phoenix Crafthouse & Grill. (n.d.). Home of the perfect pint. https://www.phoenixmcmaster.com/#:~:text=The%20basement%20was%20later%20home,eatery%20opened%20in%20January%202005).

PRICE LIST

Base Rental Fees

Rental Length	Cost*
1 Hour	$150.00
2 Hours	$225.00
3 Hours	$300.00
4 Hours	$375.00
5 Hours	$450.00
6 Hours	$525.00

Add Ons

Item	Cost*
1 Wireless Microphone	$50.00
2 Wireless Microphones	$100.00
Projector + Screen	$130.00
Product Sale Service Fee	Subtotal + 25%
Security Services	Starts at $587.60

* Cost is not inclusive of HST/GST

DISCOUNTS

Available Discounts

Group Name	Discount
Ratified MSU Club	75%
MSU Department/Service	75%
Recognized McMaster Student Group	50%
McMaster University Department	20%

Discount Eligibility

To confirm if you are eligible for a group discount, please email bridges@msu.mcmaster.ca. Discounts are non-transferable, and you will not be permitted to reserve the space on behalf of another person/organization to secure a discount on their behalf.

To receive a “Recognized McMaster Student Group” discount, the renter will need to provide a valid Event Code from the McMaster University Risk Assessment Portal.

VENUE INFORMATION

Capacity + Space Access

The maximum capacity for Bridges Event Space is 150 persons. Events exceeding this capacity will not be permitted.

Security Requirements

For high-risk events or events with 101-150 expected attendees, the client will be required to have McMaster Security Services on site throughout the duration of the event. The fee for having McMater Security Services on site starts at $587.60 for a minimum of 4 hours, and increases by $146.90 for each additional hour. Bridges Event Space charges the client security fees at cost and makes the arrangements for security to be on site on behalf of the client.

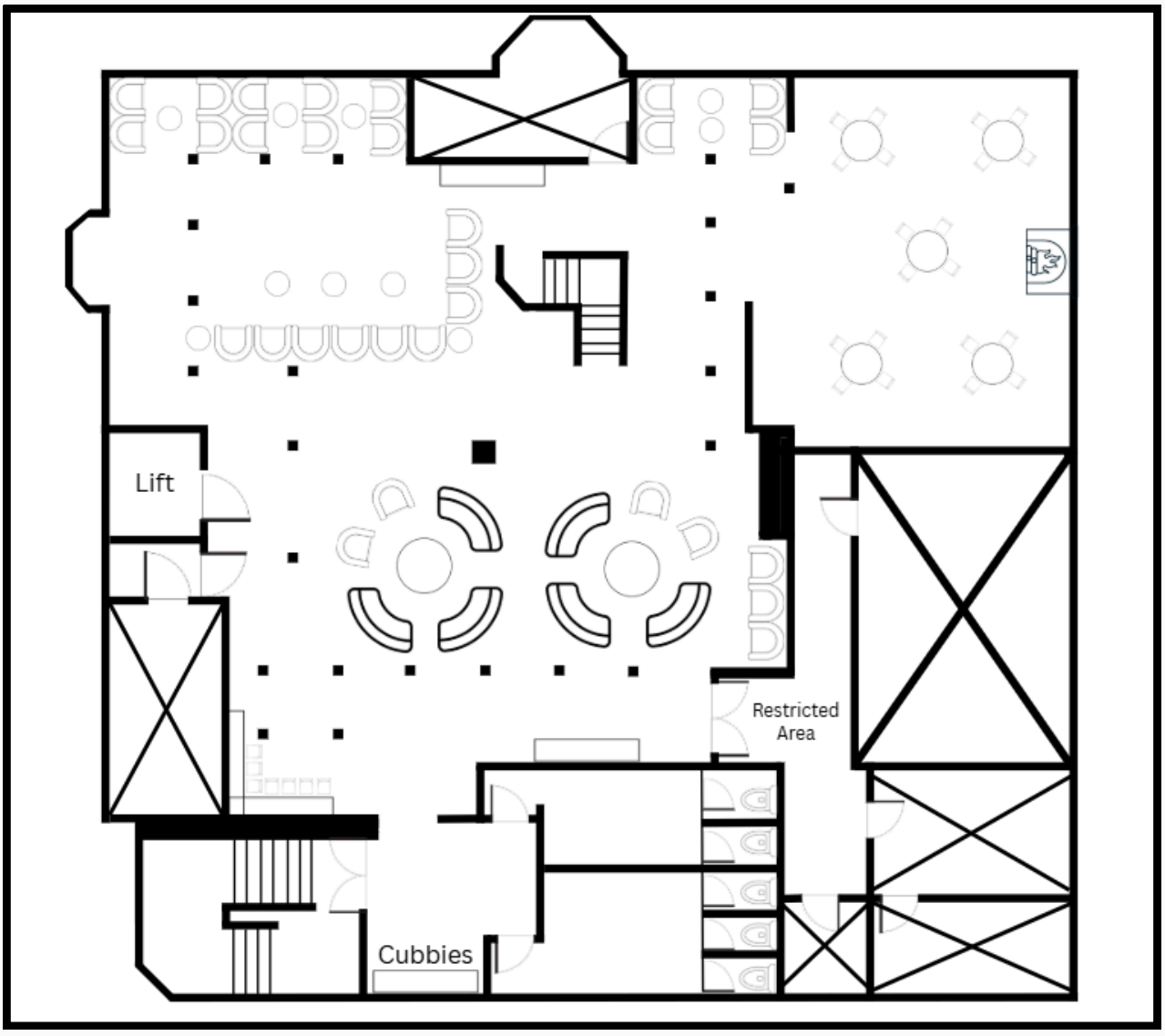
Ammenities

Bridges has a variety of modular seating, bartops and stools, and 5 round banquet tables with seating. Clients are welcome to move the furniture in the space (with the exception of the banquet tables), but are expected to return the furniture to its original position by the end of the booking.

Bridges Event Space has string-lighting accents and a built-in sound system, which clients are welcome to use to play music from a phone or laptop, free of charge.

Bridges Event Space is accessible by stairs or via a lift that can be operated by Bridges Event Staff, as requested. There are two washrooms located in Bridges Event Space and a set of cubbies that clients are welcome to use to store guest bags or coats throughout the rental period.

VENUE LAYOUT



VENUE PHOTOS

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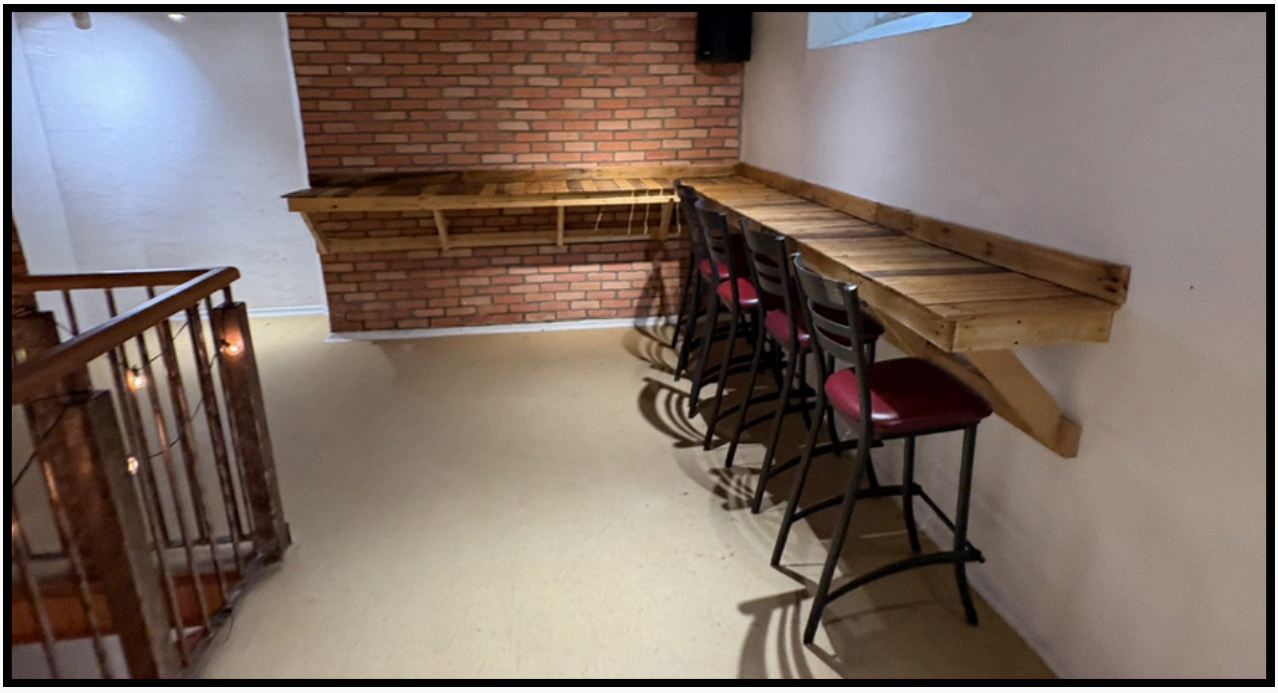

VENUE PHOTOS

MSU
BRIDGES